

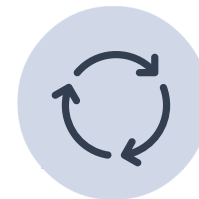
Overview of British Columbia Circular Economy & Recycling

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

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Presentation Overview

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



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

EPR requires industry to take life-cycle responsibility for the products they produce.

EPR reduces local and Indigenous government waste management costs, while delivering standardized, safer, and more equitable recycling programs provincially:

- Creates more opportunities for recycling across the province
- Establishes consistent, provincially product and material lists and better economies of scale
- Reduces consumer confusion, increases participation
- Requires safe management and higher rates of recycling
- Grows recycling businesses and creates job opportunities
- Increases waste prevention and supports the circular economy

The Recycling Regulation: EPR in B.C.

- One regulation with similar requirements for producers
 - Manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and online sellers
- New products are added to the list of new or existing product categories
- Producers must develop and have an approved EPR plan

EPR plans include:

- ✓ Outcomes of public consultation
- ✓ Product recovery rate(s), e.g., 75%
- ✓ Free access to provincewide collection
- ✓ Advertising and consumer awareness
- ✓ Verifying environmental and safety management
 - ✓ Pollution Prevention Hierarchy (5 Rs)
- ✓ Costs of operating recycling programs are covered by producers

Producers' Responsibility



- Recycling programs are operated and fully funded by producers:
 - Decide on individual or collectively run EPR plan/program
 - May charge a visible “eco-fee” to consumers
- Most producers form, or hire existing, non-profit agencies that help:
 - Consult with interested parties
 - Develop and submit EPR plans to the Ministry for approval
 - Operate recycling programs and meet commitments
 - Collect “eco-fees” and support financial oversight
 - Prepare annual reports for the Ministry and public

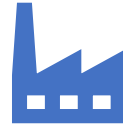
Provincewide Collection Network



Over 230 collection facilities



Curbside and multi-family collection



Large-volume direct pick-up



Community markets and one-day events



Collection in Indigenous Communities

The **First Nations Recycling Initiative** is a collective of nine B.C. EPR programs working with Indigenous communities.

- A First Nations Field Services Specialist raises awareness and offers resources to support recycling and community collection events.

The **Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group** collaborates with B.C. EPR programs and offers community support.

Existing EPR Programs

Recycling Regulation Phased Implementation:

- **Beverage containers** in deposit-refund system (2004); including milk containers (2022)
- **Moderately hazardous products** (2004-2012)
 - Paint, lead-acid batteries, tires, used oil, antifreeze, solvents and flammable liquids, domestic pesticides, gasoline
 - Pharmaceuticals
- **Electronics and batteries** (2010-2012)
 - Appliances, tools, sporting equipment/e-bikes, outdoor power equipment
 - Single-use and embedded batteries that could be used in regulated products
 - Light bulbs and fixtures, thermostats, fire alarms
- **Residential packaging and paper products** (2014); including household single-use and packaging-like items (2023)

EPR Action Plan: Expansion to 2026

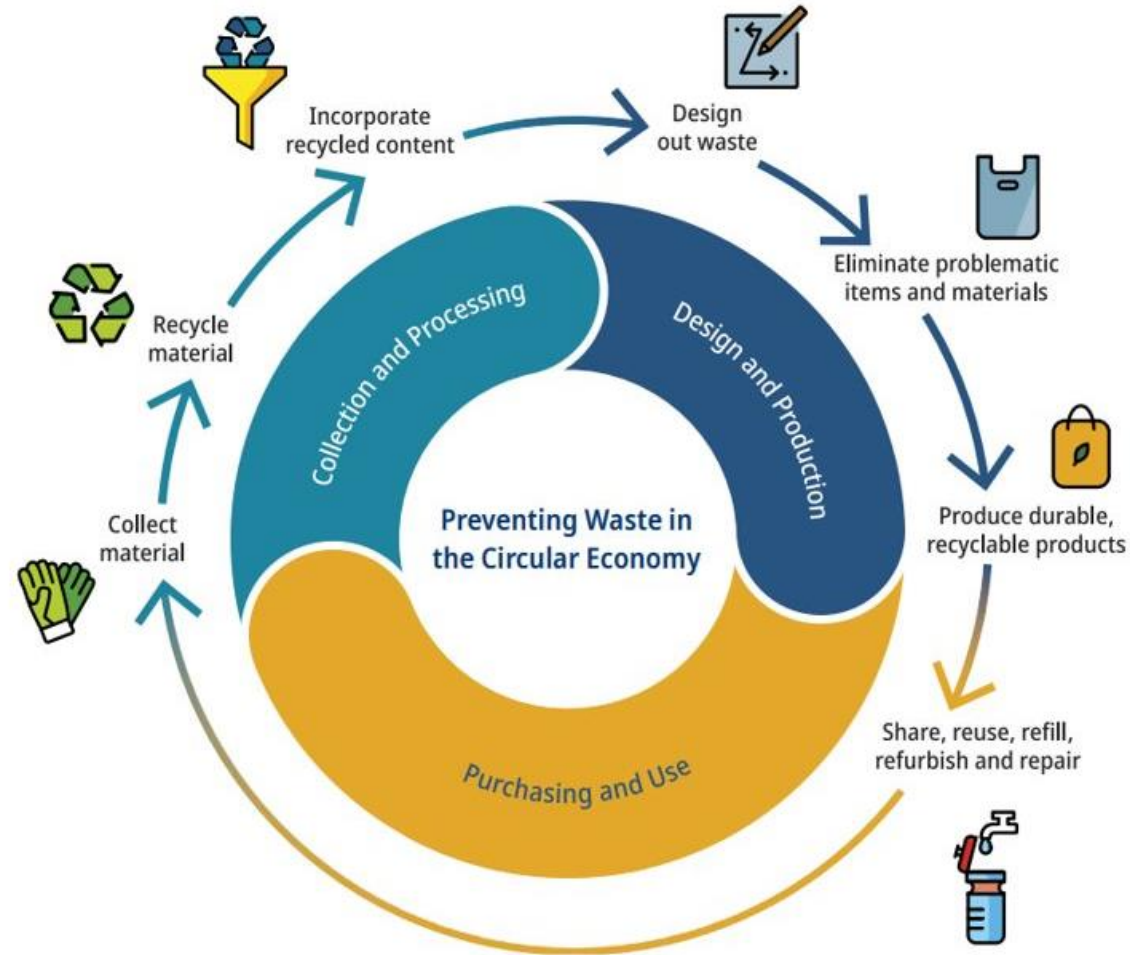
Fall 2023 - Regulate mattresses and more moderately hazardous products:

- Single-use canisters (e.g., propane, helium, spray foam, bear spray, aerosols)
- Refillable propane tanks and handheld fire extinguishers
- Emerging consumer batteries (e.g., clothing, e-cigarettes, singing birthday cards); portable power stations, residential storage systems; and EV batteries
- Medical sharps used by residents

2025 - Identify policy approach to divert and recycle more Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector packaging and paper

2026 - Regulate more electronics (e.g., solar panels, EV chargers) and moderately hazardous products (e.g., pool chemicals)

Circular Economy Overview



CleanBC Plastics Action Plan



Phase-out Single-use Items

Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation

July 2023

- Bans:
 - single-use plastic shopping bags (including compostable plastic bags)
 - single-use plastic utensils (including compostable plastic utensils)
 - foodservice packaging made from compostable plastics, PVC, PVDC, and polystyrene foam
- Minimum fee charged on paper and reusable shopping bags
- Food service accessories to be made available only by request



Increase Recycled Content

CleanBC Plastics Action Fund \$40M

Three Funding Streams

1. Value-added use of post-consumer recycled plastic
2. Reduce, reuse, refill, and repair business models that reduce plastic waste
3. Indigenous-led projects



Clean-up and Economic Recovery Funding

Clean Coast, Clean Waters \$49.83M

Goal: create jobs, support coastal communities and support B.C. work on addressing marine debris

Projects in shoreline clean-up and removal of derelict vessels

Results to date: 1,500 tonnes of debris, 118 derelict vessels, 64% recycling / upcycling rate for shoreline projects and over 1700 jobs created

Organics Programs

Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP)

- The OIP invested \$30 million to support 18 projects to increase organic waste processing capacity across B.C.
- Several projects under OIP are completed or nearly completed. All projects will be operational by March 2024.

CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collections Program (OICP)

- The OICP invested \$25.9 million in grants across two funding streams:
 - Organic processing infrastructure
 - Residential organic waste collection
- A number of projects under OICP are completed or nearly completed. All projects will be operational by March 2025.





Thank you!

ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca

Gwendolyn.Lohbrunner@gov.bc.ca