



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

EPR in BC: Our Path to Today

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Overview

- History of recycling in BC
- BC Recycling Regulation 2004
- Residential Packaging Overview
- CleanBC – Plastics Action Plan
- Recycling Regulation Intentions Paper 2020
- Questions

History of Recycling in BC

- **1971** – Litter Act Passed
- **1980s** – Govt. collects info on waste mgmt. issues
- **1990** – 8 government HHW depots created
- **1991** – Levies introduced for tires & lead acid batteries



Previous Regulations in BC

- **1994** – Post Consumer Paint Stewardship Program Regulation
- **1997** – Post Consumer Stewardship Program Regulation (HHW)
- **1997** – Beverage Container Stewardship Program Regulation replaced the *Litter Act*
- **2003** – Used Lubricating Oil Program added to the Post Consumer Stewardship Program Regulation

2004: Recycling Regulation Enacted



- One regulation, new schedules added to it
- Shift to results-based, 100% Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Holds each producer responsible/liable
- Allows for competition but often one program per product type

BC's Recycling Regulation

- Results-based/environmental outcomes
- Costs borne by producers and consumers
- EPR programs designed and operated by producer/producer appointed agency
- Ministry approves and monitors plans
- Producers meet set performance measures and publicly report out annually
- Allows for plans and programs to evolve

2006 – 2020

Numerous Product Categories Added

- Tires
- Electronics
- LightRecycle (light bulbs)
- Call2Recycle (batteries)
- Cell Phone Recycling
- Outdoor power equipment
- ElectroRecycle (small appliances & power tools)
- Residential packaging and paper

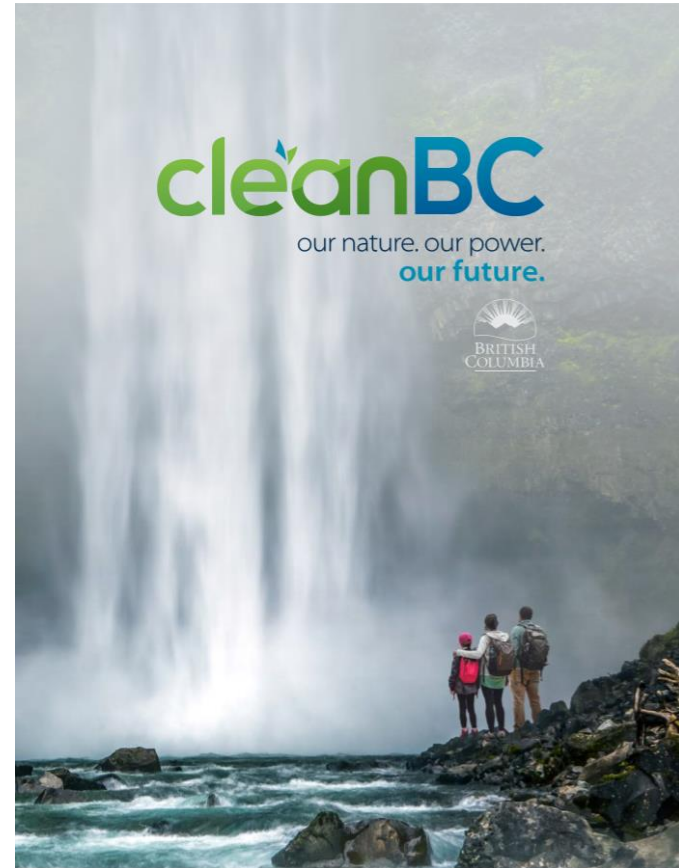
Implementation of Packaging & Paper Products

- Recycling Regulation amended spring 2011
 - First of its kind in Canada
- An EPR plan was required by fall 2013
 - Industry undertook research and consultation
 - Small producer exemption needed
- Program launched spring 2014
 - Communities opted out and were waitlisted
 - ‘Freeriding’ producers pursued
 - Today, three PPP plans approved



CleanBC

- CleanBC launched in 2018 and is aimed at reducing climate pollution, while creating more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities.



CleanBC - Plastics Action Plan



Four key areas:

- 1) Bans on Single-Use Packaging
- 2) Dramatically Reduce Single-Use Plastic in Landfills & Waterways
- 3) Expanding Plastic Bottle and Beverage Container Returns
- 4) Reducing Plastics Overall

The What We Heard Report is available at: <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>

Demand for EPR Expansion

- Support CleanBC Plastics Action Plan
- Local Government priority requests – increased diversion, safe management, less cost
- Eliminate gaps in regulation – more equitable requirements for producers; reduces consumer confusion

2020 Regulatory Amendments

- Added single-use and packaging like products (effective January 2023)
- Moved milk and milk alternatives from blue bin to deposit-refund system (effective February 2022)
- Modernized deposit-refund system to standard 10 cents for all containers and allowed for cashless refunds e.g. credit account (effective immediately)

2020 Intentions Paper

Purpose

1. Input regarding potential products for inclusion in the Recycling Regulation, or other policy initiatives to minimize waste.
2. Feedback will inform the development of a multi-year strategy, which may include further outreach on proposed priorities.

What is B.C. Considering?

Expanding recycling and recovery

1. Mattresses
2. Additional moderately hazardous products
3. Additional electrical products and batteries
4. Packaging and paper products beyond residential sources
5. Lost fishing and aquaculture gear

Questions

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