

Extended Producer Responsibility

In The Republic of Korea

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Korea Environment Corporation

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MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT



KOREA ENVIRONMENT
CORPORATION

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About “EPR system”

- **EPR system imposes a certain quota for the collection/recycling of wastes** from products or packaging materials **on the producer** of the products or the producer of products that use the packaging materials.
- If the target is not fulfilled by a producer, **a fine that is greater than the cost of implementing proper recycling** shall be imposed upon the producer.
- The legal basis of EPR program is on “the Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources (Hereinafter referred to as the ‘Recycling Act)”, and KECO operates the program.

I . Extended Producer Responsibility

Other EPR instruments in The Republic of Korea

- **Eco-Assurance System:** Ex ante regulation for DfE and tack-back obligation imposed on producers/importers of consumer electronics or vehicles
- **Waste Charge System :** ADF imposed on producers/importers of hazardous or hard-to-recycle products(such as chewing gum, diapers, cigarettes, etc)
- **Deposit-Refund System :** For containers of soft drinks and alcohols, deposit is made at purchase and refunded when the container is returned by a consumer

I . Extended Producer Responsibility

Roles of each entity

Entity	Roles
Consumer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thoroughly separate and discharge recycling resources
Producer (Recycler)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Faithfully fulfill the responsibility for recycling individually or by joining a PRO(Producer Responsibility Organization)- Operate separate recycling marking system for packaging materials to ensure separate discharge at source
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Separate collection of target items of EPR
 Keco	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accept and approve the sales & import records and the responsibility fulfillment plan of producers- Accept the fulfillment report and verify/inspect performance- Manage administration and oversight related to EPR operation, including recycling charges
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Operate the overall EPR Program, and enact and revise laws, regulations and guidelines.- Calculate and announce the recycling target rates for each item

I . Extended Producer Responsibility

Items under EPR system

- As of 2014, the target items of the EPR Program consist of four types of packaging materials and five types of products.

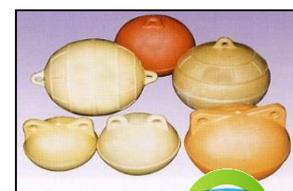
Packages

- ◆ **Metal cans, glass bottles, carton packs, plastic packages** that are used to pack Food and Beverages, Agriculture, fishery and livestock Products, Cleansers, Medicines and Cosmetics, butane gas, pesticides and germicides, apparel, paper product and rubber gloves, Lubricants, Other items
- * Lubricants, Other items : plastic packaging materials only.



Products

- ◆ **Battery, tire, Lubricant, fluorescent lamp, Styrofoam float**



I . Extended Producer Responsibility

Scope of producer

- A Producer refers to the **manufacturers and importers of products and packaging materials** under the EPR Program.
- Manufacturers are classified **based on the ownership of trademarks**(the manufacturers not in possession of such ownership shall be exempted)
- Importers are defined as producers **regardless of the ownership of trademarks.**

I . Extended Producer Responsibility

Criteria for Producers

- Products : No exemption
- Packages : Small manufacturers or importers are exempted from recycling obligation.

Extend **Criteria for Producers of Packaging Materials (Example)** producers of

Type of Business	Size of Business	
	Amount of Sales or Import	Volume of Sales or Import of Packaging Materials
1. Manufacture and import of packaging materials made of carton packs, metal cans or plastic (synthetic resin foam excluded)	Manufacturers whose previous year revenues are KRW 1 billion or higher, and importers whose previous year revenues are KRW 0.3 billion or higher	Manufacturers whose previous year sales volumes are 4 tons or higher, and importers whose previous year import volumes are 1 ton or higher



II . Recent Revision of the Recycling Act

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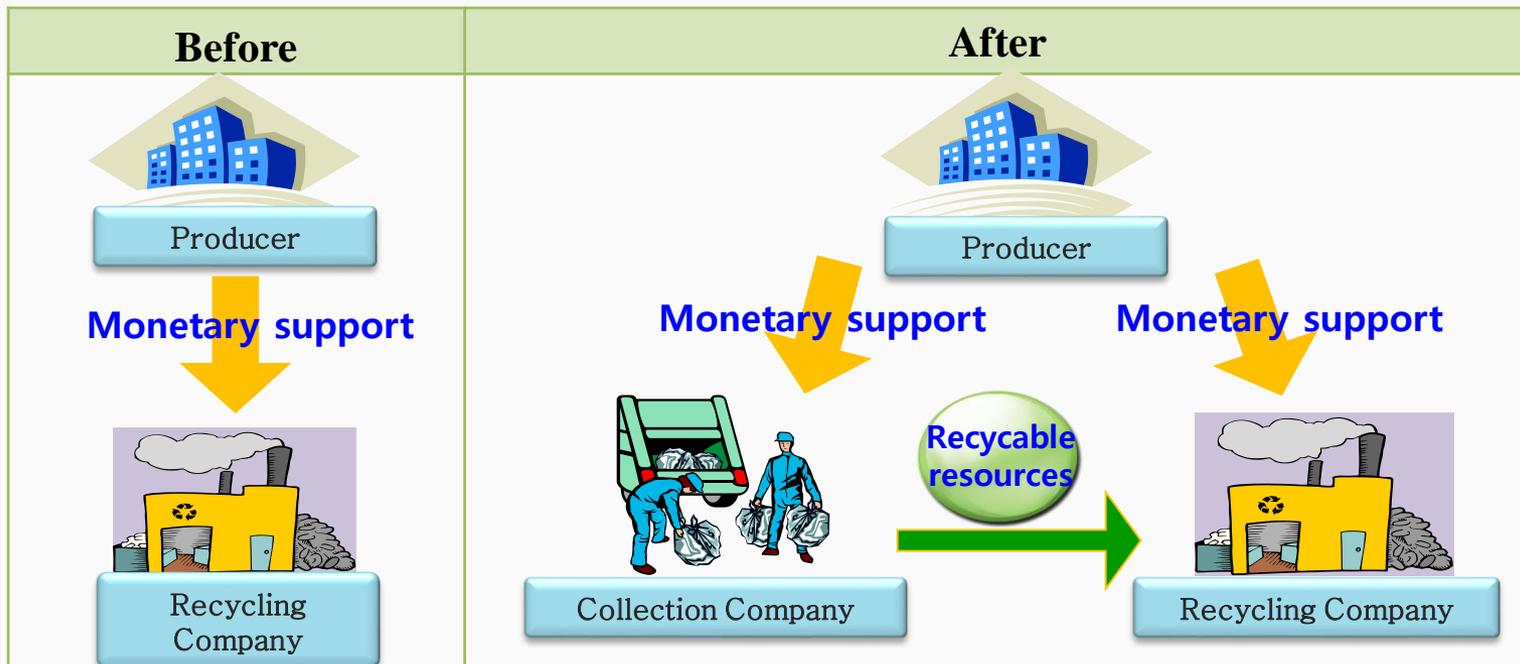
Objective

- The ‘Recycling Act’ was revised on 22 May 2013 and enforced on 23 Nov. 2013;
- in order to increase recycling rate which has been at a standstill for 3 consecutive years by ensuring;
 1. collection of better quality recyclables.
 2. efficiency on the implementation of collection/recycling obligation

II . Recent Revision of the Recycling Act

Expansion of obligation

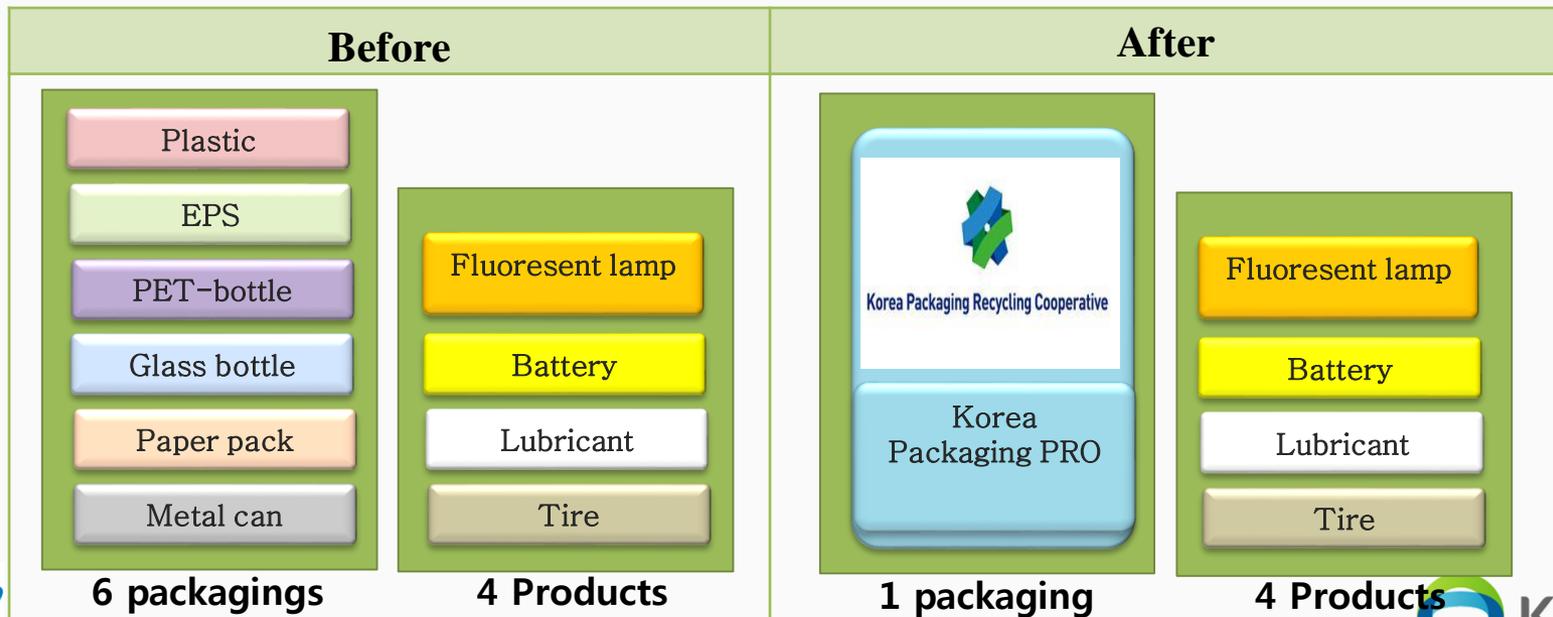
- Recycling obligation + add “**collection obligation**”
- Fees collected from producers are now given to collection/sorting companies



II . Recent Revision of the Recycling Act

6 packaging PROs into 1 packaging PRO

- Integration of 6 packaging PROs into 1 PRO;
 1. in order to relieve producers of inconvenience arising from multiple contracts with different PROs
 2. and to increase efficiency on government's oversight



II . Recent Revision of the Recycling Act

Expansion of target items

- Expansion of target packaging materials
 - Plastic packaging materials of virtually all manufactured products are now covered by EPR system

Expansion of target items



Increase of the Producers



- increase by 40% in the number of the producers, After law revision

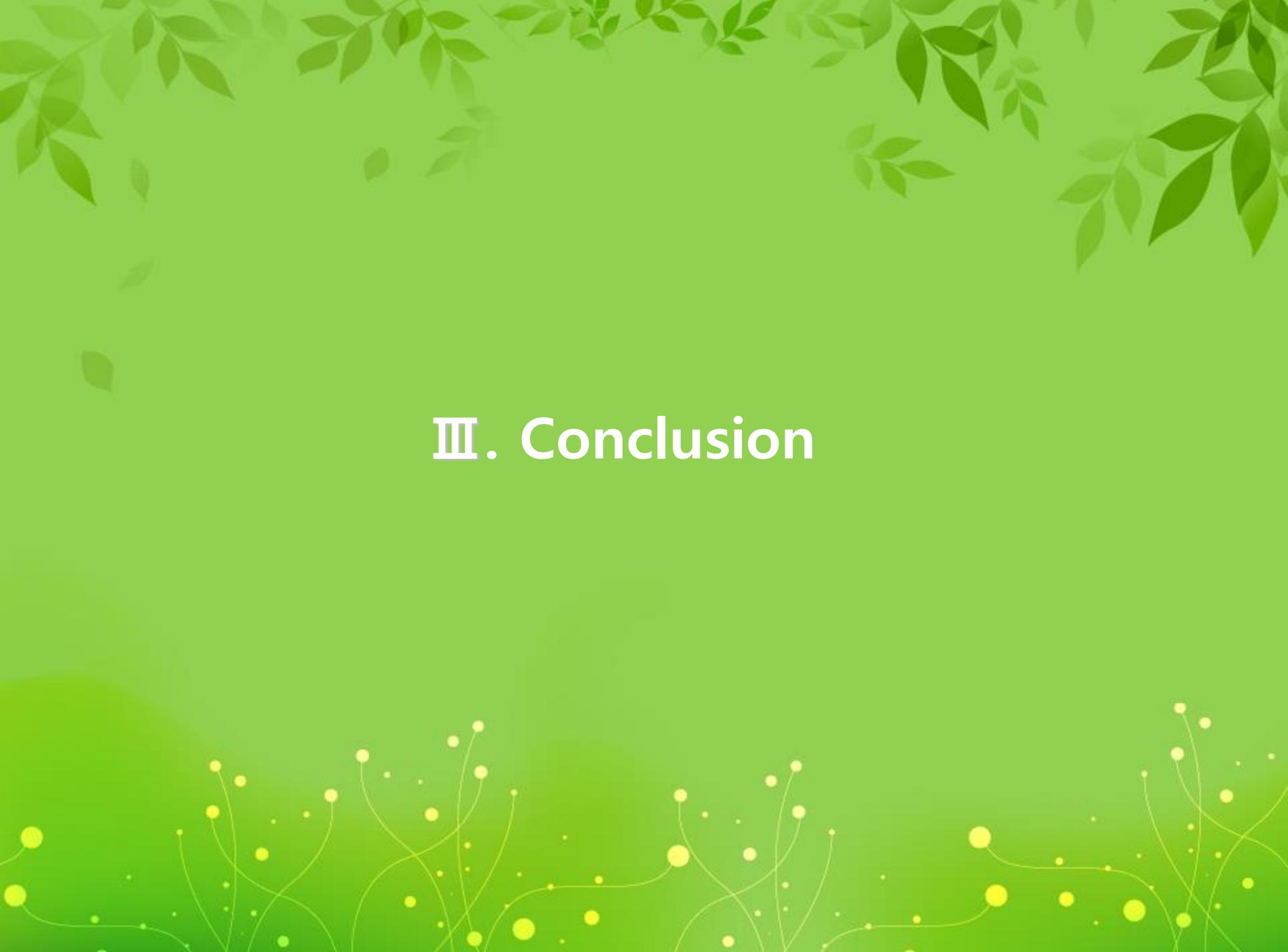
II . Recent Revision of the Recycling Act

Incentives for DfE and Introduction of ELIS

- Incentives for the Design for Environment
 - Incentives(such as fee cut) given to producers adopting easy-to-recycle packaging materials at the design phase
- Introduction of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes(ELIS)
 - Producers with high performance in the implementation of collection/recycling obligation can obtain the corporate image of social responsibility fulfillment and environmentally friendliness by government's certification of the labeling.

(Example)





III. Conclusion

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- **The Republic of Korea's Recycling policies have played an important role in reducing waste generation at source and promoting the circulation of recyclable resources.**
- **In order to operate the Program more effectively, all entities need to be encouraged to participate in the Program voluntarily and actively.**

Thank You

