

Memorandum of Support

The New York Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act Senate 1464-A (Senator Harckham) / Assembly 1749-A (Assemblymember Glick)

May 8, 2026

The undersigned 319 organizations strongly support the adoption of Senate Bill 1464-A / Assembly Bill 1749-A. This bill will significantly reduce the proliferation of single-use plastic packaging, save local tax dollars, make packaging less toxic, reduce the amount of packaging material clogging landfills and being burned in incinerators, protect public health, and help the state meet the mandates outlined in the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would:

- **Reduce plastic packaging by 30%** gradually over the next 12 years;
- Require 75% of the remaining packaging to be **reused and/or recycled** by 2055 with a minimum 20% being reused;
- **Prohibit the false solution of “chemical recycling”** from counting toward recycling targets;
- **Save tax dollars** by requiring companies to pay modest fees on packaging that encourage packaging to be reduced or **designed for reuse and recyclability**;
- Require these packaging fees to provide local taxpayer relief by **paying local government the costs of recycling and disposal of single-use packaging**, and to provide grants supporting reuse and refill projects; and
- **Prohibit 13 toxic chemicals and materials** from packaging that are known to be harmful to human health and the environment, including PFAS, phthalates, and bisphenols, excluding tetramethyl bisphenol F (TMBF).

Exemptions:

- Companies that gross less than \$5 million in sales;
- Agricultural cooperatives with fewer than 50 employees that produce dairy products;
- Infant formula and medical foods;
- Products regulated as drugs, medical devices, or dietary supplements by federal law;
- Animal biologics, including vaccines;
- Pesticide packaging;
- Packaging used to contain hazardous or flammable products;
- Architectural paint containers; and
- Beverage containers that have deposits and are covered by the Returnable Container Deposit Law (Bottle Bill).

Plastic packaging is a major fiscal, environmental justice, climate change, and human health problem:

- **Plastic pollution is growing:** In 2020, 35.7 million tons of plastic was made in the United States,¹ and plastic production is slated to double in the next 20 years.²

¹<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data>

²https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate_and_plastic_executive_summary.pdf

- **Microplastics have been found almost everywhere** in the environment and in the human body: in the air,³ drinking water,⁴ human blood,⁵ lungs,⁶ breast milk,⁷ placentas,⁸ and testicles.⁹
- **Environmental justice:** Most U.S. plastic is manufactured in communities of color and low-income communities in Louisiana, Texas, and Appalachia. Incinerators and landfills are also often located in low-income communities and communities of color.
- **Plastic's role in climate change:** Plastic production is warming the planet four times faster than air travel, according to a federal government study released in April 2024.¹⁰
- **Ocean plastic pollution:** The ocean is swiftly becoming a watery landfill, with negative effects on marine life. Thirty-three billion pounds of plastic enter the ocean each year worldwide, the equivalent of two garbage trucks per minute, primarily from land-based sources.¹¹

Key provisions of this bill:

Recycling and reduction targets: Businesses that sell consumer products in New York state would be required to reduce single-use plastic packaging by 30% within 12 years, including packaging used to transport products. Remaining packaging would have to be redesigned to be refilled within a refill system or be truly recyclable; the bill mandates a 75% recycling rate, with a minimum of 20% of packaging reused, by 2055. A mere 5% to 6% of U.S. plastic waste is currently recycled,¹² and it is most often turned into products or materials of lesser value (e.g., downcycled into plastic “lumber”).¹³ Because the bill will require packaging to be reduced, reused, or redesigned to be effectively recyclable, recycling facilities will no longer be inundated with worthless plastic waste that they pay to handle and then send to expensive landfills and incinerators.

Broad public support: New Yorkers support reducing plastic packaging. In a 2024 Siena poll, **82% of New York voters** said that single-use plastic packaging is a problem. A **bipartisan two-thirds** (67%) support the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act. Highest support was among African-American voters, with 81% in favor.¹⁴

Toxic chemical reductions: The bill makes packaging safer by prohibiting 17 toxic chemicals — including PFAS, vinyl chloride, lead, mercury, phthalates, formaldehyde, bisphenols (with the exception of TMBF), and toluene — that are used in food packaging, including packaging for baby

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8520475/>

⁴ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516198>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/24/microplastics-found-in-human-blood-for-first-time>

⁶ <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/microplastics-in-humans-after-blood-scientists-find-traces-in-the-lungs>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/07/microplastics-human-breast-milk-first-time>

⁸ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33395930/>

⁹ Qiancheng Zhao, Long Zhu, Jiaming Weng, Zirun Jin, Yalei Cao, Hui Jiang, Zhe Zhang, Detection and characterization of microplastics in the human testis and semen, *Science of The Total Environment*, Volume 877, 2023, 162713, ISSN 0048-9697

¹⁰ https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/climate_and_plastic_executive_summary.pdf

¹¹ Forrest et al. Eliminating Plastic Pollution: How a Voluntary Contribution From Industry Will Drive the Circular Plastics Economy, *Frontiers*, September 25, 2019. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00627>

¹² <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/04/us-recycling-plastic-waste>

¹³ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-recycling-isnt-the-answer-to-the-plastic-pollution-problem/>

¹⁴ <https://scri.siena.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/SNY0624-Crosstabs.pdf>

food. These chemicals can be carcinogenic, endocrine-disrupting, or otherwise harmful to human health.¹⁵

Saves local taxpayer dollars: Companies will be required to reimburse local governments for their costs in recycling and disposing of their packaging waste — rather than taxpayers. And local governments will save tax dollars by not having to pay to transport, landfill, or burn so much packaging waste.

Incentives for reducing packaging’s environmental impact: Through the use of “eco-modulated” fees, the bill incentivizes companies to redesign their packaging to be reduced, reused, or recycled more effectively. Those that do so will pay less under the fee structure.

Wisely defines chemical recycling as waste disposal: In addition, chemical recycling will not count toward recycling targets. These technologies have been widely debunked and are a false solution to plastic waste.^{16,17,18,19,20}

Combats climate change: The New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan specifically calls for legislation to establish a producer responsibility program for packaging and to “phase out single-use packaging.” The legislature should pass this bill in order to meet the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals, as required by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

In sum, this bill would save tax dollars and position New York as a global leader in reducing plastic pollution.

For more information, visit [BeyondPlastics.org](https://beyondplastics.org) or contact Judith Enck at judithenck@bennington.edu and Alexis Goldsmith at alexisgoldsmith@bennington.edu.

Signed,

Beyond Plastics

Environmental Advocates of New York (EANY), Albany

Episcopal Diocese of New York City, New York

American Lung Association New York, New York

Consumer Reports, Yonkers

New York State Council of Churches, Albany

New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Albany

New York State Academy of Pediatrics, New York

Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York, New York

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), New York

League of Women Voters New York, Albany

¹⁵ <https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/news-room/2020/plastics-pose-threat-to-human-health>

¹⁶ <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/chemical-recycling-greenwashing-incineration-ib.pdf>

¹⁷ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eda91260bbb7e7a4bf528d8/t/655791f76ad9bb07d10e1290/1700237880522/10-30-23_Chemical-Recycling-Report_web.pdf

¹⁸ https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chemical-Recycling-of-Sachet-Waste_A-Failed-Experiment-2022.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CR-Briefing_June-2020.pdf

²⁰ <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26132/reckoning-with-the-us-role-in-global-ocean-plastic-waste>

United University Professions, Latham
Earthjustice, New York

Hip Hop Caucus, Silver Spring, MD
Scenic Hudson, Poughkeepsie
Food and Water Watch, Brooklyn
Just Zero, Sturbridge, MA
Friends of the Earth, Merrifield, VA
Blueland, New York
Climate Reality Project - NYS Chapters Coalition, New York
Citizen Action of New York, Albany
Oceana, New York
For the Many, Poughkeepsie
NY/NJ Baykeeper, Hazlet, NJ
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary - Eastern United States, Tarrytown
Church Women United in New York State, New York
Work on Waste, USA, Binghamton
The Last Plastic Straw, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
Meliora Cleaning Products, Chicago
Only One, New York
Plaine Products, Cincinnati
Plastic Pollution Coalition, Washington, DC
350 Brooklyn, Brooklyn
350 NYC, New York

A Sustainable Village, New York
ACES Aurorans for Climate and Environmental Sense, East Aurora
Actors' Temple, Congregation Ezrath Israel, New York
Adirondack Garden Club, Keene
Albany County Central Federation of Labor, Albany
Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force, Albany
All Our Energy, Long Beach
Alliance for a Green Economy, Syracuse
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, Mount Rainier, MD
American Littoral Society, NE Chapter, New York
Appalachian Mountain Club, New York
Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, Saugerties
Bedford 2030, Katonah
Beloved Earth Community, Bronx
Beloved Earth Community @ the Riverside Church, New York
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle, Bethlehem
Bethlehem NY Indivisible, Delmar
Beyond Plastics Altamont, Altamont

Beyond Plastics Brooklyn, Brooklyn
Beyond Plastics Queens, Queens

Beyond Plastics Schenectady, Schenectady
Beyond Plastics Sullivan County, Callicoon
Big Reuse, Brooklyn
Billion Oyster Project, New York
BK ROT, Brooklyn
B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, Albany
Broadview Environmental Group, Purchase
Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group, Bellport
Brooklyn For Peace, Brooklyn
Bronx River Alliance, Bronx
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Buffalo
Buy Local, Grow Local, Albany
Cafeteria Culture, New York
Campaign for Renewable Energy, Ithaca
Canaan Congregational Church UCC, Canaan
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC), Niskayuna
Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Arkville
Cazenovia Environmental Club, Cazenovia
Center for Zero Waste Design, Brooklyn
CCOHOPE Indivisible, Croton-on-Hudson
Christ the King Episcopal Church, Stone Ridge
Church Women United in New York State, Rochester
Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution / CCAPP, Woodstock
Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, Town of Highlands
Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena-Coeymans, New Baltimore
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, Buffalo
Climate Can't Wait, Albany
Climate Change Awareness and Action, Inc., Fayetteville
Climate Change Resources Inc., New York
Climate Crisis Working Group of Indivisible Mohawk Valley, Clinton
Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV), Utica
Climate Families NYC, Brooklyn
Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, Rochester
Coastal Research & Education Society of Long Island, Inc. (CRESLI), West Sayville
Color Henrietta Green, Henrietta
Color Pittsford Green, Pittsford
Columbia County Reduces Waste--Bring Your Own, Ghent
Common Ground Compost, New York
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment, Canaan
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Congregation of the Mission, New York

Creation CareTeam of St. Augustine Church, Larchmont
Creative Bath Sales, New York
CupZero, Brooklyn
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Narrowsburg
Dayenu Nassau County, Merrick
Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University, New Rochelle
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society of New York, Oneonta
DeliverZero, New York
Dominican Sisters of Hope, Ossining
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, Sparkill
Don't Trash the Catskills, Roxbury
Earth & Me, New York
Earth Care Honeoye, Honeoye
Earth Care Team Saratoga Springs, Saratoga
Eco Harmony Inc., East Hampton
EcoJustice Collaborative of the American Baptist Churches, Rochester
El Puente, Brooklyn
Energy Justice Law and Policy Center, New Rochelle
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking, Elmira
Environmental Justice Ministry of First Unitarian of Rochester, Rochester
Episcopal Diocese of NY Creation Care Committee, New York
Esopus Creek Conservancy, Saugerties
Extinction Rebellion Mid-Hudson, New Paltz
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, White Plains
Fellowship of the Sacred Earth, Troy
First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls, Glens Falls
First Reformed Church Creation Care Committee, Schenectady
Friends of Liberty State Park, New York
Foodscraps 360 LLC, Albany
Fossil Free Tompkins, Ithaca
Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, New York
Frack Action, Highland
FrackBustersNY, New York
Franciscan Friars of Laudato Si' Center for Integral Ecology, Loudonville
First Draft Farm Nursery, Troy
Fridays For Future NYC, New York
Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation, East Hampton
Grassland Bird Trust, Inc., Schuylerville
Grassroots Environmental Education, Port Washington and White Plains
Green Education and Legal Fund, Poestenkill
Green Ossining, Ossining
Green Party of Monroe County, Rochester
Green Party of Nassau County, Island Park
Green Party of New York, New York
Green Party of Onondaga County, Syracuse
Green Sanctuary Committee - Albany Unitarians, Albany

Green Schools Alliance, Katonah
GreeningUSA, Syracuse
Groundwork Hudson Valley, Yonkers
Healthy Yards, Bedford
Home Earth Alliance/IMAGINE Native Plant Farm, Delmar
HomeLand Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Schenectady
Housatonic Environmental Action League, Inc. (HEAL), Cornwall Bridge
Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Philipstown
Hudson and Mohawk Rivers Leachate Collaborative, Kingston
Hudson Valley Advocates, Dobbs Ferry
Hudson River Audubon Society, Yonkers
Hudson River Expeditions, Cold Spring
Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Beacon
Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center, Kingston
Indivisible Binghamton, Binghamton
Indivisible New Rochelle, New Rochelle
Indivisible NW Bronx, Bronx
Indivisible Larchmont/Mamaroneck, Larchmont
Indivisible NYCD16, Yonkers
Indivisible Rochester, Rochester
Indivisible Scarsdale, Scarsdale
Indivisible Stephentown, East Nassau
Interfaith Earth Action, New Paltz
Interfaith Public Health Network, Poughkeepsie
It's Easy Being Green, New York
Izzy Beauty Inc., New York
Jewish Climate Action Network, New York
JSA ESG Impact, Germantown
Judson Memorial Church, New York
Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc., New City
KingstonCitizens.org, Kingston
Kite's Nest, Hudson
Larrecca Music, Kingston
League of Women Voters Albany County, Albany
League of Women Voters Cortland County, Cortland
League of Women Voters Oneonta, Oneonta
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County, Canton
League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns, Hastings-on-Hudson
League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, Saratoga Springs
Lights Out Norlite, Cohoes
Long Beach Latino Civic Association, Long Beach
Long Island Progressive Coalition, Massapequa
Messiah Lutheran Church, Schenectady
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement, New York
Mothers Out Front Dutchess County, Poughkeepsie

Mothers Out Front NY, Sleepy Hollow
Mountain Top Progressives, Windham
Mountain Rise United Church of Christ, Fairport
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, Elmont
News from the Neighborhood, Delmar
NCEA, Glens Falls
North Brooklyn Community Boathouse, Brooklyn
Northern Westchester Mothers Out Front, Croton-on-Hudson
NYC Metro Raging Grannies, New York
NYenvironcom, New Paltz
NYPAN Environmental Committee, Cairo
NY Water Action, Buffalo
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, New Paltz
New York Progressive Action Network, Athens
New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, New York
New Yorkers for Clean Power, Kingston
Niagara Frontier Surfrider Foundation, Hamburg
NO Safe Level & Cameron Committee for a Safe Environment, Cameron
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE), Roosevelt
North Shore Audubon Society, Port Washington
Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Palenville
NYC H2O, New York
Ocaquatics Swim School, Miami
Operation SPLASH, Freeport
Otsego Land Trust Inc, Cooperstown
OurCitizens.org, Kingston
Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Auburn
PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy), Albany
Pachamama Alliance, Rochester
Peckham Action Group, Catskill
Peconic Baykeeper, Hampton Bays
People for a Healthy Environment, Elmira
Pleasant Valley Community Gardens, Pleasant Valley
Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe, Pleasant Valley
Presbyterian Church in New Scotland, Slingerlands
Progressive Schenectady, Schenectady
Protect the Adirondacks! Inc., Johnsbury
Protecting Our Waters, Stone Ridge
Putnam Progressives, Mahopac
Queens Climate Project, Jackson Heights
Re: Dish Co, Brooklyn
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, New York
Rensselaer County Women for Change, Troy
Rensselaer Environmental Coalition, Rensselaer
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT), Owego
RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity), Far Rockaway

Rise and Resist, New York
Riverkeeper, Ossining
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith, Chatham
ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River), Mount Vernon
Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA), Rochester
Rocking the Boat, New York
Rockland Audubon Society, New City
Roctricity LLC, Rochester
Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church, New York
Saratoga Lak Association, Saratoga Springs
Saugerties Lighthouse Conservancy, Saugerties
Sanctuary Club, Cazenovia
SAVE Colonie: A Partnership for Planning, Colonie
Save The Great South Bay, Babylon
Save The River, Clayton
Save the Sound, Larchmont
Saw Mill River Audubon, Chappaqua
Science Teachers of New York State
Seeding Sovereignty, New York
Seneca Lake Guardian, Watkins Glen
Sisters of Charity of New York, Bronx
Sisters of Mercy Justice Team -- NY, Albany
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, Rochester
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor
Solarize Albany, Albany
Solidarity Committee, Capital District, Albany
South Shore Audubon Society, Freeport
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, New York
St. Peters Presbyterian Church, Spencertown
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), North Salem
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, Narrowsburg
Sure We Can, Brooklyn
Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island Chapter, Southampton
Surfrider Foundation New York City, New York
Surfrider Foundation Niagara Frontier, Hamburg
SurfRnR.org, New York
Sustainable Putnam, Mahopac
Sustainable Saratoga, Saratoga
Sustainable Sullivan, Callicoon
Sustainable Warwick, Warwick
Sustainable Westchester, Mt. Kisco
SWIM Coalition, New York
Swing Left Target Majority, Brooklyn
Temple Beth Shalom, Hastings-on-Hudson

Temple B'rith Kodesh Social Action Committee, Rochester
Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Croton-on-Hudson
The BioBoat, New York
The Clean Air Coalition of WNY, Buffalo
The Park Church Climate Justice Team, Elmira
Think Zero LLC, New York
Third Act Upstate New York, Clinton
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona University, New Rochelle
Times Up, New York
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, Ithaca
Town of Copake Conservation Advisory Committee, Copake
TownOfUlsterCitizens.org, Ulster
Transition Town Port Washington, Port Washington
Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons, Inc., Jamesport
Ulster Activists, New Paltz
Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, Kingston
UNCAGED, Gloversville
United Climate Action Network (UCAN), Cazenovia
United Muslim Alliance of Albany, Albany
Uncommon Goods, Brooklyn
Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica, Utica
United For Clean Energy, Peekskill
Uptown Progressive Action, a NYPAN chapter, New York
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton Green Sanctuary, Binghamton
UUDig Community Garden, Rochester
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Hastings-on-Hudson
Watervliet Huddle, Watervliet
We Are One - Sullivan, Callicoon
WESPAC Foundation, Inc., White Plains
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS), Westchester
Western New York Drilling Defense, Buffalo
Western New York Environmental Alliance, Buffalo
Westhampton Garden Club, Westhampton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany
Women Against War, Albany
Woodstock Farm Festival, Woodstock
Woodstock Land Conservancy, Woodstock
Woodstock NY Transition, Woodstock
World Christian Life Community, New York
Zero Waste Capital District, Glenmont
Zero Waste NYC, Astoria