

B.C. Initiatives in Waste Reduction: EPR and Plastics Overview

**Prepared for RCA Conference
September 28, 2021**

Presenter

**Teresa Conner, Unit Head, Packaging EPR
Environmental Protection Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**

Presentation Overview

1. CleanBC Plastics Action Plan (3)
2. Phase-out of Single-Use Items (4-5)
3. EPR Framework (5-6)
4. EPR Expansion (7-10)
5. CleanBC Plastics Action Fund (11)
6. Clean Coast Clean Waters Fund (12)

CleanBC Plastics Action Plan



Phase-out Single-Use Items



EPR: Expanding Programs



Increasing Recycled Content



Economic Recovery Funding

Phase-out of Single-Use Items

- 9 municipal bylaws limiting single-use items received ministerial approval (under the *Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction of the Community Charter*)
- Minister's Regulation, under the *Community Charter*, now enables all municipalities to regulated certain single-use plastics
- Legal framework to support the provincial phase-out of single-use plastics under development

Approved bylaw	Bans			Fees on alternative bags
	Plastic Bags	Straws	Foam service ware	
Saanich	•			•
Richmond	•	•	•	
Victoria	•			•
Tofino	•	•	•	•
Ucluelet	•	•	•	•
Nanaimo	•			•
Surrey	•		•	•
Esquimalt	•			•
Rossland	•			•

Circular Economy and EPR

Circular Economy:

- Circular economy is an approach that maximizes value and eliminates waste by improving, and in some cases transforming, how goods and services are designed, manufactured and used.
- EPR policy applied by government acts as a first pillar of the 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.

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: Expansion - Background

- CleanBC Plastics Action Plan engagement
- Local Government demand – increased diversion from landfill and safe management; meeting provincial waste reduction targets
- Province-wide recycling network and services
- Economic stability for B.C.'s recycling industry
- Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment
 - Canada-Wide Action Plans for EPR and Zero Plastic Waste

2020 Expansion

Amended the Recycling Regulation June 2020 supporting Plastics Action Plan

- Enabling alternatives to cash for deposit-refunds.
- Setting the minimum deposit to 10 cents for all beverage containers.
- Add milk and milk alternatives to deposit-refund system; effective Feb 2022
- Add single-use items and packaging-like products; effective Jan 2023

[Recycle Packaging & Paper Product - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/water/air-climate/water/2020-expansion)

5 Year Action Plan for Expansion

September 10, 2021, Minister Announced:

- EPR 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 by clarifying product categories.

Packaging and Paper from the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Sector

- Stakeholders and key partners have identified the ICI sector as a large contributor to overall waste in B.C. and expressed a desire to expand EPR to include it.
- Phased approach:
 - 2021-2022 - data collection and research to better understand the management of packaging and paper in the ICI sector.
 - 2022-2025 – data evaluation and engagement.
 - 2025 – policy approach identified.

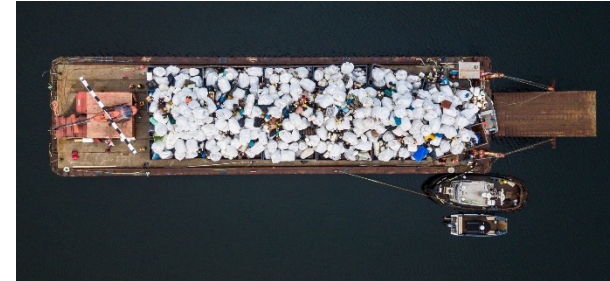
CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

- \$5M Fund launched Dec 2020 to:
 - increase B.C. processing capacity to supply more recycled plastic
 - increase the use of recycled plastics in manufacturing
 - support recycled plastics product research, design, and testing
- Other considerations:
 - Regional representation
 - Opportunities for youth, women, Indigenous people
- Nine Projects Funded:
 - Creation of 89 jobs, majority full time and permanent
 - New technology and processes provide future market opportunities and opportunities for export



Clean Coast Clean Waters Fund

- \$18M total funding since Dec 2020 to:
 - Create jobs and support coastal communities recovering from COVID-19 tourism loss.
 - Support B.C.'s work on addressing marine debris.
- CCCW supports marine shoreline clean-up and derelict vessel removal.
- Estimated Results:
 - Employ over 1,200 people.
 - Engage over 20 different Indigenous Nations.
 - Clean up an estimated 2,800 km of shoreline.
 - Over 100 derelict vessels.
 - Collect data on debris types and volumes.
 - Recycle most of the material collected.



Contact Information

Teresa Conner, Unit Head

Packaging, Extended Producer Responsibility

Environmental Protection Division

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Teresa.Conner@gov.bc.ca

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