

Extended Producer Responsibility in British Columbia: An Update

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Presenter

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Regulatory Framework

B.C.'s Recycling Regulation requires Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for products

- Requires industry to collect and manage products for efficient diversion from disposal
- Creates more opportunities for recycling across the province
- Reduces consumer confusion, increases participation
- Requires safe management and higher rates of recycling
- Results in less waste in landfills and the environment

Recycling Regulation

- Outcome-based framework regulation
 - New products are added to schedules
- Cascading definition of producer
 - Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers
- Producers meet requirements of approved EPR plans
 - Performance is tracked and measured
 - Most producers form or join existing non-profit agencies

Recycling Regulation (cont'd)

- Producers operate EPR programs leading to cost-effective business decisions and market-driven solutions
- Producers provide advertised, free recycling options, reducing improper or unsafe disposal and waste in landfills
- Program costs are covered directly by producers or passed along to consumers
 - Costs within product pricing or visible “eco-fee”

Product Categories and Plans

- EPR Agency-run programs; 1 Producer run
 - Packaging and Paper (3)
 - Residuals (4): used oil/filters & antifreeze, car batteries, paint, household hazardous waste, medications
 - Electronic and Electrical Products (11): batteries, almost everything with a cord or a battery
 - Beverage Containers (2)
 - Tires (1)

Packaging & Paper Products

- 2014 residential packaging and paper products (PPP)
 - B.C. businesses have invested in infrastructure and local processing capacity
 - More materials are recycled in B.C., while recycling programs across North America have been impacted by diminishing export markets
 - The standardized system has improved the supply of clean materials, resulting in better recycling rates
- Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) - Distinct from residential sector, currently unregulated

Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026

- Expanding the categories to include:
 - Hybrid and electric vehicle batteries and other battery types
 - Mattresses and foundations
 - Compressed canisters, such as single-use camping fuel and fire extinguishers
 - Medical sharps used by people at home
 - Emerging electronics and more moderately hazardous products

Questions or comments?

Contact us at ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca

Thank you!