The Fee Reduction Strategy FOR PACKAGING, PROCUREMENT & SUSTAINABILITY TEAMS

Lower your EPR fees by design.

State EPR programs set your fees by how your packaging is made: material, recyclability, recycled content, and even the number of plastic pieces. The Fee Reduction Strategy triages your entire packaging portfolio to find the two or three features driving your highest fees, then analyzes each in depth: how each state's base rates and eco-modulation bonuses and penalties apply, which design options could lower its fees, and which changes to make first, and when.

Why now

CAA 2027 SCHEDULES

Oct 1, 2026

CAA published 2027 fee schedules for California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, plus California's incentive schedule.

$500 / ton

California's 2027 bonus for post-consumer recycled PET, with a penalty on virgin plastic expected to rise each year.

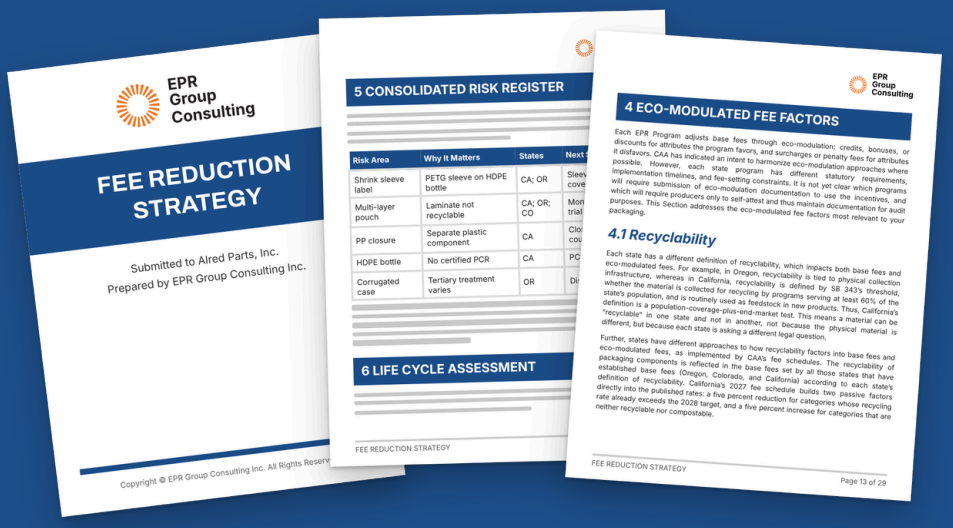
0.1¢ / piece

California's 2027 charge on every physically distinct plastic component. Wraps, bands, and seals add up.

Fees repeat every year, and some penalties are set to rise. Changes made now pay off for years.

Levers we evaluate with your team

- Certified recycled content
- Fewer plastic components
- Mono-material alternatives to laminates
- Replacing problem materials such as PVC
- Source reduction
- Recyclability by state



What the Fee Reduction Strategy covers

Portfolio triage
Your entire packaging portfolio, screened for the biggest fee drivers

Fee levers compared
Each design option sized in dollars

Eco-modulated fee factors
Recyclability, reuse, compostability, PCR, and source reduction

Penalty risks
Problem materials and phase-out pathways

Material restrictions
California, Minnesota, and Washington

Risk register & checklist
For your packaging professionals

How it works

01
Survey
Your reported fee data and a packaging survey

02
Triage
Find the two or three features driving the most fees

03
Evaluate
Estimate fee costs for each feature

04
Options
Identify design options for each and evaluate their fee rates

05
Next steps
Identify next steps and when to take them

MORE THAN A FEE MODEL

Software calculates fees for the scenarios you give it. We identify which design changes would lower your fees the most, estimate what each is worth, and put them in order, giving your packaging professionals a focused short list to evaluate for safety, performance, and fit.

AVAILABLE TWO WAYS

On its own: the Strategy is available on a stand-alone basis. **After the Package:** it builds on the Fee Optimization Roadmap, applying the same depth to the two or three features driving your highest fees, in a substantial report of about 30 pages. Share it with your own packaging professionals or with our partner packaging engineers.

See what your packaging is costing you.

Schedule a complimentary call and request your fixed-fee proposal.

Schedule a call →

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