

# Is There a Path to Packaging EPR in Illinois?

# Agenda

**Intro to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

**Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment**

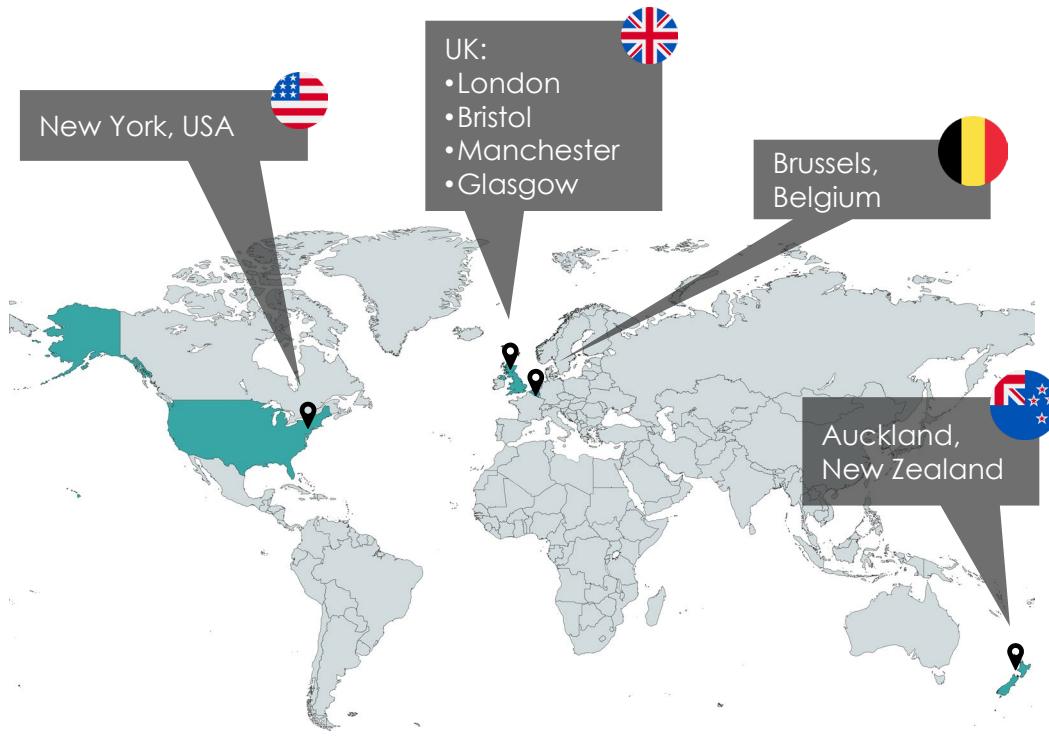
**Illinois Needs Assessment Advisory Council**

# Eunomia is a trusted global leader in circular economy



Eunomia Research & Consulting, Inc. ("Eunomia") is a certified B Corporation that has extensive experience supporting local, state, and regional governments to design, implement, and evaluate effective waste and recycling services aligned to the waste hierarchy and circular economy.

Eunomia was established in 2001 in the UK and has offices worldwide. Across the organization, Eunomia has over 140 consultants encompassing economists, policy experts, and organic material experts and life cycle assessors.



## Experts in circular economy and delivering data-driven solutions



**Policy Experts:** Widely recognized global thought leaders in EPR, packaging, textiles, product policy, strategy, and operations - European Commission's primary advisor.



**Global Insight:** Access to circular economy and packaging design best practice data and insight from all corners of the world.



**Cross-Sector Expertise:** Proven ability to work with public and private clients across sectors on innovative, cost-effective solutions to the most pressing issues.



**Unbiased Credibility:** Recognized for giving unbiased, independent, data-driven advice, ensuring credibility and respect across public, private and NGO sectors.



**Tool Expertise:** Over 20 years development of sophisticated but user-friendly analytical and decision-support tools for solving our clients' problems, including EPR fee modeling and cost assessments.

# Our focus, values, and impact



## OUR FOCUS AREAS



### Circular Economy

Material use, reuse, recycling, and waste management strategies, assisting organizations from policy to product responsibility.



### Low Carbon Economy

Low carbon economy strategies across supply chains with a focus on material impact, scope three and four emissions and sector transformation.



### Natural Economy

Solutions for biodiversity enhancement, sustainable land use, regenerative farming, and nature-based investment strategies.

## TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

240+

Published reports

300+

Private Companies and Industry Associations Supported

Widely cited technical studies across the circular economy value chain.

Over 190

Cities supported

Through projects encompassing waste management, decarbonization, and strategy support.

Proven track record in advising leading multinational companies (e.g., PepsiCo) in sustainability strategies, with deep expertise in navigating evolving regulations and legislation to ensure compliance and forward-looking action.

This includes keeping up to date on packaging EPR legislation developments in the U.S. and Canada to help shape responsive strategies tailored to emerging requirements and client priorities.

## OUR VALUES



Maximize our impact



Provide solutions



Walk the talk



Behave with respect and integrity



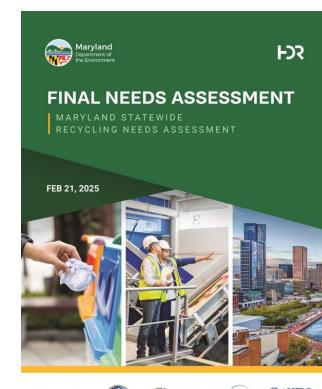
Actively inclusive

## OUR REPORTS



### COLORADO NEEDS ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
JANUARY 17, 2023



Needs Assessment for Oregon Local Government Recycling Expansion

eunomia Research & Consulting  
May 2023





# Intro to EPR

# What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

**EPR** is a type of policy that **shifts the responsibility** for waste management from consumers and governments to producers.

---

What we'll cover today:

- Basic Components of EPR
- The benefits of EPR
- Where EPR laws are being passed in the US
- A few examples of state-level EPR

# Basic Components of EPR

Scope

Definitions

Producer  
obligations

Government  
obligations

Enforcement

Stewardship  
plan

Implementation  
timeline

Performance  
standards and  
targets

Data collection  
and reporting

Collection  
method

Financing  
mechanisms,  
fee payments,  
and structure

Education and  
outreach

# What are the benefits of EPR?

EPR has a wide range of benefits across a wide range of stakeholders

Consumers

- Improved **access** to recycling services
- Stronger **partnerships** between government, producers, and waste industry for strengthened waste management system
- Incentive for producers to **innovate** in packaging design and material choices for sustainability
- Producers have greater control over packaging **lifecycle** and compliance
- More **consistent**, high-quality material streams for haulers and recyclers
- **Stable** funding through PRO fees
- Accelerated shift toward a **circular** economy

Municipalities & Governments

Producers

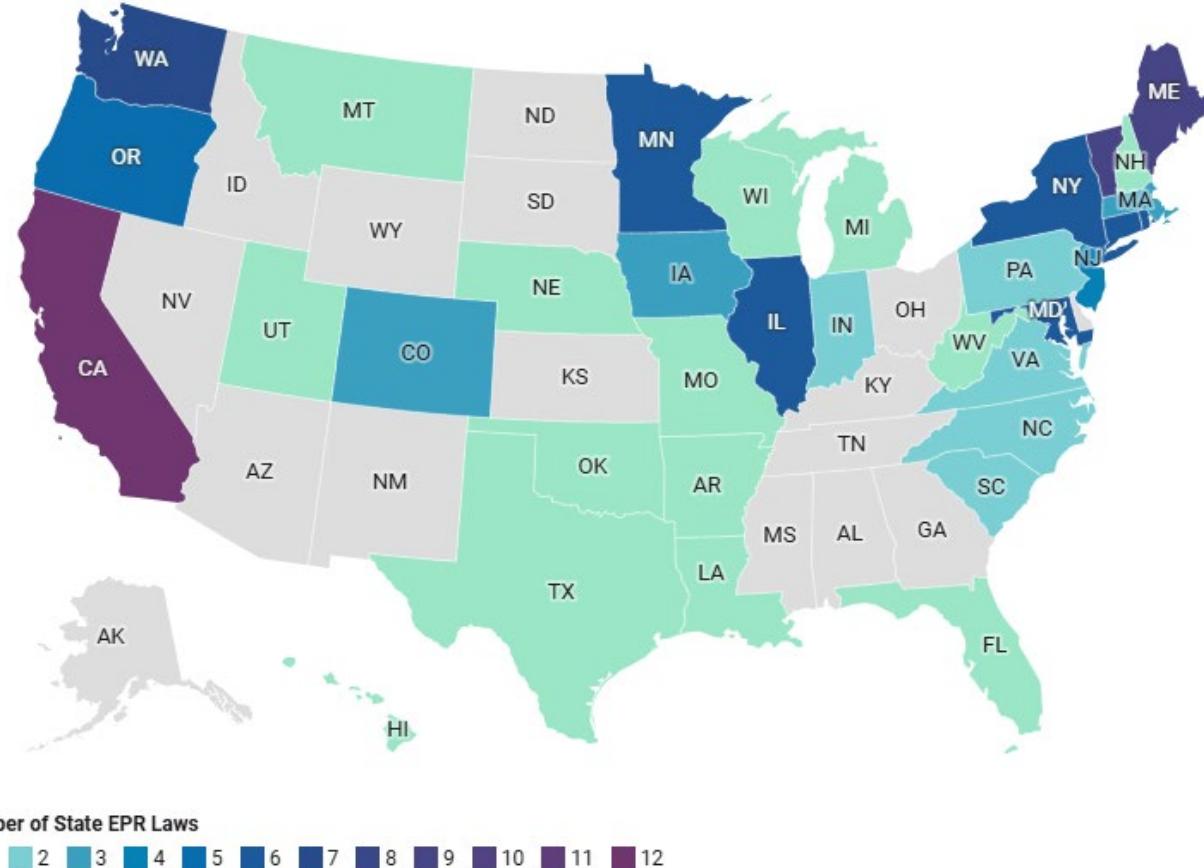
Haulers & Recyclers

Environment

# EPR is a growing policy tool to manage materials in the US

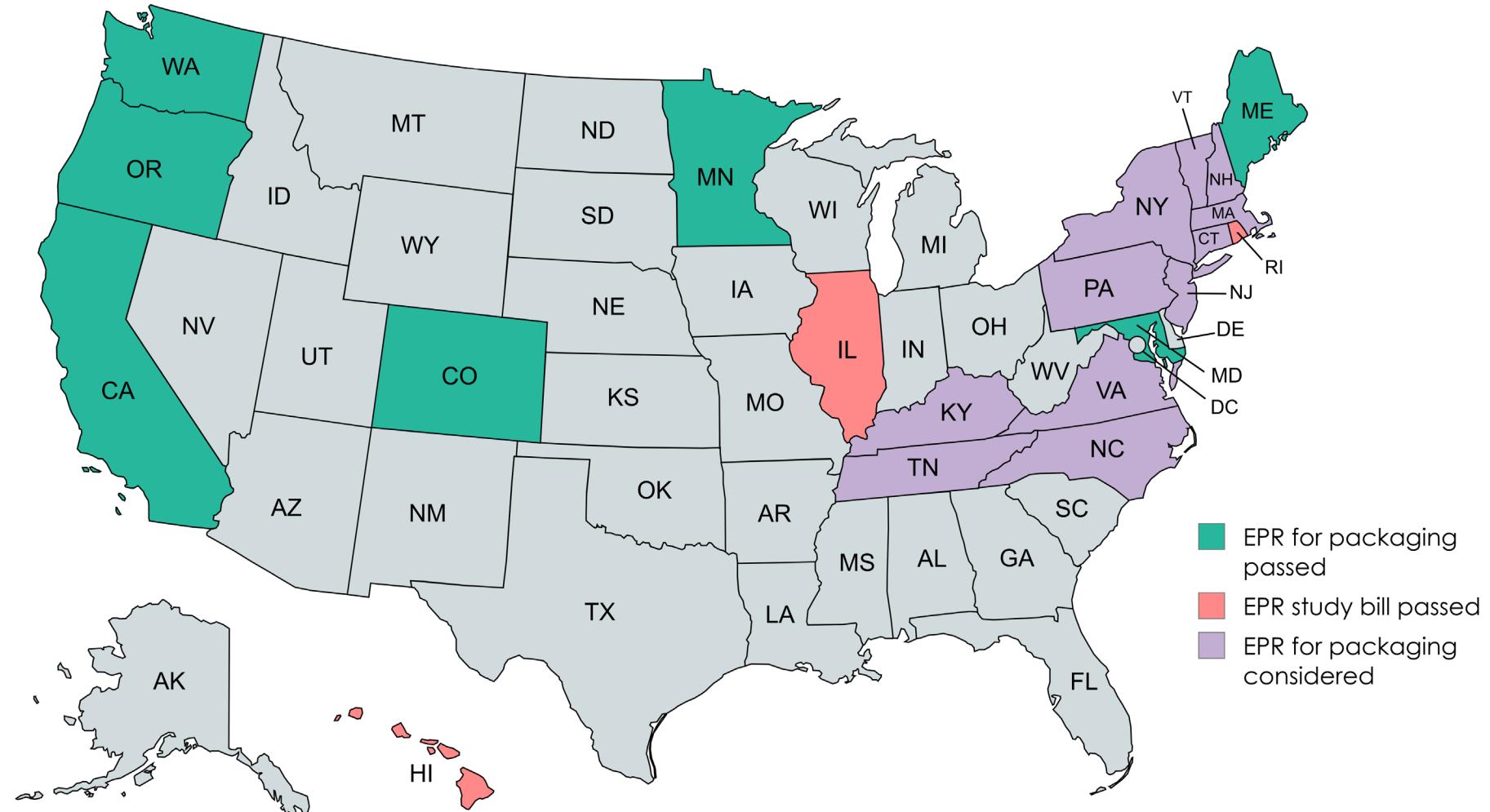
**146**  
LAWS    **21**  
PRODUCTS    **34**  
STATES

**1.1**  
BILLION  
ACRES    **265**  
MILLION  
PEOPLE



Source: PSI

# 7 states have passed EPR for packaging since 2021



Source: PSI

# Colorado Needs Assessment

Colorado had already passed EPR for packaging, approved a PRO, and was looking for the right path forward.

- Data collection and outreach informed the modeling of 3 future-state scenarios forecasting recycling rates between 35-60% in 2030 and 2035.
- **The state ultimately adopted the medium scenario** projecting 44% in 2030 and 58% in 2035.
- Factors that contribute the most to increased recycling rates:
  - Providing residential hhlds with recycling services equivalent to trash
  - Education programming
  - Advanced sorting at MRFs
  - Collecting additional material types



# COLORADO NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MARCH 4, 2024



# Maryland Needs Assessment

Maryland had not yet passed EPR for packaging and was seeking to understand the benefits it could provide.

- At baseline, the collection and sorting of covered PPP in Maryland in 2022 was estimated to cost approx. \$406 million.
- Aligning future EPR program targets with existing operations, harmonizing education and outreach, and justifying future investments in infrastructure on a regional basis has potential to increase the State's recycling rate from 35% to 50%.
- **The state ultimately signed into law EPR for packaging on May 13, 2025.**



## FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MARYLAND STATEWIDE  
RECYCLING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FEB 21, 2025



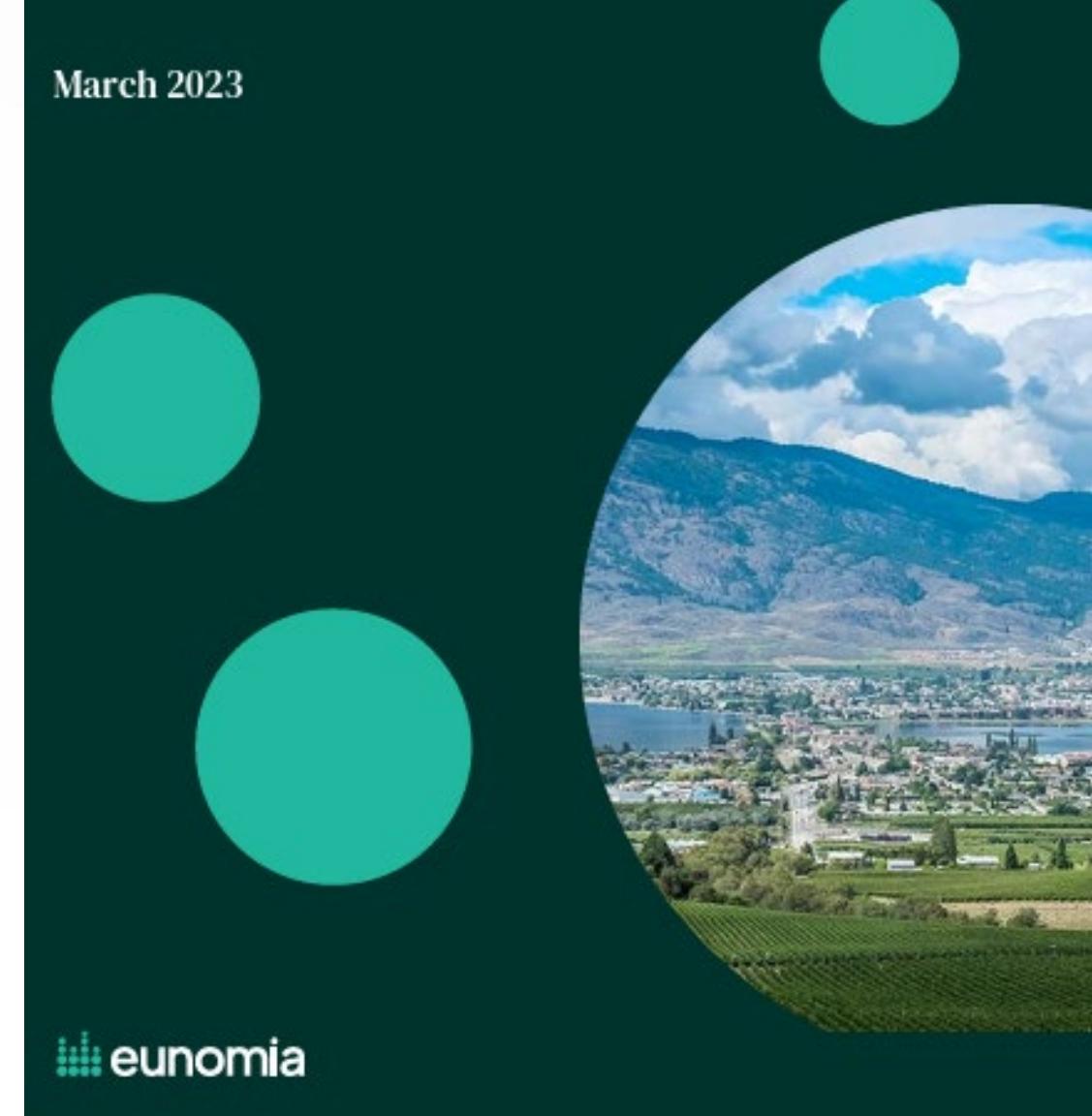
# Beyond Packaging: British Columbia

British Columbia has one of the longest standing EPR programs implementing EPR for beverage containers, paint, and used oil in 2004.

- 17 EPR agencies operating in the province and there was no overarching standard or guidance defining what constitutes 'reasonable' access.
- What makes a difference when you recycle?
  - Product factors
  - Community factors
  - Collection service factors
- **As standard was developed** to ensure equitable access among communities across BC based on differences in products and communities

## Enhancing Consumer Access to Recycling Services Under EPR

March 2023





# Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment

# The legislation

One project informed by two sets of goals/requirements

## Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Act (Illinois Public Act 103-0383 / 415 ILCS 180)

- Mandates a needs assessment focused on packaging and paper products including capacity, costs, gaps, and needs for recycling, composting, and reuse
- Establishes an Advisory Council

## SWIFR Grant

- US EPA federal funding for the project
- Expands scope beyond packaging and paper

# Project Team



+20 years of  
experience



+10 years of  
experience



+20 years of  
experience



+30 years of  
experience



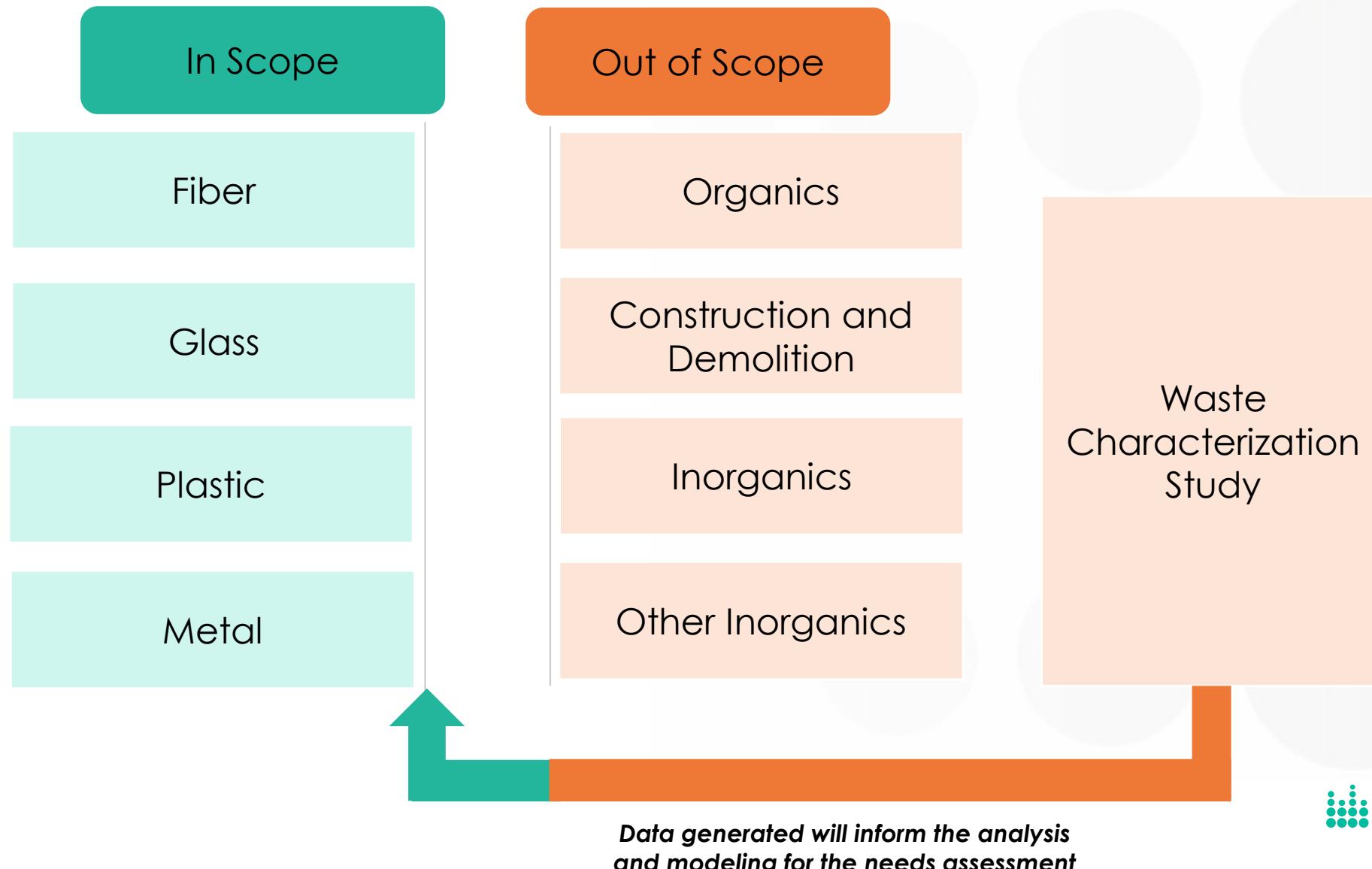
~30 years of  
experience



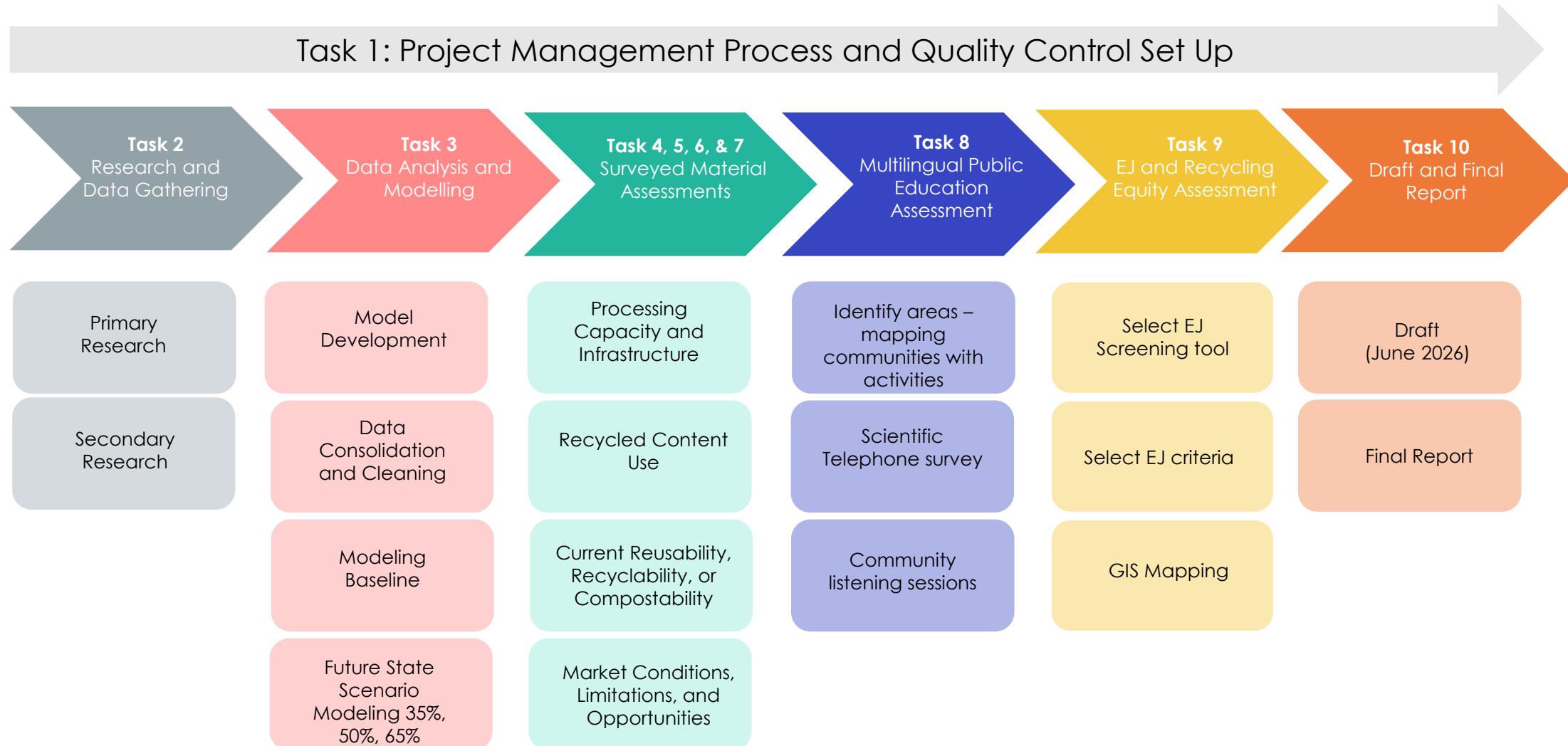
+10 years of  
experience



# Scope of Needs Assessment



# Project Overview and Timeline



# Outline of Findings

The final report and corresponding executive summary will report on all Project Tasks.

## Current State

- Data reflecting the materials generation rates, by stream, for each county within the State of Illinois
- A summary of how each material stream is currently handled at end-of-life
- Annual GHG emissions generated by current end-of-life handling

## Future Scenario

- Increasing recovery rates to 35%, 50%, and 65% by 2035
  - Determination of how these recovery rates could be achieved
  - Estimate of the corresponding cost and capital investment
  - Potential GHG reductions



Kaitlin Reese

[Kaitlin.reese@eunomia-inc.com](mailto:Kaitlin.reese@eunomia-inc.com)

# Thank You



## About Eunomia

Eunomia is an independent sustainability consultancy driven by a genuine passion to make a positive change to the clients we work with and the communities they operate in. Founded in 2001, we have been pioneers in the sector - early advocates for helping NGOs as well as leading public and private sector organisations in the UK and overseas to adapt their approach and adopt more sustainable processes.

Our consultants are experts in the field, deeply immersed in the subject with the technical knowledge and skill to offer clients innovative, clear and practical recommendations. We are committed to finding solutions to better protect the planet, while supporting the wider aims and needs of our clients.

Each client is treated as an individual, with consultants taking the time to understand their objectives and how best we can support them. This personal service ensures a strong relationship is forged, based on honest and regular communication. It also ensures if these objectives change, there is the flexibility to adapt.

As an established leading independent consultancy, clients can have complete confidence that consultants will offer evidence-led solutions based on robust, impartial thinking that offer both pragmatic and positive outcomes.