

EPR Group Consulting

strategic planning for EPR compliance



Achieve your Objectives By Partnering with a Team of Experts

EPR Group is a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm dedicated to the EPR packaging, paper, and food service ware programs adopted in California, Oregon, and Colorado and to associated truth-in-labeling laws. Our team includes attorneys and top experts in their field with graduate degrees in chemistry, economics, and engineering.

The EPR programs are still developing and maturing. For us, it's the long game. We have been engaged with these programs since their inception. We are acknowledged thought leaders in the field. We know the major players, we are involved in the rule-making process, and we have been participating in stewardship associations and supporting national and international trade associations educate members.

We help our clients achieve their strategic objectives, whether they are directly regulated under these programs, attempting to anticipate shifts in their industry and their customers' needs, or bringing new products to the market.

Our Team

Catherine W. Johnson, CEO and Principal



Catherine has over 30 years of experience as an environmental attorney, representing a wide range of businesses, including Fortune 50, Fortune 500, and S&P 500 manufacturing companies in a variety of permitting and compliance matters. She was also lead attorney in both a Superfund case and a Proposition 65 case which are each considered bellweather cases in their fields, and have been the subject of articles in legal journals and the national media. Catherine served as a partner with one of California's leading law firms before founding the environmental boutique law firm, Environmental General Counsel PC (EGC) and EPR Group Consulting. Through EGC, she is an active member of the National Stewardship Action Association's (NSAC) SB 54 Working Group Committee. As a consultant to the U.S. EPA, Catherine supported the rule making process for federal solid waste regulations by drafting preambles to the regulations and assisting in the review and response to public comments. Catherine graduated from Smith College and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Jim D. Werner, Senior Policy Advisor



Jim Werner is an environmental engineer with more than 40 years of technical and policy experience, including heading environmental programs at both the state and federal level. Most recently, Jim managed the Environmental Policy Section of the U.S. Congressional Research Service, advising members of the U.S. Congress on a wide range of issues including climate change and waste management. Jim previously served as Director of Delaware's Air and Waste Management Division and as Missouri's Director of Air and Land Management, where, at both agencies, he led successful legislative and administrative initiatives to reduce and recycle wastes. From 1993-2001, Jim served as Director of Environmental Management Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy. Jim also worked for several years in private consulting for corporate and government clients. Jim graduated from the University of Delaware and earned a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Heidi Schweizer, Senior Economist



Heidi is a supply chain economist. Her commodities research focuses on production, supply chain management, and transportation. She is the author of numerous academic articles in her field in leading academic journals. She was formerly an Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University where she was a member of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department. She holds a Masters of Science in Applied Economics from Montana State University and a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Julia Thrower, Senior Scientist



Julia has over 12 years of experience as an environmental attorney and holds a graduate degree in biochemistry. Julia previously served as an attorney in the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Natural Resources Division, for over nine years, where she was awarded DOJ's highest award, the Special Achievement Award. At EPR Group, she tracks EPR packaging developments across the country with a special focus on recycling and compostability definitions in each state. Julia graduated from Berkeley Law School (formerly Boalt Hall) and holds a PhD in biochemistry from Johns Hopkins University. She was also a post-doctoral fellow in the Chemistry Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

Emma Roos-Collins, Senior Policy Analyst



Emma tracks and analyzes developments in the EPR laws and manages the development of EPR research materials and presentations, with a special emphasis on California's source reduction requirements and labeling requirements. Emma participates in NSAC's SB 54 Implementation Working Group/Committee and is EPR Group's liaison with Product Stewardship Institute. Emma graduated with highest distinction (summa cum laude) with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

Adrien Thein-Sandler, Senior Policy Analyst



Adrien was previously a planning consultant for an environmental consulting firm, where he conducted statutory and regulatory research, environmental policy analysis, and submitted public comments for emerging regulatory issues. He tracks and analyzes EPR laws in California, Oregon, and Colorado for EPR Group Consulting with a special emphasis in producer responsibility evaluations. Adrien was the recipient of several academic and athletic awards as an undergraduate, including the John Harvard Scholar award given to students who rank in the top 5% of their academic class. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science and Policy from Harvard University.

Education & Training

These programs are new and challenging. It's complicated. Indeed, it isn't even easy to understand what and who is being regulated.

We can help with some basic training and educational programs. We have developed easy-to-understand training materials. We can also work with you to provide customized training materials for your company.

Monitor & Update

Regulatory agencies are holding workshops and proposing new or additional regulations. Producer working groups and stakeholder groups are meeting. The programs will continue to develop over the years.

We can monitor and track developments for you, including supporting your participation in PRO working groups. We can provide reports on basic developments or track specific issues relevant to your company.

Initial Producer Evaluation

Before you join or register with the PRO, you may need help evaluating whether you are considered a producer under each state's program, particularly in cases where the same producers could be responsible for the same covered materials. We can help you evaluate your producer status under the laws as written - and how California's proposed rules may shift that responsibility.

Initial Covered Material Analysis

In some cases it is not always obvious whether a material is regulated under a particular state program. For example, what is considered "single use" or "packaging" may not always be self-evident. Moreover, it may not be clear whether a material falls within an exemption or exclusion. We can help you with that analysis - and where applicable, identify key differences between the statute itself and regulations or proposed applications.

Ongoing Program Requirements

As these programs develop, you may have additional needs for support. For example, we can help you document your compliance program and establish SOPs for your company. We can help draft your customers' business package requirements and/or assist your company develop business requirement packages for its own program. We can also support your obligation to report data and, in California, to prepare a source reduction plan.

Truth-in-Labeling

As labeling requirements develop and are applicable, we can help you identify what products meet truth-in-labeling requirements and what certifications may be necessary.

Trouble-Shooting

Many unexpected issues are arising for companies attempting to plan for their compliance obligations, from software and reporting issues to allocations of responsibility among different producers or internally within companies. We are available to trouble-shoot and help you find a solution.