‘Promotion of Community Resilience Against Plastic Pollution and Climate Change in the Mekong River Basin’
UNEP, March 9, 2023, Royal Princess Larn Luang Hotel, Bangkok

Policy instruments to promote technological development in the fight against plastic pollution: a case study of Thailand

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Zero-waste initiatives



Organizational level

(2016-2020)

CHULA ZERO WASTE
TOGETHER WE CAN



Community level

(2021-present)

ZERO WASTE PAKLAD

- Baan Pak Lad Community in Samutprakarn Province
- Zero-waste programs at community and 3 schools



City level

(2020-present)



- BMA's waste management at source policy
- Zero-waste projects in pilot districts (schools, temples, communities, office buildings, shopping malls, hotels)

- Ladluang Municipality's Waste Management Policy and Plan



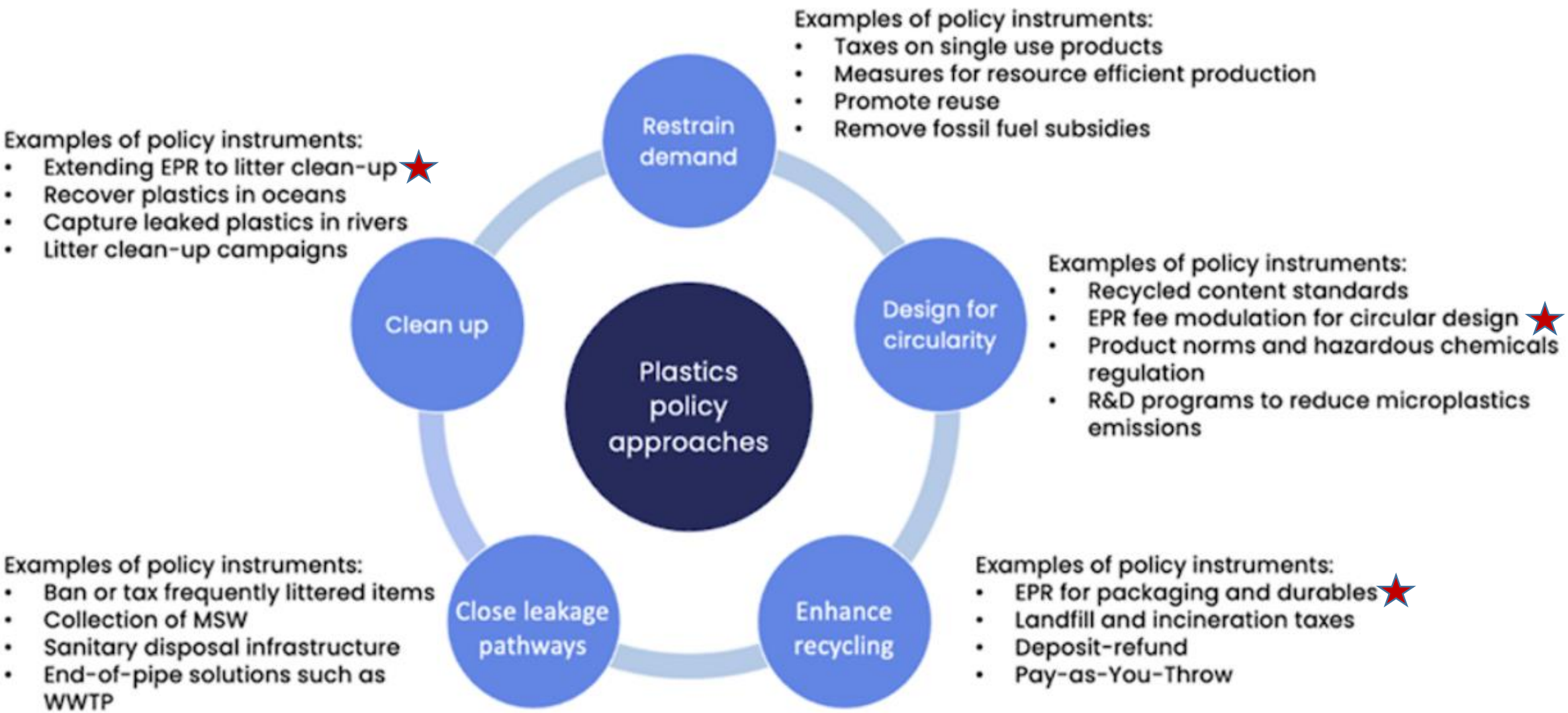
National level

(2020-present)

CE/EPR

- Draft CE Promotion Law
- Draft EPR Law for Packaging
- CE/EPR education among stakeholders (working with FTI's TIPMSE)
- Improving waste management at source policy working with MONRE (PCD), Office of the Decentralization to the Local Government Organization Committee & Ministry of Interior

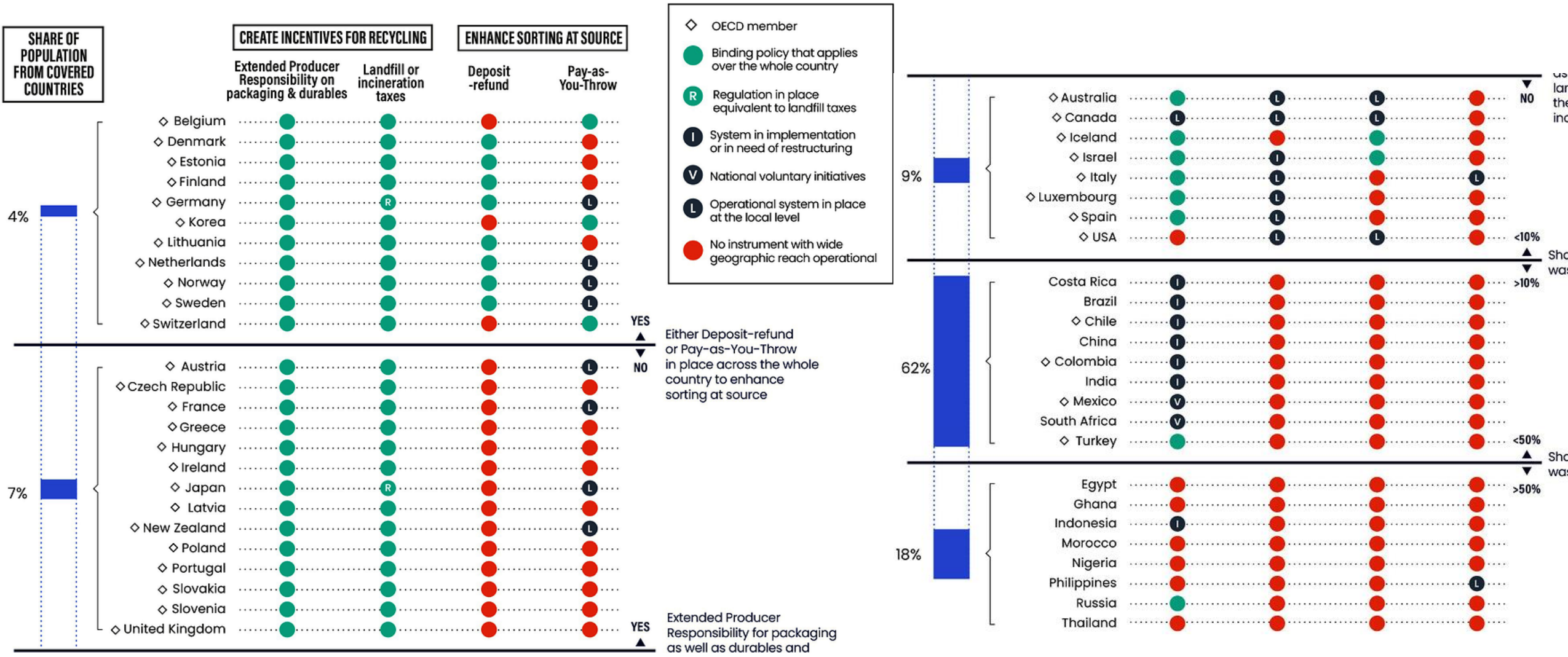
Policy approaches to reduce plastic leakage (OECD, 2022)



Note: EPR = Extended Producer Responsibility; MSW = municipal solid waste; WWTP = waste water treatment plant.

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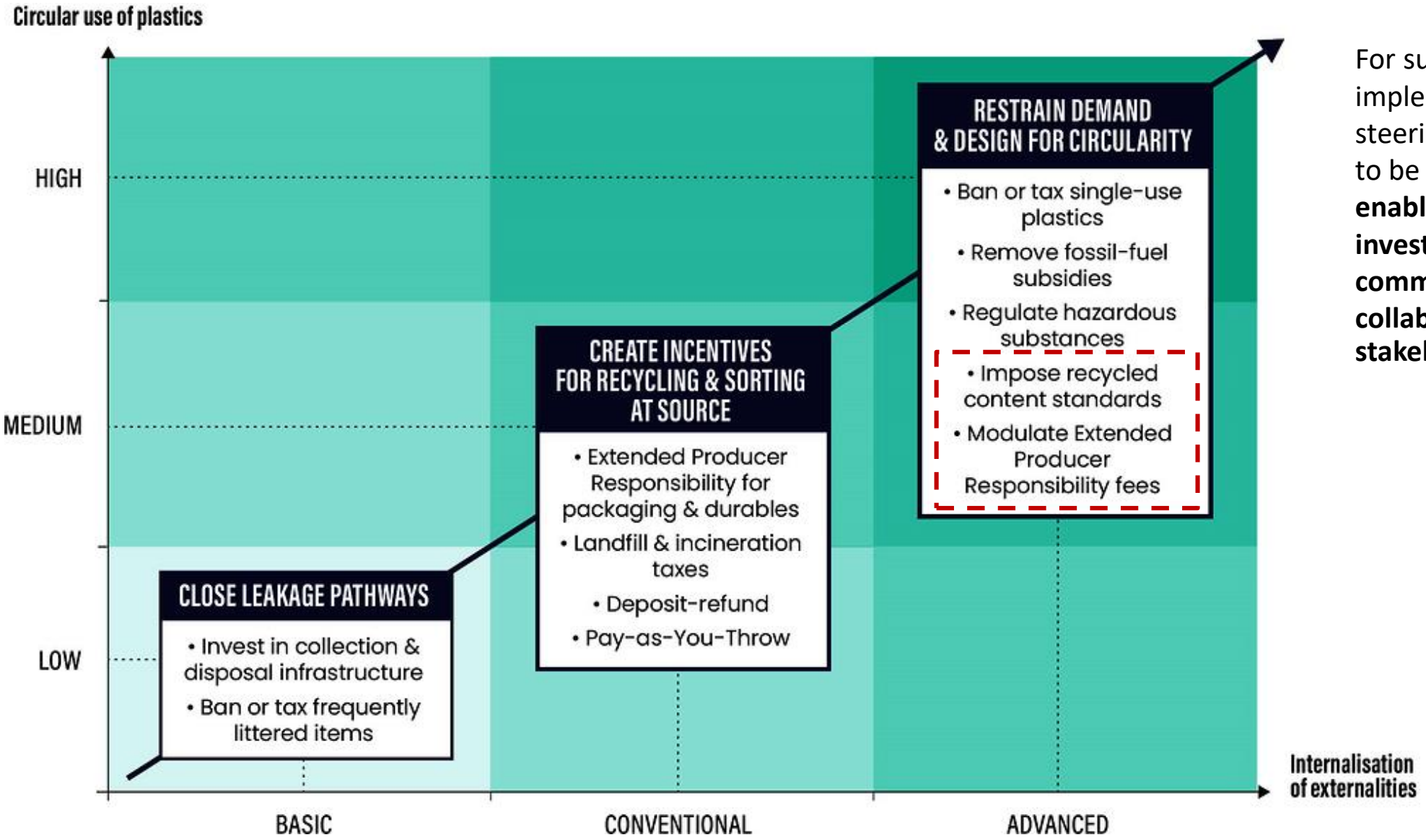
Thailand lags behind other countries due to a lack of policy instruments to manage plastic waste (EPR on packaging, landfill or incineration taxes, deposit-refund system, Pay-as-You-Throw)



Update: The Philippines have enacted an EPR law for plastic packaging in 2022

https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/d5895157-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/d5895157-en#figure-d1e15183

A policy roadmap for a more circular use of plastics (OECD, 2022)



For successful implementation, these steering instruments need to be accompanied with **enabling policies, such as investments in innovation, communication and collaboration with stakeholders**.

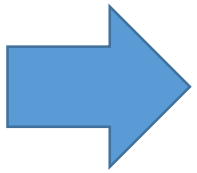
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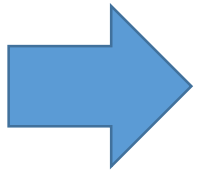
Policy instruments driving technological development

Single-use plastic tax

Modulated EPR fees

Mandatory recycle content standards





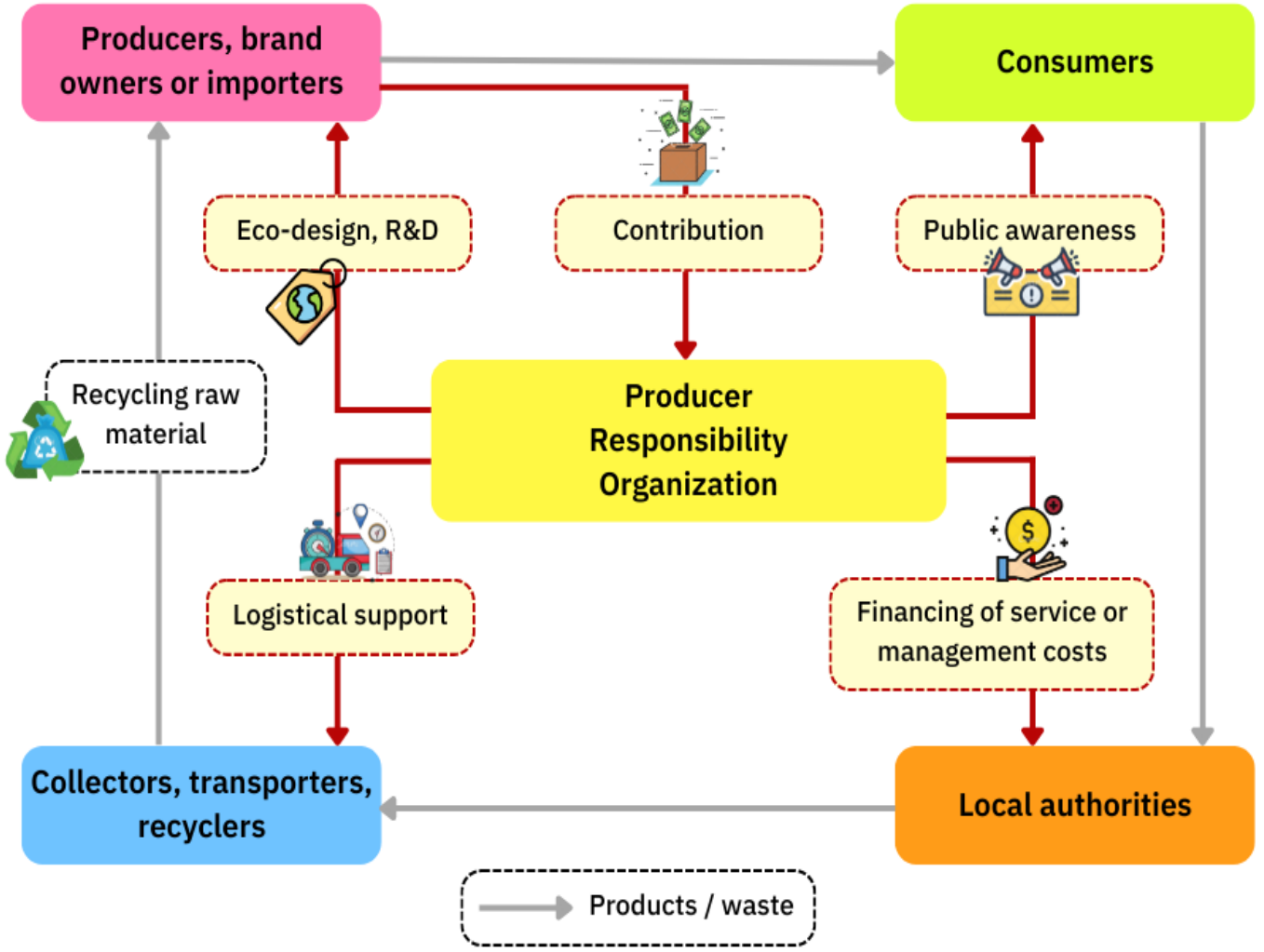
Reusable, recyclable, compostable plastics/alternatives

Shift to mono-material packaging

Technologies to increase collection of post-consumer packaging

Technologies to improve the quality of PCR

Typical EPR schemes for packaging

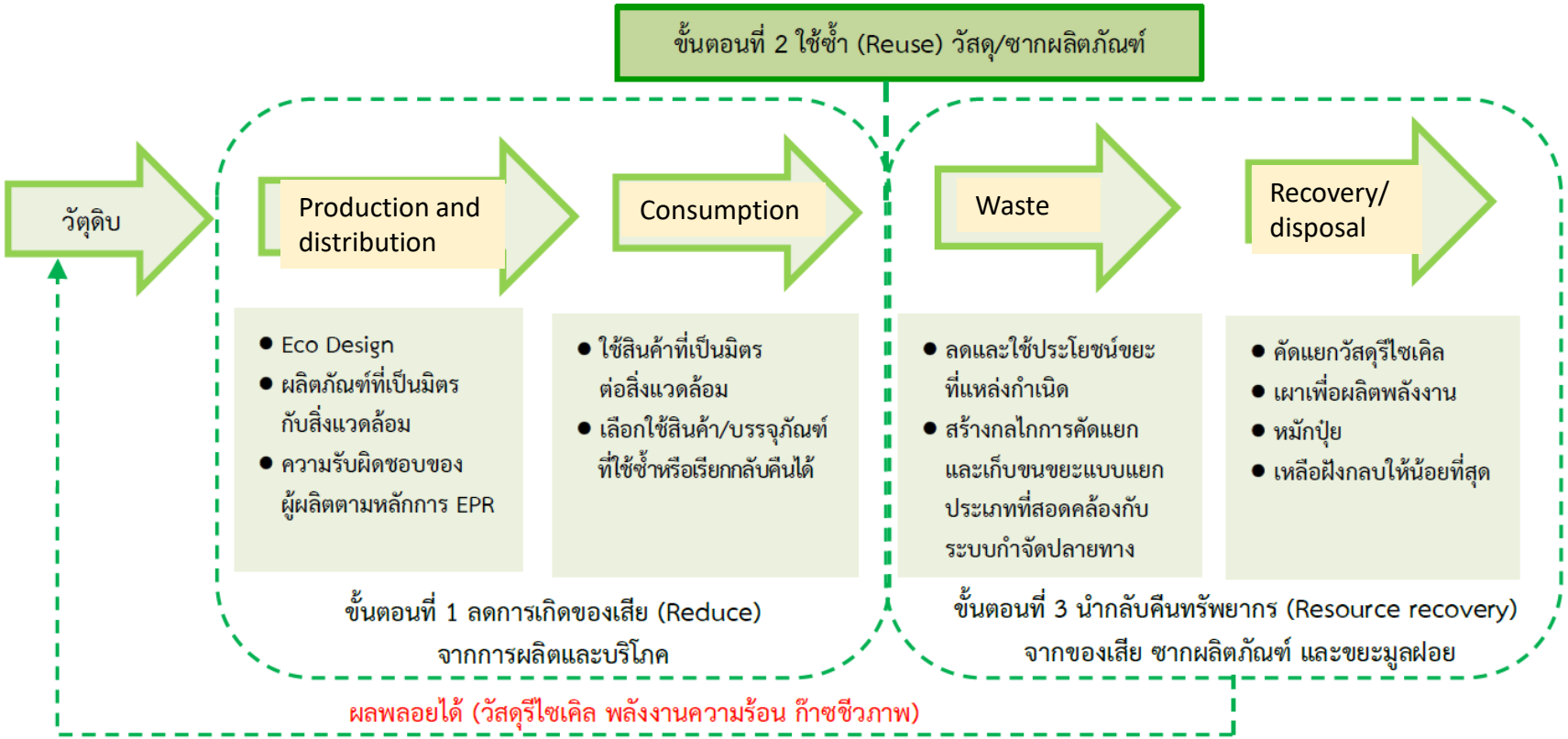


Source: Adapted from PETCO et al. (2022)

Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management Phase II (2023-2027) (approved by the Cabinet on Feb 7, 2023)



Life cycle management approach



มาตรการ	เป้าหมาย/ผลผลิต (Target/Output)	กิจกรรม (Planned Activities)	ระยะเวลา (ปี)				
			66	67	68	69	70
		4. พัฒนาผลิตภัณฑ์ที่ลดการใช้ทรัพยากร การเพิ่มความสามารถในการรีไซเคิล (Recyclability Rate) ของพลาสติก และหรือผลิตภัณฑ์ทดแทนพลาสติก			/	/	/
		5. การศึกษาเทคโนโลยีและนวัตกรรม ในการลดไมโครพลาสติก (Microplastics) จากกิจกรรมต่างๆ เช่น กิจการร้านซักผ้า เป็นต้น		/	/		
11. พัฒนากฎหมายส่งเสริมเศรษฐกิจหมุนเวียน เพื่อใช้ในการบริหารจัดการผลิตภัณฑ์และบรรจุภัณฑ์ (รวมบรรจุภัณฑ์พลาสติก)	กฎหมายส่งเสริมเศรษฐกิจหมุนเวียน เพื่อใช้ในการบริหารจัดการผลิตภัณฑ์และบรรจุภัณฑ์	1. ยกร่างกฎหมายว่าด้วยการส่งเสริมเศรษฐกิจหมุนเวียนในการจัดการขยะบรรจุภัณฑ์	/				
		2. นำเสนอกฎหมายเข้าสู่คณะกรรมการระดับกระทรวง คณะรัฐมนตรี และคณะกรรมการกฤษฎีกาเพื่อพิจารณา		/	/		
		3. ประกาศใช้ร่างกฎหมายว่าด้วยการส่งเสริมเศรษฐกิจหมุนเวียนในการจัดการขยะบรรจุภัณฑ์				/	

Pollution Control Department has commissioned MFU to study and draft the laws on CE promotion in packaging waste management, Jan-Aug 2023
Plan to enact the laws by 2026

Opinions on the EPR system design issues from stakeholders

1. Thailand should have a law on packaging waste management based on EPR principles to cover all types of materials and all types of packaging (primary, secondary, tertiary, and service packaging).
2. An appropriate EPR model is one that allows the private sector to manage by itself through the establishment of a Producer Representative Organization (PRO) (though IPR option is possible).
3. EPR schemes should support and work with informal waste workers, *Salengs*, and junk shops by registering with the local administration and reporting the amount of packaging collected through a digital platform.
4. The law should stipulate the duties of the local administrative organizations to help sort the packaging waste from other types of waste.
5. The law should define the duties of large distributors and convenience stand-alone stores with parking spaces to help set up a drop-off point for packaging waste.
6. The targeted amount of collection for recycling should be above the current collection rate depending on the packaging types.
7. The law should define a targeted proportion of recycled materials used for plastic packaging.
8. Eco-modulated fee. Incentives and measures for environmentally friendly packaging designs (recyclable is a minimum requirement) should be implemented with different fee rates and other promotional measures.
9. The law should allow a deposit-refund system for certain types of packaging in the future.
10. The law should require recyclers to meet certain environmental management standards.