

UNEP-IETC action on EPR

Good Practice emerged from EPR workshops¹

Eco-design

Eco-design refers to an overall principle applied in the early stage of products and materials design, aiming to prioritize prevention, reuse and recycling –in this order of preference–, over energy recovery and final disposal, at the end-of-life of products.

In Argentina, the concept of eco-design has been highlighted in the technical guidelines of the regulation of the [Law 25916/2004](#) on Integral Household Waste Management. It promotes incentives for the systematic integration of environmental aspects in the design of goods and products, in order to improve environmental performance and reduce environmental externalities throughout their life cycle, particularly their duration and recyclability.

In the same vein, [Law 20920/2016](#) in Chile establishes a series of incentives for eco-design, including eco-modulation rates according to products or materials easier to be managed (containers that are more difficult to recycle have a higher collection rate, e.g.).

Social inclusion

Increase the levels of social inclusion of recycling workers and the creation of decent jobs. In many emerging economies, the ineffective integration of sorters causes inefficient waste handling, a lack of supply chain transparency, and ultimately, reduced waste collection and processing with increased environmental leakage. Integrating social inclusion will help to recognize the value these informal workers bring to the local economy, particularly waste collection and recycling sectors, and supports their health and safety so they can sustain their livelihoods.

This is recognized in the EPR model in Uruguay, through the [Law 19829/2019](#), which stands for the social and labour inclusion of informal workers into formality. The concept is as well highlighted in Brazil, where the National Policy on Solid Waste ([Law 12305/2010](#)) establishes that the closure and recovery of dumpsites must be associated with the social inclusion and economic emancipation of waste-pickers. As a result, Brazilian government published the Federal Decree No.12106/2024, regulating the tax incentive for the recycling productive chain, which will allow companies and individuals to deduct part of their tax obligations towards approved social projects.

Convergence between regulatory frameworks

It refers to the coordinated and synchronized state of laws, policies, and regulatory strategies among different government levels to achieve common goals and avoid conflicts and inefficiencies. Such alignment is crucial for waste management, encouraging industries to adopt more sustainable practices uniformly and eventually leading to effective cooperated national efforts.

¹ UNEP-IETC has been organizing a series of workshops to enhance capacity and knowledge of Member States, as a tool to accelerate circular economy and improve waste management in those countries. In Nov/2023 a workshop was held in Montevideo, Uruguay; whereas in Sept/2024 a similar event took place in Manama, Bahrein.

In Uruguay, the Ministry of the Environment was granted the authority by Law [17283/2000](#), to issue the necessary provisions and apply the necessary measures to regulate waste management, among other aspects related to environmental protection, in the country. It is thus the authority in charge of regulating and controlling all waste at the national level, facilitating the coordination with subnational and local governments.

In Jordan, it took six years of collaborative efforts among Jordan's Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Local Administration and the Greater Amman Municipality, in coordination with private sector and NGOs, to put into practice a [national mechanism of EPR](#), due to roll out in 2025. EPR is still a novelty for the government, and this collaborative approach was the best way to gain support from societal and international actors and get the buy-in of companies and citizens.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement refers to the active involvement and collaboration of various interested parties such as producers, consumers, waste management companies, and regulatory bodies in the execution and enforcement of waste management.

Saudi Arabia underscores the importance of this approach by engaging with stakeholders across the public and private sectors to gather data and facilitate the development of a well-suited EPR scheme. This collaborative approach is crucial for the successful implementation of EPR in the country, as envisioned by its [Vision 2030](#) strategy. It also ensures clear communication and operational clarity among government bodies, private sector, civil society and NGOs -a key feature of successful EPR experiences.

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