

The logo for 'horizon futures' features a stylized yellow and white 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 within a white circular graphic that is partially obscured by a larger white circular shape on the left.

horizon
futures

MAINE 2023

Packaging Legislative Analysis

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LEGISLATION – MAINE

Plastics Regulation

Single Use Plastic Bags

Maine's ban on single-use carrier bags has been effective since 1st July 2021 through the Elimination of Single-Use Plastic Carry-out Bags, Legislative Document 1532. Retail establishments including stores, restaurants, and temporary or pop-up businesses such as farmers markets, food trucks, or fairs, are banned from providing single-use plastic carry-out bags in Maine. Stores are permitted to provide either recycled paper bags or reusable bags to customers, however a 5 cent per-bag fee will be applied for paper bags.

An amendment to this Law was proposed on 1st February 2023, in an effort to repeal the ban on single-use plastic bags under certain circumstances. The Law, if approved, would allow a retailer to use plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store (or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store) a container for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled.

A further amendment was proposed on 13th February 2023 calling to abolish the 5¢ fee currently charged to consumers.

No further update has been published.¹

EPR

EPR Scheme Description

On 18th October 2021, Maine enforced the first US State-level packaging EPR Program (LD 1541), encompassing all types of packaging made from any material. This Law was introduced as a solution to the ill-performing separate collection programs historically in place across the State for packaging. No distinction is made between primary (household), secondary or tertiary (industrial) packaging.

The Act establishes a stewardship programme for packaging, where producers of products will pay into a fund based on the amount and the recyclability of packaging associated with their products. Under the scheme, manufacturers and brand owners (or importers where no US-based producer is active) will be obliged to join and fund a single producer responsibility organization (PRO) from the first anniversary of the company's formation. Small producers with under USD 2m revenue or placing less than 1 ton (0.9 metric tonnes) of packaging in the market (Maine) annually are exempt.

This Law also includes an option for obligated entities to provide alternative collection programs (in lieu of joining the PRO). In these cases, the programs are required to provide convenient, free and state-wide collection. The Law specifies that producers will be

¹ <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0258&item=1&snum=131>



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required to submit an annual report to the stewardship organization on the total amount, whether by weight or volume, of each type of packaging material sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into Maine by the producer in the prior calendar year. The Law also stipulates that individuals must submit an annual report to the stewardship organization detailing the total amount, whether by weight or volume, of each type of packaging material collected and managed by each participating producer through alternative collection programs.²

Next steps for Maine will be to initiate rulemaking by December 2023, a public stakeholder process that will fill in the details of the program's creation and implementation. Focus will be paid on the following topics:

Producer payment schedules

Minimum list of recyclables (which materials are recyclable)

Developing a process for determining municipal reimbursement payments

Setting of specific program goals and targets

Establishing how audits of waste, recycling, and litter in Maine will be operated.³

It is then anticipated that technical rules for the programme will be adopted in Summer 2024, though no official date has been given.

² <https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1146&item=11&snum=130>

³ <https://www.nrcm.org/blog/how-extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging-will-benefit-maine/>

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



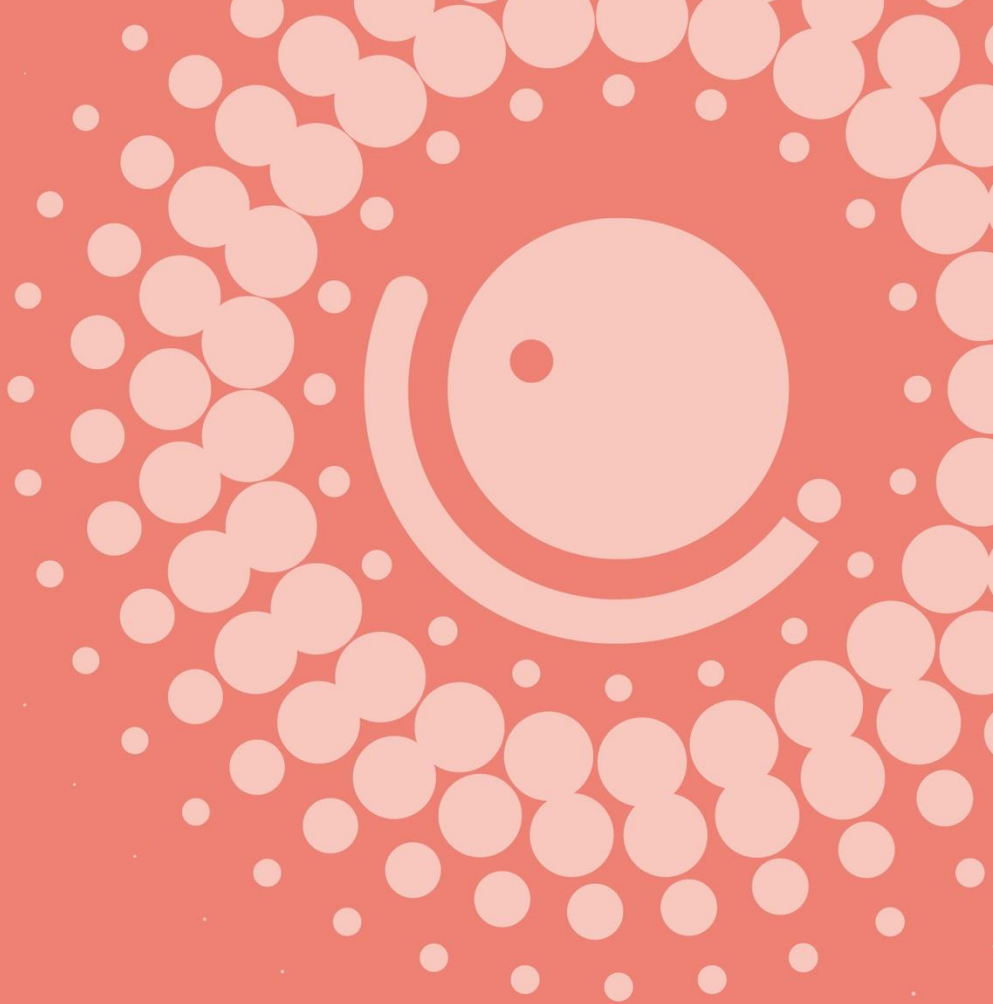
Harriet Young
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Sarah Kroon
Operations Director



Trevor Yong
Business Development Director



Thank you from Team Aura