



Alberta's transition to producer responsibility

On October 3, 2022, the Alberta [Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation](#) was approved for single-use products, packaging, and paper products. Regulation and associated bylaws outline program requirements, targets and timeline.

Circular Materials is operating as the not-for-profit producer responsibility organization (PRO) in Alberta that supports producers in meeting their obligations under the Regulation.

Who we are

Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit organization that builds efficient and effective recycling systems where materials are collected, recycled and returned to producers to use as recycled content in new packaging and paper. As the producer responsibility organization (PRO) in Alberta, Circular Materials is responsible for operating the new recycling system for paper and packaging materials. We are committed to increasing recycling rates across Alberta and ensuring more materials are looped into the circular economy, benefiting both people and the environment.

What does this transition mean for residents?

Transition to the new framework will occur in a phased approach over the next two and a half years. During this time, Albertans will not notice any differences to their recycling schedule and will still be able to recycle the same materials as before. Residents with recycling questions can contact their community's contractor. Community-specific recycling information can be found at circularmaterials.ca/AB.

Transition timeline

Transition to the new framework will take place between April 2025 – October 2026.



Why the transition is important



Historically, Alberta's recycling programs were operated by municipalities who shared the costs with producers. Now, under the Extended Producer Regulation, Alberta is transitioning to a new model where producers are fully responsible for operating and funding the entire recycling program.

In 2025, Albertans can expect a convenient, consistent, and effective recycling system in place that will improve recycling rates. This includes a consistent list of recyclable materials across the province.

This new system operated by Circular Materials represents the evolution from product stewardship to a more circular economy where materials are collected, recycled and used again as recycled content in new packaging and products.

What does extended producer responsibility (EPR) mean?

EPR is a framework in which producers – the businesses that supply paper and packaging to residents – are responsible for managing the end-of-life management of these materials. EPR enables innovation, operational efficiencies, increased standard levels, and access to materials. It is recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to improve recycling rates.

How we are enhancing Alberta's recycling system



Strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives to drive innovation



Optimizing recycling operations and infrastructure



Promotion and education that drives recycling rates



Ensuring a continuous loop where materials are used again in new packaging and products



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Alberta's transition to EPR

FAQs

What's happening to Alberta's recycling program?

In 2022, the Alberta government passed a new regulation which introduces an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework for single-use producers, packaging and paper producers (PPP) in the province. EPR shifts the financial and operational responsibility of recycling programs to producers – those that produce and supply packaging and paper materials to residents.

EPR enables innovation, operational efficiencies, increased standard levels, and access to materials. It is recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to improve recycling rates.

What advantages are associated with this new system?

EPR is recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to improve recycling rates and advance a circular economy where materials are collected, recycled, and returned to producers for use as recycled content in new packaging and products.

Why is the program changing?

Historically, Alberta's recycling programs were operated by communities who were responsible for paying the full costs of the program. Now, under the EPR regulation, Alberta is transitioning to a new model where producers – the organizations that produce the products and packaging – are 100% responsible for operating and funding the program.

How does Circular Materials fit into this?

Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit organization that is committed to building an efficient and effective recycling system in Alberta. Circular Materials is committed to delivering a best-in-class system that continues to deliver recycling services and supports residents.

Learn more: circularmaterials.ca/AB



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FAQs

When does this transition begin?

The transition to this new framework will start on April 1, 2025.

Communities who had existing collection service as of November 30, 2022, will begin transitioning on April 1, 2025.

Communities who did not have existing collection service as of November 30, 2022, will transition on October 1, 2026.

What can I expect during the transition?

During transition to the new framework, Albertans will not notice any differences to their recycling schedule and will still be able to recycle the same materials as before. After the transition is complete, Circular Materials will introduce a more convenient, consistent, and effective recycling program across the province – a change that will not only benefit people, but also our planet.

What does extended producer responsibility mean?

Extended producer responsibility makes the businesses that sell products and packaging responsible for them over their full life cycle. This encourages companies to make more careful decisions about the materials they use in their packaging and products, and it holds them responsible for the cost of recycling those products at the end of their life.

Learn more: circularmaterials.ca/AB