

## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Packaging & Printed Paper

### What is EPR?

EPR is a policy approach in which a producer's responsibility, physical and/or financial, for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of the product's life cycle. EPR shifts responsibility for the end-of-life management of products and materials to producers (i.e. brand owners, importers, manufacturers) and away from municipalities and general taxpayers. EPR programs are commonly made mandatory through legislation, but can also be adopted voluntarily (i.e. retail take-back programs).

### Who is obligated?

Producers or "stewards" of designated waste or materials are obligated under various government mandated provincial EPR programs. Designated materials may include packaging and printed paper (PPP), electronics, appliances, paint, engine oil, and more.

### What are my Obligations as a Producer/Steward of Packaging & Printed paper?

- Participating in stewardship organizations in the provinces where you are deemed to be a steward. (A stewardship organization operates on behalf of stewards to discharge their obligations under the regulation.)
- Filing reports with stewardship organizations. This includes reporting the types and quantities of packaging and/or printed paper supplied to residential consumers.
- Paying fees based on the quantities of packaging and/or printed paper reported to the stewardship organization(s) in which you participate.
- Retaining records related to your steward reports for review and verification.

### Landscape of Current Provincial EPR Programs for Packaging & Printed Paper

Regulatory Framework	B.C.	Sask	Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec
Legislation	Environmental Management Act	Environmental Management & Protection Act	Waste Reduction & Prevention Act	Waste Diversion Transition Act and Resource Recovery, Circular Economy Act*	Environmental Quality Act
Regulation	BC Recycling Regulation	Household Packaging & Paper Stewardship Program Regs	Packaging & Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation	Blue Box Waste Regulation / Stewardship Ontario Regulation	Compensation for municipal services to recover/reclaim residual materials Reg
Stewardship Organization	Recycle BC	Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW)	Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM)	Stewardship Ontario (SO)	Eco-Enterprises Quebec (EEQ)
Stewards Share	100%	75%	80%**	50%*	100%

*\*On November 30, 2016, the Ontario Government proclaimed the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA) and the Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016 (WDTA) which replaces the Waste Diversion Act (WDA). Under the WDTA, stewards will assume 100% responsibility for designated materials distributed to consumers in Ontario. Stewardship Ontario prepared a Wind-up Plan for the current Blue Box program which was approved by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) in December, 2020. The new Blue Box Regulation, released on June 3, 2021, commenced the transition to a full producer responsibility model which is expected to take place between 2023 and 2025. For further information on how the transition to full producer responsibility in Ontario may impact your business please refer to the [RPRA website](#).*

*\*\*Note that MMSM has been directed by the Manitoba Minister of Conservation and Climate to develop a Transition Plan to full producer responsibility which will require stewards to assume full operational and financial responsibility for the Manitoba residential recycling system from the current 80% obligation.*

See the [2022 Stewards Guidebook](#) for a detailed understanding of your obligations regarding registration and reporting under provincial packaging and paper product recycling programs. Guidance specific to Quebec's EPR program can be found [HERE](#).

### Ontario's Transition to Full EPR

As Ontario begins the transition of their current Blue Box program to a full EPR model (expected to take place between 2023 and 2025) – at which time Stewardship Ontario will wind-up as an entity, new Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) are forming to meet stewards' obligations, namely Resource Recovery Alliance, Circular Materials (not-for-profit, steward lead), Ryse Solutions, and other specialty service providers.

A PRO is the entity designated by a producer or producers to act on their behalf to administer a full EPR program to fulfill their obligations. A PRO differs somewhat from the current provincial Stewardship Organizations (namely, MMSW, MMSM, and SO) as the obligations for the stewardship plans are shared with government (not full/100% EPR).

### What is unique about Resource Recovery Alliance (RRA)?

[RRA](#) is a service provider that offers **program design and implementation, and program operations support** for producer-led recycling programs (i.e. 100% or "full EPR" programs). It also acts as a shared service provider (through its acquisition of Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance) to Recycle BC, MMSW, MMSM, and SO. In this role, it helps to support administrative harmonization amongst provincial Packaging & Printed Paper reporting obligations for the efficient operation of the provincial recycling programs (excluding Quebec) for the benefit of local and national stewards. For example, RRA administers the [WeRecycle](#) steward reporting portal used by Recycle BC, MMSW, MMSM, and SO.

### What is unique about Circular Materials?

[Circular Materials](#) is a national not-for-profit PRO (newly established with Ontario's transition to full EPR) to support producers with meeting their obligations under EPR regulations across Canada including collection, management, promotion and education, and reporting. Circular Materials was founded by actual stewards - 17 of Canada's leading food, beverage and consumer products manufacturers, restaurants and retailers.

Please see below links to the stewardship organizations. We encourage you to visit these sites to learn more about these stewardship organizations:



The Voice of Canada's  
Personal Care  
Products Industry

420 Britannia Road East, Suite 102  
Mississauga, ON L4Z 3L5  
T. 905 890 5161  
cosmeticsalliance.ca

[Recycle BC](#)  
[Multi-Material Stewardship Western](#)  
[Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba](#)  
[Stewardship Ontario](#)  
[Eco-Enterprises Quebec](#)

When you are ready to register for one or more stewardship program, you can register on the [WeRecycle](#) portal. WeREcycle is the steward reporting portal used by Recycle BC, MMSW, MMSM, and SO. Eco-Enterprises Quebec's reporting portal can be found [HERE](#).