



Extended Producer Responsibility

EPR

EPR Overview



New framework for Alberta where producers will assume the responsibility of recycling materials like packaging, paper, single-use plastics, and hazardous and special products.

The framework shifts the physical and financial burden of collecting, sorting, processing and recycling waste to the producer and away from local governments and taxpayers.

Who's Involved

Government of Alberta

- Determine goals, outcomes and direction
- Maintain legislative EPR framework (Act, Regulation) and broad policy direction
- Oversee performance of ARMA in its oversight mandate
- Consult/engage with ARMA as necessary
- Enforce contraventions against the Act or Regulation

Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA)

- Developed and maintain By-laws and policies
- Implement policies and procedures to deliver a level playing field and ensure compliance
- Develop and maintain a registry system
- Engage with stakeholders
- Design measures to monitor and assess performance
- Establish processes and escalation measures to compel compliance, referring to Ministry for enforcement being a last resort
- Report on system health against outcomes set in regulation and keep the Ministry informed of issues

Who's Involved

Communities

Communities are defined by the EPR Regulation and include:

- cities,
- towns,
- villages (including summer villages),
- municipal districts,
- specialized municipalities,
- improvement districts (as per the Municipal Government Act),
- special areas (as per the Special Areas Act),
- settlements (as per the Metis Settlements Act), and
- Indian reserves (as per the Municipal Government Act).

Benefits:

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program presents a substantial benefit for communities across Alberta.

• **For Communities with Existing Recycling Services** the operational cost of these services will be transferred to producers under the EPR program. This shift is expected to alleviate the financial burden on your community, potentially reducing utility or tax levies associated with waste management. The funds saved could then be redirected to other valuable community initiatives.

• **For Communities without Existing Recycling Services** EPR will introduce the advantage of recycling services in communities currently without them including:

- Waste reduction – recycling lowers the volume of waste that ends up in landfills.
- Economic benefit – recycling can create jobs in the recycling industry and can reduce the cost of waste management.
- Conservation of resources – by recycling materials like paper, plastic and metal, communities can conserve valuable resources.

Who's Involved

Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs)

In the context of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) is a business entity established to collaborate with producers, aiding them in fulfilling their regulatory obligations under the EPR Regulation. This regulation mandates that producers take on specific responsibilities concerning the collection, management, and promotion and education related to the designated materials they produce.

HOW PROS ASSIST PRODUCERS:

PROs play a crucial role in helping producers meet their regulatory obligations. They achieve this by:

- 1. Establishing Collection and Management Systems:** PROs may arrange, establish, or operate collection and management systems, streamlining the recycling process for designated materials.
- 2. Promotion and Education:** PROs also arrange, establish, or operate promotion and education systems. They inform residents in Alberta about changes to recycling programs and educate them on the proper disposal of designated materials.
- 3. Reporting:** PROs prepare and submit the necessary reports on behalf of the producers, ensuring compliance with reporting requirements.
- 4. Representation:** PROs represent the producers for various purposes under the EPR regulation.

Who's Involved

Producers

A PPP (packaging, paper producers or packaging-like products) producer supplies material comprised of paper, glass, metal or plastic, or a combination of these materials to consumers. This includes both products and the packaging for products

A HSP producer is an entity that supplies hazardous and special products into Alberta.

All PPP Producers, unless exempt under section 9.1 of the Extended Producer Responsibility Single-use Products, Packaging and Paper Products Bylaws, must register with Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA), at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date the Producer intends to supply PPP Designated Materials into Alberta.

PPP Producers are defined within the regulation as:

1. The brand holder of the designated material, if the brand holder is resident in Canada,
2. If there is no person described in clause(a), the importer of the designated material, if the importer is a resident in Alberta, or
3. If there is no person described in clause(a) or (b), the retailer who supplied the designated material to the consumer.

Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) with delegation of authority can report on behalf of the Producers they represent. However, each Producer must register separately.

Alberta's new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation places full responsibility on producers of hazardous and special products (HSP) to collect and manage the materials they supply to Alberta residents. While communities may continue to play an important role in collecting and managing these materials, they are not required to do so.

Single-use Products, Packaging, and Paper Products (PPP)

Includes materials from the residential sector such as:

- Newspaper, packaging, cardboard, printed paper and magazines
- Plastics (both rigid and flexible)
- Metal and Glass

Alberta's EPR framework does not include PPP from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors. PPP materials regulated under existing regulated stewardship programs (beverage containers, electronics, paint, tires, and used oil materials) are not included in EPR PPP to avoid duplicating requirements.



Hazardous and Special Products (HSP)

HSP products include:

- Consumer-sized solid, liquid, and gaseous products that are flammable, corrosive, and toxic
- Batteries
- Pesticides

The system does not include HSP products sold in industrial sizes. HSP materials regulated under existing regulated stewardship programs (beverage containers, electronics, paint, tires, and used oil materials) are not included in EPR HSP to avoid duplicating requirements



Kneehill County



Kneehill County has registered for the EPR program as a community. The County may need to also register as a producer as we exceed the revenue threshold but do not exceed the minimum requirements for material threshold.

Revenue threshold is set at \$1.5 million per.

Material thresholds are:

- a. Paper – 9 tonnes
- b. Rigid Plastic – 2 tonnes
- c. Flexible Plastic – 2 tonnes
- d. Metal – 1 tonne
- e. Glass – 1 tonne

Current recycling done solely by Kneehill County that is encompassed in this program (as of Nov. 30, 2022):

Recycle bin at Three Hills transfer station
Annual household round-up (although not all material)

Current recycling at our transfer sites administered by Drumheller and District Solid Waste:

Cardboard
Newsprint

There is a potential for enhanced service beginning Oct. 1, 2026.

Questions?



The ARMA website is a great source for information on the EPR program

www.albertarecycling.ca/epr-oversight/