

Summary of steps

- Provide reuse/refill targets & funding
- Work reuse into Deposit Return Systems (e.g. Bottle Bills)
- Build reuse into Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Develop reusable foodware policies like reusables only for onsite dining, Skip the Stuff, and charges on single-use cups & containers
- Ban single-use packaging like bags, polystyrene products, straws, stirrers and other accessories, and individual hotel toiletries
- Ensure good solid waste and recycling policy

Policy Ladder to the Circular Economy

Policymakers have a variety of policy tools to help build the circular economy. Unfortunately, these tools are sometimes presented as “either/or” propositions. But to reach our goal of a truly sustainable economy, we need all these policies and likely more. And we need to understand that they compound upon each other. In order of most beneficial for the environment (from the top down), we’ve developed a ladder to envision the tools. Policy makers can start at any point on the ladder, but the goal should be to eventually enact all of them.

Reuse / Refill Targets & Funding

- Require consumer brands to use a minimum threshold of reusable packaging and products, and increase this share over time.
- Create a mechanism to pool producer funding for shared infrastructure to enable reuse at scale.

Reuse in Deposit Return Systems (DRS or Bottle Bills)

- Incentives and requirements for beverage producers to choose refillable containers.
- Funding for reuse infrastructure and systems (reverse logistics, washing).
- Complementary/running in parallel to EPR.

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Reuse in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Incentives and requirements for producers to choose reusable packaging.
- Funding for reuse infrastructure and systems (reverse logistics, washing).
- Should be enacted as complementary to DRS.

Reusable Foodware Policy

- Require reusables only for on-site dining.
- No unwanted accessories for take-out and delivery (“Skip the Stuff”).
- Charges on single-use cups & containers to fund investment in reuse service infrastructure.

Single-use Packaging Bans

- Single-use bags
- Polystyrene foam
- Straws, stirrers and other accessories
- Individual hotel toiletries, etc.

Good Solid Waste / Recycling Policy

- Universal cart-based curbside recycling.
- Statewide Pay-As-You-Throw.
- Landfill bans on recyclable materials and organic waste.
- Modernized Material Recovery Facilities.
- Away-from-home collection/recycling.
- Outreach and education on reuse and recycling.



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