

EPR – Municipal Perspective

June 6, 2024



What is EPR?

- **Extended producer responsibility (EPR)** is an environmental/economic policy approach in which producers of products bear responsibility for ensuring those products are properly managed at the end of their life cycle
- Alberta is implementing EPR for:
 - **Packaging, Paper Products and Single Use Products (PPP)**
 - Covers the kinds of items currently recycled through our Blue Cart Program
 - **Hazardous and Special Products (HSP)**
 - Covers the kinds of items currently handled through our Household Hazardous Waste program

Municipal Perspective

- What decisions will Municipalities need to make?
- What's unexpected and/or potentially confusing about EPR in Alberta?
- Where to find supports?

Each Community has the following options:

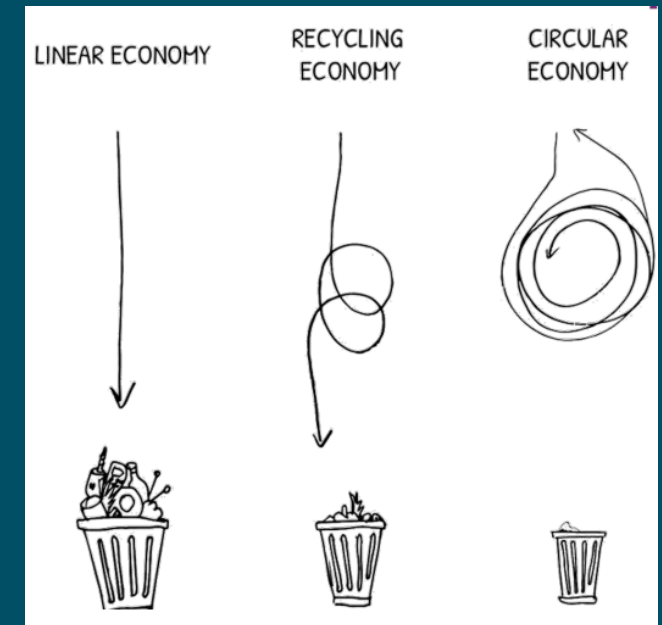
Don't participate

Participate: Collect PPP and/or HSP as a service provider for the PROs

Participate: Fully turn over collection responsibilities to the PROs

Benefits of Participation

- Transfers costs and liability from municipalities to the producers
 - For PPP, could save Alberta municipalities >\$100 million/year.
- Requires Producers provide a “common collection system”:
 - List of items accepted will be consistent across the whole province
 - Producers benefit from economies of scale
- Provides incentive to producers to improve design
- Encourages Circular economy
- Producers are required to meet recycling targets
- BC implemented EPR successfully 10 years ago



Community Participation Options

Collect PPP and/or HSP as a service provider for the PROs

Fully turn over collection responsibilities to the PROs

Community Options

Collect PPP and/or HSP as a service provider for the PROs

- Least change from status quo – PRO pays Muni for the work, instead of work being funded from taxes or utility bills
- Residents still call Muni with questions/concerns
- Financial risk exists if Muni's costs are higher than PRO determined payments
- Munis not used to being the contractor

Fully turn over collection responsibilities to the PROs

- Munis have opportunity to divest all risks, costs and liabilities associated with service provision
- Some coordination would still be required – education, new collection locations added, collection routing of other trucks

Council Decisions

- Registration with ARMA is revokable – so registering did not require a Council Decision
- How to participate will require a Council decision
 - Determining service levels is Council's role
 - Financial impact also needs to be shared with Council
- Depending on your contracting policies – signing a contract with the PROs may also require Council Approval
- Other considerations
 - Each community is different, so will have different concerns.
 - Timelines will get tight this summer.

Unexpected or Potentially Confusing Parts of EPR

Packaging and Paper Products (PPP)

- Residential materials only
 - Not included are schools, seniors residences and public spaces
 - Not included is business recycling taken to depots
- Phase 1 vs Phase 2
 - Phase 1 – PROs have to provide same recycling system that was in place when the regulation came into effect
 - Phase 2 – PROs have to provide recycling collection that matches garbage collection



Questions?