

Taking Responsibility for your Packaging and Paper Products

Understanding your Responsibilities as a Producer



Ministry of
Environment
and Parks

Why is this important?

The Recycling Regulation requires producers who supply packaging and paper products in B.C., either with or separate from their products, to take responsibility for the life cycle of their products, including end-of-life collection and recycling.

1 What makes me a producer?

You are a producer of packaging and paper products if you sell or distribute paper products or products with packaging in B.C. We're talking about the packaging that comes with your products as well as paper that is sold or distributed.

Packaging and paper products include:

Flyers, brochures

Boxes, paper bags

Utensils and plates

Plastic / paper drink cups

Take-out food containers

Aluminum foil pie plates, baking trays

Plastic household jars, tubs, cartons and lids

Aluminum / steel cans and lids



*See [Recycling Regulation](#) for a full list of product materials.

2 What do I need to know?

Producers include **manufacturers, distributors, importers** and **retailers** of packaging and paper products.

Small Producer Exemption

You may be exempt as a small producer if you meet any one of the following four criteria:

- 1 Generate under one million dollars in annual revenues in British Columbia.
- 2 Generate under one tonne of packaging and paper products supplied to B.C. residents.
- 3 Operate as a single point of retail sale (excluding online retailers) and are not supplied by or operated as part of a franchise, a chain or under a banner.
- 4 Are a registered charity.

3 What do I need to do?

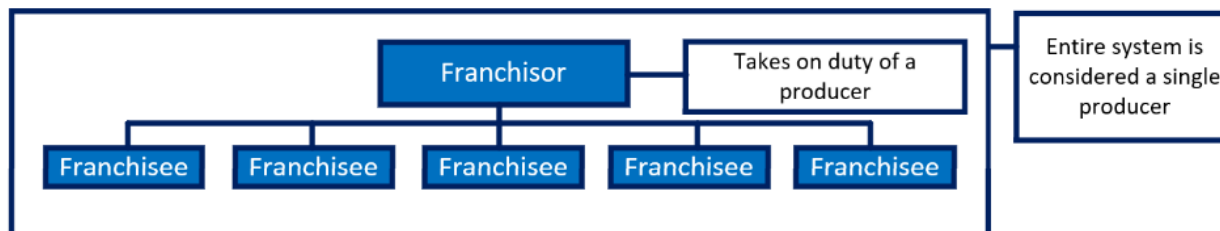
Contact an approved Extended Producer Responsibility **agency overseeing packaging and paper products** to manage your business's recycling obligations or submit your own plan.

Joining an agency can help you fulfill your responsibilities under the Recycling Regulation.

Approved EPR Agency List can be found by product type on the [BC Government EPR website](#).

What if I operate a franchise?

If both a franchisor and franchisee produce the same product under a franchise agreement, the franchisor is responsible for all producer duties.



What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

EPR is one of the key pillars of B.C.'s circular economy, driving sustainable waste management through the continuous conservation and reuse of products as raw materials. British Columbia stands as a leader in North America, with over 15 EPR programs that mandate producers to take full responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products, including collection and recycling.

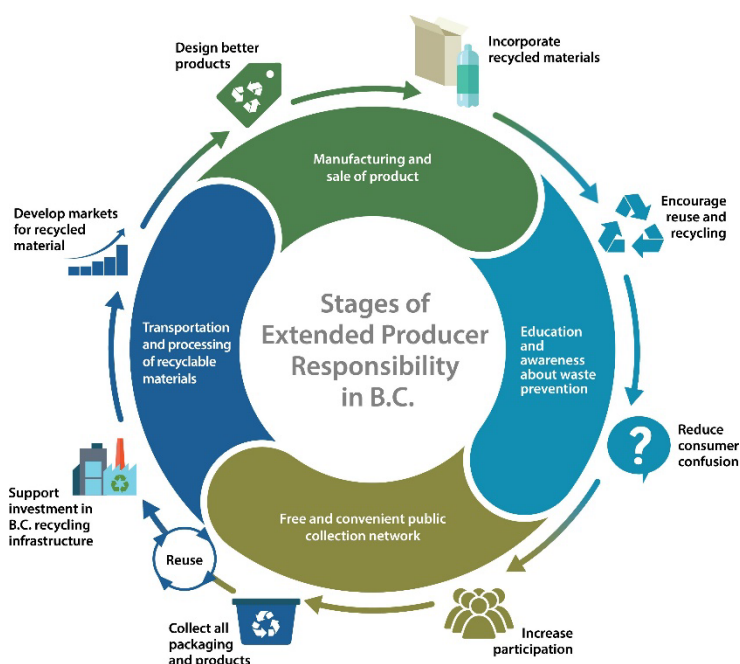
Why is EPR important?

Over 2.5 million tonnes of solid waste from B.C. homes and businesses end up in landfills or are incinerated each year. This is over 500 kg of waste disposed per person.

We're doing something to curb the waste. Through the EPR framework, we're able to improve province-wide recycling and expand collection programs making recycling easier and more accessible for British Columbians.

Benefits of EPR Framework:

- ✓ EPR provides businesses like yours the tools to take ownership of the products you sell, helping you participate in the circular economy.
- ✓ EPR promotes the design of more reusable and recyclable products and redirects them away from landfills.



That's why in B.C., we're shifting towards the circular economy, working with industry, businesses, and other levels of government to realize the environmental and economic benefits of this move to a circular system, preventing waste from being produced in the first place.

For questions contact:

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