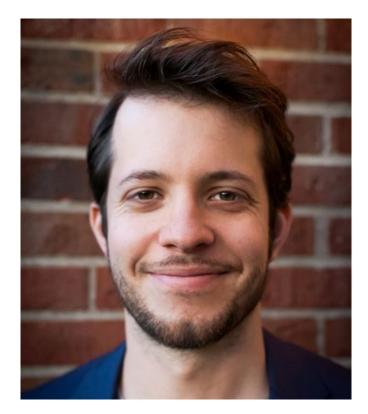


Compostable Product Labeling

What the passage of Senate bill 253 means for consumers, composters, and product makers



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A Brief History of Compostable Product Labeling Laws

- Requirements to certify products with independent third-parties
 - Why? False compostability claims, additional benefits provided by certifiers (PFAS testing, food association, logos & labeling requirements)
 - Where? A few states including Colorado
- **Prohibition of misleading terminology** ("degradable", "biodegradable", "decomposable")
 - Why? Unqualified claims confuse consumers, lead to contamination
 - Where? California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, Washington
- Requirements for color and symbols (green/beige/brown tinting, striping, etc.)
 - Why? To visually distinguish compostable from non-compostable
 - Where? Colorado, Washington, California (film bags only)



Colorado Senate Bill 253: What does it do?

Rewards good actors

• Compostable products must be third-party certified, food-associated, clearly labeled with the word "compostable," certification logo, green color/stripe/symbol

Punishes bad actors

- Prohibits misleading terms like "degradable, biodegradable, decomposable natural," etc.
- Prohibits green tinting/striping/symbols that indicates compostability. Example:
 - Allowed Starbucks green mermaid symbol (brand-specific, does not indicate compostability)
 - Not allowed green-tinted non-compostable straw (reserved for compostable products)

Conflicts with other states laws

• Prohibits beige/brown-only compostable plastic & plastic-coated products, allows beige/brown paper products, present major manufacturing & branding challenges

Questions?



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