

Reusable Packaging System Design Standards

Integrating and De-Risking Reuse Systems

Single-use packaging is linked to both the plastic *and* climate crisis.

Reuse is a critical solution to both.



Research from Pew Charitable Trusts, EarthShift Global and others shows reuse has the greatest potential to dramatically reduce plastic pollution and greenhouse gas emissions compared to other waste interventions and can achieve this alongside reduced system costs. PR3 has developed the following [Reusable Packaging System Design Standards](#) to de-risk, simplify and optimize the inevitable transition from single use to reusable packaging.

As reusable packaging systems emerge, they are being designed independently and are mostly small-scale, disconnected, and proprietary. They each operate within their own systems for collection and reverse logistics. As more enter the market, they will generate confusion and inconvenience, and remain unaffordable for companies and consumers. Unless standardized, this patchwork of infrastructure will be especially problematic for multinationals that operate in numerous jurisdictions.

PR3 standards provide the tools for disconnected reuse systems to form a shared and interoperable public-private system that is more convenient and affordable and can scale across many product sectors.

With input from stakeholders across the value chain, PR3 standards set core requirements for aligning reuse systems between companies and brands. They allow a range of businesses to plug into shared infrastructure for collection, washing and transport.

The reuse industry is swiftly expanding, with new players regularly entering the field. New standards can seem overwhelming, especially when they are as complex as these, covering many aspects of commerce and supply chains. These standards, though, have been distilled into 7 distinct categories, listed below, in order to help simplify implementation and guide users to the standards most relevant to them. As companies integrate the component(s) of the standards that are relevant to their business model, they will begin de-risking what could be a volatile and expensive new market and they will avoid challenges faced by other industries, like recycling, that did not integrate standards.

These standards are draft documents. They are being implemented in demonstration projects in Seattle and Jakarta and will continue to be vetted, refined, and expanded to include additional categories.

More information and the latest versions can be found at:

<https://www.resolve.ngo/site-pr3standards.htm>

PR3 welcomes questions and feedback

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Reusable Packaging System Design Standards

Title	Description	KEY AUDIENCE							Links
		Collection Point Designer	Container Designer	Retailer/Venue	City/Government	Logistics Provider	Washing Provider	System Administrator	
Part 1: Collection points	Collection point requirements, including machine and bin design, labeling and digital requirements, and guidance for collection point placement.								Full document Summary document
Part 2: Containers	Container design requirements, including minimum return and use cycles, materials, shape, durability, labeling and digital tagging.								Full document Summary document
Part 3: Digital	Digital requirements for containers and collection points, including the basic data elements that must be included in QR codes or other digital tags.								Full document Summary document
Part 4: Return incentives	Requirements for establishing and administering deposit systems and other incentives that encourage consumers to return containers.								Full document Summary document
Part 5: Labeling	Requirements for labeling reusable containers and collection points and for signage at participating venues. Includes the reuse symbol, colors, fonts, etc.								Full document Summary document
Part 6: Reverse logistics	Requirements for the proper and safe handling of containers from pickup at a collection point through redistributed for refilling.								Full document Summary document
Part 7: Washing	Requirements for washing, sanitizing, and handling of foodware containers, including cups and take-away food packaging.								Full document Summary document