

What's Happening?

In May 2011, the Recycling Regulation was amended to include packaging and printed paper. The amendment shifts financial and administrative responsibility for managing these materials from municipalities to producers. This transfer of responsibility is intended to incent producers of packaging and printed paper to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products.

Under the amended Regulation, producers of packaging and printed paper are required to (a) submit a stewardship plan detailing how they will finance and manage the recycling of packaging and printed paper to the Ministry by November 19, 2012 and (b) have, and comply with, an approved stewardship plan by May 19, 2014.

What is packaging and printed paper?

Packaging is defined in the Environmental Management Act as “a material, substance or object that is (a) used to protect, contain or transport a commodity or product, or (b) attached to a commodity or product or its container for the purpose of marketing or communicating information about the commodity or product”. Printed paper is defined in the Recycling Regulation and includes all paper printed with text or graphics (e.g., newspapers, flyers, phone-books) with the exception of bound books).



What about consultation?

The Ministry recognizes that the packaging and printed paper category is different from other previously regulated product categories when it comes to the consultation needs of stakeholders including local government. As such, the Ministry has done more in this area and plans to continue with enhanced consultation in the coming months. The Ministry will be leading a series of information meetings in the fall of 2011 to help inform the public about the Regulation.

Packaging and printed paper producers must consult with the public on their stewardship plan prior to submitting it. These producer-led consultations will likely occur in the spring of 2012. Go to the following website for more information: <http://rcbc.bc.ca/education/product-stewardship/packagingep>

What is the role of local governments?

Local governments may choose to participate in or assist a product stewardship program by:

- providing facilities or operational services as a service provider at a landfill or other local site for product collection or processing;
- helping to inform the public that the stewardship program is available;
- assisting the producer or agency with local land use and business licence issues relating to collection and processing facilities;
- imposing bans on the landfilling of the relevant products when appropriate;
- working with the BC Product Stewardship Council, a forum for the exchange of information regarding existing and proposed EPR programs.

Will my community get curbside collection (e.g., bluebox)?

All communities will receive some level of collection service. As a general principle, if the community currently has curbside collection, it will likely continue to receive it. The type of collection service in each community will be an important consultation issue for local governments and private individuals when industry solicits stakeholder input on its draft stewardship plan.

How will “haulers” or “recyclers” be affected by the changes?

Haulers and recyclers will need to transition to marketing their services to producers. Producers will conduct public consultation with all stakeholders on the details of their proposed program.

Is ICI (Institutional, Commercial, Industrial) packaging and printed paper exempted?

No, the definition of packaging and printed paper does not exclude sectors. The stewardship plan must adequately provide for collection of the product by the producer from residential premises and municipal property that is not industrial, commercial or institutional property.

Several commercial businesses are getting out ahead of the game and collecting all packaging they produce (e.g., London Drugs, Starbucks). It is the ministry's expectation that ICI facilities will show leadership and strive to collect and recycle as much packaging as possible from their facilities (e.g., hospitals, schools, offices, restaurants, hotels, etc.).



Municipalities may also enact bylaws that ban packaging disposal that comes from ICI facilities and/or require all ICI licensed facilities to recycle packaging. The provincial government intends to include packaging and printed paper from private spaces, including industrial, commercial and institutional facilities in the future.



Is there a Canada-wide effort to manage packaging and printed paper?

Yes. The Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) calls for all jurisdictions to regulate and implement an EPR program for packaging and printed materials by 2015. The Canada-wide Sustainable Packaging Strategy (2009) requires all provincial and territorial jurisdictions to develop EPR programs for packaging as a first step, and then work collectively on further goals, including reduction.

Where can I get more information?

For questions on recycling options, recycling locations near you, community-based recycling initiatives, and upcoming stewardship meetings, please contact the **Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)**:

RCBC Hotline:
1-800-667-4321
604-732-9253 (Lower Mainland)

RCBC Website:
www.rcbc.bc.ca/education/product-stewardship/packagingep

For information on stewardship plan development, visit the Stewardship Agencies of BC website: bcstewards.com

For information on government policy and regulations, visit the Ministry of Environment website: www.recycling.gov.bc.ca or email: eqb@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca

Packaging and Printed Paper

New Stewardship Responsibilities in British Columbia



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