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DSNY Heralds City Council Support for State-level Action on Extended Producer Responsibility

EPR would save New York City money – and help fight the climate crisis

The New York City Department of Sanitation, the nation's largest municipal solid waste agency, thanked the members of the New York City Council for last week's passage of [Resolution 55-A](#), calling on New York State to pass Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and printed paper into law this year.

Currently, New York City residents pay hundreds of millions of dollars to have recyclable material transported and processed. EPR would shift this burden from taxpayers onto the people who produce and sell packaged material in the first place, creating a market incentive for sustainable package design, saving the planet, and helping the City's budget.

"Our current system lets manufacturers off the hook – they can create as much package waste as they want – and makes New Yorkers foot the bill for doing the right thing by keeping waste out of landfill. EPR would change that, and I want to thank Speaker Adams, Sanitation Chair Sandy Nurse, and the entire City Council for their leadership," said **Edward Grayson, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation**.

"An EPR system at the State level would be a significant step toward ending the ongoing public subsidy for corporations who take no responsibility for the end-cycle of their products and would greatly benefit DSNY with resources to support critical operations, said **Council Member Sandy Nurse, Chair of the City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management**. "As the State finalizes EPR, it must ensure that there is increased environmental justice accountability – and that the new system requires waste reduction, rejects false solutions like chemical recycling, and requires removal of toxic chemicals from packaging materials. This is just one of many steps we need to move toward an equitable and sustainable waste management system."

"Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing New York City. I am proud to sponsor Reso 55-A, which will not only help NYC combat the climate crisis, but also save New Yorkers millions of dollars," said **Council Member James F. Gennaro, Chair of the City Council Committee on Environmental Protection**. "Shifting the financial burden to the manufacturers

of packaged materials incentivizes designs that are more environmentally-friendly. This is a common sense move that has been adopted in many parts of the world. I urge my State colleagues to support this bill."

EPR systems have existed for up to 30 years in Canada, parts of Europe, and other places around the world. New York State has an opportunity to join successful programs – where recycling diversion rates get above 70%, in part due to these programs – by passing EPR this year.

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