
Alberta's Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



Recycling Council of Alberta Conference

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September 29, 2021

Context – Alberta's Current State

- EPR is a common approach across Canada.
- Moving to a province-wide EPR approach will provide greater efficiency and economy of scale for recycling and support innovation in recycling.
- Adopting EPR will also help Alberta transition to a circular economy, diversify the economy and create jobs.
 - Goal: Establish Alberta as the Western North America centre of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling by 2030.

Alberta's Stewardship Programs

- Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA)
 - Tires
 - Used Oil
 - Electronics
 - Paint
 - Household Hazardous Waste*
- Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB)
 - Beverage Containers

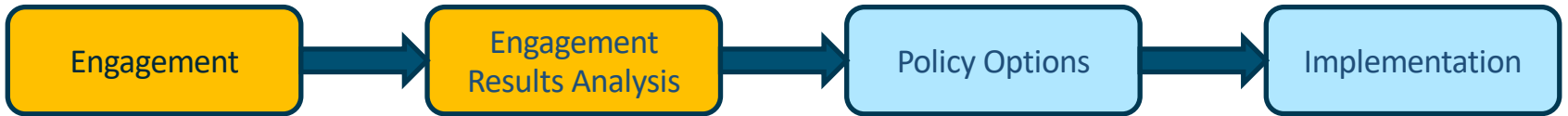
Current: No Overarching Framework

- Municipal programs inconsistent across the province
- Lack of post-consumer markets has created barriers to developing economies of scale for improved recycling programs
- Taxpayer funded (municipal/provincial)

Future: Legislated EPR Framework

- Increased diversion and recycling creates economic opportunities
- Additional materials can be incorporated over time
- Industry responsible for funding and operating coordinated and consistent programs across Alberta

Engagement



- Engagement began in Spring 2021 and is continuing this fall.
 - Establishing the regulatory framework for EPR
 - Developing EPR approaches for:
 - single-use plastics, packaging and paper products
 - Hazardous and Special Products
- Policy analysis to support EPR regulatory system is underway to support the policy options and implementation considerations.

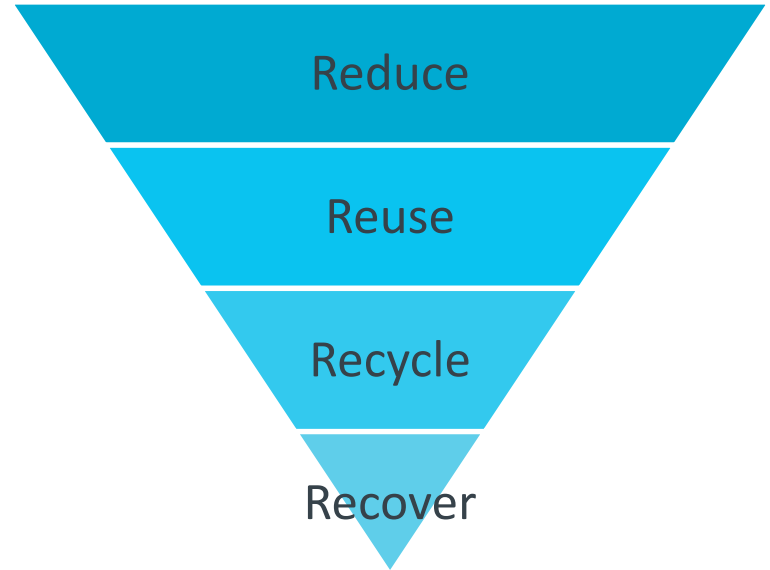
What we Heard

Creating an EPR Framework

- Assigning Responsibility
 - Level of producer responsibility
 - Roles: municipal & producer organizations
 - Transition time
 - Geographical access and service standards
- Definition of a Producer
 - Harmonization
 - Free riders / online sales

Creating an EPR Framework

- Performance Metrics
 - Measureable
 - Harmonization
 - Continuous Improvement
- Pollution Prevention Hierarchy
 - Definition of Recycle



Creating an EPR Framework

- Oversight, Compliance and Enforcement
 - Transparent, measurable performance
 - Governance best practices, regular reviews
 - Power and authority to enforce
- Multiple Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs)
 - Easy to understand
 - Level playing field

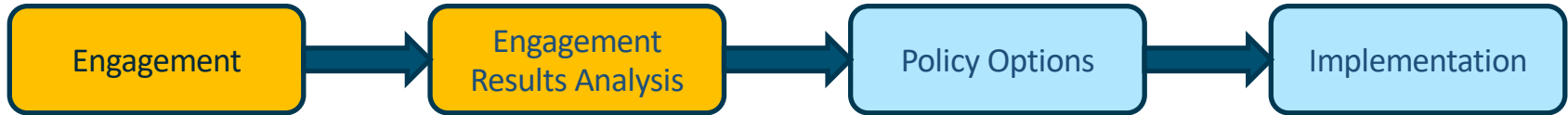
EPR - Packaging and Paper Products

- Harmonize with other provinces
- Maintain service standards
- Flexibility to adapt to new products
- De minimis exemptions
- Feedback was provided on:
 - Single-use vs. re-fillable plastics, hard to recycle plastics
 - Books and newsprint
 - Material inclusions and exclusions

EPR - Hazardous and Special Products

- Batteries need further refinement (lead-acid)
- Harmonize with Federal Pest Control Products Regulations
- Feedback was provided on:
 - Targets for consumable goods
 - Customer confusion
 - Inclusion of more materials

Summary and Next Steps



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Questions?

