



Extended Producer Responsibility

Information for Albertans

Overview

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) shifts the physical and financial burden of collecting, sorting, processing and recycling waste to product producers and away from local governments and taxpayers. Alberta's new EPR system will focus on single-use products, packaging and paper products, as well as hazardous and special products.

EPR means producers take responsibility at end-of-life for the products and packaging they put on the market. EPR programs incent producers to design products that are more durable and recyclable so materials and components can remain in the economy for as long as possible.

Timelines

The EPR Regulation comes into force on November 30, 2022. The Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) will be granted new oversight functions. Program details, including system establishment and delivery, will be finalized over the next two years. The next steps include developing bylaws, producers developing their collection and processing plans and contracts, and communities registering to participate in the EPR system.

EPR systems for single-use products, packaging, and paper products, and hazardous and special products systems are expected to launch in spring 2025. Albertans will not experience changes to waste and recycling processes from EPR until 2025.

What to Expect

EPR makes information clearer and more accessible for Albertans while saving municipalities money. It will have a noticeable effect on producers, who will arrange for the collection, transportation, and recycling or disposal of products and materials. Collection service (curbside or depot) is anticipated to remain similar to the local services Albertans are used to.

Benefit to Albertans

A single, province-wide EPR system collecting a consistent list of products will save municipal taxpayers money, make

recycling easier, clarify what can be recycled, make recycling more accessible to communities that don't currently have programs and encourage better product design by producers. Helping Albertans recycle more material is good for the environment.

An EPR framework will diversify Alberta's economy by encouraging companies to find innovative ways to recycle more materials and produce less packaging waste. According to Alberta's Natural Gas Vision and Strategy, increased plastics recycling could inject up to \$1.4 billion into Alberta's economy and support up to 13,300 jobs.

Role of Albertans

EPR will help Albertans properly sort and divert recyclables by providing better access to and service for recycling while reducing confusion about what can be recycled. EPR also requires producers to educate consumers on recycling and promote recycling systems.

Single-use Products, Packaging and Paper Products

EPR will include residential products only. Materials from the industrial, commercial and institutional sector are excluded. Examples of single-use products include straws, utensils, plates, bowls, cups, and party supplies. Packaging includes items like food containers, foil, and wraps. Examples of paper products are flyers, brochures, booklets, catalogues, newspapers, and magazines.

Hazardous and Special Products

Hazardous and special products include batteries, corrosive products, corrosive product containers, flammable products, flammable product containers, pesticides, pesticide containers, toxic products, and toxic product containers, limited to consumer sizes typically found in retail stores.

More information

Contact AEP.RecyclingRegulation@gov.ab.ca for more information.