

Extended Producer Responsibility in B.C.

An Overview

Gwendolyn Lohbrunner, Acting Director, Extended Producer Responsibility
Environmental Protection Division

May 25, 2023

Presented to Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council



Presentation Overview

1. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
2. Regulatory Framework
3. History of EPR in B.C.
4. EPR Expansion and Five-Year Action Plan
5. CleanBC Plastics Action Plan



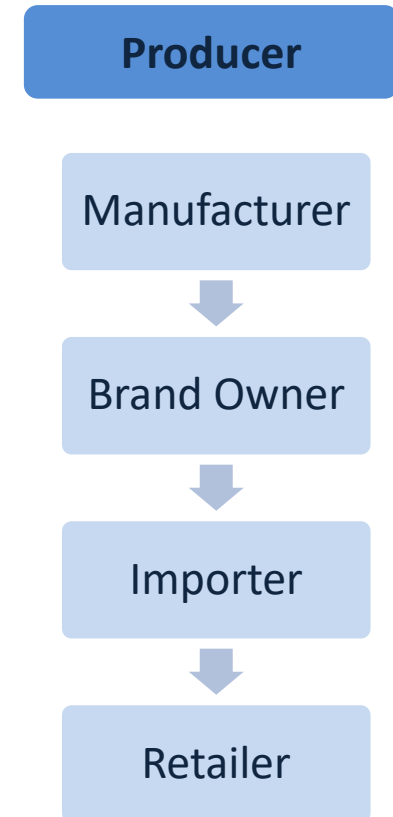
Extended Producer Responsibility

- Producer responsibility for end-of-life products
 - Shifts the responsibility and costs from local and Indigenous governments and all taxpayers to producers and consumers
 - Incentive to reduce waste, improve design, etc.
- EPR helps shift thinking/design from 'take-make-dispose' to a recovery-based 'closed loop'/circular economy model
- Realized benefits: resource conservation, economic, investment and jobs



Regulatory Framework

- *Environmental Management Act* – EPR authority
- Recycling Regulation (2004)
 - 100% of responsibility with producer
 - Results-based (focus on outcomes, not operations)
 - Non-prescriptive; allows for flexibility, evolution
- Wide variety of products and packaging are currently regulated
 - Examples include beverage containers, used oil, pharmaceuticals, paint and residential packaging
- Cascading definition of ‘producer’

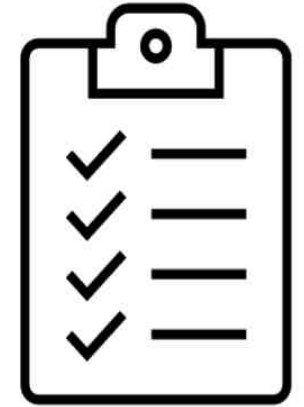


EPR: An Effective Policy Tool

- Key Performance Measures
 - ✓ Product recovery rate(s), e.g., 75%
 - ✓ Free and reasonable access to collection system
 - ✓ Consumer awareness
 - ✓ Stakeholder consultation
 - ✓ Costs covered by producers
 - ✓ Pollution Prevention Hierarchy (5 Rs)
- Ministry expects continuous improvement on performance measures

EPR Plans

- Obligated producers must have an approved EPR plan
- EPR plans must be reviewed by the producer/agency every five years with a focus on continual improvement
- Performance is tracked and measured
 - Audited annual reports must be submitted to demonstrate compliance with the approved EPR plan

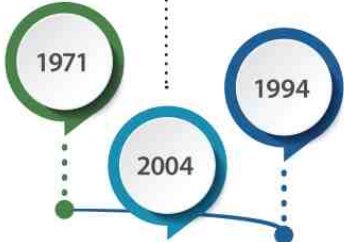


B.C.'s History and Accomplishments

30 billion beverage containers recycled over the past 20 years

Beverage deposit/refund
 First in North America
 By law, beverage containers sold in B.C. must be recyclable.

\$94 million of industry investments into B.C.'s recycling infrastructure



Post Consumer Paint Stewardship Program Regulation

Producers operate and fund multimillion-dollar campaigns to raise consumer awareness and provide free recycling across British Columbia. For old electronics and small appliances alone, there are over 245 locations where residents can responsibly recycle them.

Regulated and implemented
 EPR for electronics, light bulbs, batteries and antifreeze.

531 million litres of used oil and 33 million litres of paint collected in the last decade

EPR programs have collected over 4.5 million tonnes of products and packaging since they began operating in B.C. - that's 900 kg per British Columbian.

Recycling Regulation
 Government run programs handed over to producers: paint, used oil, and beverage containers.

Residential packaging and paper regulated and program implemented
 First of its kind in North America – over 90% of residential PPP collected is managed through recycling.

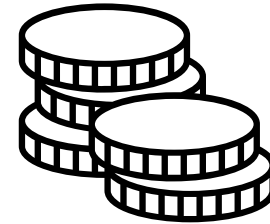
Over 1.86 million households in 176 communities have access to curbside, multi-family or depot collection services - 99.2% of British Columbians have access to recycling services

More than 97% of the plastics collected by Recycle BC are processed locally, with end-markets in Metro Vancouver.

- Actions**
- Producers responsible for: hybrid and electronic vehicle batteries and other types; mattresses and foundations; more electronics; and moderately hazardous products (e.g., medical sharps, single-use canisters).
 - Evaluate Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) packaging and paper management.

EPR Expansion: Deposit/Refund Structure

- A minimum deposit/refund on beverage containers has been regulated since 2004
- Deposit/refunds drive high collection rates
 - In 2021 over 1.8 billion beverage containers were collected
- Recycling Regulation amended in June 2020 changing deposit/refund requirements
 - Enabled alternatives to cash for deposit-refunds
 - Set the minimum deposit to 10 cents for all beverage containers
 - Add milk and milk alternatives to deposit-refund system; effective February 2022



EPR Expansion: Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026

Household Single Use Items and more packaging

- Regulated in 2021
- Operational January 1, 2023 by Recycle BC
- e.g., straws, cutlery, party supplies, food storage containers, freezer bags, bubble wrap, etc.

Regulate more products 2023

- Mattresses and foundations
- More aerosols, pressurized cylinders, fire extinguishers
- More batteries
- Medical sharps

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging

- ICI Packaging Baseline Report complete
- Recently established rural and remote working group to determine potential short-term solutions
- Identify policy approach by 2025



Plastics Action Plan



Phase-out Single-
Use Items

Proposed provincial
regulation



Expanding EPR
Programs

EPR Five-Year Action
Plan



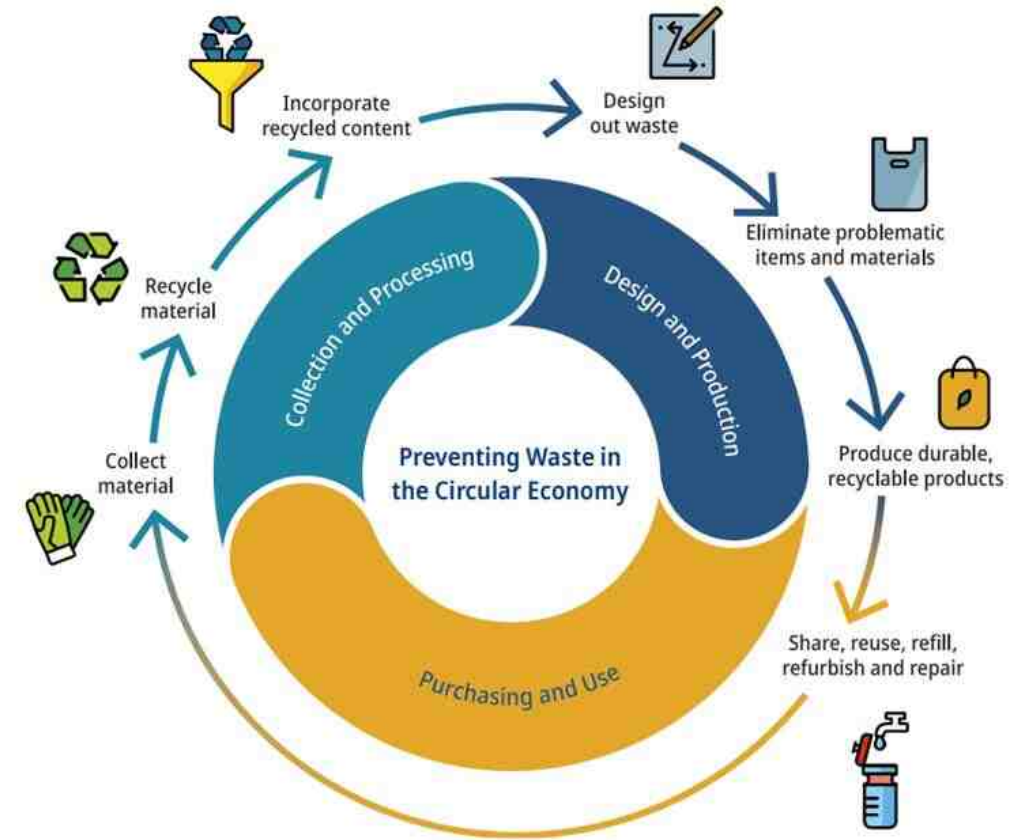
Increasing Recycled
Content

Plastics Action Fund



Clean-up and
Recovery Funding

Clean Coast, Clean
Waters



CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

- Supporting innovative manufacturing and reuse projects with \$15M and 23 projects funded to date
- Additional \$25M committed to expand the fund with applications beginning this fall, 2023

Three Funding Streams

1. Increasing the value-added processing and manufacturing using post-consumer recycled plastic
2. Reuse, including refill and repair and business models that reduce plastic waste
3. Indigenous-led projects and funding both businesses and communities/Nations to reduce the use of single-use plastics



Questions?



Contact us at ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca