

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Overview

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Presenter

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Presentation Overview

1. Landscape & Authority (slides 3-6)
2. EPR Evolution (slides 7-11)
3. PPP and Recycle BC (slides 12-15)
4. Future of EPR (slides 16-18)

British Columbia Facts

BC Population: 4.7 M

- Metro Vancouver: 2.5 M
- 2017 MSW Data 506 kg/capita
- 2021 MSW Target 350 kg/capita

- 28 Regional Governments
- 925,186 km² land area
- Physical Geography – mountains and valleys



Circular Economy and EPR

Circular Economy:

- Multi-faceted with a focus on producers embracing sustainable design, using regenerative materials and collecting end-of-life products and materials for continuous use in the economy.
- EPR policy applied by government acts as a first pillar of circular economy by supporting sustainable economics, environmental protection and GHG reductions.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) defines EPR as an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle

Who is Responsible for Waste?

- Provinces have jurisdiction over municipal waste
- Some sharing of responsibilities among three levels of government

Federal	Focuses on sustainable development, toxic substances, international movement, GHGs, guidance on prioritization of EPR programs
Provincial	Focuses on granting approvals, licensing facilities, monitoring operation and approving EPR programs
Local/ municipal	Focuses on solid waste collection, diversion (recycling - including subcontracting to EPR programs , and composting) and disposal

EPR Legislative 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
- Cascading definition of the ‘producer’ that can be the:



- Accountability Framework
 - checks and balances: consultation requirements, performance measures, audited annual reports

EPR 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)

Stewardship plan renewals - Director's approval

- Established programs to meet higher measures

BC's History of EPR (1971-2008)

1971
Litter Act – launch of BC Deposit for beer and soft drinks

1980s
Rabbitt Commission travels province to learn about waste issues

1990
Ministry launches pilot HHW Program

1991
Ministry launches recycling program for tires and lead acid batteries

1992
BC Used Oil Lubricating Regulation

1997
Post Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Reg

2002
Stewardship Business Plan

2003
Used oil added to Post Consumer Residual Stewardship Prog. Reg.

2004
Recycling Regulation



2006
Electronic and Tires Added to Recycling Regulation

2008
Government plan to regulate 2 new products every three yrs.

What to regulate next?

1971 1980s 1990 1991 1992 1994 1997 2002 2003 2004 2006 2007 2008



1994
Post Consumer Paint Stewardship Program Reg.



1997
Beverage Container Stewardship Program Regulation



BC's History of EPR (2009-2019)



2009

2010

2011

2012

2014

2019



EPR Categories and Plans

Schedule 1: Beverage Containers (2)

Schedule 2: Residuals (4)

e.g., paint, household hazardous waste, used oil, medications, car batteries

Schedule 3: Electronic and Electrical Products (12)

e.g., batteries, everything with a cord or a battery

Schedule 4: Tires (1)

Schedule 5: Packaging and Paper (3)

BC's 22 EPR Programs

Shaw)



Smoke Alarms



LightRecycle



Paint & HHW



PPP



Residential Packaging and Paper Products (PPP) Program

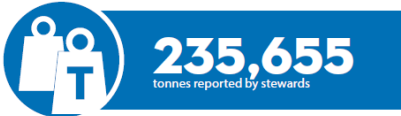
- Province-wide program; operated by Recycle BC (non-for-profit organization) on behalf of some 1,200 steward members since May 2014
- Collection services:
 - Curbside (residential blue box system)
 - Depots
 - Multi-family buildings
- Local governments may provide service under contract
- Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sector materials not included (unlike other EPR programs)

PPP Program (Cont.)

- Rocky start in 2014:
 - Local governments uncomfortable with takeover of service;
 - Newspapers not participating/funding program
 - Hundreds of other producers 'freeriding'
 - Many communities waitlisted;
 - Extensive Compliance & Enforcement campaign needed;
 - Depots and others complaining about compensation;
 - Opposition called for audit by OAG.
- Things turned around in 2016/17:
 - Complex set of 3-way agreements for newspapers, \$14M on table
 - Office of Auditor General report; 5 minor improvement areas
 - Communities on-boarded, BC model promoted
 - Now demand for ICI inclusion in regulation

Recycle BC

Program Performance



* Net tonnes collected and recovery rate reflect the exclusion of tonnes collected by Recycle BC on behalf of other stewardship programs for reporting in their annual reports



MATERIAL CATEGORY	RECOVERY RATE
Paper	86%
Plastic	42%
Rigid Plastic	54%
Flexible Plastic	19%
Metal	67%
Glass	78%

Stewards



Financial Performance



Access



Public Education Highlights



Compliance on PPP

- Free-riders – Over 400 producers with no EPR Plan
- Ministry works closely with industry on free-riders
- Ministry actively pursuing compliance
- Compliance transitioning from program area to Ministry trained compliance team

Next Steps

Province conducted review of expansion opportunities:

- Looked at all areas of possible EPR expansion

Plastics have become priority for most governments:

- Ellen MacArthur Foundation – global awareness
- G7 Countries engaged
- Canada working with provinces and territories (Canadian Council for Ministers of the Environment)
- Local government banning plastics – overturned

EPR Expansion

What next?

Single Use Plastics – sandwich bags, straws and cutlery

Plastic Bottles – milk & milk substitutes

Role of bans and Recycled Content standards



Next Steps – Cont'd

July 25th announcement – Consultation Paper launched:

1. Adding single-use items to Recycling Regulation
2. Expanding and modernizing deposit-refund system
3. Reviewing role and benefits of bans on sale of items
4. Developing a National Standard for recycled content

60 days consultation, may lead to amendments in Fall 2019

<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics/>

Contact Information

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www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/recycling/product-stewardship