



NYSAR³'s Mission: To provide statewide leadership on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling issues and practices to improve the environment.

For more than three decades, the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR³) and its members from the public and private sectors have played a key role in establishing environmental initiatives to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling. This effort includes advancing legislation that promotes public and environmental health while shaping the sustainable materials management economy of the future.

Contact: Bodhi Piedmont-Fleischmann, Chair, NYSAR³ Legislative Committee
Email: bodhi.pf@tetrattech.com

2026 Legislative Overview

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products ([A1749/S1464](#))

NYSAR³ supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging **and paper**, requiring brand owners and manufacturers to finance the recycling of materials they produce. EPR programs engage producers in the end-of-life management of products and encourage circularity by reducing the amount of packaging and paper used in product creation, redesigning to be more readily recyclable, incorporating post-consumer content, and leveraging market forces to maximize material recovery. Components of the proposed policies incentivize these efforts through methodologies including ecomodulation.

Versions of EPR for packaging and paper policies have been passed in seven states, and NYSAR³ supports the passing of an EPR law for packaging and paper products in New York. NYSAR³'s support is driven by the need to protect and reinvigorate recycling programs through financial support to the system, particularly municipalities and recycling facility operators. Municipalities bear the operational and financial burden of recycling, and consumers feel the responsibility of making disposal decisions. NYSAR³ strongly advocates for the inclusion of paper products, left out of A1749/S1464, in extended producer responsibility law. Paper, as a product (ex. junk mail, printed paper) along with newsprint (also exempt), accounts for as estimated 40% of the curbside recycling stream. Excluding both paper and newsprint would exclude 40% of expenses covered under an EPR program and is inconsistent with the CLCPA Scoping Plan.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Improvements to the Returnable Container Act (Bottle Bill) Redemption Funding Mechanism ([A1744/S1719](#))

Beverage container collection through the provisions of the Bottle Bill provides a segregated, marketable, clean source of recyclable materials. To increase the support to redemption centers that manage and implement the Bottle Bill program, NYSAR³ supports an increase in the handling fee that is paid to redemption centers to five or six cents (5¢ - 6¢).

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Improvements to the Returnable Container Act (Bottle Bill) ([S2351](#))

Beverage container collection through the provisions of the Bottle Bill provides a segregated, marketable, clean source of recyclable materials. NYSAR³ supports the expansion of this program to include wine, liquor, and other glass beverage containers. This expansion will advance recycling options for over 100,000 tons of glass material and remove the financial burden of disposal placed on municipal curbside recycling programs. Glass beverage containers have limited marketability when collected through single-stream curbside recycling, can significantly affect the quality of non-glass materials, and cause damage to facility equipment when commingled.

To increase the incentive for redemption, NYSAR³ also supports an increase of the deposit and redemption value to ten cents (10¢) and setting of the deposit/redemption value for wine and liquor at twenty-five cents (25¢).

Under the current legislative conditions, NYSAR³ would only support the inclusion of other plastic and aluminum containers in a Bottle Bill expansion if the additional collected funds would be returned to existing recycling programs, as the inclusion of these additional containers would remove valuable recyclable commodities from existing recycling streams and financially undermine existing programs. Expansion of the Bottle Bill should be undertaken in coordination with the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products - should EPR for packaging and paper move forward to provide predictable funding for recycling programs, NYSAR³ intends to revise this position to strongly support inclusion of additional plastic and aluminum containers in the highly effective Bottle Bill program.



NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Extended Producer Responsibility for Mattresses (A1209/S1463)

According to the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), Americans send more than 50,000 mattresses to landfill each day and less than 5% are recycled. Refurbishing instead of landfilling mattresses reduces energy and greenhouse gas emissions – and up to 90% of mattress components are recyclable.

This proposed legislation would establish extended producer responsibility for mattresses, requiring mattress producers to establish a plan for the convenient and cost-effective recycling of used mattresses. Since the implementation of EPR programs for mattresses in Connecticut, California, and Rhode Island, more than 12 million mattresses have been recycled and more than 450 million pounds of material – steel, foam, cotton, and wood – have been diverted from disposal.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Expanding Rechargeable and Primary Battery Extended Producer Responsibility (S73 and A1324/S2178)

Expanding Rechargeable Battery EPR to include e-mobility batteries is needed to protect New Yorkers from the potential dangers of these batteries. The increase of consumer products that rely on the use of rechargeable batteries, most notably lithium-ion, has inadvertently led to an increase in dangerous fires that have caused serious (and fatal) injury and hundreds of millions of dollars in equipment and property damage. Dangerous battery fires occur in waste collection vehicles and at recycling and waste management facilities when lithium-ion batteries are crushed or punctured. Including e-mobility batteries as well as battery-embedded devices, toys, and medical devices in the Rechargeable Battery EPR law and allowing a city with a population of one million or more to enforce through its agencies will provide critical policy improvements to mitigate these issues for NYS residents, solid waste employees, and our state's recycling infrastructure going forward.

In addition, NYSAR³ supports the establishment of a primary (single-use) battery recycling program paid for and managed by battery manufacturers. The program laid out by the bill could capture nearly 7 million pounds of primary batteries annually, which are currently not recycled or managed at the expense of local municipalities.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Revisions to the Finance Law to Encourage Reuse and Sale of Surplus Property (S3106)

The New York State and its local governmental (county and municipal) agencies have an excess of surplus property, much of which is disposed of due to restrictive state laws that do not encourage, or explicitly disallow, opportunities for creative reuse. The processes required to keep usable surplus items in circulation and out of the waste stream are burdensome and lead to usable items being discarded.

NYSAR³ supports proposals to create a system where State agencies and authorities can easily transfer surplus property to a pre-approved list of non-profit organizations to prevent disposal of surplus items and to continue building the circular economy, while creating jobs and bolstering the growing reuse industry in New York State.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS the Improvement of Food Date Labeling (S7618/A7291)

NYSAR³ supports A.7291/S.7618, which would prevent food waste and associated environmental impacts, and save consumers money, by simplifying and clarifying food date labels. The bill limits language for date labeling to "Use by" to indicate the safety date of the food item or "Best if Used by" to indicate the quality date of the food item. In addition, it requires those responsible for placing food date labels to use scientifically valid methods to estimate the food safety or quality dates. The bill does not require the use of food date labels, and a manufacturer must only comply if they choose to use food date labels on their packaging. To ensure effective implementation, DEC is directed to conduct education and outreach activities to consumers, retailers, and food donation groups.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS "Skip the Stuff" Legislation to Reduce Single-Use Food Service Items (A1692)

This proposed legislation would provide restrictions on single-use food service items in restaurants and third-party food delivery services. The measure is intended to reduce plastic pollution and waste generation by prohibiting bars and restaurants from providing single-use food service items unless requested by the customer, while also reducing expenses for food service establishments. A similar measure has been enacted by the New York City Council as of February 2023 ([Intro 559-A](#)), and NYSAR³ supports statewide implementation of this measure as well as consideration within funding opportunities to support such implementation.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS the Right to Refill (S7408/A8007)

NYSAR³ supports the efforts to help NYS lead in packaging waste reduction with a simple and scalable solution: allowing consumers to bring their own reusable containers to food service establishments for takeout, beverages, and leftovers instead of relying on single-use options.

NYSAR³ OPPOSES an Outright Moratorium on the Sale and Use of Biosolids ([S5759/A6192](#))

Biosolids provide an important beneficial reuse outlet for organic material produced by water resource recovery facilities. Composting, land application and other beneficial uses of biosolids align with CLCPA goals, and reduce disposal costs for local governments. NYSAR³ does not support the proposed moratorium on the sale and use of biosolids, but instead supports DEC's continuing efforts to assure safety of biosolids and derived products through its regulations.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Updating the Definition of the Term Reusable Bag ([S706/A7759](#))

The proposed bill to amend the definition of "reusable bag" in New York State's environmental conservation law represents a significant step towards promoting sustainability and reducing plastic waste. By establishing clear standards for reusable bags—emphasizing durability, reusability, and environmental friendliness—this legislation encourages consumers to make more responsible choices. NYSAR³ supports this bill to clarify the definition of a reusable bag and the inclusion of recycled plastics to ensure that the definition accommodates innovation in eco-friendly products. Overall, this bill not only supports environmental conservation but also fosters a culture of circular design.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS the Ban on Intentional Balloon Releases (Similar to [S153/A6093](#) and [S75/A1101](#))

When balloons are released into the airspace, balloon debris is introduced into the environment. The resulting pollution from intentional balloon releases creates litter which can contribute to electrical outages, potential fires, and impacts to infrastructure. Balloons are also harmful to wildlife, and contribute to plastic pollution, breaking down over time into micro- and nanoplastics with impacts to the affected ecosystem and human health.

NYSAR³ supports the proposal to prohibit the knowing or intentional release of all balloons, as defined in the S153/A6093 bill text, with exceptions for releases by children. In addition, NYSAR³ believes that an effort to prevent balloon releases should focus on establishing best practices and informing behavior rather than levying fines and enforcement. Should fines be included in the measure, NYSAR³ recommends that fines are minimal and not associated with imprisonment.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Dedicated Funding for Organics Management Infrastructure, Reuse Grant Programs, and the Center for Sustainable Materials Management

NYSAR³ supports the allocation of specific line items and dedicated funding to provide consistent and reliable funding for these important initiatives.

NYSAR³ joins stakeholders across the state requesting, at a minimum, a restoration of the \$5 million level of funding realized during the last session in the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) dedicated to the "Food Waste Reduction" section of NYS DEC Capital Projects. Grants for these projects establish or expand food scrap composting programs and facilities managed by municipalities or non-profits, open up opportunities to provide financial support for the markets for compost products, and fund vital food rescue efforts in NYS. While restoration of this \$5 million level is considered the bare minimum to help meet current needs, ultimately, we are calling for a total of \$10 million in funding to fully embrace the critical need for this important category. Capital funding for composting and food rescue throughout NYS is essential in order to ensure that the infrastructure exists to meet the requirements of the newly expanded Food Scraps Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law. This, along with the goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and the recommendations of New York's Climate Action Council Advisory Panel on Waste, helps demonstrate the necessity of this funding.

NYSAR³ also supports a specific budgeted allocation of \$2 million in the EPF dedicated to grants for research, education, and capital projects that establish or expand reuse programs and facilities managed by municipalities or non-profits. Last session's NYS DEC Capital Projects language identified "developing reuse, repair and deconstruction opportunities through municipal and not-for-profit grants"—but did not allocate any dedicated funding to this effort. NYS DEC is therefore now allowed to create reuse grants, but required to take funds from other important Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling projects in order to fund reuse efforts, which include deconstruction and material reuse in the construction and demolition industry. To support growth of the reuse industry in New York and the corresponding significant economic development and job creation benefits associated with these projects, NYSAR³ calls for this additional dedicated funding for these grants, and for research into other opportunities for reuse within the state's current waste and recyclables streams, and its broadening range of psychological benefits to our communities.

Further, NYSAR³ supports establishment of a \$3.25 million line item within the EPF for funding of the Center for Sustainable Materials Management (CSMM). CSMM is a vital partner in advancing New York's circular future. Their innovative research, collaborative approach, and direct support—through funding, educational resources, and technical assistance—empower New Yorkers, municipalities, businesses, and government agencies alike to take meaningful action on waste reduction and reuse.

¹ U.S. EPA Facts and Figures (2018); New York State generation estimates are pro-rated on a per-capita basis using national data.

² Assumes \$0.32/lb salvage market price.

³ Persistence Market Research, Second-Hand Apparel Market Trends, Size, Share, Growth, and Forecasts, 2025 - 2032

⁴ Wang, Y., F. Firmansyah, S. Manzur, K. Thyberg, E. Hewitt, and DJ Tonjes, 2022 New York State Waste Characterization. Task 1 2022 Annual Report, MOU #AM 11643. Waste Data and Analysis Center, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, 62 pp.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Revision of the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act

NYSAR³ recommends revisions and updates to the requirements first adopted under the Solid Waste Management Act of 1988 (Act). At the time, the Act provided strong leadership for New York State to tackle materials management issues, solid waste management and recycling initiatives. As it has been almost three decades since these provisions and programs were first established and implemented, NYSAR³ believe it is time that the State moves forward to adopt revisions to this legislation and reinvestigate the State's materials management programs.

Specifically, revisions to the Act would allow the NYSDEC and State legislature to facilitate an increase in the statewide recycling rate, work to combat the greenhouse gas emissions associated with packaging production and materials management procedures, and continue to generate jobs in the recycling and reuse industry. The Act can be used as a tool to reach these goals via the incorporation of more stringent requirements and incentives for innovation.

NYSAR³ supports development of a working group made up of legislators, regulators, and industry stakeholders, including those in the sustainable materials management/reuse industries, to draft revisions.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Extended Producer Responsibility Framework Legislation

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs reduce the costs and environmental impacts of covered products by requiring manufacturers to take financial responsibility for the management of products at the end of their useful life.

NYSAR³ supports the development of framework legislation that requires NYSDEC to annually evaluate existing product stewardship programs and evaluate additional products to be covered under EPR laws.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Efforts to Enhance Markets for Reuse, Recyclables, and Compost

The use of post-consumer recycled materials to produce new products provides a market for collected recyclables and is central to developing and maintaining a circular economy. As manufacturers use post-consumer materials and markets for recovered recyclables are expanded, it creates a growing demand and helps make recycling programs more cost-effective. This market development is also critical to expand organics recycling through consistent demand for compost products and expand guidance and opportunities for reuse, repair, and deconstruction.

NYSAR³ supports measures to expand recycling and reuse markets, including directly mandating or incentivizing minimum recycled content in manufacturing, expanding green purchasing programs, supporting deconstruction efforts, and funding research and development to support infrastructure and additional innovative end-market development.

NYSAR³ partners closely with the NYS Center for Sustainable Materials Management, including support for the expansion of local and sustainable recycling markets.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Textile EPR, Recovery, and Waste Reduction

According to the US EPA, almost 2 billion pounds of textiles are generated as waste in NYS each year and eighty-five percent of textile waste is estimated to be disposed through landfilling and incineration¹. The market value of the discarded textiles is over \$650 million based on salvage market prices² and forecasts indicate that the U.S. reuse/second-hand apparel market will double between 2025 and 2030³.

Textiles accounted for an average of 5.7% of the total waste stream in 2022 across 17 NYS municipalities sampled by Stony Brook University according to their New York State Waste Characterization annual report⁴.

As municipalities strive toward zero-waste programs and more cost-effective operations, and brands seek circular solutions for their products, textile recovery presents an attractive opportunity. However, textile collection, sorting, and processing systems lag behind other recycling systems, such as those for metal, glass, plastic, and paper. EPR for textiles can jumpstart the market for textile recovery by leveling the competitive playing field, de-risking investment, and incentivizing reuse and recycling.

As announced by Governor Hochul on January 20, 2026, Monroe County, NY was just selected by a French company to establish a \$390 million first-of-its-kind in North America textile "regeneration hub." This facility will use innovative textile-to-textile recycling technology, and illustrates the potentially powerful economic impact of textile circularity in NYS.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Improved Disaster Debris Management and Prevention

In the aftermath of major flooding and other significant natural disasters, materials that are reusable, recyclable, or compostable are often disposed of in ways that are not the highest and best use of this material (landfilled or incinerated). NYSAR³ supports standard solid waste management plan requirements, best practices including the creation of reuse workforce development hubs, and education to improve recovery, recycling, and composting of disaster debris. NYSAR³ supports the allocation of funding for education and the purchase of publicly owned, regional mobile material recovery sorters and industrial wood chippers to facilitate the collection and processing of disaster debris.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Increased Sustainability and Circularity in the Building and Construction Industry

NYSAR³ partners closely with [CROWD](#) (Circularity, Reuse, Zero Waste Development), a collaborative network launched in 2020 that is working to create a more sustainable built environment in New York State through the creation of a circular construction economy.

Through this collaboration, NYSAR³ supports efforts to expand deconstruction and material reuse rather than demolition and disposal of materials. NYSAR³ supports the development of statewide parameters for comprehensive deconstruction legislation, including a focus on markets as well as recovery.

CROWD is working closely with legislators to promote the below listed bills in the current session:

- [S2091/A3029](#)
- [S8168/A8637](#)
- [S7998/A8456](#)
- [S7648/A6566](#)
- [S8000/A8202](#)

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

Following the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2019, the Climate Action Council was tasked with developing a framework for how the State will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach the stated goals of the CLCPA. The Waste Advisory Panel was formed to consider the impacts of materials management on climate goals. NYSAR³ supports continued discussion of measures to both encourage reduction, reuse, and recycling while considering the climate impacts of waste and materials management, as US EPA data shows that over 50% of carbon emitted comes from the production, transportation, and use of consumer products, packaging, and food.** NYSAR³ will continue to review and support specific proposals presented by the Waste Advisory Panel and recommend increased funding to tackle emissions from the sustainable materials management industry.

- NYSAR³ supports the NYS CLCPA goals including further greenhouse gas reduction by supporting infrastructure funding, incentivizing the use of compost in state-funded projects, and supporting the beneficial use of organic materials.
- NYSAR³ supports the implementation of Waste Disposal Disincentive Surcharge, as described in the State Solid Waste Management Plan. To incentivize waste reduction, the measure would impose a disposal disincentive surcharge (fee per ton) on all waste landfilled or combusted in New York State and all waste generated in New York State being sent for landfilling or combustion out-of-state (with consideration for previously assessed fees on combustion residuals), with the collected funds allocated to provide financial support for reduction, reuse, and recycling projects. While NYSAR³ supports the goal of the surcharge, we also recognize that the implementation details are important to ensure a successful program. We look forward to working with legislators, regulators, and other stakeholders to develop a program that mitigates concerns regarding the management and allocation of resulting surcharge funds, incentives for improving environmental and health impacts of landfilling and combustion, as well as education, outreach, and messaging to preserve the “disincentive” intent of the proposed measure.

** Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials & Land Management Practices, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Solid Waste & Emergency Response, September, 2009 <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ghg-land-materials-management.pdf>

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Expansion of Fair Repair Legislation

The promulgation of Fair Repair legislation will allow broader access to diagnostic and repair information and opportunities, to support the repair market and promote Fair Repair as a policy for waste reduction and reuse. More repair options for consumers will slow the growth of many potential waste streams, enable more extended use of products through multiple owners, and help New York State divert waste to practical use and further enhancements to our community's wellness.

NYSAR³ supports the fostering and growth of viable repair mechanisms, including strengthening and expanding the digital fair repair measure adopted in 2023 ([S1320/A1285](#)) to include additional equipment and repair resources.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Development of Resources and Funding to Implement Product-Based Waste Characterization Studies

Traditional waste characterization studies, carried out by generators and municipal entities to learn more about their waste and recycling streams, produce a pie chart where materials are categorized into recyclable and organic material categories. While this process provides a valuable planning tool, a product-based discards characterization may be more useful in understanding how to implement a successful sustainable materials management strategy and achieve greater diversion results. By summarizing the actual products that are being discarded (e.g. durable goods, packaging/containers, food scraps, yard trimmings), generators can apply a range of initiatives developed by the USEPA for each slice of the pie, with opportunities for reuse and prevention.

NYSAR³ supports development of educational resources and guidance documents to encourage generators to implement the type of waste characterization efforts that will best assist with waste reduction efforts.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Evaluating Inclusion of Aerosol Paint Containers within the NYS Postconsumer Paint Collection Program

New York State's Postconsumer Paint Collection Program has collected over 1 million gallons of paint for management since the program launched in March 2022. NYSAR³ supports an evaluation to effectively and safely expand the current program to include paint packaged in aerosol cans, in coordination with stakeholders including municipalities, drop-off points, and the current paint stewardship program manager. With the goal of increasing proper management of this material and making end-of-life management easier for New York State residents, NYSAR³ recognizes that aerosol paint containers pose different challenges for drop-off points and processing facilities so thorough consideration of safety and logistics is required prior to the development of a legislative proposal.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Pay-As-You-Throw Education and Resources

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) is a solid waste management program that incentivizes people to recycle, reuse, and compost more and generate less waste by charging for waste disposal based on material volume. In some applications, PAYT programs have been shown to effectively increase recycling and waste diversion and decrease solid waste generation. This method has been used widely for 30 years, employed in over 9,000 communities, including some NYS localities, and has been recommended by USEPA.

PAYT programs create a direct economic incentive to generate less waste and compost or recycle more, as the decision to recycle is separated from the direct cost. NYSAR³ continues to encourage further discussion and education on this waste management strategy in New York State and supports the allocation of resources for municipal entities seeking to effectively implement these programs.

NYSAR³ SUPPORTS Increased/Full Funding of the Environmental Protection Fund

The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) has continued to be a vital resource to New York State by allocating funding for numerous environmental programs and projects, including solid waste management.

Expanding EPF funding will further enhance the state's ability to leverage (or partially replace a potential decrease in) federal, local and private dollars, and enable communities to implement programs that will make New York an ideal place for businesses to locate and for families to live. NYSAR³ therefore strongly supports an increase of the Environmental Protection Fund to \$500 million total. We also support continuing full funding of the Municipal Recycling Line of the Solid Waste Account as part of the EPF. Municipalities rely on these critical funds to enhance recycling, offer household hazardous waste programs, provide recycling education and coordination, and make capital improvements to their recycling infrastructure.