

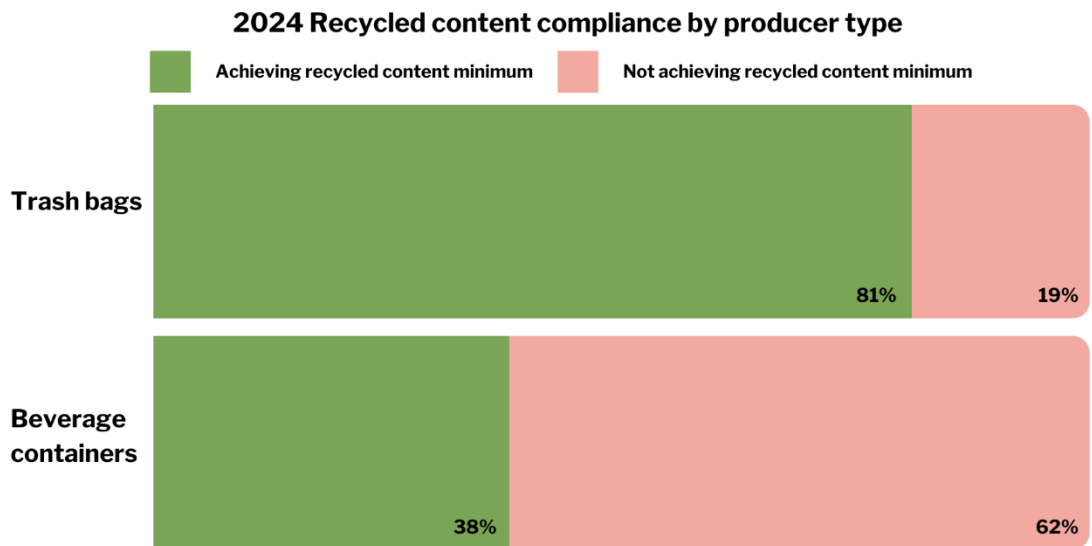
Post-consumer recycling overview for 2024

Focus on recycled content requirements

Recycled Content Compliance in Washington: A Closer Look at the Numbers

Washington's laws on post-consumer recycled content (PCRC) are designed to reduce the use of new plastic and encourage the use of recycled materials. Producers of plastic beverage containers and trash bags must add a minimum percentage of PCRC into their packaging. These laws can be found in [Chapter 70A.245](#) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

By 2024, plastic beverage containers must contain at least 15% recycled content, while trash bags must have at least 10%. Most trash bag producers meet the PCRC minimum, with just 19% falling short. However, 62% of plastic beverage container producers do not meet the PCRC minimum recycled content requirement.



Producers failing to meet these minimum requirements will be put on corrective action plans to ensure compliance. They may also face penalties for not meeting the PCRC requirements.

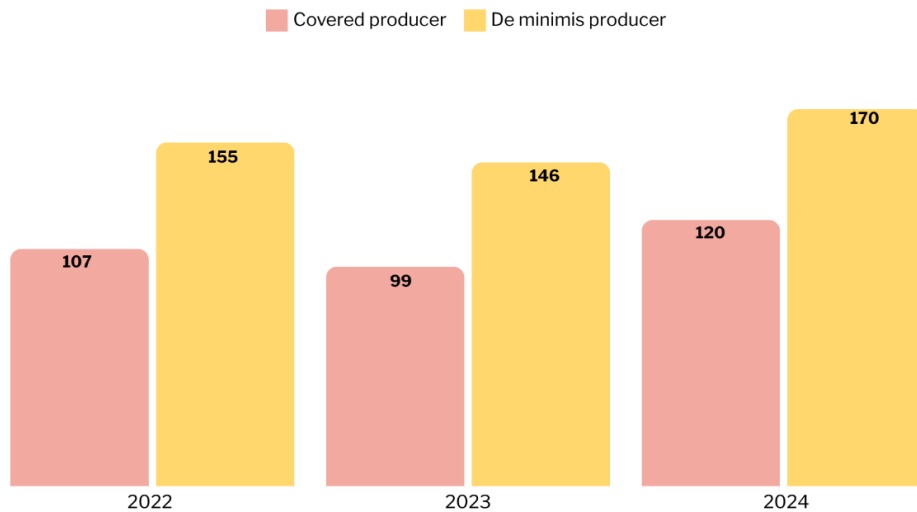
Rising number of exempt producers

All producers selling or distributing certain plastic products in Washington must notify Ecology every year, regardless of whether they are exempt. Since 2022, there has been an increase in exempt or small-scale producers. De minimis producers are those who either sell less than one million dollars' worth of a specific covered product category in Washington or sell less than one ton of a covered product category in the state. These producers are not required to meet the minimum recycled content requirements or pay annual fees to Ecology.

The de minimis threshold is intended to exempt small or family-owned businesses that could not meet the new PCRC requirements. In 2024, [290 producers registered](#) with Ecology, with 170 meeting the de minimis criteria. Covered producers must pay fees to cover Ecology's program oversight costs and comply with the

minimum PCRC requirements. As the number of de minimis producers increases, the burden of supporting program oversight and administration costs increases for covered producers.

Registered producer types



Recycled content requirements for 2025

The [minimum percentage requirements](#) for each covered product category gradually increase over the next 12 years. By 2036, all packaging for covered product categories must include at least 50% post-consumer recycled content, except trash bags containing only 20% after 2027.

Trash bag PCRC requirements will increase from 10% to 15%.



Household cleaning and personal care products PCRC requirements will begin at 15%.



Plastic beverage containers will maintain a 15% requirement until 2026, increasing to 25%.



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-409-6900 or email at Mark.Hayes@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY, call 711 or 877-833-6341.