**From Policy to Practice: Strengthening Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Better Systems in Pakistan**

*In collaboration with the Collect & Recycle (CoRe) Alliance*

Pakistan's waste management ecosystem is characterised by fragmented governance, limited collection and recycling infrastructure, low source segregation, capacity constraints and significant dependence on the informal sector. At the same time, different plastics and waste-related regulatory approaches are emerging across jurisdictions, creating a need for greater coordination and consistency.

Against this backdrop, a CoRe White Paper on 'Harmonized and Phased Extended Producer Responsibility Framework for Packaging' was produced in May 2026. The paper proposes moving towards a nationally harmonised EPR framework that provides regulatory consistency while allowing implementation to reflect provincial and local realities. It positions EPR not simply as a compliance mechanism, but as an economic and environmental reform tool capable of strengthening waste-management systems, recycling markets, green investment and Pakistan's transition towards a circular economy.

This session will bring together policymakers, environmental regulators, industry, recyclers, academia, civil society and waste management stakeholders to discuss how Pakistan can translate EPR policy into an effective and implementable system.

The conversation will be anchored in the recommendations of the CoRe Alliance paper and will explore a model based on shared responsibility, where the private sector takes proportional responsibility for the end-of-life management of designated product and packaging streams, supported by clear government oversight, consumer participation, municipal systems, recyclers and integration of the informal waste sector. The discussion will focus on how these principles can help build better systems for collection, recycling, traceability and accountability in Pakistan. Speakers will focus on five interconnected priorities:

1. Harmonised and phased EPR: Building greater alignment between federal and provincial approaches while introducing realistic targets and timelines linked with Pakistan's waste management and recycling capacity.
2. Clear roles and shared responsibility: Defining responsibilities across government, industry, municipalities, recyclers, retailers, consumers and the formal and informal waste sectors.
3. Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs): Exploring an industry-led PRO model with appropriate regulatory oversight to coordinate financing, collection, recycling, reporting and compliance.
4. Building the enabling ecosystem: Mobilising green finance and targeted fiscal incentives for collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure, alongside digital traceability and transparent reporting.

5. Inclusive circularity: Integrating informal waste workers, strengthening consumer responsibility and awareness, and developing city-industry partnerships that connect EPR with existing municipal waste systems.

The session aims to build greater convergence around the principles of a practical, inclusive and nationally harmonised EPR framework for Pakistan, while identifying areas where government, industry and other stakeholders can collaborate to move from policy discussions towards implementation and build better systems for collection, recycling, financing, traceability and compliance.

The discussion will also provide an opportunity to identify potential next steps for continued stakeholder engagement on EPR, including institutional arrangements, PRO development, infrastructure, financing and traceability.

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