



Colorado EPR (Producer Responsibility Program)

Producer Snapshot & Compliance List

As of July 2026.

This summary is provided for information only and is not compliance or legal advice. Please confirm applicability to your specific products and packaging with counsel and regulators.

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Program Overview

Colorado's Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling is the second operational packaging EPR program in the U.S. Producer dues began flowing in January 2026, and full statewide program implementation began on June 9, 2026. Personal care and cosmetic packaging is in scope.

PRO	Circular Action Alliance (CAA), sole approved PRO
Scope	Packaging, paper products, and food service ware (all materials)
Program Plan	Approved by CDPHE on Dec. 10, 2025. Covers 2026 to 2030
Fee Obligations	Dues active since January 2026. Called "producer responsibility dues," not fees
Payment Structure	Two equal installments per year (January and July). 2026 dues are based on CY2024 supply data
Eco-modulation	Policy driver to move from harder to recycle to more likely to be recycled materials. First eco-mod rules adopted Nov. 18, 2025
PCR Content Credit	Approved mass balance methods: rolling average and proportional credit. Free-allocation with fuel exclusion under further evaluation

IMPORTANT: Colorado is a live program but not yet at full delivery. The statutory deadline for full statewide program implementation was June 9, 2026, and the program is now entering initial implementation phases. CY2025 Annual Supply Reports were due May 31, 2026 and will determine 2027 dues.

Where Things Stand (Regulatory Status)

- **Program Plan:** Approved by CDPHE on December 10, 2025. Full statewide implementation must occur by June 9, 2026 (six months from approval, now active).
- **Mass Balance / PCR:** CDPHE approved two mass balance methods for PCR attribution (rolling average and proportional credit). A third method (free allocation with fuel exclusion) will be evaluated over the next year.
- **Dispute Resolution:** CDPHE required CAA to add an eco-modulation dispute resolution process, giving producers a formal path to challenge factor determinations.
- **Advisory Board:** Continues to review program rollout and emerging rule packages.

2026 Key Operational Milestones

Date	Milestone	Producer Action
January 2026	First 2026 dues invoice issued (first 50% installment)	Pay per CAA invoice terms. Based on CY2024 supply data
March 31, 2026	Producer Portal opened for CY2025 Annual Supply reporting	Verify portal access; compile CY2025 Colorado supply data
May 31, 2026	CY2025 Annual Supply Report DUE	File via Producer Portal. Drives 2027 dues schedule
June 9, 2026	Full statewide program implementation deadline	Program moves to live statewide delivery. CAA obligations become fully enforceable
June 30, 2026	CAA first admin dues payment to CDPHE	PRO-level milestone signaling active regulatory oversight
July 2026	Second 2026 dues installment due (second 50%)	Pay per CAA invoice terms
October 2026 (est.)	2027 Colorado Producer Dues Schedule published	Use for 2027 budget finalization

Key Watchouts for Personal Care Producers

Watchout	
MRL status is pivotal	The Minimum Recyclability List determines malus exposure. Packaging not on the MRL automatically incurs increased dues. Flexibles and laminates common in personal care often sit off the MRL.
Eco-mod is rule-based	Factors are defined by rule. This is cheaper to engage with but also means less upside from proprietary analysis.
Passive vs active factors	Passive factors (e.g., material type on MRL) are granted automatically. Active factors (e.g., PCR content, reuse claims, packaging reduction) require documentation and verification.
Mass balance PCR is approved	Rolling-average and proportional-credit mass balance methods are approved. Producers using certified circular feedstocks can claim PCR credit, but documentation requirements apply.
Dues structure is different from Oregon	Colorado calls them producer responsibility dues, not fees. Structurally similar but governed by state rules rather than LCA outcomes.
Dispute resolution may exist	This is in flux as of April 2026. CDPHE required CAA to implement an eco-modulation dispute resolution process. Producers who disagree with factor determinations have a formal path to challenge.
Reuse and refill incentivized	High refill rates and reuse program designs qualify for dues reduction. Worth engaging if your portfolio supports documented reuse claims.
Program still maturing	Full statewide delivery is not yet live. Operations will evolve through the June 9 deadline and beyond. Expect updates throughout 2026.

Resources

- [CDPHE Producer Responsibility Program page](#)
- [Colorado HB22-1355 bill page](#)

- [Colorado Secretary of State rulemaking docket \(6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1, Section 18\)](#)
- [CAA Colorado state page](#)
- [CAA Producer Resource Center](#)

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