

March 6, 2020

Greetings Plastic Packaging Study Stakeholders and Interested Parties,

In 2019, the Washington Legislature passed the [Plastic Packaging Evaluation and Assessment law](#), which states that producers of plastic packaging should consider the design and management of their packaging in a manner that ensures minimal environmental impact. It positions Washington State to take the next strategic step toward a responsible and resilient plastic packaging management system that protects Washington's environment and the health of state residents and supports businesses responsible for managing recovered plastic packaging.

Per the law, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has hired an independent third-party consultant team to study how plastic packaging is managed in Washington and assess various policy options to meet the goals and timeline of the law. The consultant team includes Washington-based firms that have been actively engaged in the state's solid waste and recycling industry since the early 1990s, as well as national and global plastics and recycling experts:

- [Cascadia Consulting Group](#) (prime contractor)
- [Full Circle Environmental](#)
- [Eunomia Research & Consulting](#)
- [MORE Recycling](#)

The consultant team will conduct research in spring 2020 to inform the development of options for legislative consideration to meet the plastic packaging reduction goals. The team's research will inform the report and recommendations that are due to the Legislature by October 31, 2020. As part of the study, the team will be collecting information about:

- The amount and types of plastic packaging produced in or entering the state.
- The costs of managing plastic packaging waste, including costs to ratepayers, businesses, and local governments.
- Where plastic packaging waste goes at the end of its lifecycle.
- Future infrastructure needed to manage plastic packaging.
- Domestic and international efforts and methods to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic packaging.
- Proposals to meet the goals of reducing plastic packaging in Washington.

The team will be consulting with a wide variety of public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders between March and June 2020 to gather available data and input on options and recommendations.

Due to the accelerated timeline of the study, the team will use the project's [email listserv](#) as the primary means of stakeholder communication. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for the [email listserv](#) to be notified of input opportunities when project documents are posted to the project [EZView page](#), and to be kept informed of project progress. You can also reach out to the consultant team directly by emailing WAPlasticPkgStudy@cascadiaconsulting.com.

Thank you for your interest and participation. We look forward to engaging with you throughout the course of this study.

Best,



Amity Lumper, Co-President, Cascadia Consulting Group

Implementation of the [Plastic Packaging Evaluation and Assessment law](#) is underway. Sign up for the [email listserv](#) to receive project updates, see project documents, and learn how to provide public comment.

Visit the project [EZView page](#) or the project [factsheet](#).