



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Extended Producer Responsibility Update

Coast Waste Management Association
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B.C.'s Recycling Regulation – A recap 2004-2020

- Results-based environmental outcomes
- Costs borne by producers & consumers
- EPR plans designed and operated by producers
- Producers meet set performance measures, report out annually
- Ministry approves and monitors plans

Current Program Priorities

Immediate focus:

- Better performance requirements
- Accessibility
- Consumer awareness/education
- Pollution Prevention Hierarchy
- Financial transparency

Emerging issues:

- Agency governance
- Battery Management

Expansion

Performance Requirements

- Issue: Limited performance requirements and ambiguous language in plans
- Continuous improvement:
 - Several old plans had/have ‘aspirational’ goals as they had limited baseline information when drafted
 - Moving to SMART performance measures -Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely now that programs have more tangible results to build on

Accessibility

- Issue: SABC standard was developed in 2013 and may no longer meet expectations
- Continuous improvement:
 - Recognized need to better address rural, smaller communities or ‘gaps’ allowed under current standard
 - May look at distance-based targets and measures
 - More assurance for collection events in locations that do not meet accessibility targets

Consumer Awareness

- Issue: Various gaps in awareness e.g. products accepted, sector awareness
- Continuous improvement:
 - Research market, go beyond awareness surveys
 - Develop specific engagement strategies
 - Address consumer behaviour, target different consumer groups or products in different ways
 - See Recycle BC's "Home Tour" campaign

Pollution Prevention Hierarchy

- Issue: Need to better address and report on how programs are moving up Hierarchy
- Continuous improvement:
 - All programs/producers have areas of influence where improvements can be made e.g. recycled content, more recyclable, leased products, etc.
 - More transparency on current material management, and activities going forward

Financial Transparency

- Issue: Lack of adequate/common level of reporting given estimated \$500M in EPR fees in BC
- Continuous improvement:
 - Most stewards reporting to adequate degree of granularity, others well short
 - Looking to move all to common standard
 - Addresses Office of Auditor General ‘opportunity’

Emerging: Agency Governance

- Issue: Various complaints conveyed and opportunities for improvement noted
- Continuous improvement:
 - Better connection between agencies and members
 - Engage and educate producer membership
 - Boards and committees need BC representation
 - Move to best practices for governance, distinct from agency management e.g. have an audit committee

Emerging: Battery Management

- Issue: Rechargeable batteries are a growing safety concern (WorksafeBC, LG's, depots, scrap metal recycling, residential blue box)
- Continuous improvement:
 - Increased awareness needed about risks involved e.g. fires at transfer stations, landfills, processors
 - Ensure safe, established, documented EPR collection systems e.g. similar to refrigerant management

Stakeholder Involvement

- B.C. stakeholders are passionate about EPR and we must advance continuous improvement together
- When EPR program consultation takes place, get involved and provide feedback directly or collectively
- Feedback includes not only areas where a program could improve, but suggestions on how to do so

Looking ahead: Expansion

- Ministry has heard over the last several years that stakeholders and public want more EPR programs
- Through our recent 2019 scoping work we're finalizing a priority list of products/categories to be addressed going forward
- Next step: development of an outreach strategy on proposed priorities

Questions and Comments

- For further information on EPR policy contact Bob.McDonald@gov.bc.ca
- General information on EPR in BC
www.recycling.gov.bc.ca