

Proposed **Designated Materials Recycling Regulation** Consultation Workbook

The Government of Alberta is consulting on several proposed changes to Alberta's regulatory framework for recycling designated materials, which are outlined in this workbook. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development would like your input on these proposed changes. Consultation feedback will help to inform the content of the proposed Designated Materials Recycling Regulation. Your input will help ensure Alberta's current and future recycling programs meet stakeholder needs, keep pace in changing times, and lead to positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

**Feedback Must Be Submitted By
December 13, 2013**

By mail: The Praxis Group
242, 2451 Dieppe Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T3E 7K1

By fax: 1-403-249-8983

The survey can also be completed online at
https://surveys3.praxis.ca/goa_recycling_2013/registration



This workbook begins with background information and an overview of proposed regulatory changes. Each proposed change is discussed in more detail followed by questions requesting your feedback on key areas. There are also opportunities throughout the workbook for you to provide any other input you believe is important regarding Alberta's regulatory framework for recycling designated materials.

As you work through the document, feel free to respond to all questions or to skip sections that do not interest you.

Please use the back side of workbook pages if more space is needed to provide your feedback.

If you require further information or help completing this workbook, please contact:

ESRD.recyclingregulation@gov.ab.ca or 780-644-5091.
For toll free access anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 first.

Background



Why are we consulting on Alberta's regulatory framework for recycling?

Alberta has the highest waste disposal rate in Canada. In 2010¹ we sent about four million tonnes of waste to Alberta landfills. That translates to about 1050 kilograms of waste per person, compared to the Canadian average of 729 kilograms per person. We also trail behind the rest of the country in diverting material for reuse or recycling, with an Alberta diversion rate of 192 kilograms per person compared to the Canadian diversion rate of 239 kilograms per person.

While we have several successful recycling programs for specific waste streams, we need to update and expand our provincial recycling efforts. In 2007, the Government of

Alberta approved Alberta's waste strategy – *Too Good to Waste*² – the provincial roadmap for waste reduction and management. Too Good to Waste identifies many social, environmental, and economic reasons for developing more effective approaches to recycling and resource conservation.

Provincial product stewardship (recycling) programs play an important role in waste reduction efforts. Alberta has five provincially regulated stewardship programs for beverage containers, used oil materials, tires, paint, and electronics (computer equipment and televisions only). The programs are enabled

by the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*³ and eight different regulations. They are managed by three delegated administrative organizations that are not-for-profit agencies incorporated under the *Societies Act*.⁴ The organizations operate at arm's-length from government and report to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

¹ <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/16f0023x/16f0023x2013001-eng.pdf>

² <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/7822.pdf>

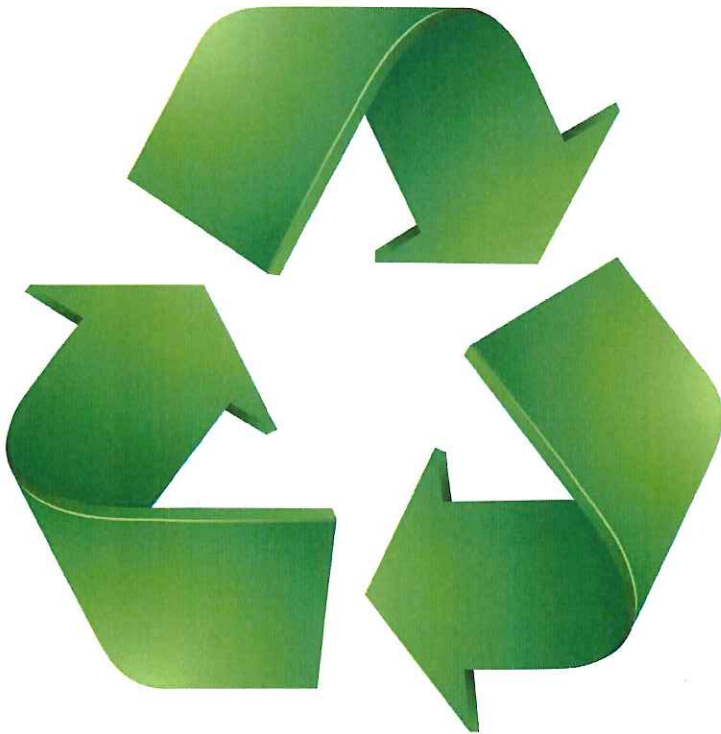
³ <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/acts/e12.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/acts/s14.pdf>

Provincial data - Kg Per Capita Disposal and Kg Per Capita Diversion
(Statistics Canada 2010)



Why are we consulting on Alberta's regulatory framework for recycling?



In *Too Good to Waste* we identify the need to:

- Work with our existing product stewardship programs to continually improve their performance; and
- Create additional product stewardship programs, particularly for materials such as packaging and printed paper and household hazardous waste.

In the past several years, many jurisdictions in Canada and in other countries have been moving to an “extended producer responsibility” approach to managing waste generated from obsolete products. Extended producer responsibility is a policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility – physical and/or financial – for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of that product’s life. This approach shifts the expenses associated with the product’s end-of-life management from taxpayers to producers and consumers, by requiring producers to implement recycling systems that reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

In 2009, all provinces and territories endorsed the ***Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility***⁵ developed by the ***Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment***⁶.

Through the plan, Alberta committed to implementing extended producer responsibility framework legislation and/or regulations and the development and implementation of extended producer responsibility programs. The plan used a phased approach, with the first phase focused on implementing programs for the following materials within six years:

- packaging and printed paper;
- mercury containing lamps and other mercury containing products;
- electronics and electrical products;
- automotive products; and
- household hazardous and special wastes.

⁵ http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/epr_cap.pdf

⁶ <http://www.ccme.ca/>

Overview



We would like your feedback on the following proposed changes, which are described in more detail in sections one through seven. As you work through the document, feel free to respond to all questions or to skip sections that do not interest you.

1 Consolidation of Existing Regulations

p. 6

Consolidating all eight of Alberta's existing recycling regulations (for beverage containers, used oil, tires, electronics and paint) under one regulation - the Designated Materials Recycling Regulation

2 Environmental Fees

p. 8

Removing environmental fees from regulation while still ensuring consumer protection

3 Electronics Recycling Program Expansion

p. 10

Expanding the electronics recycling program to include small appliances, audio/visual equipment, telecommunication equipment and power tools

4 Used Oil Materials Recycling Program: Environmental Fee and Expansion

p. 12

Expanding the used oil materials recycling program to include other automotive fluid containers and increasing the environmental fee on containers

5 Enabling of Extended Producer Responsibility

p. 14

Enabling extended producer responsibility in Alberta

6 Designation of Packaging and Printed Paper

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Designating packaging and printed paper materials to be managed under an extended producer responsibility program with a future commencement date

7 Designation of Household Hazardous Waste

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Designating household hazardous waste to be managed under an extended producer responsibility program with a future commencement date

8 Final Thoughts

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Add any final comments

About You



To help us contextualize your feedback, please let us know the sector or organization you represent.

Please indicate the sector or organization you represent in providing your feedback on the proposed regulatory changes (select one only).

☐ **Municipal Government (for example, municipal staff, elected officials)**

What municipality or municipal group do you represent? _____

☐ **Federal or Provincial Government**

What department or ministry do you represent? _____

☐ **Business / Industry**

What sub-sector do you represent?

- ☐ Producing and/or selling products in Alberta (for example, manufacturer, brand owner, importer, retailer, wholesaler, distributor)
- ☐ Managing materials at end of life (for example, recycler, waste hauler, landfill)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

What is the name of the company or organization you represent? _____

☐ **Industry Associations**

What association do you represent? _____

☐ **Delegated Administrative Organization**

What organization do you represent? _____

☐ **Government Agency/Board/Commission**

What organization do you represent? _____

☐ **Non-Government/Non-Profit Organization**

What organization do you represent? _____

☐ **General Public**

☐ **Other** (please specify) _____

Your feedback will be collected by The Praxis Group, a third-party independent public consultation firm. This firm will analyse and compile data so that your feedback will be kept anonymous unless you indicate that you would like your organization's name and specific feedback to be shared with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

Would you like your feedback to be shared?

- ☐ Yes, share my organization's name and specific feedback with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
- ☐ No, please keep my feedback anonymous

1 Consolidation of Existing Regulations



Proposed Change

Consolidate Alberta's existing recycling regulations (for beverage containers, used oil materials, tires, electronics, and paint) under one regulation, the Designated Materials Recycling Regulation, which will also be the governing regulation for all future designated materials.

Background

Alberta currently has eight separate regulations for our five provincial recycling programs. Each program has a Delegated Administrative Organization and its own separate regulation, except the used oil recycling program, which is governed by three regulations.

*All regulations can be viewed at the **Alberta Queen's Printer**⁷.*

Materials	Existing Regulations	Delegated Administrative Organization
1. Beverage containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beverage Container Recycling Regulation 	<i>Beverage Container Management Board</i> ⁸
2. Used oil materials (used oil, oil filters, oil containers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lubricating Oil Material Recycling and Management Regulation Lubricating Oil Material Environmental Handling Charge Bylaw Lubricating Oil Material Recycling and Management Bylaw 	<i>Alberta Used Oil Management Association</i> ⁹
3. Tires 4. Paint & Paint Containers 5. Electronics (computer equipment/televisions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Material Recycling and Management Regulation Tire Designation Regulation Paint and Paint Containers Designation Regulation Electronics Designation Regulation Recycling and Management Bylaw 	<i>Alberta Recycling Management Authority</i> ¹⁰

Rationale for Change

Consolidating the separate regulations into one will streamline our regulatory approach and make it easier for people to find relevant regulatory requirements for all of Alberta's regulated recycling programs.

The Designated Materials Recycling Regulation will apply to all designated materials and provincially regulated stewardship programs. The consolidation will not remove the existing delegated administrative organizations: the intent is for those organizations to continue operating their programs for beverage containers, used oil materials, tires, paint and electronics. The existing programs are well-established, popular with Albertans, and achieving good results.

⁷ <http://www.qp.alberta.ca>

⁸ <http://www.bcmb.ab.ca>

⁹ <http://www.usedoilrecyclingab.com>

¹⁰ <http://www.albertarecycling.ca>

Details on Change

The consolidated Designated Materials Recycling Regulation would include:

1. An overarching part that would apply to any designated material or managing organization, including such things as: general definitions and designated product categories, general reporting and accountability requirements, dispute resolution processes, product stewardship plan requirements, and offence provisions which would apply to all designated material recycling programs.
2. Specific parts of the regulation that would apply to a particular designated material, including such things as: designated product definitions, coming into force provisions, provisions that will continue for the existing programs, and other provisions unique to a particular product category (for example, refund amounts for beverage containers) or managing organization.



Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Change

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation change.

Consolidating Alberta's eight recycling regulations under one regulation, the Designated Materials Recycling Regulation.

Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the consolidation of Alberta's eight recycling regulations under one regulation?

2 Environmental Fees

Proposed Change

Remove environmental fees from regulation while still ensuring consumer protection.

Background

Currently, funding for most provincially regulated recycling programs comes from environmental fees levied on the sale of designated products sold in Alberta. The fees are typically added on to the price of the product at the till. The environmental fees are placed into dedicated accounts that can only be used to fund the recycling program associated with those products. Government neither funds nor receives money from the recycling programs. The programs are required to submit annual reports to government, including audited financial statements showing how much money was collected and spent. The annual reports are posted online, at each of the respective delegated administrative organization's websites and are available to the public.

Maximum environmental fees are listed in the regulations for tires, paint, used oil materials and electronics. To increase a fee beyond the amount specified in regulation, a regulatory amendment is required.

Alberta also has some voluntary industry-run stewardship programs (for example, cell phone recycling and pesticide container recycling) that internalize recycling costs into the price of the product. For these programs, financial information is not shared with government or the public on program revenues and expenditures.

Other Canadian provinces with regulated extended producer responsibility programs do not list environmental fees in their regulations. Instead the producers are responsible for managing the end-of-life programs for designated materials, including determining how to fund the programs. Some provinces require that the Minister or Minister's designate approve any proposed environmental fees or fee changes. Others do not require government approval of environmental fees, but do require producers to provide annual audited financial statements outlining how much money was collected and how it was spent. Still others require environmental fees to be incorporated into the price of the product rather than added on at the till, although stores can still inform their customers that a fee is being charged.



Rationale for Change

Environmental fees must be reasonably flexible in order to ensure that programs can respond to changing market conditions. Amending a regulation each time an environmental fee needs to be changed can be time-consuming and comes at a cost to taxpayers. Addressing the legal and procedural requirements of regulatory amendments requires the time and resources of government staff and provincial elected officials.

Removing environmental fees from regulation allows product stewardship programs the ability to respond to fluctuating costs and changing market conditions. However, government must also ensure that environmental fees charged to consumers are not excessive.

Details on Change

If environmental fees are charged to consumers to cover program costs, government will require the following:

- Stewardship programs will have to follow criteria to set their environmental fees and provide evidence of following the criteria in their stewardship program plans (see Section 5 for more information on stewardship program plans). **Specific criteria** could include, but is not limited to, providing details on: provincial sales; average product weights; amount of collected materials; projected recovery rates; operating costs to collect, transport and process materials; costs relating to promotion, education, research and administration; and any other criteria as required by the Minister.
- The Director will approve the environmental fees as part of the overall stewardship program plan and approve any subsequent environmental fee increases.
- Audited financial statements on program revenues and expenditures will be included in annual reports.

Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Change

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation change.

Removal of environmental fees from regulation.

Strongly oppose
Somewhat oppose
Neutral
Somewhat support
Strongly support
Don't know

Supporting Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following requirements if environmental fees are removed from regulation but charged to consumers.

Require **specific criteria** (see description on left) to be followed when setting environmental fees and provide evidence of doing so in stewardship program plans.

Require director approval of environmental fees as part of the overall stewardship program plan, as well as any subsequent environmental fee increases.

Require annual reports to include audited financial statements on program revenues and expenditures.

Strongly oppose
Somewhat oppose
Neutral
Somewhat support
Strongly support
Don't know

Do you have any specific suggestions for additions or changes to criteria for setting environmental fees?

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the removal of environmental fees from regulation in Alberta?

3 Electronics Recycling Program Expansion



Proposed Change

Expand the existing electronics recycling program.

Background

Alberta's electronics recycling program began in 2004 and was developed to ensure old or unwanted electronic products are managed in an environmentally appropriate manner. The **Alberta Recycling Management Authority**¹¹ (Alberta Recycling) is the delegated administrative organization designated to manage the program. To date, more than 5.5 million units - or about 100,000 tonnes - of electronic material has been recycled. There are approximately 330 electronics collection sites across the province; most are managed by municipalities. The program presently only includes computer equipment and televisions. For more details on the current program see www.albertarecycling.ca.



Rationale for Change

Electronic waste or e-waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the country. There has been ongoing demand from municipalities and the public to include more products in Alberta's program. Several other provinces have already expanded their electronics recycling programs. Expanding the program will increase Alberta's recycling rate, reduce municipal costs, lead to greater harmonization with other provinces, and provide a level of service the public expects.

¹¹ <http://www.albertarecycling.ca/>

Details on Change

The existing electronics recycling program will be expanded to include electronic products in the following main categories:

- **Audio/visual** (for example: VCRs, DVD players, stereos, digital cameras, video gaming equipment)
- **Telecommunications:** non-cellular¹² corded and cordless telephones, answering machines
- **Small household appliances** (for example: countertop microwave ovens, kettles, blenders, irons, vacuum cleaners)
- **Power tools** (for example: drills, sanders, skill saws, table saws, drill presses)

Alberta Recycling will continue to be the managing organization. Proposed **environmental fees** will all be under \$5 per unit, with many fees \$1 or less per unit.¹³ For a more detailed list of proposed products and environmental fees please see <http://environment.alberta.ca/documents/AERP-Proposed-Products-and-Fees-by-Product-Category.pdf>

Note: The proposed changes in this section relating to environmental fees apply if environmental fees are not removed from regulation (see Section 2 for details).

¹² Cellular phones and other wireless devices are currently being collected through the voluntary Recycle My Cell program (<http://www.recyclemycell.ca/>), managed by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association under a Memorandum of Understanding between the department and the association.

¹³ Maximum environmental fees are defined as "advance disposal surcharges" in the Electronics Designation Regulation. Alberta Recycling currently cannot increase any advance disposal surcharge beyond the maximum regulated amount without a regulatory amendment. See Section 2 for details on the department's proposed changes to regulatory requirements around environmental fees.

Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
Expansion of Alberta's electronics recycling program to include audiovisual equipment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expansion of Alberta's electronics recycling program to include telecommunications equipment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expansion of Alberta's electronics recycling program to include small household appliances .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expansion of Alberta's electronics recycling program to include power tools .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Supporting Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes that would support an expanded electronics program.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
Proposed environmental fees on the expanded list of electronic products (see note on left).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alberta Recycling to continue management of the expanded electronics program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding electronics recycling in Alberta?

4 Used Oil Materials Recycling Program: Environmental Fee and Expansion



Proposed Changes

4.a Increase the environmental fee for used oil containers to 10-cents per litre of container size, from the current fee of 5-cents per litre of container size.

4.b Add other automotive fluid containers to the program.

Background

Alberta's used oil materials recycling program began in 1997 and was developed to ensure that used oil, oil containers, and filters are managed in an environmentally appropriate manner and recycled into useful products. The Alberta Used Oil Management Association¹⁴ is the delegated administrative organization designated to manage the program. To date the program has recycled over 1.2 billion litres of used oil, 98 million filters, and 24,000 tonnes of plastic containers. For more information on the program please see <http://usedoilrecyclingab.com/>. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Quebec all operate similar recycling programs for used oil materials.

Rationale for Changes

Note: The proposed changes in this section relating to environmental fees apply if environmental fees are not removed from regulation (see Section 2 for details).

The program is collecting less money than it needs to recycle used oil containers and maintain the current level of service to Albertans. The environmental fee on used oil containers has not changed in 16 years. Program managers have implemented cost saving measures over the last several years but the program is operating at a deficit budget. If the fee is not increased, program managers forecast that operational changes will be necessary by 2015 to balance the budget, which will likely impact collectors and processors.

In 2009-2010, the used oil material recycling programs in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Quebec increased their environmental fees for used oil containers from 5-cents to 10-cents per litre of container size.

Alberta's program only includes used oil containers; however, about 20 per cent of the containers collected are other automotive fluid containers. The used oil recycling program has the system in place to collect and recycle these containers, but needs to have environmental fees levied on the other automotive containers to cover the recycling costs.

Details on Changes

4.a Increase the environmental fee¹⁵ for used oil containers to 10-cents per litre of container size, from the current fee of 5-cents per litre of container size.

If environmental fees are not removed from regulation see Section 2 for details this is the fee we propose will be set in regulation and charged for the applicable containers, based on research and analysis provided by program managers.

4.b Add other automotive fluid containers to the program.

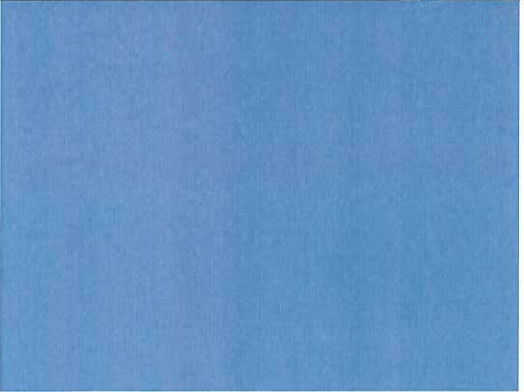
Add the following automotive fluid containers to the program:

- **Automotive anti-freeze/coolant containers:** all sizes up to and including 20 litres
- **Diesel exhaust fluid containers:** all sizes up to and including four litres
- **Windshield washer containers:** all sizes up to and including four litres

The environmental fee of 10-cents per litre of container size will be placed on these containers. This will provide an additional \$2 million to the used oil materials program each year and help to ensure the long-term viability of container recycling. In 2011, British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec added antifreeze containers to their programs with a 10-cent per litre of container size environmental fee.

¹⁴ <http://www.usedoilrecyclingab.com/>

¹⁵ Maximum environmental fees are formally defined as "environmental handling charges" in the Lubricating Oil Material Environmental Handling Charge Bylaw. The Used Oil Management Association currently cannot increase any environmental handling charge without a regulatory amendment. See Section 2 for details on the department's proposed changes to regulatory requirements around environmental fee.



Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes

Strongly oppose
Somewhat oppose
Neutral
Somewhat support
Strongly support
Don't know

Increasing the environmental fee for used oil containers to 10-cents per litre of container size (see note on pg. 12).

Adding **automotive antifreeze/coolant containers** to the program.

Adding **windshield washer containers** to the program.

Adding **diesel exhaust fluid containers** to the program.

Supporting Change

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes that would support an expanded used oil materials recycling program.

Strongly oppose
Somewhat oppose
Neutral
Somewhat support
Strongly support
Don't know

Proposed environmental fee of 10-cents per litre of container size on expanded list of containers (see note on pg. 12).

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding used oil materials recycling in Alberta?

5 Enabling of Extended Producer Responsibility



Proposed Change

Enable extended producer responsibility.

Background

Extended producer responsibility is a form of product stewardship that establishes producers' responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products or packaging. "Producers" are typically the manufacturers, brand owners, importers, or first sellers of a product into a province. Extended producer responsibility shifts the physical and/or financial responsibility for recycling away from the general taxpayer to producers and consumers. This approach is being applied to an increasing array of products and materials across the country and around the world, either voluntarily by producers or in response to regulation.

In Alberta, extended producer responsibility is occurring in some voluntary industry managed stewardship programs, such as the cell phone recycling program,

the pesticide container recycling program, and the plastic bag reduction program. There is currently no regulated stewardship program in Alberta managed under an extended producer responsibility framework.

Alberta's five existing provincially regulated recycling programs are managed by delegated administrative organizations, which are led by multi-stakeholder boards. Alberta's delegated administrative organizations are supported by legislation, operate at arm's-length from government, and are required to report annually to the Minister on progress and financial status. No changes are being proposed to the management or management framework of the existing programs.

Enabling extended producer responsibility in Alberta is in line with the Canadian Council of Ministers of

the Environment's 2009 Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility, which provinces and territories endorsed (see pg. 3).

Many Canadian provinces have extended producer responsibility programs in place for packaging and printed paper, electronics, household hazardous waste, and other products. Under an extended producer responsibility framework, producers have the option to meet their regulatory obligations individually or join a collective that has received approval from government to manage the designated material on behalf of its member producers. To date most producers of designated materials in other provinces have chosen to join collectives. Such collectives are generally governed by an industry-based board of directors, rather than a multi-stakeholder board.

Rationale for Change

There is value in having a suite of tools available to help manage end-of-life materials in Alberta, including delegated administrative organizations, voluntary industry-run stewardship programs, and regulated extended producer responsibility programs. Enabling extended producer responsibility will make one more management option available for materials we designate in the future.

Extended producer responsibility

Current responsibility

\$\$\$
Recycling
Cost
General
Taxpayer

shifts to

Proposed responsibility

\$\$\$
Recycling
Cost
Producers
& Consumers

Extended producer responsibility shifts the physical and/or financial responsibility for recycling away from the general taxpayer to producers and consumers.

Details on Change

Enabling extended producer responsibility will make the producers of the targeted designated materials responsible for managing the materials at end-of-life. Producers will have the option of meeting their regulatory obligations individually or through a collective. Upon government designating a material in regulation, producers will have a certain period of time to develop plans for how they propose to manage the material (commonly referred to as stewardship program plans). There will be regulatory requirements regarding the contents of any stewardship program plan. Producers will have to provide the proposed stewardship program plans to the Minister or Minister's designate for final approval.

The **regulatory requirements** of stewardship program plans will include:

- Collection details (must be province-wide, reasonable, convenient, free to consumers)
- Performance measures and targets (environmental, social, economic)
- Education/awareness/communication strategies
- Dispute resolution processes
- Details on program governance
- Environmental fee setting criteria
- Quality control and quality assurance procedures, including tracking and auditing mechanisms for material collection and processing, and environmental health and safety

- Material management plans, in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy
- Consideration of free market competition in the recycling marketplace
- Consultation with affected parties
- Any other requirements identified by the Minister or Minister's designate

There will be annual reporting requirements on overall program performance and audited financial statements of any program that charges environmental fees to consumers (see Section 2 for more details on environment fees).

Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Change

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation change.

Enabling extended producer responsibility in regulation.

Strongly oppose
Somewhat oppose
Neutral
Somewhat support
Strongly support
Don't know

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Supporting Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes that support enabling extended producer responsibility in Alberta.

Allowing producers to meet their regulatory obligations individually or by joining a collective.

The **regulatory requirements** (see above) of stewardship program plans.

Annual reporting requirements on program performance.

Strongly oppose
Somewhat oppose
Neutral
Somewhat support
Strongly support
Don't know

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any suggestions for changes or additions to the regulatory requirements for stewardship program plans?

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions on enabling extended producer responsibility, including comments relating to governance of extended producer responsibility programs and government oversight?



6 Designation of Packaging and Printed Paper



Proposed Changes

6.a Designate packaging, service packaging and printed paper.

6.b Manage packaging and printed paper under an extended producer responsibility program.

Background

Packaging and printed paper makes up a significant portion of the waste generated in Alberta. Managing this waste stream entails substantial costs for municipalities and, by extension, taxpayers. The Too Good to Waste Strategy and Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility include commitments to implement a provincially regulated stewardship program for packaging and printed paper.

Significant work has been undertaken by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to address packaging and printed paper waste. The **Canada-wide Strategy for Sustainable Packaging**¹⁶ builds on the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (see pg. 3) to reduce packaging waste in Canada and promote more sustainable packaging choices. In addition, Ministers announced an **industry-driven approach to reduce packaging in Canada**,¹⁷ where industry committed to initiatives that will reduce the amount of packaging destined for landfills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase recycled content in packaging.

Regulated stewardship programs for packaging and printed paper have already been implemented in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, and are currently being developed in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Rationale for Changes

Designating packaging and printed paper materials to be managed under an extended producer responsibility program will transfer end-of-life management costs to producers and consumers. A provincial program will help to improve Alberta's recycling rate, reduce municipal costs, lead to greater harmonization with other provinces, and provide a level of service the public expects.

Details on Changes

6.a Specific designation of packaging and printed paper as follows:

- I. **Packaging** means any package or container, or any part of a package or container that is comprised of glass, metal, paper, boxboard, cardboard, paper fibre or plastic, or any combination of any of those materials and includes, but is not limited to, service packaging.
- II. **Service Packaging** means packaging that is filled or applied at the point of sale to enable or facilitate the delivery of goods by a retail seller or a food service industry or other service industry outlet.
- III. **Printed Paper** means paper that is not packaging, but is printed with text or graphics as a medium for communicating information, and includes flyers, brochures, booklets, catalogues, newspapers, magazines, paper fibre, telephone directories, and paper used for copying, writing or any other general use, but does not include other types of bound reference books, bound literary books, or bound text books.

The designation would exclude:

- Containers included in existing provincial recycling programs (paint containers, used oil containers, beverage containers).
- Agricultural plastics, including: baling twine; net wrap; silage pit, pile covers, bags or tubes; grain bags or tubes; bale wrap, tubes or bags. The department is working in partnership with Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development to educate agricultural producers and municipalities about the harmful effects of burning agricultural plastics and current options for proper end-of-life management of the material. The education program will be evaluated upon completion (Fall 2016) and next steps will be determined at that time. A stand-alone regulated stewardship program for agricultural plastics is not being considered at this time. For further details on agricultural plastics in Alberta see <http://environment.alberta.ca/04247.html>

¹⁶ http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/sp_strategy.pdf

¹⁷ http://www.ccme.ca/ourwork/waste.html?category_id=159

Details on Changes

6.b Designate packaging and printed paper materials to be managed under an extended producer responsibility program.

Once the packaging and printed paper materials are designated in regulation, responsibility for the end-of-life management of those products will be placed on the producers (manufacturers, brand owners, importers or first sellers into the province).

Regulation will allow producers 12 months to develop a stewardship program plan for ministerial approval (see Section 5 for further details on stewardship program plan requirements) and then 18 months from the time the plan is approved to implement the program.

Stewardship program plans include a requirement to consult with municipalities and other affected parties. Consultation on program specifics cannot begin until after the material has been designated in regulation.



Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation change.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
Designation of packaging (as defined on pg. 17) for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designation of service packaging (as defined on pg. 17) for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designation of printed paper (as defined on pg. 17) for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing packaging and printed paper under an extended producer responsibility program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Supporting Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes, which support the designation of packaging and printed material under and extended producer responsibility program.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
The proposed timeline of 12 months for submitting a stewardship program plan for packaging and printed paper.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The proposed timeline of 18 months (from the time a program stewardship plan is approved) for implementing a packaging and printed paper program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Excluding agricultural plastics as a designated material under a packaging and printed paper program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you think material from the non-residential sector (industrial, commercial, institutional) should be included in a packaging and printed paper program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any comments regarding materials from the non-residential sector?

What role do you see municipalities playing in a packaging and printed paper program?

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding packaging and printed paper in Alberta?



7 Designation of Household Hazardous Waste

Proposed Changes

7.a Designate flammable liquids, pesticides, toxics, corrosives, physically hazardous cylinders, compact fluorescent lights and fluorescent tubes.

7.b Manage household hazardous waste under an extended producer responsibility program.

Background

Alberta's current **Household Hazardous Waste Program**¹⁸ has been operating since 1988. It ensures that unused household wastes that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive are managed in a manner that protects human health and Alberta's environment. In 2011/12, over 100 communities participated in the program, collecting about 750 tonnes of household hazardous waste. The amount of material collected under the program increases each year.

The program is voluntary and is paid for by municipal and provincial tax dollars. Participating municipalities pay for the collection of household hazardous waste from their residents and pay registered brokers to remove the material.

The Government of Alberta pays for program administration, material consolidation, transportation from the brokers' sites to the Swan Hills Treatment Centre, and material destruction. The Household Hazardous Waste program is currently managed by Alberta Recycling under contract with the Government of Alberta.

Paint and paint containers have been managed under a provincially regulated stewardship program since 2008. The program is managed by Alberta Recycling. There are linkages between the collection and management of materials under the regulated paint program and the existing household hazardous waste program.

All fluorescent lamps contain small quantities of mercury. Improper disposal or landfilling can cause the mercury to be released into the atmosphere or leached into the surrounding soil or groundwater.

Implementing an extended producer responsibility program for household hazardous waste and mercury containing lamps was identified as a 2015 target in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's 2009 Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility, which all provinces and territories endorsed (see pg. 3). British Columbia and Manitoba have regulated extended producer responsibility programs for household hazardous waste.

Rationale for Changes

Albertans need and want to safely dispose of their household hazardous wastes. Designating household hazardous wastes to be managed under an extended producer responsibility program will place end-of-life management costs on producers and consumers of the specified products. Having a program will reduce municipal and provincial government costs, reduce environmental risk, lead to greater harmonization with other provinces, and provide a level of service the public expects.



¹⁸ <http://www.albertarecycling.ca/household-hazardous-waste>

Details on Changes

7.a Designate the following materials:



I. **Flammable Liquids:**

Products that display the flammable symbol and are liquids or aerosols. Examples include methanol, mineral spirits, paint thinners and strippers, camping fuel and kerosene.



II. **Pesticides:**

Consumer pesticides that have the poison symbol, a Pest Control Product number and the word "Domestic" on the label.



III. **Toxics:**

Products that display the poison symbol and are a liquid or aerosol. Examples include furniture stripper, automotive additives and tar and bug remover.



IV. **Corrosives:**

Products that display the corrosive symbol and are in a liquid, solid or aerosol form. Examples include rust remover, grout or masonry cleaners, and pool and hot tub cleaners.



V. **Physically hazardous (non-refillable fuel gas cylinders):**

Products that display both the flammable symbol and explosive symbol. Examples include camping cylinders (such as one-pound propane cylinders) and butane cylinders.



VI. **Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs):**

Fluorescent light bulbs that are typically used to replace traditional incandescent light bulbs.

VII. **Fluorescent tubes** of different lengths (up to eight feet) or may also be in curved or circular shapes.

7.b Designate household hazardous wastes to be managed under an extended producer responsibility program.

Once household hazardous waste is designated in regulation, responsibility for the end-of-life management of those products will be placed on the producers (manufacturers, brand owners, importers or first sellers into the province).

Regulation will allow producers 12 months to develop a stewardship program plan for ministerial approval (see Section 5 for further details on stewardship program plan requirements) and then 12 months from the time the plan is approved to implement the program.

Stewardship program plans include a requirement to consult with municipalities and other affected parties. Consultation on program specifics cannot begin until after the material has been designated in regulation.



Your Feedback on Changes

Main Proposed Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation change.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
Designating flammable liquids for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designating pesticides for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designating toxics for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designating corrosives for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designating physically hazardous products for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designating compact fluorescent lights and fluorescent tubes for a provincial stewardship program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing household hazardous waste through an extended producer responsibility program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What role do you see municipalities playing in a household hazardous waste program?

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions on household hazardous waste management in Alberta?

Supporting Changes

Please indicate the degree to which you oppose or support the following regulation changes, which are in support of designating household hazardous waste under an extended producer responsibility program.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Don't know
The proposed timeline of 12 months for submitting a stewardship program plan for household hazardous waste.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The proposed timeline of 12 months (from the time a program stewardship plan is approved) for implementing a household hazardous waste program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Your Feedback on Changes

Do you have any further input you would like to provide on the proposed Designated Materials Recycling Regulation?

Thank You

Thank you for your participation and providing your thoughts on the proposed changes to Alberta's regulatory framework for recycling designated materials.

Your Feedback on the Consultation Process

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

This document provided sufficient information to allow you to respond to the questions.

You were comfortable with the process for gathering your input.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any suggestions for improving the process?

All feedback will be gathered into a summary report, which will be made available online at <http://environment.alberta.ca/02638.html>. If you wish to receive the summary report directly or receive further updates on the consultation process, please leave your name and contact information below.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____