



A Canadian Perspective: EPR and Single-Use Plastics

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Presentation Overview



- Who We Are
- Overview of EPR IN BC
- EPR for Packaging in BC
- Benefits of EPR
- Single Use Plastics
- Our Plans to Modernize BC's Recycling System for a Greener Future

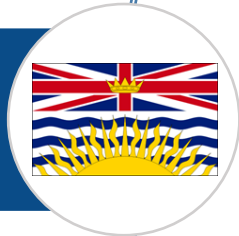
Who We Are



Beverage Container Management



100% Industry Managed



Service Provider



over
750
employed

54 Directly
700+ Indirectly



Outcome based approach.
Operate within a 'framework'
versus 'prescriptive' regulation

Industry owned, not
for profit, product
stewardship agency
for 26 years



Over 21 billion containers diverted from
landfill since 1994

Our Presence in BC



170+
collection
sites

Established supply chain
and infrastructure

98%

of B.C.'s population has
access to a
Return-It facility

99%
89%

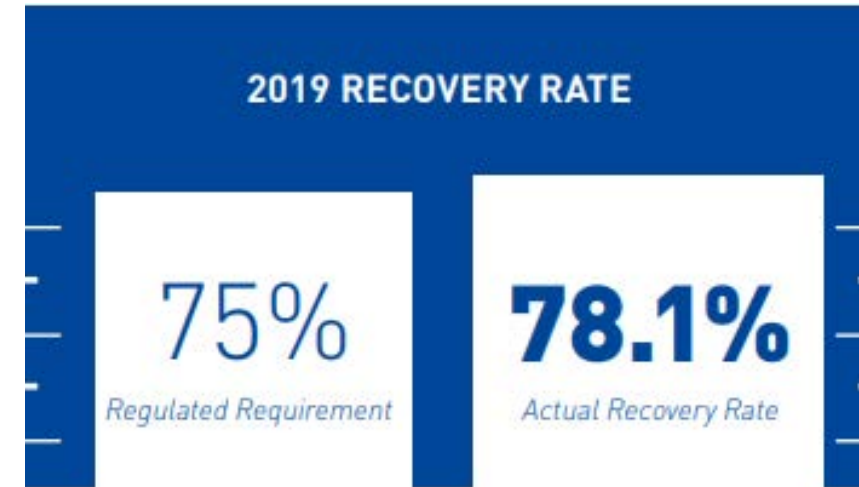
Consumer awareness
Brand awareness



Fast Facts & Containers Collected



- Over **21 billion** used beverage containers recycled over 26 years
- Increased recovery rate from 77% in 2018 to **78.1% in 2019**
- **Upward trend** to surpass regulated recovery rate of 75%
- Over **1 billion** beverage containers recycled annually
- Reduction of 104.8 thousand tonnes of CO₂ equivalent being released into the atmosphere



End Use of Recovered Containers



- Aluminum
 - 100% to new aluminum can in Kentucky
- PET
 - 100% processed at Merlin Plastics in New Westminister, BC or Calgary, AB
- Glass
 - Over 90% to new wine bottle glass in Seattle
 - Balance to sandblasting material in Quesnel
- Tetra and Gable
 - About 90% to tissue/toilet paper production in South Korea, balance to U.S.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility



- **Extended to what?**
 - End-of-life (EOL) management of products and packaging
- **Responsible for what?**
 - Collecting, recycling and diverting material from landfill
 - Paying costs associated with activities set out in the Stewardship Plan approved by the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- **Whose responsibility?**
 - Producer—the business that provides the product of packaging to the BC residential consumer is responsible
 - Producer also known as the “steward” in some other provinces

EPR is the law in BC



- July 2004 – BC enacted Environmental Management Act (EMA)
- October 2004 – BC filed *Recycling Regulation*
- Product categories included as separate schedules under the Recycling Regulation (beverage containers are Schedule 1)
- There are now over 15 stewardship agencies in BC that manage materials such as paint, tires and electronics

Packaging EPR in BC



- Encorp Pacific (Return-It): 78% recovery rate (2019)
 - Schedule 1 – Beverage Containers (both residential and IC & I)
- Recycle BC: 78% recovery rate (2019)
 - Schedule 5 – Packaging and Paper Products (residential only)

Our Stewardship Obligation



- Must file a Stewardship Plan every five years
 - Currently awaiting approval of our 2020 – 2024 Plan
- Must include:
 - Minimum 75% recovery rate
 - Convenient access to collection points
 - Consumer awareness
 - Consultation process
- Reporting requirements
 - Financial, recovery rate and non-financial (end fate) audits.
 - Annual report to Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Benefits of the BC Model



- Provides the opportunity to create a reverse-supply chain to manage material with opportunities for standardization and optimization
- Supports a circular economy where producers have influence on both the creation and end-of-life management of their materials
- Provides producers with the best long-term opportunity to manage their material in light of increasing costs, volatile commodity markets and continued innovations in packaging types and materials

Requirements for Effective EPR



- Outcomes-based legislation: Provides industry with specific targets and the flexibility to develop the most efficient and effective approach
- Strong Governance for Stewardship Agencies: Balance of industry representation and independent directors
- Effective Oversight: In BC, third-party audits are required both for financial and non-financial information

Single Use Plastics

Federal Action on Single-Use Plastics



- On May 13, 2021, the Federal Government designated plastics as a toxic substance under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)
- Designation will provide the federal government with the ability to take action regarding plastic via regulations to:
 - ban or restrict certain single-use plastics by as early as 2021
 - establish recycled-content requirements for plastic products and packaging
 - develop consistent national targets, standards and regulations in concert with provincial and territorial governments to mandate extended producer responsibility for plastic products

Federal Action on Single-Use Plastics



The federal government has identified a list of single-use plastic items that warrant a ban or restriction including:

- plastic bags
- plastic stir sticks
- plastic cutlery
- plastic straws
- food packaging and service ware made from “problematic plastics”, including foamed plastics, black plastics, polyvinyl chloride, oxo-degradable plastic, or multiple (composite) materials

Our Proactive Approach to Eliminate Plastic Waste



- Signatory of the **Global Commitment** led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Our commitments for 2025:

- Recycle 80% of plastic beverage containers sold in BC
- Eliminate single use plastic film from our supply chain
- Founding Partner of the **Canada Plastics Pact** – where stakeholders across Canada’s plastics value chain unite to:
 - Eliminate unnecessary or problematic plastic packaging
 - Innovate so the plastic we do need can be safely reused, recycled, or composted, and
 - Circulate all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment



Canada Plastics Pact Objectives - 2025



- Define a list of plastic packaging that is to be designated as problematic or unnecessary and take measures to eliminate them
- **100%** of plastic packaging designed to be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- **50%** of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted
- **30%** recycled content across all plastic packaging



Our Plans to Modernize BC's Recycling System for a Greener Future

Making Recycling Convenient and Contactless: *Express*



- Fast, convenient, contactless and easy recycling experience in under a minute
- No sorting, deposit refunds uploaded directly through a user online account & redeemed via e-Transfer
- Can order bag labels online for free delivery
- 95% improved customer satisfaction levels and over 140,000 registrants
- Over 70 Express locations in depots. Expect over 100 locations covering all markets in BC with pop. of over 30,000 people over two years
- 1 Express *Plus* facility (cashless delot) and expanding



Making Recycling Convenient and Contactless: *Express & GO*



Solar Paneled Express & GO Stations

- Powered by solar energy, unstaffed & longer recycling hours
- 5 current locations: Tofino, Burnaby, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Big White Ski Resort
- Expanding to a minimum of five locations this year
- Smaller format essential to increase accessibility
- Focus on dense urban areas and smaller rural locations



Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: *Cleaner Transportation*



Decarbonization of our transportation fleet:

- Introduced Canada's first-of-its-kind compressed natural gas (CNG) hybrid-electric compaction truck

Benefits:

- One hybrid-electric collection truck replaces two conventional diesel trucks
- Increased the number of beverage containers transported in one trip by six times – from 150,000 containers to 900,000 containers per trip
- Full conversion of fleet will reduce GHG from beverage container recycling by up to 25%



Questions



Additional Resources:

return-it.ca