

# Extended Producer Responsibility for Textiles from CIRCULAR REPUBLIC FESTIVAL 2025

Key Learnings



## Act Before Regulation Requires It

Existing infrastructure serves reuse markets, not recycling needs, creating a fundamental mismatch for circular economy goals. Waiting for policy implementation means current facilities lose revenue streams and may shut down or reduce capacity, making future transformation more expensive and difficult. Circular economy leaders should identify infrastructure gaps early and coordinate industry funding during policy development periods.

## Coordinate Simultaneous Value Chain Scaling

Individual players investing in circular infrastructure face massive risk if other value chain participants don't scale at the same time. Advanced sorting capabilities cannot generate returns without recycling capacity, and recycling technologies fail without sorted feedstock. Businesses need to coordinate scaling timelines and share risk across the value chain rather than building in isolation. Joint investment and synchronized capacity building reduce individual exposure while accelerating system transformation.

## Design Fees for Multiple Functions

EPR fees function far beyond simple taxation: they incentivize better product design through modulation, finance infrastructure development, and reduce investment risk by creating market certainty. Fee allocation should target market gaps, not subsidize functioning business models, maximizing resource efficiency and system impact.

## Invest in Material Transparency

Material composition transparency is essential for recycling optimization, but information flows are systematically broken: brands lack visibility into their own products, and suppliers resist sharing data. Prioritize supply chain transparency initiatives and material passports as infrastructure investments, not compliance exercises. Without material visibility, recycling processes develop blind, limiting both technical optimization and scaling potential.

Listen to the full episode here:

<https://circularity.fm/extended-producer-responsibility-for-textiles/>