

MANDATORY RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL BANS



SUMMARY

Solid waste and recycling are generally regulated at the state and local levels. Some states and municipalities have enacted legislation requiring the recycling of certain commercially generated items and/or banning the disposal of certain items in landfills or waste to energy facilities. This is an effort to increase recovery of valuable materials, reduce the amount of waste going to landfills and incinerators, and help develop markets for recyclable materials.

This fact sheet provides a starting point and quick reference tool for retailers on mandatory recycling. The summary tables below provide an overview of state and local recycling regulations with links to external sources for additional information. This fact sheet focuses on waste streams most relevant to retail store operations and distribution centers and includes information on commonly recycled materials such as paper, plastic, metal and glass.

IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF MANDATORY RECYCLING LAWS AND DISPOSAL BANS

Mandated commercial recycling and disposal ban legislation can include one or more of the following elements:

Responsible party: Owner vs. occupant: Regulatory responsibility may be placed on the hauler, the building owner, and/or the occupant. "Universal access" requirements may be placed on the hauler, which requires them to offer recycling services if they offer trash collection services. Finally, mandates may fall on the local jurisdiction to offer or implement recycling programs.

Materials Covered: Some states specifically define in the state law the materials that must be recycled or that are banned from disposal. Other states leave the determination of materials up to local authorities. Still others include a list of materials and allow the regulated community (e.g., generators or haulers) to select a certain number or portion of materials from the list to recycle as part of a commercial recycling program.

Source separation: Regulations may specify how covered materials are collected and stored onsite, including provisions that prohibit recyclables from being commingled with trash.

Generator size: The size of the generator may determine if a retailer and/or retail location is covered by the regulation (e.g., amount of waste generated, chain stores, number of stores, square footage, number of employees).

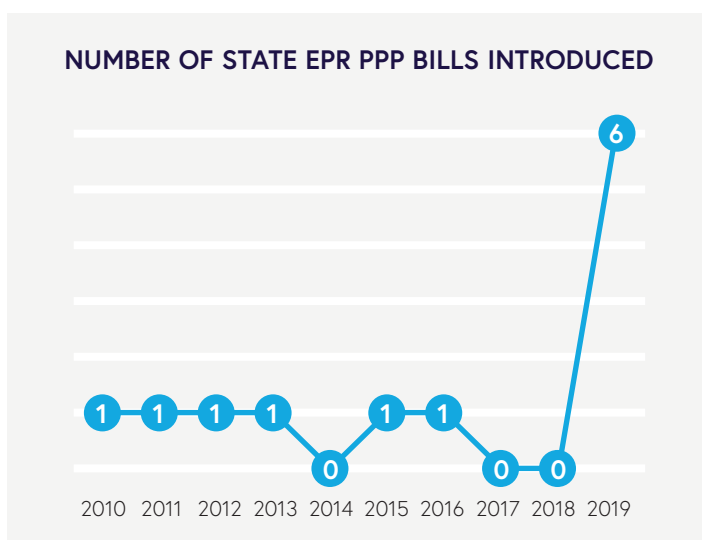
Bins and signage: Some laws specifically require commercial generators to provide recycling bins and signage in their stores and to educate customers on how to recycle properly.

Enforcement: Most regulations include specific enforcement measures, including but not limited to fines, penalties, license-revocation, etc.

Reporting: Some government agencies require waste generators to file recycling plans and/or periodically report on waste diversion activities.

TRENDS IN RECYCLING LEGISLATION

Mandatory recycling and disposal bans play important roles as communities embrace waste reduction and zero waste to landfill goals. Recent recycling market disruptions prompted by China's National Sword policy, which eliminated China as an end market for many US recyclables, has led some states like Vermont and Wisconsin to revise mandatory recycling laws to allow for waivers of materials that do not have current markets. It has also led to increased investment into domestic recycling and recovery infrastructure, from curbside collection programs to improved material recovery facilities.



Publicity around the ocean plastics crisis has also brought heightened awareness and attention to recycling, especially for plastic. This has led to a wave of new bills calling for targeted management of problematic materials like mismanaged plastics and single use items (e.g. plastic carryout bags, plastic straws). In addition to mandatory recycling legislation, disposal bans, and product or material bans, legislative proposals can take the form of extended producer responsibility (EPR).

EPR is a broad legislative approach that often contains within them certain requirements for recycling and disposal bans for covered items. One of the main differences is the party financially responsible. In mandatory commercial recycling legislation, financial responsibility falls directly on the generator to source separate and hire a hauler for recycling. EPR, on the other hand, places fiduciary and management requirements on producers. As shown in Figure 1, six state bills for printed paper and packaging EPR were introduced in 2019 – a record single-year number.

MANDATORY RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL BAN SUMMARY TABLES

The tables below summarize state and local regulations around recycling and disposal bans, with a focus on traditional recyclables and organics. Materials not covered here include hazardous waste, universal waste and special wastes, such as waste oil, batteries, e-waste, appliances, tires, and construction and demolition materials. Information in the tables below is meant to be a reference tool and do not convey all aspects of legislated requirements. For example, the summaries below do not generally include information on definition of terms, outreach and education requirements, bin and signage requirements, provision of services, distinction between generator roles (i.e. tenant versus landlord), penalties and enforcement, reporting, or instructions on how to comply. Retailers should reference official agency resources and/or the legislative text for comprehensive guidance. Note also that regulations below cover the broader universe of "commercial generators" and may or may not be directly relevant to retailers. Nevertheless, the legislation included below may impact retailers, even if retail is not specifically named in the regulation.

TABLE 1: STATE-LEVEL MANDATORY RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL BANS

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
California	<p>Recycling of Commercial Solid Waste Any business than generates four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week must arrange for recycling services. California's statewide legislation allows for cities to implement more stringent requirements.</p> <p>Materials Covered: The regulation does not specify how much or what type of materials must be recycled by businesses, nor does it limit the types of materials that could be included in a recycling or composting program. The regulation does require that jurisdictions inform businesses about the state requirement to recycle and how they can recycle in the jurisdiction.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Recycling of Organic Waste Any business that generates four cubic yards or more of organic waste must arrange for organics recycling services</p> <p>Materials Covered: Food waste; green waste; landscape and pruning waste; nonhazardous wood waste; and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	<p>Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Connecticut	<p>Designated Recycling Regulation Requires municipalities to recycle the listed materials and products.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Glass & metal food and beverage containers; Plastic containers #1 and #2; Boxboard; Corrugated cardboard; Magazines; Newspaper; White office paper; Colored office paper; Scrap metal; Leaves and grass clippings</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Recycling of Source-Separated Organics Commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center located not more than 20 miles from a source-separated organic composting facility and that generate an average volume not less than 52 tons annually of source-separated organics. Can treat on-site as permitted and be considered in compliance.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Source-separated organic material means organic material, including, but not limited to, food scraps, food processing residue and soiled or unrecyclable paper.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Grass Clipping Disposal Ban Grass clippings are prohibited from disposal at resources recovery facilities or solid waste facilities</p> <p>Materials Covered: Grass clippings</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Beverage Container Deposit and Redemption Link to Text Agency Info</p>

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
District of Columbia	<p>Separation of Recyclable Material at Commercial Properties Each owner or occupant of a commercial property shall recycle the materials listed. Materials separated for recycling should best stored in bins, dumpsters, or other containers not used for the simultaneous storage of solid waste and recyclable materials.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Paper; Paperboard; Cardboard; Metal; Glass; Plastic Containers</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
Delaware	<p>Universal Recycling Regulations Commercial property managers must ensure that single stream recycling services are available for tenants and commercial entities must participate in a comprehensive recycling program.</p> <p>Materials Covered: The type of materials that must be recycled is not specified by the legislation.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
Florida	<p>Florida DEP Business Recycling Recognition Program Private business that recycle the listed materials are encouraged, BUT NOT REQUIRED, to report the amount recycled annually to the count. FL DEP recognizes private businesses with outstanding recycling rates.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Paper; Metals; Glass; Plastics; Textiles; Rubber materials; Mulch</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
Hawaii	N/A	N/A	<p>Deposit Beverage Container Program Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Iowa	<p>Waste Volume and Recycling Section 455D.21 instructs a city council or county board of supervisors which provides for the collection of solid waste by its residents to consider as a proposed ordinance, the mandatory curbside collection of recyclable materials which have been separated from other solid waste</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	<p>Beverage Containers Control Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Maine	<p>Office Paper Recycling Law Businesses employing 15 or more people at a site within state required to recycle covered materials.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Office paper (ledger, computer, and bond paper); Corrugated cardboard</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	<p>Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers of Beverage Containers Link to Text Agency Info</p>

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
Maryland	<p>Maryland Recycling Law Requires each of Maryland's jurisdictions to develop and implement recycling programs. Jurisdictions with populations greater than 150,000 are required to recycle at a rate of 35% of their waste and jurisdictions with populations less than 150,000 are required to recycle 20% of their waste. Each jurisdiction selects materials to be recycled and the way materials are to be separated and processed.</p> <p>Materials Covered: N/A</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
Massachusetts	N/A	<p>Solid Waste Bans Materials Covered: Ferrous and non-ferrous metals, Glass and metal containers, Leaves and yard waste, Recyclable paper, cardboard and paperboard, Single-resin narrow-necked plastic containers, Food and other organic wastes from businesses and institutions that dispose of more than one ton of per week.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Provisions for Recycling of Beverage Containers (Bottle Bill) Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Michigan	N/A	N/A	<p>Bottle Deposit Law Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Minnesota	<p>Recycling Requirements for Commercial Buildings Requires owners of commercial buildings to collect and recycle at least three of the listed materials and transfer collect materials to a recycler.</p> <p>Materials Covered: At least three of the following types of material must be recycled: Glass; Metal; Plastic; Paper: office paper, cardboard, newspaper; Organics</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
New Jersey	<p>Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act The Recycling Act requires New Jersey's twenty-one counties to develop recycling plans that mandate the recycling of at least three designated recyclable materials, in addition to leaves.</p> <p>Material Choices: Metal; Glass; Paper; Plastic; Polycoated paperboard packaging (beverage containers and aseptic packaging); Corrugated and other cardboard; Newspaper; Magazines; High-grade office paper; Food waste</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
New York	<p>Food Donation and Food Scrap Recycling Act Effective January 1, 2022, large generators of food scraps (defined as generating an annual average of two tons per week or more) must donate excess edible food and recycle all remaining food scraps if they are within 25 miles of an organics recycler (composting facility, anaerobic digester, etc.). The regulation does not apply to businesses in New York City which are covered by local legislation.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Food scraps, including inedible food, trimmings from the preparation of food, food-soiled paper, and edible food that is not donated.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Source Separation and Segregation of Recyclable or Reusable Materials New York's General Municipal Law Section 120-AA states that municipalities are required to adopt local laws or ordinances that required solid waste to be separated into recyclable, reusable or other components for which economic markets for alternate uses exists.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Paper, glass, metals, plastics, garden and yard waste. Other elements of solid waste may be included</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	<p>New York Returnable Container Law</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
North Carolina	<p>ABC Container Recycling Law North Carolina requires holders of certain Alcohol Beverage Commission on-premise permits to recycle beverage containers generated on-site. A statewide disposal ban also applies to these materials.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Beverage containers</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Disposal of Certain Solid Wastes in Landfills or by Incineration Prohibited</p> <p>Materials Covered: Aluminum cans, Recyclable rigid plastic containers, Wood pallets</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
Oregon	<p>Oregon's Recycling Law Oregon offers local governments flexibility to implement their recycling programs using a menu of program elements that include:</p> <p>A commercial recycling program that includes weekly onsite collection of source-separated principal recyclable materials and education for commercial generators;</p> <p>A collection and composting system for food and other compostable waste from commercial and institutional entities that generate large amounts of such wastes;</p> <p>A commercial recycling program that requires commercial generators of solid waste that generate large amounts of recyclable materials to source separate recyclable materials</p> <p>Materials Covered: Varies by locality Link to Text Agency Info</p>		<p>Beverage Containers and Bottle Bill Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>Municipal Waste Planning Recycling and Waste Reduction Pennsylvania state law requires municipalities with populations more than 10,000 and municipalities with more than 5,000 residents and population densities more than 300 persons per square mile to adopt and enforce commercial recycling regulations that require commercial establishments to separate and store certain materials.</p> <p>Materials Covered: High grade office paper; Aluminum; Corrugated paper; Leaf waste; and Other materials deemed appropriate by the municipality Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
Rhode Island	<p>Rules and Regulations for Reduction and Recycling of Commercial and Non-Municipal Residential Solid Waste Commercial generators with 50 or more employees must contract for recycling services as part of an agreement with a private hauler or the city or town.</p> <p>Covered Materials: Aluminum; Coated unbleached Kraft beverage carriers; Corrugated cardboard; Glass food and beverage containers; Newspaper; HDPE milk and water containers; Office paper; PET soft drink containers; Steel and tin-coated steel cans; Telephone directories; Leaves and yard waste</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban Covered entities (commercial food wholesaler or distributor, supermarket, corporation, etc.) that generate 104 tons/year or more of organics and is located 15 or less miles from an authorized composting facility or anaerobic digester with available capacity must ensure generated go to either of those types of facilities.</p> <p>Covered Materials: Food scraps, food processing residue, and soiled or unrecyclable paper that has been separated from nonorganic material.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info (N/A)</p>	N/A
Vermont	<p>Universal Recycling Law Universal recycling law mandates the recycling of all listed materials.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Paper, Boxboard, and Cardboard (uncoated, clean, dry), Metal cans, Glass bottles and jars, Plastic bottles and containers labeled #1 and #2</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Universal Recycling Law for Organics Businesses must separate their food waste if they are within 20 miles of a certified compost facility and produce more than 18 tons of food scraps per year.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Food scraps, such as parts of food items that are typically discarded rather than eaten: peels, rinds, cores, eggshells, seeds, pits, bones, coffee grounds (and filters), loose-leaf tea, and fats/oils/grease. Food that was eaten but not finished: "plate scraps" or leftovers that went bad.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Food Scrap Ban Businesses that produce large amounts of food waste must comply with the landfill ban on food scraps if they are located within 20 road miles of a composting facility that willingly accepts food scraps.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Beverage Container Deposit-Redemption System</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>

State	Mandatory Commercial Recycling Summary	Commercial Disposal Bans	Bottle Bill?
Virginia	<p>Regional and Local Solid Waste Management Plans</p> <p>Each county, city, town or regional authority is required to establish a recycling program that would meet or exceed a recycling rate of 15% or 25%, based on the community's population density and unemployment rate. Localities may adopt ordinances to require recycling and/or recycling reporting by businesses</p> <p>Materials Covered: Varies by locality</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
West Virginia	<p>Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery, and Recycling Law</p> <p>Law requires municipalities of 10,000 people or more to implement ordinances that require corporations and other entities within the municipality to separate at least three recyclable materials, as determined appropriate by the municipality.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Steel and bimetallic cans; Aluminum; Glass; Paper; and other solid waste materials specified by the local jurisdiction</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	<p>Business and Workplace Recycling</p> <p>Businesses and other workplaces must recycle designated materials, as well as provide for the recycling of these materials by their clients or customers. Haulers must keep recyclable and waste material separate during collection. Depending on volume, businesses may collect their recyclables in carts or dumpsters in a single stream, dual stream or multi-stream collection system. Some communities go above and beyond what is required by state law.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Aluminum containers; Corrugated paper or other container board; Foam polystyrene packaging; Glass containers; Magazines or other materials printed on similar paper; Newspapers or other materials printed on newsprint; Office paper; Plastic containers; Steel containers; Containers for carbonated or malt beverages that are primarily made of a combination of steel and aluminum; Yard waste</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	<p>Prohibitions on Land Disposal and Incineration</p> <p>Materials Covered: Aluminum containers; Corrugated paper or other container board; Foam polystyrene packaging; Glass containers; Magazines or other materials printed on similar paper; Newspapers or other materials printed on newsprint; Office paper; Plastic containers; Steel containers; Containers for carbonated or malt beverages that is primarily made of a combination of steel and aluminum; Yard waste</p> <p>Note: Some communities go above and beyond what is required by state law.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>	N/A

TABLE 2: LEGISLATION WITHIN MAJOR CITIES

Many local jurisdictions have recycling requirements, disposal ban laws, and organics diversion mandates. The table below presents legislation in some of the largest U.S. cities. This list is not comprehensive. When in doubt, check with the local government agency responsible for overseeing commercial solid waste management.

City, State	Summary of Requirement
<p>New York City, NY</p>	<p>Mandatory Commercial Recycling All commercial businesses are required to recycle listed items. If textiles comprise greater than 10% of your waste stream, they must be separated and recycled.</p> <p>Material Covered: Metal; Glass; Plastic; Paper; Cardboard; Textiles</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Mandatory Commercial Organics The following entities are required to source separate organic waste for recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food service establishments with a floor area of at least 15,000 square feet • Food service establishments that are part of a chain of 100 or more locations in the city of New York • Retail food stores with a floor area of at least 25,000 square feet <p>Material Covered: Food scraps; Plant trimmings; Food-soiled paper; and Certified compostable products</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
<p>Chicago, IL</p>	<p>Chicago Commercial Recycling Ordinance Commercial establishments must recycle three items from the list of approved recyclables. If a commercial establishment can prove that a single item constitutes more than 51% by weight of the waste stream, only that item is required to be recycled.</p> <p>Material Covered: Newspaper; High grade paper; Mixed paper; Steel and bi-metal cans; Magazines and catalogs; Glass bottles and jars; Aluminum cans, foil, and pans; Plastic film, Fats, oil and grease; Corrugated cardboard; Plastic containers; Wood pallets</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
<p>Philadelphia, PA</p>	<p>Refuse and Littering for Owners of Private Premises Commercial properties are required to have a recycling program in place and source separate required items.</p> <p>Material Covered: Cardboard; Mixed paper (newspaper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, old files, reports, etc.); Glass jars and bottles; Metal food and beverage cans (aluminum, bi-metal [tin] cans); Plastic containers (#1 - #7); and Food and beverage cartons</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Grindable Waste Businesses that generate food waste are required to either install a garbage disposer for grindable food waste or arrange for twice-weekly collection of organic waste for composting or for farm livestock feed.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Grindable garbage</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>

City, State	Summary of Requirement
Austin, TX	<p>Universal Recycling Ordinance Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance requires commercial establishments to provide recycling for listed items.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Paper (including mixed paper and office paper); Plastics PETE (#1) and HDPE (#2) bottles and containers; Aluminum cans; Corrugated cardboard; and Glass bottles and jars</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Commercial Organics Diversion Requirements Requires commercial generators of organic waste to source separate it and send it to a composting facility, food bank, organic waste processor, farm, or community garden.</p> <p>Material Covered: Food scraps; Paper towels and napkins; Soiled paper, cardboard or wax board; Floral décor; Landscape trimmings</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>

TABLE 3: PACKAGING AND PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION LEGISLATION

Other notable waste-related legislation aside from mandatory recycling laws and disposal bans is included below. Note that this is **not** a comprehensive list. For plastic bag legislation, please visit the [Consumer Bag Legislation](#) page.

State	Laws
California	<p>Rigid Plastic Packaging Container (RRPC) Program The law mandates that product manufacturers sell products held in RPPCs meet one of the outlined compliance options with the goal of reducing the amount of plastic waste sent to the landfill and increasing the use of recycle postconsumer plastic. Compliance options include use of postconsumer material, source reduction, the use of reusable or refillable packaging, or specified recycling rate.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Plastic packaging containers (made entirely of plastic, relatively inflexible in shape or form, minimum capacity of eight ounce up to a maximum capacity of 5 gallon, capable of a least one closure, holds a product that is sold or offered for sale in California)</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p> <p>Straw Ban Prohibits dine-in restaurants from automatically providing plastic straws to customers.</p> <p>Link to Text</p>
District of Columbia	<p>Expanded Polystyrene Prohibition Bans the provision of the listed materials by food service entities and grocery stores.</p> <p>Materials Covered: Foil-lined deli paper wraps, aluminum-coated paper to-go containers, paper bags with plastic windows, polystyrene foam containers, single-use plastic straws and stirrers</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Maine	<p>Development of Product Stewardship Law for Packaging Legislation resolved that the Maine Department of Environment Protection to develop legislation establishing an extended producer responsibility law for packaging in line with the product stewardship framework law.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Maryland	<p>Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibitions Prohibits the sale of expanded polystyrene products in the state effective July 1, 2020</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>

State	Laws
New York City, New York	<p>Foam Ban Food service establishments, stores, and manufacturers may not possess, sell, or offer for use single service Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam food service articles or loose fill packaging, such as "packing peanuts" in New York City.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Oregon	<p>Plastic Straw Ban Prohibits restaurant from providing single use plastic straw to consumer unless the consumer requests a straw, provides for enforcement with fines</p> <p>Link to Text</p>
Rhode Island	<p>Promotion of Paper Bag Use – Prohibited Practices Requires any retail establishment that provides plastic bags to consumers to also provide paper bags at no additional charge. If only paper bags are provided, no other optional bags are required.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info (N/A)</p> <p>Promotion of Paper Bag Usage – Recycling Containers for Plastic Bags Any retail establishments with conveyance of goods or food in excess of eight million dollars annually or with over 10,000 square feet of retail space much provide receptacles in which customers can recycle dry plastic film bags</p> <p>Covered Materials: film grocery sacks, plastic film shopping bags, dry cleaner film, fresh produce bags, and newspaper sleeves</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info (N/A)</p> <p>Beverage Container Recyclability Requires that all beverage distributors in the state sell beverages only in containers that have achieved a 50% recycling rate, ensuring they are free of any design components that make them less recyclable and free of any design components that are added or substituted for existing recycling containers</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info (N/A)</p>
Seattle, Washington	<p>Single-use Plastic Straw and Utensil Ban Use of plastic utensils and plastic straw food serviceware is prohibited.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Vermont	<p>Single-Use Products – Updates to Vermont's Universal Recycling Law Effective July 1, 2020, this law prohibits retailers and food establishments from providing customers with the following single-use plastic items: a. single-use plastic carryout bags at the point of sale (exempts bags used for prescription meds, dry cleaning, and produce bags/small items bags that are not at the point of sale), i. single-use paper bags can be offered at the point of sale if the customer is charged a minimum of 10 cents per bag, which retailers keep. Smaller paper bags are exempt. b. plastic straws (except that they can be given upon request of the customer), c. plastic stirrers for beverages, and d. expanded polystyrene (commonly called Styrofoam) food and beverage containers like cups and containers, meat/fish packaging, or food packaged out of-state is exempt.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>
Washington, DC	<p>EPS Foam and Plastic Straw Ban Bans the use of disposable food service ware made of expanded polystyrene and other products that cannot be recycled or composted, including restrictions on the use of single-use plastic straws and stirrers.</p> <p>Link to Text Agency Info</p>

ABOUT THE RETAIL COMPLIANCE CENTER

The Retail Compliance Center (RCC) provides resources on environmental compliance and sustainability for all types and sizes of retailers. The RCC's goal is to develop retail-specific resources, tools and innovative solutions to help companies cost-effectively improve their compliance and environmental performance.