

Extended Producer Responsibility

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Extended Producer Responsibility

An EPR policy approach is characterized by:

1. **Shifting responsibility** (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream toward the producer and away from municipalities; and
2. the **provision of incentives** to producers to take into account environmental considerations when designing their products.

EPR seeks to integrate signals related to the environmental characteristics of products and production processes throughout the product chain.

Extended Producer Responsibility

EPR: 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.

*OECD website, Extended Producer Responsibility

EPR Benefits

- Enable a circular economy;
- Create jobs and grow the economy;
- Reduce community waste management costs;
- Make recycling services consistent and more accessible to Albertans;
- Create economies of scale and improve efficiency; and
- Incent industry innovation

Transition from Linear to Circular Economy

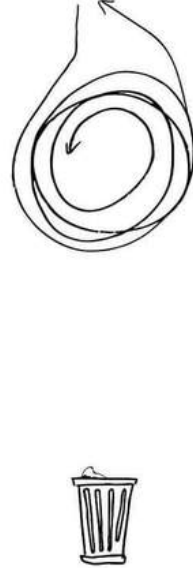
LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING ECONOMY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Policy Shifts and Engagement Process

Proposed Policy Shift

The Government of Alberta is engaging on three policy shifts:

1. Create an overarching EPR regulatory framework.
2. Develop an EPR approach for packaging, paper products, and single-use plastics.
3. Develop an EPR approach for Hazardous and Special Products to replace the current Household Hazardous Waste program.

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 Process and Next Steps

- Spring 2021 Stakeholder Engagement
 - Feedback was captured in the “What We Heard” report.
- Bill 83
 - Created legislated foundation for subsequent EPR regulations.
- Winter 2021/22 Engagement
 - Address specific issues.
- Policy Options
 - Informed by all aspects of engagement and policy analysis.



Bill 83, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Amendment Act*

- Bill 83 enables an EPR framework
- Key changes:
 - Enables the creation of *effective and efficient* producer-run recycling systems
 - Flexibility for collection and recovery requirements
 - Allows for exemptions to be created in regulation
 - Ensures information can be collected to determine eligibility for any exemptions

Questions?



<https://www.alberta.ca/circular-plastics-economy-engagement.aspx>