

The logo for 'horizon futures' features a stylized yellow and orange sun or horizon line above the text 'horizon' and 'futures' stacked vertically. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The logo is set against a white circular background with a thin black border.

horizon
futures

A photograph of the White House in Washington, D.C., taken from a low angle. The building is white with a prominent portico supported by columns. An American flag flies on a tall pole in front of the building. The sky is a soft, hazy pinkish-orange. In the foreground, there is a well-manicured lawn and a low hedge. The overall tone is warm and professional.

US FEDERAL 2023

Packaging Legislative Analysis

Contents

Overarching Packaging Requirements	2
EPR.....	2
EPR Scheme Description.....	2
Recycling Definition and Targets	5
Reuse Definition and Targets.....	5
Packaging Material and Volume Minimisation.....	5
Plastics Regulation	5
Single Use Plastics	5
National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution	7
The Reduce Act	8
International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution	8
Post-Consumer Recyclate.....	9
Other Regulations	9
Material Restrictions/Bans	9
PFAS	9
Bottle Bills (Deposit Return Scheme).....	10
End of Life Labelling (EOL)	12
Mandatory EOL Labelling.....	12
Other Labelling.....	12
How2Recycle.....	13
Appendix.....	14
Introducing aura.....	15
Our Management Team	17

LEGISLATION – US FEDERAL

Plastics Regulation

Single Use Plastics

Throughout the US, a number of States have enacted some form of plastics ban. However, Laws and Ordinances vary significantly between States, Counties and even Cities. The Federal 'Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act' Bill was introduced to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act, aiming to achieve the following:

- Reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging
- Improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging
- Prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways

The Bill reached the US Senate for review on 25th March 2021 and it currently sits with the Committee on Finance for review. As Bills like this can take years to pass at federal level, updates on this Bill are not yet available. As such, the current responsibility for single use plastic restrictions or bans remains with individual states.¹

114 pieces of legislation have been introduced to date over 23 US states, in an effort to address plastic pollution around the following:

- EPR
- Single-use plastic bans/fees
- Bottle Bills
- Polystyrene bans
- EOL labelling

The below is the most recent information, as updated in April 2023, according to National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL), of the US landscape of plastic related legislation.²

In addition to Bills tackling plastic reduction and pollution, many US States have banned certain forms of single-use plastics entirely, with legislation in this area focusing predominantly on plastic bags as well as straws, stirrers and foamed plastic cups, States including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington have all enacted plastic bag bans and many other states have proposed bans in the pipeline. However, if a state chooses not to regulate single-use plastics, individual cities and counties are also able to enact policies at local level.

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/984/all-info>

² <https://www.nceleuro.org/articles/2023-mid-session-highlights/>



aura

pioneering global change

For illustrative purposes, the below map of Massachusetts has been chosen to highlight plastic bag bans in this state alone, demonstrating the volume of separate legislation in place regarding a plastic bag ban in just one state.³

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For illustrative purposes, the below map of Massachusetts has been chosen to highlight plastic bag bans in this state alone, demonstrating the volume of separate legislation in place regarding a plastic bag ban in just one state.⁴

In contrast to most, a small number of US states are actively discouraging certain plastic bans. For example, Iowa enacted a piece of legislation in 2017 that prevents any Iowa city or county from enacting a ban on lightweight plastic bags or an ordinance mandating retailers charge for single-use plastic bags. Similarly, in Michigan it has been illegal since 2017 for cities to regulate their own plastic use and banning of single use plastic items like grocery bags is not permitted. These laws are constantly being challenged locally but thus far have not been repealed.

Until federal legislation is passed banning certain single-use plastics, it will continue to be left at the discretion of individual states and the cities and counties within them to enact their own laws to help reduce the sale and distribution of certain plastic products. Consequently, this area of legislation will require constant tracking to keep up with the regulatory landscape.

³ <https://www.bagtheban.com/in-your-state/>

⁴ <https://www.bagtheban.com/in-your-state/>

Appendix



Introducing aura

About Us

At the heart of our business is a sheer fascination with packaging and the impact it has on our world. Packaging's relationship with the environment is complex and we work with true ethical partners to educate, unite like-minded thinkers and share knowledge.

A global business, the reference point for packaging sustainability, utilising knowledge and data to provide the justification required to drive positive change.

Services

Our expertise falls into three categories designed to deliver a strategic programme focused on the sustainability goals of our clients. These services are supported by a multi-disciplinary team made up of packaging, sustainability, technology and retail experts committed to making a measurable difference every day.

Consulting – Pioneering Packaging Strategy

We are packaging sustainability pioneers committed to true partnerships, focused on the delivery of mutual goals.

Our breadth of packaging sustainability knowledge across substrates, design, technical packaging, legislation, and recyclability allows us to evolve strategies to make a measurable difference both now and in the future.

Our Consultants build road maps for global change, our Technical Engineers develop specifications to refine the impact of your packaging and our Supplier Success Managers are on hand to assist with client education, communications and engagement.

As a result, we will deliver a robust strategy compliant with your sustainability goals aligned to current and future legislation.





Technology – Managing Sustainability Everyday

We provide live data and control to deliver the accurate information you require to make real time decisions that impact your business and our planet.

e-halo is an unrivalled packaging sustainability platform combining state-of-the-art technology with consulting services, designed to manage the changing landscape of global packaging legislation, compliance, and sustainability commitments.

e-halo provides packaging component data at a granular level, making sustainable packaging part of everyday decision making.

e-halo manages compliance to evolving legislation and recyclability requirements with a comprehensive reporting suite allowing for real-time measurement against your business and sustainability targets.



Insights – Data Driven Decisions

We utilise knowledge and data to provide the justification required to drive positive change.

Data Management – We interact with digital information every day. We gather, check, manage and translate data into valuable insights that our clients can use to measure and motivate positive change.

Horizon Futures – We offer horizon scanning services for global packaging legislation across 54 countries and for this we are unique. We interpret legislation rather than just quoting a legal directive, to help you understand the current and future packaging landscape. We then consider how emerging trends might potentially affect current policy and practice, enabling our clients to take a longer-term strategic approach to packaging sustainability.

Our Management Team

We are packaging sustainability pioneers committed to true partnership, which means to us a relationship focused on the delivery of the mutual goals of our business and that of our clients.

Visionary

Pioneering strategies which educate, unite and influence change

Responsible

Real-time data drives the changes needed to positively impact our planet

Honest

Decisions are informed, and our communications are authentic

Collaborative

Ethical Partnerships unify our mutual goals to create a vision fit for the future



Greg Lawson
Managing Director



Gillian Garside-Wight
Consulting Director



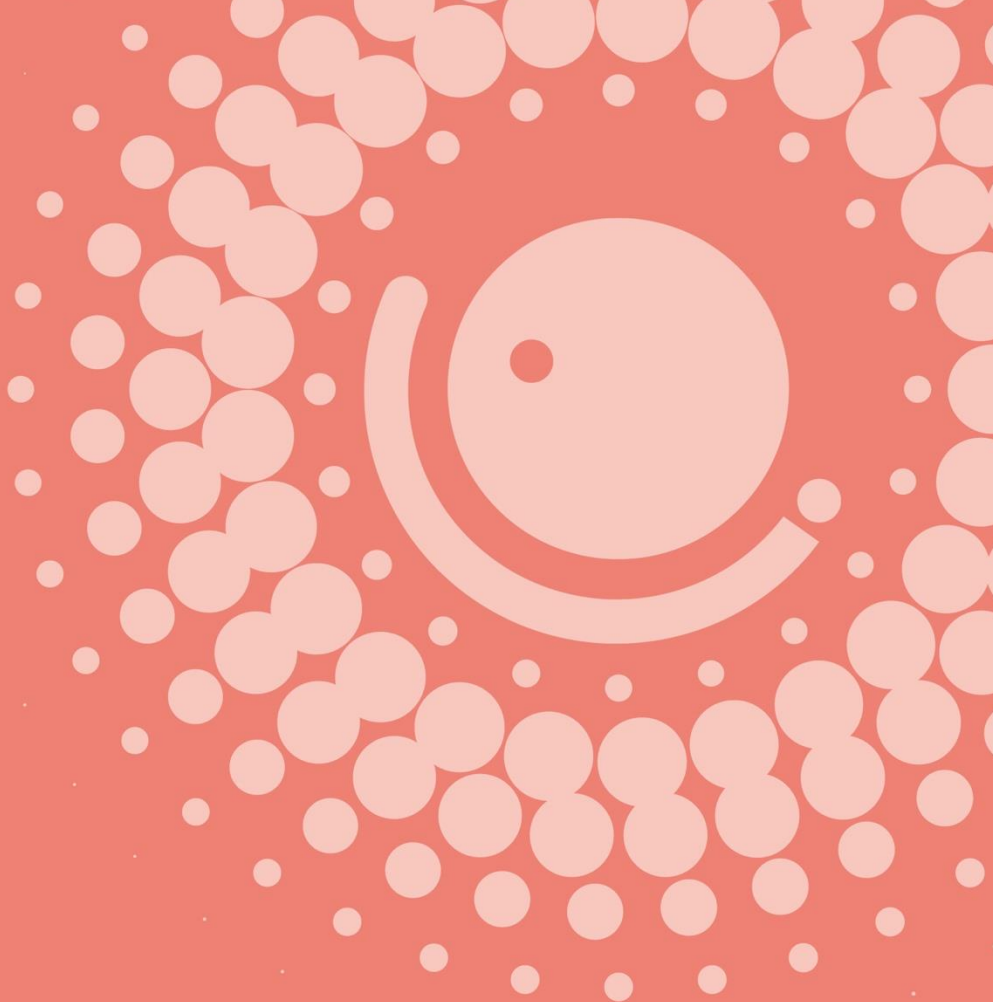
Harriet Young
Marketing Director



Sarah Kroon
Operations Director



Trevor Yong
Business Development Director



Thank you from Team Aura