

# Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan

## Amendments

Revised January 2023



405-221 West Esplanade  
North Vancouver, BC  
[RecycleBC.ca](http://RecycleBC.ca)

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Reference: 345241

June 28, 2019

Tamara Burns  
SVP Western Operations  
Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance  
(on behalf of Recycle BC)  
171 Esplanade West, Suite 230  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3J9

Dear Tamara Burns:

Thank you for submitting proposed amendments to the Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan (the plan) in fulfillment of the requirements of section 6 of the [Recycling Regulation](#) (the Regulation) made under the *Environmental Management Act*. I appreciate the industry's continued commitment to achieving compliance in this regard.

Under the Regulation, the director has the ability to both amend an approved extended producer responsibility (EPR) plan on his own initiative, and to approve amendments to an approved plan that have been proposed by a producer. I have completed my review of, and approve, the amendments proposed by Recycle BC in the plan submitted on June 21, 2019.

Recycle BC was provided with my preliminary decision letter dated May 22, 2019 and had the opportunity to propose further amendments or provide additional information for consideration. Recycle BC addressed several of the identified deficiencies either in the revised plan itself or through information provided; however, certain components remain outstanding. Therefore, in addition to the amendments proposed by Recycle BC, and approved by me in this letter, I am further amending the plan, pursuant to section 5(5) of the Regulation concerning the following areas:

1. Producers paying the costs

The plan does not indicate how or when the results of the process will be reflected in a future plan amendment once the cost study and consultation process is complete. Pursuant to section 5 of the Regulation, "the plan [itself] must adequately provide for the producer paying the costs..." A more detailed commitment in this regard is required. I am therefore requiring the following amendment to address this deficiency:

- By August 31, 2020, Recycle BC will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(i) of the Regulation. These amendments will summarize and justify the cost study and methodologies consulted upon, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, the resulting basis of compensation being proposed and how any adjustments to compensation/producers paying costs will be applied.

## 2. Reasonable and free consumer access to collection

Pursuant to subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation, the plan must adequately provide for reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities or collection services.

### a) Curbside equivalency definition and adjacency criteria

The amended plan commits to, in 2019, determining an equivalency definition regarding curbside collection eligibility criteria for local governments. As indicated in my May 22, 2019 letter, the plan does not indicate how or when the plan will be revised in a future plan amendment to reflect this definition. The amended plan also commits to, in 2021, assessing the feasibility of servicing smaller, densely populated communities located adjacent to communities with curbside service; however, the plan does not indicate how or when the plan will be revised in a future plan amendment to reflect such adjacency. I am therefore requiring the following amendments to address these deficiencies:

- By August 31, 2020, Recycle BC will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation. These amendments will justify the methodology, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, and include equivalency definition parameters, including timelines for offers to communities meeting the equivalency definition.
- By August 31, 2021, Recycle BC will propose further amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation. These amendments will justify the methodology, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, and include adjacency criteria, including timelines for offers to communities meeting that criteria.

### b) Streetscape

The plan does not indicate how or when the results of the advisory group consultation process will be reflected in a future plan amendment including specific service commitments once the consultation is completed. Pursuant to section 5 of the Regulation, the plan must adequately provide for the collection of the product "...from municipal property that is not industrial, commercial or institutional property."

A more detailed commitment in this regard is required. I am therefore requiring the following amendment to address this deficiency:

- By August 31, 2020, Recycle BC will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(d)(ii) of the Regulation. These amendments will summarize the advisory group consultation methodologies, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, and the resulting service and funding commitments, and program deliverables.

c) Multi-family awareness and service

While the plan does address a comprehensive means to increase consumer awareness in this sector, and demonstrates a 4% increase from 2017-2018 in multi-family households served, as indicated in my May 22, 2019 letter, the plan does not include a graduated multi-family servicing target for multi-family expansion. A more detailed commitment in this regard is required. I am therefore requiring the following amendment to address this deficiency:

- By August 31, 2020, Recycle BC will propose amendments to the plan that include a service target for multi-family expansion.

The above additional amendments form part of Recycle BC's plan and take effect on June 28, 2019.

These additional amendments are required to ensure the plan adequately provides for the elements set out in Subsections 5(1)(c)(i), (iii), and 5(1)(d)(ii) of the Regulation. Specifically, I must be satisfied that:

- the producer will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(i) of the Regulation following completion of the cost study;
- the producer will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation, including equivalency definition and adjacency criteria;
- the producer will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(d)(ii) of the Regulation, including streetscape service and funding commitments, and program deliverables; and
- the producer will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation, including a service target for multi-family expansion.

Pursuant to section 6 of the Regulation and based on the plan's original approval date of April 15, 2013, Recycle BC's next plan review must be completed by April 15, 2023. However, a director under the *Environmental Management Act* may amend the approved plan pursuant to section 5(5) of the Regulation or rescind approval of the approved plan pursuant to section 6.1 of the Regulation, should Recycle BC fail to meet the commitments set out in the approved plan. Please also note that failure to comply with an approved plan may result in the imposition of an administrative monetary penalty of up to \$40,000 or a fine of up to \$200,000.

### **Future plans and amendments**

As has been conveyed to other stewardship agencies, the ministry expects continuous improvement across all future plans and amendments including the following areas of concern:

1. Plan commitments – for example, use specific and measurable language;
2. Consumer access – for example, develop comprehensive province-wide accessibility – particularly in rural areas, or improve upon the current Stewardship Agencies of B.C. accessibility standard;
3. Consumer awareness - for example, include performance requirements tailored for different consumer groups and all product types managed by the program;
4. Financial transparency – for example, provide greater levels of disclosure in financial statements to better serve interests of producers, the ministry, and other stakeholders; and
5. Pollution prevention hierarchy – for example, highlight program areas of influence.

I acknowledge that some plans better address these various concerns than others, and that collaboration between some producers/appointed agencies and the ministry is also underway. Additionally, the ministry intends to develop further guidance on select areas of concern.

Related to the above concerns, but beyond my approval in this letter, I note the following opportunities for continuous improvement specific to Recycle BC:

1. Given the recently stated recovery rate of 78.1 % in Recycle BC's 2018 Annual Report, and the currently projected recovery rates of 75% in 2019, 77% in 2020 and 2021, and 78% through 2022, there may well be an opportunity to set more realistic recovery rates within the term of this plan as it continues to evolve; and
2. With all levels of government focusing on reducing plastics and single-use items, as well as the various tools such as Extended Producer Responsibility, bans, levies, recycled content and/or procurement standards, etc. being considered, it will be in Recycle BC's interests to continue to proactively advance practical means to support this direction.

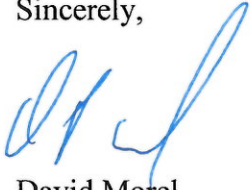
### **Third Party Assurance for Non-Financial Information in Annual Reports**

Third party assurance for non-financial information in Annual Reports is required through Section 8(2)(h) of the Regulation. The assurance report should be completed in accordance with the document entitled, "Third Party Assurance Requirements for Non-Financial Information in Annual Reports" dated October 2018 and revised from time to time, which is enclosed.

Finally, the ministry expects this approval letter to be forwarded to Recycle BC's board of directors as well as its member producers, since each producer is responsible for ensuring its agent fulfills the plan, and compliance proceedings may be taken against a producer if the agent fails to implement the plan.

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of your plan, or suggested opportunities for improvement, please contact your ministry file lead.

Sincerely,



David Morel  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Kris Ord, Executive Director, Environmental Standards Branch  
Bob McDonald, Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Section  
Hanna Vovk, Ministry file lead, Extended Producer Responsibility Section



John D. Coyne  
Recycle BC Board Chair

July 14, 2020

Laurel Nash  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
525 Superior St.  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1T7

**Subject: Recycle BC Program Plan requirements**

Dear Ms. Nash,

As Chair of the Board of Recycle BC, I am writing to provide highlights of our program performance and details of the considerable impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the businesses that fund Recycle BC. In that context I am also writing to request relief in relation to certain of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (Ministry) recent requirements included in our Program Plan commitments.

Since our program's inception in 2014, businesses have provided more than half a billion dollars to create what we are confident is the most successful full producer responsibility program for residential packaging and paper products in the world. Unlike other stewardship programs, many of which are funded by a combination of environmental fees and/or deposits paid by consumers, Recycle BC's program is entirely funded by businesses who put packaging and paper products into the marketplace. These businesses have funded all of their obligations in relation to the provincial regulation, all while accommodating increasing Ministry expectations, significantly rising costs, and constrained markets for materials resulting in dramatic shifts in the supply and demand of recyclable material.

Thanks to Recycle BC, more than 98% of British Columbians have access to a recycling system with the largest basket of accepted materials of anywhere in Canada. We boast a recovery rate equivalent to more than 78% of the materials our businesses place into the market and, last year, 90% of the materials we collected were managed by recycling. We are also proud of the work Recycle BC has done to include First Nations communities in our program. Recycle BC has dedicated itself to working with First Nations communities to ensure they can participate in our program when they are ready to do so. We are a founding member of the First Nations Recycling Initiative and, as of 2019, 43 First Nations across BC participated in Recycle BC's program, representing approximately one third of the First Nations populations living on First Nations or treaty settlement land within BC.





The ambition of the program has resulted in the creation of a local circular economy for plastic. 98% of the plastic we collect here in British Columbia is further processed in the Province and, this year, the implementation of our new post-collection network means we will be able to keep the majority of our fibre (paper and cardboard) in the Pacific North West as well. These are significant achievements at a time when many jurisdictions across North America and around the world are limiting the types of materials they collect, and stockpiling or landfilling materials because they cannot find markets.

As you know, this performance has come at great cost. Carrying out the Ministry's additional requirements means Recycle BC will experience a doubling of costs by next year compared to what they were just 5 years ago. Moreover, with the Ministry's additional requirements for our program, Recycle BC is on pace to be 1.5 times the per capita cost of the reported net cost for Ontario's municipalities. Last year, the businesses that fund Recycle BC absorbed an increase to their fees of 26% - the second straight year of significant cost increases. This occurred despite the Board of Recycle BC choosing to draw down on our operating reserves two years in a row to soften and smooth the impact of ever-increasing costs. As responsible managers of the Program, we cannot continue to utilize this option - yet we face another year of significantly rising costs.

It is against this backdrop that we refer to the Ministry's new requirements in Recycle BC's submitted Program Plan of June 2019, which requirements effectively mandate activities that result in further cost escalations guaranteeing continuing significant increases in the years to come. The Ministry's requirements followed extensive consultations by Recycle BC on our Program Plan, after which we incorporated demands from the Ministry, expanding the scope of the plan and our costs. These significant costs are incurred in order to fulfill obligations set by the Ministry. However, those obligations result in only very marginal increases to our program performance and resident experience with recycling services.

Our concerns are exacerbated by the serious financial effects of the global pandemic.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has completely reshaped the world economy and British Columbia businesses are not immune. Recycle BC is funded by more than 1,100 businesses that operate in British Columbia. These businesses are BC's primary employers. Many have suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic. Some have already announced the need to close. Some have initiated bankruptcy protection proceedings. Some are closing their storefronts and moving to online platforms. None are left untouched by the tremendous impact of the pandemic.

In late April, the Vancouver Board of Trade (VBT) issued a news release forecasting: "For businesses temporarily closed, the future is similarly dire, with only half (53%) expecting to reopen once the restrictions are eased on workplace operations..." (VBT, April 21, 2020). What is abundantly clear is that, as the pandemic continues to ravage the health of our friends and families, it is devastating the health of the businesses that ensure jobs for British Columbians, and there will be fewer businesses to pay for the operation of the Recycle BC program and ever-increasing costs.



The Province of BC is executing its BC Restart Plan, hoping to ensure health and safety while getting people back to work. The road ahead is a long one and for our businesses which employ British Columbians the next increase in costs related to our program will come after a prolonged period where many of our businesses closed to support the Province's social distancing measures, and an even longer period where our businesses tried to adapt to a new reality of fewer customers, higher costs associated with enhanced health and safety measures and a recession sapping the spending power of consumers.

Consequently, I am writing to request relief from the Program Plan amendments contained in Assistant Deputy Minister and Statutory Decision Maker David Morel's letter dated June 28, 2019. These include amendments under the following headings:

1. "Producers paying the cost"
2. "Reasonable and free consumer access to collection"
  - a. Curbside equivalency definition and adjacency criteria
  - b. Streetscape
  - c. Multi-family awareness and service"

Each of the amendments comes with both significant initial and ongoing annual costs. We have calculated the total initial cost of these amendments to be approximately \$14M. I will try to briefly itemize our concerns with each below.

1. *"Producers paying the cost"*

In 2018, Recycle BC performed and consulted on a cost study, prior to submitting its Program Plan to the Ministry, in accordance with the Ministry's 2018 guidance document (*Producers Paying the Cost of Managing Obligated Materials and Dispute Resolution*). Despite this, the Ministry mandated Recycle BC perform an additional cost study, over and above those already mandated. The result is the Ministry effectively ordered two cost studies in a two-year period, a frequency which is not contained in either the regulation or the Ministry's guidance document. Recycle BC relies upon a cadence for cost studies to effectively budget for the costs associated with the studies themselves and the potential cost increases resulting from the information gathered during the cost study process, which costs are used to set the financial incentive rate for collection services. This process provides some measure of predictability to all participants that costs will remain stable for a set period of time.

While we accept the responsibility to pay the full costs, the Ministry's decision to deviate from the frequency of cost studies set forth in its guidance document has placed additional, unanticipated financial pressure on our program. As a result, we are asking that the Ministry follow the regulation and guidance document and relieve Recycle BC of the responsibility of this additional cost study.



2. “Reasonable and free consumer access to collection”

a. Curbside equivalency definition and adjacency criteria

Since 2014, Recycle BC has significantly increased BC residents’ access to its recycling services. We have introduced curbside collection service to areas that previously had none, and added more than 100 depots to our program. Yet the Ministry seeks incremental expansion to accessibility, which comes at a much higher cost due to its remote nature and low volume of material. The result is a very high cost for a very low marginal rate of return. This has contributed to our escalating cost structure.

This year Recycle BC conducted the necessary work to bring forward a curbside equivalency definition in accordance with the Ministry’s requirements. Currently, only communities with populations in excess of 5,000 people may choose to adopt curbside collection. The curbside equivalency definition sets standards allowing for unincorporated communities within the same geographic region that can collectively meet the 5,000 person threshold to switch from depot collection to curbside collection. We have submitted a report to the Ministry for review with our recommended approach. Nonetheless, we recognize that this amendment represents a significant additional cost burden at a time when businesses simply cannot afford more.

b. Streetscape

In Recycle BC’s original Program Plan, we agreed to take on streetscape “subject to successful proof of concept”. The Ministry approved this Program Plan in 2014, thus approving this stipulation. We are asking the Ministry to honour this agreement and take into the consideration the work Recycle BC has done to explore the potential of streetscape as a viable means of collecting material.

Recycle BC has partnered with local governments three times to study the efficacy of streetscape collection. Further, at the urging of the Ministry, Recycle BC conducted a series of roundtable discussions with 31 local governments across the province last year to study their streetscape collection methods and results, in an effort to comply with the Ministry’s amendment.

Unfortunately, despite extensive roundtable discussions and repeated requests from Recycle BC to the local governments for information such as program collection and processing costs, collection tonnage and end-of-life disposition, local governments provided very limited data. As a result, Recycle BC has not received sufficient information upon which to base a financial incentive for streetscape.

This lack of necessary data makes the preparation of a proposal to include streetscape under full responsibility a matter of guesswork. The result of such an effort would be that the program will



be exposed to allegations of greenwashing, negatively affecting the reputation of the program and diminishing the confidence that all BC residents have shown to date.

In our view, the Ministry should support evidence-based approaches to recycling and comply fully with the Clean BC plan. Right now much of the packaging and paper product collected through streetscape programs by local governments is extremely contaminated and the results of the feedback we received showed that in some municipalities as much as 100% of the materials collected through streetscape are sent to landfill. Indeed, most materials are transferred to landfill and, on average, local governments recycle only a very small amount. This represents an unacceptably high greenhouse gas emission-intensive process, as a very small volume of materials is transported to multiple locations only to end up in landfills. This is certainly not aligned to the *Clean BC* strategy.

Based upon all of this information, it is clear that streetscape currently has no proven net-positive environmental outcome. As a result, Recycle BC cannot proceed with this amendment.

c. Multi-family awareness and service

The Statutory Decision Maker acknowledges in his letter dated June 28, 2019 that Recycle BC's submitted Program Plan "does address a comprehensive means to increase consumer awareness in this sector, and demonstrates a 4% increase from 2017-2018 in multi-family households served." However, this amendment imposes new obligations upon the program that did not exist previously, specifically, the imposition of channel-specific targets. Like all of the aforementioned amendments, this one adds significant costs to Recycle BC's operations with very little impact on recovery and environmental performance.

Conclusion

I have shared a lot of information with you in this letter and I want to thank you for taking the time to review and consider the above comments.

The Ministry, through its regulation, has positioned BC to be a leader for years to come. And yet this leadership is not without its consequences. While sustainability is at the core of everything Recycle BC does, the reputation of our program is now under threat due to ever-escalating costs with limited changes to program performance. The impact of these cost pressures are magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Province of BC designated recycling an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Recycle BC has been singularly focused on ensuring the collection and responsible processing of materials throughout this crisis to the greatest extent possible. Further, in the midst of this



pandemic, we launched a new complicated post-collection network that will ensure more of the materials we collect will be processed here at home.

Recycle BC has proven itself to be the standard bearer for full producer responsibility. Thanks to this program, British Columbians can recycle more residential packaging and paper products than anywhere in Canada and they can feel confident that it will be recycled.

As the Province continues with its BC Restart program, I am asking you today to provide relief to our program by postponing all of the amendments we have discussed above so as to ensure we can continue to provide this essential service to the residents of BC for years to come. We would also welcome the opportunity to enter into conversations with your staff on the long-term viability of some of these amendments in order to ensure the continuing success of the program.

As you consider this request, please let me know if you have questions or comments and, if you would like to discuss any aspect of the above details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

John D. Coyne

CC:

Kris Ord, Executive Director, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Bob McDonald, Director, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Teresa Conner, Unit Head, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Tamara Burns, Senior Vice President, Recycle BC

David Lefebvre, Director, Public Affairs, Recycle BC



Reference: 359371

August 27, 2020

John D. Coyne  
Board Chair, Recycle BC  
405-221 West Esplanade  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3J3

Dear John Coyne:

Thank you for your letter on July 14, 2020, regarding the request for relief on the director's amendments to Recycle BC's (RBC) Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Plan (the "plan").

As per your letter, you are seeking relief on the director's amendments that are due August 31, 2020 and August 31, 2021. These amendments were to address concerns related to producers paying the costs (cost study) and reasonable and free consumer access to collection (curbside equivalency definition and adjacency criteria, streetscape and multi-family awareness and service). The plan was approved with director's amendments on June 28, 2019 (#345241) to address concerns that some aspects of the plan were not meeting the regulatory requirements under the Recycling Regulation (regulation).

Through further engagement with RBC staff, the request for relief has been refined to have the postponement of director's amendments for curbside equivalency definition and adjacency criteria, streetscape and multi-family awareness and service by one year from the original due dates; however, the producers paying the costs director's amendment will be required to be submitted by September 15, 2020, due to the timing of this letter, with phased implementation timelines.

Under the regulation, the director has the ability both to amend an approved EPR plan on their own initiative, and to approve amendments to an approved plan that have been proposed by a producer.

We understand the hardship on many of RBC's member producers, from the COVID-19 pandemic and that it has resulted in significant impacts to the RBC program. The extension of the submission dates for the amendments are being given due to the current economic climate, brought on by COVID-19 and the direct impacts it is having to the RBC program and membership e.g. producers responsible for funding program directly, not through eco fees charged to consumers.

.../2

I have completed my review and make further amendments to the submission dates in the approved plan, as described below:

- Producer paying the costs due August 31, 2020 is replaced with September 15, 2020;
- Curbside equivalency definition due August 31, 2020 is replaced with August 31, 2021;
- Streetscape due August 31, 2020 is replaced with August 31, 2021;
- Multi-family awareness and service due August 31, 2020 is replaced with August 31, 2021; and
- Adjacency criteria due August 31, 2021 is replaced with August 31, 2022.

As RBC is aware, there are multiple phases of the approval process for plans and amendments. At this time, this approval is for extension on submission dates for the amendments due to the director only. It is also recognized that due to the coinciding of COVID-19 and the amendment due dates, stakeholder consultation on deferral of the amendments was not possible.

While the timeframes for submissions of some amendments are extended, the ministry expects RBC to continue working towards their completion. The ministry requires RBC to provide the ministry with a regular progress report on the development of amendments and anticipated implementation timing of those amendments. The ministry encourages RBC to submit amendments before due dates, where feasible, and the progress report will assist in identifying when early submission is feasible. Please be advised that I will continue to closely monitor the situation and may reconsider these extensions should circumstances warrant further amendments.

Finally, the ministry expects this approval letter to be forwarded to RBC's board of directors as well as its member producers, since each producer is responsible for ensuring its agent fulfills the plan, and compliance proceedings may be taken against a producer if the agent fails to implement the plan

### **Right to appeal**

If you disagree with this decision, Division 2 of Part 8 of the *Environmental Management Act* provides for appeal of my decision to the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB). In accordance with the *Act* and with the Environmental Appeal Board Procedures regulation, the EAB must receive notice of the appeal no later than 30 days after the date you receive this decision

I look forward to working with you to ensure the success of your program. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at 250-953-4004 or [ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca). If you have any questions regarding the implementation of your plan, or suggested opportunities for improvement, please contact your ministry file lead.

Thank you again for writing and making us aware of the concerns that RBC has during these extraordinary times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'L. Nash', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

.../3

Laurel Nash  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Protection Division

Cc: Kris Ord, Executive Director, Environmental Standards Branch  
Bob McDonald, Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Section  
Teresa Conner, Unit Head, Extended Producer Responsibility Section  
Leeanne Fraser, Ministry file lead, Extended Producer Responsibility Section





**RECYCLEBC<sup>TM</sup>**

**Recycle BC**

**Producers Paying the Costs**

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

September 15, 2020

July 14, 2021

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## Introduction

During development of Recycle BC's second five-year Program Plan, the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) required Recycle BC to conduct an additional cost study in 2020 (over and above the 2018 cost study) and to have cost studies overseen by the Recycle BC Advisory Committee. These two new requirements were written into Recycle BC's program plan when submitted in June 2019 for approval.

In the director's plan approval letter of June 28, 2019, the Ministry imposed amendments to the plan which were to be met in accordance with the deadlines requested by the director. Regarding *Producers paying the costs*, he required that Recycle BC propose amendments to the plan that demonstrated this by August 31, 2020.

Recycle BC received a second director's letter on August 31, 2020 making further amendments to the submission dates in the approved plan. The director's amendment related to producers paying the costs was now required to be submitted by September 15, 2020 with phased implementation timelines.

Recycle BC completed the activities required for this amendment and submitted an amendment pertaining to Sections 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and Appendix B of the plan to the Ministry for its approval on September 15, 2020.

Subsequently, in June 2021, the Ministry requested Recycle BC update its amendment timelines.

## Amendment Details

The amendment adds, revises or replaces language within Recycle BC's published program plan in the three applicable sections: Sections 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and Appendix B, as noted in the amendment itself.

The amendment provides the reader with documentation that Recycle BC performed the 2020 financial incentive review, including a cost study, as per the methodology in its program plan. Recycle BC consulted on the financial incentive payment methodology, including the cost study, solicited feedback which was addressed, and provided the basis for compensation to collectors. Specific contract change details with dates based on the phased implementation timelines is also contained in the amendment to show how adjustments will be applied.

The amendment, once approved by the Ministry, will be published in a companion document to the program plan. This companion document will hold all future amendments to the June 2019 plan in one place for ease of reference. All links contained in the amendment will be active upon publishing.

### 2.1 Amendment Contents

The amendment contains the following:

- References directing readers to key related documents,
- An explicit reference to explain the 2020 cost study was an additional requirement,
- Documentation that Recycle BC completed all activities for a financial incentive review as outlined in its program plan, specifically:
  - 2020 Collection Cost Study

- Financial Incentive and Payment Methodology
  - Financial Incentives Review, July 2020
  - Published Q & A
  - Financial Incentives Review Consultation Report
- Specific contract change details with dates based on the phased implementation timelines,
- Revised timing for future financial incentive reviews including cost studies, and
- Updated summary of performance measures in the applicable section.

## 2.2 Next Steps

The amendment for producers paying the costs was approved by Recycle BC’s Board of Directors at its September 11, 2020 meeting. Within 30 days after approval of this amendment by the Ministry, Recycle BC will publish this amendment on its website, advise its stakeholders, and communicate directly via email to its collectors.

## Amendment

The following amendment pertains to Sections 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and Appendix B of Recycle BC’s Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan dated June 2019.

### Amendment:

Recycle BC’s Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan, Revised June 2019 now includes the following additional language in the sections as noted:

#### 4.3.1 Process for establishing financial incentives for collection

For the 2019 program plan, Recycle BC was required as per the director’s letter<sup>1</sup> to conduct an additional cost study in 2020, consult and adjust collector compensation based on the results of the financial incentive review process. This requirement was outside of Recycle BC’s typical process for establishing financial incentives for a contract term for collection services.

#### 4.3.2 Methodology to prepare revised financial incentives

At the time of this amendment, Recycle BC has completed its process for reviewing its financial incentive payments, including the 2020 additional cost study, as outlined in this section. The documentation of the completed cost study and consultation process is available on the Recycle BC consultation webpage<sup>2</sup> as follows:

- Collection Cost Studies
  - 2020 Collection Cost Study
- Financial Incentive and Payment Methodology
  - Financial Incentives Review, July 2020 (webinar presentation and recording)
  - Q & A (document)
  - Financial Incentives Review Consultation Report

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<sup>1</sup> link to director’s letters

<sup>2</sup> [Recycle BC consultation webpage](#)

This amendment revises the activities following the publication of the consultation report as follows:

Following Ministry approval of the Producers Paying the Costs Amendment, Recycle BC will:

- Prepare adjustments to financial incentive rates, as a result of the financial incentive review for depot collectors, for inclusion in steward fees,
- Amend existing collection contracts to reflect new fees payable to depot collectors for an effective date four full months following Ministry approval,
- Upon implementation of the new rates, update sample collection contracts with new financial incentive rates and publish on Recycle BC's website<sup>3</sup>,
- Prepare adjustments to financial incentive rates, as a result of the financial incentive review for curbside and multi-family collectors, for inclusion in steward fees,
- Amend existing collection contracts to reflect new fees payable to curbside and multi-family collectors for July 1, 2022 effective date or an effective date four full months after depot implementation if depot implementation occurs after March 1, 2022.

This amendment replaces this section:

The current contract term for collectors expires December 31, 2023, and in 2022 Recycle BC will once again follow the methodology outlined in this Program Plan to prepare revised financial incentives.

With the following section:

The current contract term for collectors expires December 31, 2023 and Recycle BC may extend the Statements of Work for up to two further periods of one year each. At the close of the contract term, or in 2025 latest, Recycle BC will once again follow the methodology outlined in this Program Plan to prepare revised financial incentives.

Within 30 days after approval of this amendment by the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Recycle BC will publish this amendment on its website<sup>4</sup> and communicate the amendment to its collectors directly via email.

## **Appendix B – Summary of Performance Measures**

The first chart section, Recovery Targets, is revised through this amendment by replacing the top row's language with the following:

- 2020 – Conduct a curb, multi-family and depot cost study, overseen by the Advisory Committee, as part of a financial incentive review process.
- 2021 – While continuing to maintain performance target and reporting as outlined in Appendix B, Recycle BC will implement depot collection terms the earlier of July 1, 2021, or four full months following Ministry approval of the Producers Paying the Costs Amendment.
- 2022 – While continuing to maintain performance target and reporting as outlined in Appendix B, Recycle BC will implement curbside and multi-family collection terms effective July 1, 2022, or four full months after depot implementation for preparation time between payment updates if depot implementation occurs after March 1, 2022.


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<sup>3</sup> <https://recyclebc.ca/collectors/prospective-collectors/>

<sup>4</sup> link to amendment document



Received  
Tue 8/31/2021 12:56 PM 

CLIFF #381721  
eApproval 11123

August 27, 2021

Tamara Burns  
Executive Director Western Canada  
Recycle BC  
171 Esplanade West, suite 230  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3J9

Dear Tamara Burns,

Thank you for submitting the July 17th, 2020 Packaging and Paper Product Cost Study and the August 31, 2020 Financial Incentive Review Consultation Report in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 5(1)(b), (c)(i) and (vi) of the Recycling Regulation (the regulation) made under the *Environmental Management Act*.

The ministry's Extended Producer Responsibility section engaged financial experts in the Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector Branch to assist with the review of the cost study and to create a checklist to be used when assessing the completeness of such studies. I thank you for your patience while we have worked to develop this process to ensure rigour in our review that is a fair and equitable way to evaluate all program steward submissions.

The Producers Paying the Cost of Managing Obligated Materials and Dispute Resolution guidance document was used as the basis for assessing the completeness of the cost study. I have completed my review of the cost study and consultation summary related to stakeholder compensation and I am satisfied they meet the requirements of the regulation. It is noted that your dispute resolution procedures were already approved during the review of your 2019 Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan.

Specifically, I have been satisfied of the following:

- The producer has undertaken satisfactory consultation with stakeholders and has provided opportunity for stakeholder input in the implementation and operation of the extended producer responsibility program;
- The cost study adequately provides for the producer collecting and paying the costs of collecting

and managing products within the product category covered by the plan; and

- The described procedure for dispute resolution between a producer and person providing services related to the collection and management of the product during implementation of the plan or operation of the extended producer responsibility program is adequate as per your approved 2019 Plan.

Thank you for your efforts on this plan amendment and I appreciate the industry's continued commitment to achieving compliance in this regard.

Sincerely,



Laurel Nash  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Sonya Sundberg, Executive Director, Environmental Standards Branch  
Bob McDonald, Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Section  
Tim O'Rourke, Ministry file lead, Extended Producer Responsibility Section



**RECYCLEBC™**

## **Curbside Equivalency Definition**

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

August 31, 2021



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## SECTION 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Project Objective

Recycle BC's 2019 government-approved Program Plan required the development of a curbside equivalency definition for unincorporated areas, thereby expanding its eligibility criteria for unincorporated BC communities seeking to become a curbside collector for Recycle BC. Recycle BC committed to consulting on the curbside equivalency definition with affected stakeholders and to revise its Program Plan to include the new eligibility criteria for new curbside collection. The objective of this project was to develop the equivalency criteria.

### 1.2 Project Background

During development of Recycle BC's latest five-year Program Plan, which began in 2017, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) requested Recycle BC provide clear criteria for new curbside collection programs and consult on that definition. Recycle BC completed this work and provided the following definition in its revised Program Plan:

#### **4.3.5 New Curbside Programs**

Local governments, in communities that did not have PPP curbside collection programs as of May 2014 when the program was first launched, are eligible to join the Recycle BC program as contracted collectors if they implement a PPP curbside collection program, provided each of the following criteria is met:

- A curbside garbage collection program was in place for a minimum of two years in advance of the new curbside program for the same households;
- The community represents an incorporated municipality; and
- The community has a minimum population of 5,000 residents.

The MOECCS subsequently requested that Recycle BC expand that definition to include an equivalency definition for unincorporated areas, and Recycle BC added the process to do so into the Program Plan submitted to the MOECCS in section 4.3.5 (page 11):

- If the community is unincorporated, Recycle BC will in 2019 determine an equivalency definition for 5,000 residents who live in a densely populated locality where the only differentiation is the type of government (i.e., localities that are not municipalities).
- Recycle BC will then consult in Q4 2019 on this definition and revise the eligibility criteria by the close of 2019 for local governments with unincorporated communities that meet the other two criteria to join the Recycle BC program by provision of a formal offer Q1 2020 as applicable.
- Once the unincorporated criteria have been determined, Recycle BC will post a companion document to the Program Plan on the Recycle BC website.

In the Director's letter approving Recycle BC's Plan, the MOECCS added further details about what the Ministry requires from Recycle BC:

- “By August 31, 2020, Recycle BC will propose amendments to the plan that demonstrate how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation [‘reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities or collection services’]. These amendments will justify the methodology, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, and include equivalency definition parameters, including timelines for offers to communities meeting the equivalency definition.”

Recycle BC has completed the activities required as per the Program Plan and the Director’s Letter. This report will serve as a companion document to the Program Plan, outlining the amendment for curbside equivalency

### 1.3 Equivalency Definition

The revised eligibility criteria for new curbside service within the Recycle BC program, as an outcome of the methodology, analysis and consultation, is defined as:

Regional Districts are eligible to join the Recycle BC program as contracted collectors if they implement a PPP curbside collection program in one or more unincorporated areas, provided each of the following criterion are met:

- The proposed service area has a minimum population of 5,000 residents;
- The proposed service area has a minimum household density<sup>1</sup> of 0.42 households/hectare;
- There is a maximum distance of 20 km between proposed Service Area Sections<sup>2</sup>; and
- A curbside garbage collection program<sup>3</sup> is in place for a minimum of two years in that service area.

## SECTION 2: Equivalency Project

To develop eligibility criteria for new curbside service for unincorporated areas that are equivalent to communities that represent an incorporated municipality, Recycle BC used the most recent available Census data, local government data as submitted, as well as Recycle BC’s own data, to provide the most accurate view available for calculations and analysis. This first stage of the project is described below in 2.1 Methodology.

Following this stage, the relevant assembled data was used to calculate density by households per hectares for equivalency. The calculations and analysis are described in 2.2 Analysis and Results. Recycle BC selected the weighted average of the two least dense municipal types within incorporated municipalities across BC as the proposed density threshold for unincorporated areas. Additionally, Recycle BC determined through analysis that a maximum distance of 20 km between proposed Service Area Sections was reasonable to maintain equivalency.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as total occupied dwellings divided by total hectares in proposed service area excluding non-populated areas (parks, crown lands, etc.) and areas not proposed to be serviced.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated by the distance of navigable roads from respective edges of service areas sections, with a maximum number of three gaps greater than 10 km up to a maximum 20 km in distance between service area sections. Island and ferry accessed communities are considered a single service area and must meet all criteria independently.

<sup>3</sup> Curbside garbage program must be managed by the local government proposing service.

The equivalency project then moved to the third stage, which is outlined below in 2.3 Consultation and Feedback. This section outlines how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed. Finally, the project concluded with the proposed equivalency definition parameters. Upon approval by the MOECCS of the proposed amendment, Recycle BC will within 30 days offer a Services Agreement to each Regional District with unincorporated service areas that meet the Program Plan definition for this collection service.

## 2.1 Methodology

### 1. Data Assembly

- Recycle BC used Statistics Canada’s 2016 Census to assemble the relevant data to compare Census Subdivisions (incorporated municipalities) to designated Unincorporated Places in the province (i.e., regions of land not governed by a local municipal corporation).
- Census data files used included:
  - Census Division (CD) – Regional Districts
  - Census Subdivision (CSD) – Incorporated Municipalities
  - Population Centre (POPCTR)
  - Designated Place (DPL) – Unincorporated Place
  - Private dwelling occupied by usual residents (Total Occupied Dwelling).
- Recycle BC data used included:
  - Household counts
  - Collection tonnage
  - Capture rates.
- Supplied Regional District data used included:
  - Garbage area service maps
  - Regional information on population and household counts.
- Using the most recent available Census data, as well as Recycle BC’s own data, enabled the most accurate view available for calculations and analysis. In unincorporated communities where five Regional Districts provided local data, the submitted data augmented sparse Census data for areas of less than 1,000 population and was used to refine the Population Centre and Designated Place information.

### 2. Assumptions

- The following assumptions guided the data review:
  - Criteria apply only to unincorporated areas and only to newly proposed service areas, not to expansion of service areas of existing Recycle BC collectors;
  - Island and ferry accessed communities are considered a single service area and must meet all criteria independently; and
  - Maximum distance calculation is the distance of navigable road from respective edges of proposed Service Areas Sections. It excludes ferry service (island communities considered a single service area).

### 3. Mapping

- Recycle BC defined and mapped Service Area Sections (the pockets of residential areas that are proposed for service; these sections can be standalone or be grouped together to meet the criteria thresholds) from Non-Service Areas (these spaces include parks,

nature reserves, agricultural land, pastures, waterways, non-residential land and residential areas not proposed for service) to achieve density measurements and consider any distance gaps between Service Area Sections.

#### 4. Data Usage

- The relevant assembled data was used to calculate density by households per hectares for equivalency where the only differentiation is the type of government;
- City, Town, Village, District Municipality, and Island Municipality data categories were calculated for density to develop equivalency for unincorporated areas.

## 2.2 Analysis & Results

### 2. Equivalency (Median Density)

- Five Census Category types were considered for this analysis: City, Town, Village, District Municipality, and Island Municipality;
- The density components used were:
  - Households = total occupied dwellings;
  - Hectares = total hectares in proposed service area excluding non-populated areas (parks, crown lands, etc.) and areas not proposed to be serviced; and
  - Median = the middle value in a definition.
- Households/Hectare was selected as the equivalency comparator for consistency in approach (i.e., curbside collection incentive payment levels are by density band) and for evaluation against municipal collection services (i.e., service standards and performance equivalency);
- Median was selected versus mean or weighted average as the equivalency comparator. It was determined through analysis that mean or weighted average was affected to a greater extent by the density of the largest cities and towns than by using median average;
  - The use of median (the middle value) made it more reasonable a measure to compare Regional District area density for curbside service with a minimum population of 5,000 residents to incorporated municipalities with a minimum population of 5,000 residents.

### 3. Calculation

- Median Average calculation was used to select the representative figure under each Category Type:
  - Formula: Median =  $\{(n + 1) \div 2\}^{\text{th}}$  value.
- The Median formula was used to determine the representative number for each incorporated municipality category (City, Town, Village, District Municipality, and Island Municipality). The list was filtered for each of the municipal categories, then sorted by ascending order from smallest to largest before the formula was applied. If the total count ('n') was an even number, the average was taken from the middle two values.

### 4. Mapping (Maximum Distance)

- From the mapping methodology (2.1.3 above), the function of the analysis was to determine reasonable collection distance for service based on typical weekday collection, within typical hours. This included transportation to a receiving facility per load, for recycling collection vehicles in an unincorporated area. Information from

municipal routes (i.e., household count, density and capture rate) provided input for a typical collection profile;

- Because Service Area Sections can be grouped together to meet the criteria thresholds, distance gaps are a component of what collection distance can be covered in a day;
- Recycle BC analyzed distance gaps between Service Areas to determine a reasonable criterion for density equivalency;
- The distance components used were:
  - Distance of navigable road from respective edges of proposed Service Area Sections in kilometers and the number of associated gaps; and
  - Ferry service types (inland ferries as well as coastal ferries).
- Allowing for a reasonable distance between proposed Service Area Sections made it more achievable for a regional district to meet the minimum density criteria consulted on by Recycle BC.

## 5. Results

- The table below shows the median density by type of municipality calculated using Statistics Canada data.

Municipality Type	All BC: Households/Hectare
City	2.54
Town	2.90
Village	0.55
District Municipality	0.45
Island Municipality	0.30
District/Island Municipality Combined	<b>0.42</b>

- Recycle BC selected the weighted average of the two least dense municipal types as the proposed density threshold (.42) for unincorporated areas;
- Additionally, Recycle BC determined through analysis that a maximum distance of 20 km between proposed Service Area Sections was reasonable to maintain equivalency;
  - Within this criterion, Recycle BC will allow a maximum number of three gaps greater than 10 km up to a maximum 20 km in distance between Service Area Sections for added flexibility in composing new curbside collection areas while maintaining equivalency for 5,000 residents who live in a densely populated locality where the only differentiation is the type of government; and
  - Island and ferry accessed communities are considered a single service area and must meet all criteria independently.

## 2.3 Consultation & Feedback

### 1. Local Government Outreach

- Recycle BC reached out by email to all 27 Regional Districts on August 27, 2019. Responses were encouraged by September 16, 2019. In the email, Recycle BC provided an overview of the Program Plan commitments for determining the curbside eligibility criteria and requested Regional Districts share any relevant information on proposed areas of interest to be considered for curbside service, including population metrics, household data, and maps; and
  - From this outreach, five Regional Districts proposed unincorporated areas for consideration.
2. Consultation Webinar
- Recycle BC held its Curbside Equivalency Criteria Consultation for all Regional Districts on November 13, 2019 in webinar format;
  - The PowerPoint presentation was sent to registered attendees in advance;
  - 14 people attended the webinar out of 17 registrants (10 from Regional Districts, 2 from municipalities and 2 from the MOECCS); and
  - Recycle BC presented in PowerPoint format the project overview, current new curbside criteria, the proposed expansion to unincorporated areas through an equivalency definition, methodology development and results, definitions, and the proposed criteria. Next steps and a question period closed the consultation webinar.
3. Feedback
- 10 questions were raised and answered during the webinar, most asking for clarification of methodology, such as how the density and proximity criteria were determined. The Q&A is documented in Appendix A;
  - Deadline for written questions and feedback was November 29, 2019; and
  - Written feedback was received from 4 Regional Districts. This is documented in Appendix B.
4. Outcome
- The feedback received was reviewed in detail by Recycle BC and considered against the purpose of creating equivalency for unincorporated areas to the incorporated municipal criteria;
    - Feedback for clarity on the proposed definitions and criteria was addressed by providing answers directly to each respondent;
    - Feedback that looked to deviate from the established criteria in the Program Plan rather than provide equivalency, such as different garbage requirements or adjacency criteria, was outside of the parameters of this project.
  - Overall, the feedback received helped to fine-tune the proposed criteria for equivalency but did not change the primary components of equivalency.

## 2.4 Equivalency Definition

The revised eligibility criteria for new curbside service within the Recycle BC program as an outcome of the methodology, analysis and consultation is defined as:

Regional Districts are eligible to join the Recycle BC program as contracted collectors if they implement a PPP curbside collection program in one or more unincorporated areas, provided each of the following criteria are met:

- The proposed service area has a minimum population of 5,000 residents;
- The proposed service area has a minimum household density<sup>4</sup> of 0.42 households/hectare;
- There is a maximum distance of 20 km between proposed Service Area Sections<sup>5</sup>; and
- A curbside garbage collection program<sup>6</sup> was in place for a minimum of two years in that service area.

This revised eligibility criteria applies only to unincorporated areas and only to newly proposed service areas, not to expansion of service areas of existing Recycle BC collectors. By August 31, 2022, Recycle BC will propose further amendments to the program for adjacency criteria.

Should an unincorporated area wish to explore future collection options, Recycle BC's Program Plan, Section 4.3.6 Transition to Provision of Curbside Service by Recycle BC, provides the criteria under which local governments with existing collection agreements with Recycle BC may, at their discretion, request that Recycle BC directly operate PPP curbside services in their communities.

## SECTION 3: Amendment

### 3.1 Regulation Subsection 5(1)(c)(iii)

Recycle BC's Program Plan adequately provides for reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities. Recycle BC provides accessibility through curbside, multi-family, depot and First Nations Recycling Initiative collection of residential waste packaging and paper. 99.2% of households have access to Recycle BC's program in the province.

This amendment adds to Recycle BC's clear criteria for new curbside collection programs by defining equivalency criteria for an unincorporated area for communities to add new curbside collection of packaging and paper within the Recycle BC program.

In developing the amendment language for Section 4.3.5 New Curbside Programs in its Program Plan, Recycle BC has demonstrated through this report the work undertaken on methodology, process, stakeholder engagement, and equivalency definition parameters to meet the Director's Letter requirement.

### 3.2 Amendment Language

Recycle BC proposes for approval the following amendment language for Section 4.3.5 New Curbside Programs in its Stewardship Plan:

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<sup>4</sup> Defined as total occupied dwellings divided by total hectares in proposed service area excluding non-populated areas (parks, crown lands, etc.) and areas not proposed to be serviced.

<sup>5</sup> Calculated by the distance of navigable roads from respective edges of service areas sections, with a maximum number of three gaps greater than 10 km up to a maximum 20 km in distance between service area sections. Island and ferry accessed communities are considered a single service area and must meet all criteria independently.

<sup>6</sup> Curbside garbage program must be managed by the local government proposing service.



*Regional Districts are eligible to join the Recycle BC program as contracted collectors if they implement a PPP curbside collection program in one or more unincorporated areas, provided each of the following criteria are met:*

- *The proposed service area has a minimum population of 5,000 residents;*
- *The proposed service area has a minimum household density of 0.42 households/hectare;*
- *There is a maximum distance of 20 km between proposed Service Area Sections; and*
- *A curbside garbage collection program is in place for a minimum of two years in that service area.*

*For clarity, the following definitions are provided:*

- **Minimum household density:** *Defined as total occupied dwellings divided by total hectares in proposed service area, excluding non-populated areas (parks, crown lands, etc.) and areas not proposed to be serviced;*
- **Maximum distance:** *Calculated by the distance of navigable roads from respective edges of service area sections, with a maximum number of three gaps greater than 10 km up to a maximum 20 km in distance between service area sections. Island and ferry accessed communities are considered a single service area and must meet all criteria independently; and*
- **Curbside garbage:** *Program must be managed by the local government proposing service.*

*This revised eligibility criteria applies only to unincorporated areas and only to newly proposed service areas, not to expansion of service areas of existing Recycle BC collectors. By August 31, 2022, Recycle BC will propose further amendments to the program for adjacency criteria.*

## **SECTION 4: Next Steps**

### **4.1 MOECCS Approval**

The curbside equivalency definition for unincorporated areas was approved by Recycle BC's Board of Directors at its December 2019 meeting. Recycle BC prepared its report to the MOECCS as per the Director's Letter and, with this report, submits the amendment language for approval.

Once the MOECCS has approved the proposed amendment as outlined (3.2 Amendment Language above), Recycle BC will post this amendment to a companion document to its Program Plan on the Recycle BC website.

### **4.2 Offer to Join Recycle BC Program**

Upon approval by the MOECCS of the proposed amendment, Recycle BC will within 30 days offer a Services Agreement to each Regional District with unincorporated service areas that has requested access to the program and that meet the Program Plan definition for this collection service.

## Appendix A – Consultation Webinar Q&A

Recycle BC held its Curbside Equivalency Criteria Consultation on November 13, 2019. The following table contains the Q&A from that session:

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	How will you consider ferries when evaluating the proposed 20 km limitation between proposed service area sections?	The 20 km maximum distance includes only navigable roads, not ferry service. Island and ferry accessed communities are considered a single service area and must meet all criteria independently.
2	When evaluating the efficiency of a collection route, the number of homes or stops per hour, or per route is the way that I have heard the industry discuss performance. If the bins/cans are put to the curb, the area of the lot that it serves should not be relevant, only the density of stops on a linear route. Households per hectare works for urban areas with similar sized lots, but is not fairly representing rural collection. Would you consider a household per km route instead of 0.42 households per hectare?	The household density of a service area is considered an accurate reflection of the density of stops on that service area, as a collection vehicle would need to navigate between roads and neighborhoods to access service stops.
3	What is the purpose of holding RD proposed service areas to having a two year 100% tax funded program in place before being considered by Recycle BC?	A curbside garbage collection program must be in place for a minimum of two years in advance of the new curbside program for the same households. Recycle BC does not consider it reasonable for the producers of PPP to be responsible for the cost of collecting PPP at curbside if the local government in question has not deemed the area sufficiently densely populated or otherwise eligible for garbage service.
4	For communities that meet the criteria, will household density still be used for determining the rate Recycle BC pays to collecting contractors?	Under Recycle BC's standard Local Government Curbside Statement of Work, Recycle BC curbside collectors are paid on a per-household basis based on three different household/hectare density calculations, with a higher per-household rate paid to collectors with lower density service areas. Those rates are not impacted by the criteria outlined in this consultation.
5	Can you go into more detail about calculating hectares within the service area? If you had 3 pockets of density, would it just be the sum of the area for each of the parcels that are being serviced within those pockets? Would you exclude from the area	In the calculation of the number of hectares in a proposed service area, non-populated areas such as parks and crown land as well as residential and commercial areas not proposed to be serviced would be excluded.

	all of the 'dead space' that the truck might drive through to get between 'pockets', even if it was residential?	
6	Is the intention to combine services with the adjacent municipality or to establish a stand-alone new agreement for the surrounding unincorporated area?	The criteria outlined for this consultation are for unincorporated areas only, and are not intended to be combined with incorporated areas (municipalities). An unincorporated service area needs to meet all service area independently.
7	For municipalities that meet the criteria, can you expand on or explain the process to apply for RBC curbside collection and what does that collection look like? It is completed by the municipality and subsidized by RBC. What is the collection type, co-mingled or separated streams?	For municipalities that meet the criteria currently included in the Program Plan, the municipality will receive a formal offer to join the program as a contracted collector and receive a per-household incentive from Recycle BC to provide collection services. The collector would have the opportunity to sign the standard Local Government Curbside Statement of Work, under which the municipality can choose between single or multi-stream collection service and can choose whether to provide the collection service using municipal staff or a contractor.
8	Did you consult haulers of rural areas in determining your criteria?	Recycle BC considered its experience in providing rural collection service in various direct service areas but did not reach out to haulers in rural areas on this proposed criteria directly. Regional Districts were directly consulted, as it is the local governments that would provide collection services under the Recycle BC program (either directly or using a contractor).
9	From your experience, what is the expected performance for recyclables (kg/hh) of a rural roadside collection service?	While rural areas typically have a lower capture rate of PPP in curbside collection services (kg collected per household), we do not have specific targets or thresholds associated with the criteria for inclusion in the Recycle BC program.
10	Are we measuring area of population pockets and adding together? Including the 10 to 15 km spaces between population pockets or not makes a pretty big impact on 'total Ha'	In the calculation of the number of hectares in a proposed service area, non-populated areas such as parks and crown land as well as residential and commercial areas not proposed to be serviced would be excluded.

## Appendix B – Written Feedback

Recycle BC held its Curbside Equivalency Criteria Consultation on November 13, 2019. Written feedback was received from four Regional Districts. Feedback for clarity on the proposed definitions and criteria was addressed by providing answers directly to each respondent. The feedback is provided below (edited to remove identifier):

### 1. Regional District

- Please see <chart> below for Service Area size details, by community.
- All of these communities are within a 20km radius of the City. With approximately 3,000 households, and rounding up the service area to 2,500 ha to account for potential growth, this gives 1.2 households / hectare. Please let me know if this is adequate, and if you require any additional information.
- We have two First Nation communities that provide their own curbside collection service within our service area. I did not include these communities in the shape files I sent you, but I think it's important to consider them, as they may want to transfer over their collection to the Regional District to manage in order to participate in the Recycle BC program. Our GIS expert is going to help me quantify the area of these two communities in hectares.

### 2. Regional District

- The RD supports the criteria allowing the “on-boarding” of unincorporated communities as well as the recommended minimum population density threshold of 0.42 households per hectare.
- The RD does have concerns regarding the criteria suggested by Recycle BC that:
  - A curbside garbage collection program be in place for a minimum of two years in advance of the new curbside program for the same households.
- It was indicated during the webinar that Recycle BC would only consider on-boarding curbside recycling where the local government had provided curbside garbage collection for a minimum of two years. In many urbanized rural communities, curbside garbage collection is handled through private sector contracts with residents. The RD recently conducted engagement sessions in urbanized rural communities. The RD asked community residents about their willingness for the RD to engage in curbside garbage and recycling collection. One of the themes that emerged from the consultation was that there was general acceptance of existing private curbside collection opportunities for garbage and there would be interest regarding opportunities for the local government to advance a curbside recycling initiative.
- It appears that in this case, the program would not be accepted by Recycle BC as the garbage collection program that exists was not an initiative of the local government. Funding curbside collection of recyclables through an agreement with Recycle BC would significantly offset the costs and remove associated barriers for successful local government program implementation.

### 3. Regional District

- When Recycle BC is evaluating if an area has had a curbside garbage collection program established for a minimum of 2 years, must this service have been provided by the Regional District, or could this be curbside service that was paid for by the residents directly (subscription)?

#### 4. Regional District

- Household Density and Service Area Population
  - The minimum household density of 0.42 households per hectare and minimum population of 5,000 residents to qualify for curbside service are reasonable targets to meet. Given the geography of the RD much of the population in rural areas is concentrated alongside transportation corridors. Measuring the household density on per hectare basis in these areas could be misleading and an alternative proposal to measure household density per kilometer of potential curbside route distance could serve as a more accurate and useful qualifier. An alternative yet equal metric should be developed in these terms.
- Inclusion of Ferry Service in Curbside Routes
  - Several communities in the RD are accessible only by ferry. Unlike most island communities on the coast these areas are serviced by ferries that run 'on demand'. These crossings are considered part of the highway system and typically take only five to ten minutes. Should the communities be considered for curbside service we ask that the communities served by ferry also be considered as part of the same service area.
- Inclusion of Small Incorporated Communities in Eligible Service Areas
  - There are several small, dense incorporated communities in the RD that cannot qualify on their own for curbside service with RBC. Adding them to potential service areas encompassing the surrounding unincorporated rural areas would increase the efficiency of collection routes and should be considered for municipalities that otherwise cannot meet the criteria for curbside service.
- Existing Curbside Garbage Collection
  - The requirement that service areas have curbside garbage collection for two years prior to qualifying for recycling service through RBC is an unfair condition in many areas. Unlike a recycling service there is no financial incentive provided for garbage collection and all costs ultimately fall to taxpayers. Greater efficiencies can be found in providing and establishing garbage and recycling service in an area at the same time. A new service area should not be penalized if it meets the other requirements for curbside recycling collection due to it not previously bearing the cost of expensive curbside garbage service. At the very least an alternative metric should be developed for service areas that have a high level of subscriptions to private garbage collection services as this demonstrates demand and feasibility for further curbside collection.
- Alternative Funding for Curbside Programs
  - It was revealed in the webinar on November 13, 2019 that qualified curbside program collectors will receive compensation equal to the rates outlined in the current Curbside Collection Statement of Work. This amounts to a maximum contribution of approximately \$40 per household served per year for single stream collection. This will not cover the full costs of collection in almost all unincorporated areas that will qualify for service under the proposed guidelines. Since the qualifying collectors will still bear a significant portion of the service costs RBC should permit local governments to develop their own equivalent collection programs in non-qualifying areas and receive equal compensation from RBC. These programs would collect the same materials as RBC and transport recyclables to the nearest consolidation facility for further processing by RBC's designated contractors. In this

way a much larger area and population of the province can be provided with an equal standard of recycling services.



**RECYCLEBC™**

**Multi-Family Service**

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

August 2021

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## SECTION 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Director's Letter re: Multi-Family

In the Director's letter approving Recycle BC's Plan (June 28, 2019), the Statutory Decision Maker acknowledged that Recycle BC's submitted Program Plan "does address a comprehensive means to increase consumer awareness in this sector and demonstrates a 4% increase from 2017-2018 in multi-family households served"; however, the Director added a new requirement for Recycle BC:

- "...the plan does not include a graduated multi-family servicing target for multi-family expansion. A more detailed commitment in this regard is required."

Recycle BC is required to submit a proposed amendment to its Program Plan on this commitment by August 31, 2021, to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS).

This report will serve as a companion document on multi-family service to support the corresponding amended language to be added to the Program Plan (see section 3 of this report below).

### 1.2 Multi-Family Service Background

Recycle BC's approved 2013 Program Plan set out how it would deliver services:

- "Under the Recycling Regulation, MMBC will assume responsibility for driving residential PPP collection and recycling activity in BC, effectively supplanting the role that local governments have historically played. Accordingly, at the outset, it is assumed that MMBC will largely assume responsibility for the existing BC PPP collection and recycling system and will set conditions for future improvements in effectiveness and efficiency of PPP recovery in BC."  
(<https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/MMBC-PPP-Stewardship-Plan-Apr8-2013.pdf> page 6)

Appendix C of the approved 2013 Program Plan provided specific deliverables against this commitment. The details for multi-family service are provided below:

- "Maintain, at a minimum, single-family and multi-family household service levels, where these households currently receive PPP collection, across Regional Districts as outlined in Appendix B."
  - "Re multi-family households: Appendix C of the Current System report indicates that 405,666 of the 512,511 multi-family households are receiving collection service and 90,096 multi-family households have access only to depots,
- "Provide depot collection of PPP for the approximately 17,000 multi-family households currently without depot collection service."
  - "Appendix C of the report titled Current System for Managing Residential Packaging and Printed Paper (March 2012) indicates that 405,666 of the 512,511 multi-family households are receiving collection service and 90,096 multi-family households have access only to depots, leaving 16,749 multi-family households requiring depot service."

Recycle BC met and exceeded its first five-year program plan (2013 – 2018) performance measure obligation with 435,000 multi-family households receiving collection service from Recycle BC and 211 depot locations across the province providing accessibility to the remaining multi-family households in 2018. (<https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Recycle-BC-2018-Annual-Report-1.pdf>)

For its second five-year program plan (2018 – 2023), Recycle BC committed to not only an annual maintenance target (Appendix B of the Program Plan) but, in Section 4.3.7 Multi-family Collection, further expansion growth in the areas of continuous service improvement, wait-list on-boarding and organic growth. ([https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RecycleBCStewardshipPlan\\_16July2019.pdf](https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RecycleBCStewardshipPlan_16July2019.pdf))

In its 2020 Annual Report, Recycle BC reported the following service levels against these commitments:

- Annual target for maintenance in program plan: 421,600 multi-family households. Reported 457,000 multi-family households served;
- Continuous service improvement: total service increase of 3.8% over 2019;
- Wait list: onboarded City of Delta for multi-family building collection; and
- Organic growth: 2.3%.

Recycle BC continues to meet and exceed its program plan commitments. Recycle BC is expanding multi-family service in its program; however, some challenges exist with setting a target as it is the prerogative of private waste management companies to decline Recycle BC's offer to provide multi-family service and to continue to operate a multi-family collection service outside of the Recycle BC program.

### 1.3 Recycle BC Proposal

In the Director's letter approving Recycle BC's Plan (June 28, 2019), the Statutory Decision Maker reviewed the area of reasonable and free consumer access to collection pursuant to subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation:

5(1) On receipt of an extended producer responsibility plan submitted under section 4 [submission of extended producer responsibility plan], the director may approve the plan if the director is satisfied that

...

(c) the plan adequately provides for

...

(iii) reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities or collection services.

Recycle BC has met its obligation under this section of the Regulation attaining a 99% level of accessibility and providing continuous improvement in curbside, multi-family and depot channel growth. It is Recycle BC's view that the new requirement for a multi-family servicing target imposes new obligations upon the program that did not exist previously, specifically, the imposition of channel-specific targets.

A channel-specific target is prescriptive to how a stewardship program attains its recovery and accessibility targets vs. an outcomes-based approach by the regulator. Additionally, achieving a multi-family service target is beyond Recycle BC's control (as explained in Section 1.2) and does not

follow the best practice that targets should meet the SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic/relevant, timely) criteria, specifically the criterion pertaining to attainability. Recycle BC cannot mandate multi-family dwellings, or the waste management industry, to participate in its program, it can only provide offers. Likewise, Recycle BC does not have influence over how waste is managed within a multi-family suite of garbage, organics and recycling services in a business-to-business relationship between private companies.

Because a target is not achievable or realistic/relevant, and there are difficulties in measurement (see section below), Recycle BC is proposing multi-family reporting metrics for the MOECCS to use to assess multi-family service expansion within the Recycle BC program in place of a target.

## SECTION 2: Multi-Family Service Reporting Metrics

For multi-family service reporting, the data is complex. For example, service to some multi-family dwellings will be managed through curbside collection, as some multi-family dwellings do individual curbside setouts of materials, therefore understating the actual multi-family household service number (these are counted as single family households). As well, multi-family service household numbers regularly fluctuate, based on organic population shifts and on buildings switching between commercial waste management collection service providers as property managers select the waste management package that best serves their garbage, recycling, and organic collection needs. Recycle BC proposes to report on multi-family service by defining this collection channel and how its service will be calculated and recorded for reporting.

### 2.1 Definitions

- “Multi-Family Building” means a complex, where residents are expected to deliver In-Scope PPP to a central storage area accessible by all residents, from which collection occurs. (<https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Recycle-BC-LG-MF-SOW-June-10-2018.pdf>)
- “Multi-family complex” defined as “Excluding single-family dwellings with suites and/or laneway houses and converted single-family dwellings, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes. (Recycle BC 2013 Program Plan, link in section 1.2 above, footnote 24)

### 2.2 Background Context

Quantifying the number of multi-family households is difficult. The original source for Recycle BC’s multi-family household baseline was a combination of 2011 Census data and a 2011/12 local government survey.

The census definition of multi-family and Recycle BC’s definition are quite different:

- The census uses architecture to define dwelling type;
- Recycle BC’s definition and resulting data is based on method of collection.

This is so because, depending on how individual local governments categorize housing types, the data may have been inconsistently reported to Recycle BC. For example, a multi-family trailer park could fall into three local government categories: residential single family collection, residential multi-family collection, or commercial collection (collection type and park use). Recycle BC made its 2013 Program Plan commitment in Appendix C of the Program Plan, relying on a constructed baseline context.

Based on this background context, Recycle BC has developed a methodology to track and report multi-family service expansion.

## 2.3 Methodology

Recycle BC will undertake the following steps to develop an annual report to the MOECCS on multi-family service expansion:

1. Align census data to the 2013 Program Plan's reported multi-family households;
  - Map 2016 census data to 2011 census data to align to the 2011/12 survey (Current System for Managing Residential Packaging and Printed Paper in BC, March 2012, Appendix C) outcome as closely as possible. Document this mapping model in order to replicate again with 2021 census data for tracking multi-family household numbers and 5-year growth increments;
    - Status: completed.
  - Map 2021 census data using 2016 mapping model to determine Recycle BC performance from 2013 baseline to current (2021) census reporting year;
    - Status: requires Statistics Canada to release the 2021 long form census results, which it forecasts will be published early 2022.
2. Update multi-family collectors' household counts in their service areas in Recycle BC's data base as some collectors do not report changes on a regular (annual at minimum) basis;
  - Status: completed for 2020; and
  - Will be repeated in 2021 and annually thereafter at minimum.
3. Following the completion of steps 1 and 2, calculate multi-family performance annually against the following metrics:
  - Percentage of multi-family households serviced: Recycle BC served as a percentage of provincial total;
  - Program multi-family service growth rate: Recycle BC served compared to Census growth rate, using the 2016 mapping model; and
  - If sufficient long-form census capture: Recycle BC served by regional district compared to census multi-family by regional district using 2016 mapping model.
4. Calculate multi-family performance annually against other reporting metrics that are not dependent upon census data;
  - Number of multi-family households served vs. target for maintenance in program plan;
  - Number of multi-family households from onboarding waitlist or in communities that now meet curbside service criteria; and
  - New: Number of multi-family households added and number of multi-family households that exited program, in addition to overall household served number.
5. Consider other reporting metrics that may be interesting to provide for a particular year or period, such as:
  - Number of regional districts with multi-family service through the Recycle BC program (e.g., 7 regional districts provided multi-family PPP collection (2011/12 survey) and 17 regional districts now have multi-family collection with Recycle BC (2020)).
6. Develop report format for multi-family service expansion and provide report to MOECCS annually, as with onboarding update.

## 2.4 Performance Metrics

The multi-family performance metrics that Recycle BC proposes reporting annually for the MOECCS to use to assess multi-family service expansion within the Recycle BC program, in place of a target, are summarized below:

1. Number of multi-family households served vs. target for maintenance in program plan;
2. Number of multi-family households on-boarded from wait list or in communities that now meet curbside service criteria;
3. Number of multi-family households added and number of multi-family households that exited program, in addition to net household served number;
4. Percentage of multi-family households serviced: Recycle BC served as a percentage of provincial total;
5. Program multi-family service growth rate: Recycle BC served compared to census growth rate, using the 2016 mapping model;
6. If sufficient long-form census data capture: Recycle BC multi-family served by regional district compared to census multi-family by regional district using 2016 mapping model; and
7. Other reporting metrics that may be interesting to provide for a particular year or period as appropriate.

## SECTION 3: Amendment

### 3.1 Regulation Subsection 5(1)(c)(iii)

Recycle BC's Program Plan adequately provides for reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities. Recycle BC provides accessibility through curbside, multi-family, depot and First Nations Recycling Initiative collection of residential waste packaging and paper. Ninety-nine percent of households have access to Recycle BC's program in the province.

In developing Recycle BC's multi-family performance metrics, Recycle BC has demonstrated through this report the complex subject matter, its work undertaken on methodology to track multi-family service performance, and why a target is not within Recycle BC's control to achieve.

This amendment adds enhanced Recycle BC multi-family performance metrics for the MOECCS to use to assess multi-family service expansion within the Recycle BC program in place of a target.

### 3.2 Amendment Language

Recycle BC proposes for approval the following amendment language, to expand Section 4.3.7 Multi-family Collection of its current Stewardship Plan. Note: amendments are housed in the Program Plan Amendments document posted on Recycle BC's website:

*To enable the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (MOECCS) assessment of continuous improvement of multi-family service within the Recycle BC program, Recycle BC will report annually to the MOECCS a suite of metrics for a detailed review of multi-family expansion by the regulator. This reporting commitment will be included in Program Plan Appendix B – Summary of Performance Measures. Recycle BC is committed to continuous improvement*

*measures, such as the consumer awareness activities for multi-family collection to aid program expansion described in Recycle BC's Stewardship Plan under item 4.7 Communications.*

## **SECTION 4: Next Steps**

### **4.1 MOECCS Approval**

Once the MOECCS has approved the proposed amendment as outlined (3.2 Amendment Language above), Recycle BC will post this amendment to its Program Plan Amendments document on the Recycle BC website.

### **4.2 Multi-Family Service Report**

Upon approval by the MOECCS of the proposed amendment, Recycle BC will develop the report format for multi-family service expansion and provide it to the MOECCS for review in draft format before finalizing as an annual report.



**RECYCLEBC™**

## **New Glass and Metal Targets**

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

August 31, 2021

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## Introduction

Recycle BC's second program plan, dated June 2019, introduced material category recovery performance targets for Paper, Plastic, Metal and Glass. In addition to establishing targets for these four major categories, Recycle BC set recovery performance targets for rigid and flexible plastic subcategories. As a material category achieves and maintains its target recovery rate for two years, a new target will be set. Recycle BC, when preparing for its next 5-year program plan (2023 – 2028), will consult on performance targets and measures as per its commitment in Appendix B of the current program plan ([https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RecycleBCStewardshipPlan\\_16July2019.pdf](https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RecycleBCStewardshipPlan_16July2019.pdf)).

Recycle BC reports on the performance of its packaging and paper (PPP) program in an annual report submitted to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) and posted on its website by July 1 each year (<https://recyclebc.ca/about-recyclebc/program-overview/annual-reports/>). Starting in 2019, tonnes and recovery rates for the following material categories are reported annually: paper, plastic, metal and glass, as well as plastic sub-categories of rigid plastic and flexible plastic.

Recycle BC achieved its glass and metal targets in 2018 and 2019 and therefore set new targets for these two materials for 2020. These new targets, and performance against them, were reported in Recycle BC's 2020 Annual Report.

The MOECCS requested Recycle BC submit an amendment pertaining to the two new targets, and to also provide the methodology used to set the new targets. This document contains the amendment and the additional information requested.

## Target Details

Recycle BC is the first jurisdiction in North America to have material-specific reporting for packaging and paper product and to set targets for rigid and flexible plastic subcategories. These first material-specific recovery targets are consistent with the European Union's targets, including plastic targets of 50% by 2025 and 55% by 2030, set as part of the efforts to transition to a circular economy. Similarly, they are consistent with the targets set in the Plastics Charter, tabled by Canada at the 2018 G7, (i.e., recycle and reuse 55% of plastic packaging by 2030 and recover 100% of all plastics by 2040).

The target rate chart in Recycle BC's program plan is:

Material Category	2017 Recovery Rate	Target Recovery Rate	Year to Achieve Target
Paper	87%	90%	2020
Plastic	41%	50%	2025
Rigid Plastic	50%	55%	2022
		60%	2025
Flexible Plastic	20% <sup>26</sup>	22%	2022
		25%	2025
Metal	66%	67%	2020
Glass	72%	75%	2020

(footnote 26: Please note that in 2017 plastic laminates were not targeted for collection but nonetheless residents disposed of them in the Recycle BC system and those quantities are included here.)

The table below provides the material specific recovery rates, as reported in Annual Reports, and the respective targets for each material in the corresponding year.

Glass and Metal, highlighted in green, achieved their targets and therefore Recycle BC set new targets for 2020. The materials highlighted in pale orange will be monitored for their achievement in the upcoming years.

Material Category	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019
	Recovery Rate (Published)			Target Recovery Rate	
Paper	87%	86%	83%	88%	89%
Plastic	41%	42%	46%	42%	43%
Rigid Plastic	51%	54%	56%	51%	52%
Flexible Plastic	21%	19%	22%	20%	21%
Metal	67%	67%	73%	66%	67%
Glass	73%	78%	87%	73%	74%

## 2.1 Target Methodology

The material specific target rate method outlined below is principally in line with the calculation of the regulatory recovery rate (RR) whereby the RR is a percentage with the numerator representing the quantity of PPP collected and the denominator representing the quantity of PPP supplied.

The methodology for setting material-specific targets considers the last three calendar years preceding the year of the new target, for the respective supply and collection years as reported in each Annual Report, in order to assess the trend and trajectory of the material’s performance.

The material specific target rates are calculated as follows:

*Recovery Rate Target =*

$$\frac{\text{Latest Material Specific Collection Quantity} \times (1 + \text{Material Specific Collection Growth}) \times (1 + \text{Program Growth})}{\text{Latest Material Specific Supplied quantity} \times (1 + \text{Material Specific Supplied Growth})}$$

The components of the calculation are defined as follows:

- Latest Material Specific Collection Quantity:
  - Material specific collection quantity as reported in the Annual Report preceding the year of the new target.
- Material Specific Collection Growth:

- The growth in the net collected quantities of the material in question over a period of the last three calendar years preceding the year of the new target.
- Latest Material Specific Supplied Quantity:
  - Material specific supplied quantity as reported in the Annual Report preceding the year of the new target.
- Material Specific Supplied Growth:
  - The growth in the supplied quantities of the material in question over a period of the last three calendar years preceding the year of the new target.
- Program Growth:
  - Estimated growth in the program collection over the last three years including the year of the new target.

The above methodology and specific calculations for glass and metal were performed for the new 2020 targets. This resulted in a new target of 98% for glass (previous target 74%) and a new target of 81% for metal (previous target 67%).

## 2.2 Additional Information

It should also be noted that when calculating the program and material category recovery rates, Recycle BC excludes any quantities of material collected on behalf of others to ensure there is no ‘double-counting’ of recovered tonnes by Recycle BC and other agencies on behalf of whom material is collected. For example, some deposit containers are disposed of by residents in the Recycle BC system. These quantities are sold to Encorp Pacific and are not included when Recycle BC calculates its program and material category performance. Further, newspapers are managed in the Recycle BC system and reported by News Media Canada in the Annual Report of its Stewardship Plan performance. These are two examples where Recycle BC is compensated to manage materials on behalf of others but does not credit its program performance with these materials.

Stakeholders can be confident in the metrics reported by Recycle BC because each year Recycle BC is subject to third party assurance for non-financial information in the annual report. Annually, Recycle BC provides its auditors with the *Product Stewardship Annual Report Submission Checklist and Guidance* document provided by the Ministry to ensure the objectives of the audit are satisfied. The findings of the third-party assurance audit are included in Recycle BC’s annual report.

It should be noted that the pandemic’s effect on recycling behaviour made 2020 an anomalous year to historical trend. 2021 is anticipated to be affected as well.

The 2020 Annual Report was approved by Recycle BC’s Board of Directors at its June 29, 2021, meeting.

## Amendment

The following amendment pertains to Recycle BC’s new targets for glass and metal, and performance against them, as reported in Recycle BC’s 2020 Annual Report. The amendment, once approved by the Ministry, will be published in a companion document to the Program Plan within 30 days of approval. This companion document will hold all future amendments to the June 2019 plan in one place for ease of reference. All links contained in the amendment will be active upon publishing.

**Amendment:**

### Achievement of Glass and Metal Recovery Targets

The government-approved 2019 Recycle BC Program Plan introduced material category recovery performance targets for paper, plastic, metal and glass. The targets were established to promote continuous improvement. Once a target has been achieved and maintained for two years, Recycle BC has committed to revising the target. New target rates for these materials are:

Material Category	2020 Recovery Rate*	Updated Target Recovery Rate	2019 Recovery Rate	Target Recovery Rate	Year To Achieve Target
Paper	90%		83%	90%	2020
Plastic	52%		46%	50%	2025
Rigid Plastic	64%		56%	55%	2022
				60%	2025
Flexible Plastic	24%		22%	22%	2022
				25%	2025
Metal	85%	81%	73%	67%	2022
Glass	97%	98%	87%	75%	2022

\* The pandemic effect on recycling behaviour made 2020 an anomalous year to historical trend. 2021 is anticipated to be affected as well.



**RECYCLEBC™**

## **Streetscape**

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

August 31, 2021

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## SECTION 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Director's Letter re: Streetscape

In the Director's letter approving Recycle BC's Plan (June 28, 2019), the Statutory Decision Maker stated that Recycle BC's plan "does not indicate how or when the results of the advisory group consultation process will be reflected in a future plan amendment including specific service commitments once the consultation is completed." Recycle BC was required to summarize:

- The advisory group consultation methodologies;
- The process involved;
- How stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed; and
- The resulting service and funding commitments, and program deliverables.

Recycle BC is required to submit a proposed amendment to its Program Plan on this requirement by August 31, 2021, to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS).

This report will serve as a companion document on streetscape to support the corresponding amended language to be added to the Program Plan (see section 3 of this report below).

### 1.2 Streetscape Background

Recycle BC has been studying streetscape recycling since 2014, through pilot projects, studies, municipal roundtables and consultations, and reviews of programs in other jurisdictions. The original Program Plan, approved by the Ministry in 2013, and again in 2016, stipulated that Recycle BC would offer a financial incentive to local governments, "Subject to proof of concept through testing effective delivery of streetscape collection systems."

<https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/MMBC-PPP-Stewardship-Plan-Apr8-2013.pdf> p.22.

The question of proof of concept has been central to Recycle BC's compliance with the Recycling Regulation's stipulation of EPR for streetscape. Proof of concept, for Recycle BC, must include the necessary data for the creation of a commercial agreement, the proffering of a financial incentive, and the demonstration of positive environmental outcomes.

The program has twice consulted with local governments on streetscape program outlines and financial incentive offers. Both times local governments did not accept the offers. Both consultations surfaced a recurring challenge centred around a conflict between the local governments' purpose for providing streetscape and Recycle BC's obligation under the Province's Recycling Regulation. Essentially, Recycle BC is asking municipalities to participate in a streetscape program that is driven by the rigor of what a stewardship program needs, which is outside of a local government's civic requirements for on-street waste diversion and litter abatement.

Local governments primarily provide streetscape as a form of litter abatement, with reports as high as 100% of streetscape materials being managed by landfill disposal or energy recovery. Meanwhile, the Recycling Regulation explicitly requires of Recycle BC a rigorous approach to reporting and adherence to the Pollution Prevention Hierarchy. This fundamental challenge, centred on the divergent needs of the parties in question, significantly impacts the creation of an extended

producer responsibility system for streetscape that is practical, defensible, reasonable, and sustainable.

As Recycle BC develops its proposed amendment for streetscape, society continues to change and challenge streetscape:

- The pandemic has changed societal behaviour for shopping, dining, and travel, as well as stewards' financial situations, including bankruptcies, closing of storefronts and switching sales to online;
- Local governments are enacting bans for some items that are traditionally deposited in on-street recycling stations: single-use products such as plastic shopping bags, plastic cutlery and straws, foam food service packaging, and foam drink cups. Similar bans are pending from federal and provincial governments;
- Many quick service restaurants are changing take-out packaging to compostable paper and plastic as an alternative to foam and traditional plastic. The current Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) does not recognize compostable plastic and paper thereby designating it a contaminant for the green bin. Compostable plastic materials are also contaminants in the recycling station, as is regular packaging soiled with food;
- Streetscape currently represents an unacceptably high source of greenhouse gas emissions for marginal environmental outcomes. To date, it is not aligned to the Province of British Columbia's *Clean BC* strategy; and
- There is heightened public awareness of the importance of being transparent and avoiding greenwashing, particularly for recycling programs, due to the public's significant concern for plastic pollution and the state of the environment, particularly oceans.

Recycle BC's robust and extensive research and engagement on streetscape, plus the current context of today's changing environment, form the basis of Recycle BC's proposed amendment.

### 1.3 Recycle BC Proposal

Recycle BC's amendment is set on three principles: trust, cost, and fairness. For each, there are clear areas of concern and potential opportunities for mitigation.

#### 1. Trust:

- **Concern:** Streetscape collection is not aligned to the *Clean BC* strategy to date. It currently represents an unacceptably high greenhouse gas emission-intensive process as compared to the data which has generally demonstrated poor environmental outcomes for materials resulting from extremely high contamination. The public expectation of recycling stations vs. the actual end of life fate of most materials poses a significant risk to public trust and raises concerns associated with allegations of greenwashing.
- **Mitigation:** Develop a baseline standard for collection contamination as the threshold for entering the Recycle BC streetscape program and set a minimum recycling rate (collected vs. marketable quantities) for end-of-life material management to ensure a positive environmental outcome for the program.

#### 2. Cost:

- **Concern:** The costs associated with the Recycle BC program, both funding the program and expanding Ministry expectations, have nearly doubled since program inception. The cost of



managing streetscape material is going to significantly impact producers already hard-hit by COVID-19, especially the restaurants, who comprise a significant portion of the Recycle BC materials found in streetscape (take-out containers and drink cups) and who have struggled greatly throughout the pandemic. With renewed concerns associated with a now-declared 4<sup>th</sup> pandemic wave and the return to school and fall flu season approaching, some businesses are on tenterhooks as they consider potential future impacts to their financial stability.

- Mitigation: Both the federal and provincial governments are expected to bring forth single use product bans. The federal government bans (expected by end of 2021) will target six plastic products: plastic check-out bags, stir sticks, 6-pack rings, cutlery, straws, and food service ware made from problematic plastics). Following the enactment of these bans, or any action by the province to formally ban single-use products province-wide, Recycle BC will audit on-street receptacles to determine material composition and the appropriate disposal containers – recycling (paper, containers), organics (dependent upon OMRR), and garbage. Recycle BC's audit will occur the later of April 2022 or 6 months following MOECCS approval of this amendment. Recycle BC will develop an audit methodology that is practical and affordable to use to set and validate Recycle BC's program entry parameters for collection contamination, to ensure brand owners are funding a program for their materials and not general waste.

### 3. Fairness:

- Concern: The high incidence of other stewardship programs' materials in streetscape receptacles is not currently addressed by the Recycling Regulation. A pilot study conducted in 2019 in BC found more than one third of the containers in the container receptacle were deposit materials and yet the Regulation is currently only being applied to packaging and paper. A survey of residents in Quebec found that the top items residents place in streetscape are water bottles, newspapers, milk and juice containers, none of which are Recycle BC materials (milk exits the program in February 2022).
- Mitigation: Recycle BC's service and funding commitments and program deliverables for streetscape will be for its program stewards' materials. As a result, local governments will remain responsible for costs associated with materials that fall under the responsibility of other stewardship programs.

Recycle BC conducted an in-depth review of the activities it has undertaken since program inception, both in concert with local governments and independently, in preparation for the submission of this amendment. Recycle BC, through the mitigation steps outlined above, is proposing a series of activities that are necessary to its new streetscape program offer, to ensure that the three principles of trust, cost, and fairness are respected.

A Recycle BC program for streetscape cannot be divorced from its overall obligations and interests. These interests include achieving class-leading environmental results for all of the materials it collects, ensuring a program that operates efficiently and without undue expense to producers, preserving the reputation of the Recycle BC program, maintaining the confidence of residents, managing the expectations of stakeholders, and ensuring the continuous improvement of the program, among many others.

## SECTION 2: Streetscape Consultation Process and Outcomes

This section responds to the Director's letter requirement to summarize:

- The advisory group consultation methodologies;
- The process involved;
- How stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed; and
- The resulting service and funding commitments, and program deliverables.

The supporting documents to Recycle BC's work on streetscape are posted on its website. For ease of reference, they can be accessed as follows:

- General streetscape information: <https://recyclebc.ca/promotion-education-resources/on-street-recycling/>
- Streetscape Round Table report: [https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Streetscape-Roundtable-Final-Report\\_25Feb2020.pdf](https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Streetscape-Roundtable-Final-Report_25Feb2020.pdf)
- Consultation PPT presentation: [https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Streetscape-Recycling\\_Consultation-Presentation-07.22.2020.pdf](https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Streetscape-Recycling_Consultation-Presentation-07.22.2020.pdf)
- Consultation report: [https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Consultation-Report\\_Streetscape-Recycling\\_September\\_2020.pdf](https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Consultation-Report_Streetscape-Recycling_September_2020.pdf).

### 2.1 Consultation Methodology

1. Information Assembly:
  - Streetscape recycling – definitions, eligibility criteria, program scope;
  - Round Table discussion series – description, list of eligible municipalities, structure of series;
  - Background information – Recycle BC pilot and consultation outcomes plus other streetscape recycling municipal audit results; and
  - External jurisdiction scan – North American and international current reality and best practices for streetscape recycling and related drivers and challenges.
2. Data Assembly (from local government survey):
  - Collected tonnes;
  - Municipal costs;
  - Contamination rate & historical municipal studies and audits;
  - Streetscape infrastructure details and collection frequency information;
  - Eligible local government current program status; and
  - Round table poll and breakout information.
3. Assumptions:
  - Current practices, including environmental outcomes gathered from participating municipalities, can inform Recycle BC's forthcoming recommendations and program requirements;
  - Key preferences and priorities expressed by municipalities related to their role in infrastructure, collection, processing, and end fate for managing packaging and paper products, can inform best practices, priorities, and challenges for optimizing capture and reducing contamination, in program design elements; and

- Program design must enable a commercial transaction and therefore requires measured and verifiable outcomes in return for payment.
4. Analysis and Meeting Material Preparation:
- Recycle BC considerations to inform program requirements, such as standards, GHG emissions, efficiency and effectiveness, and environmental outcomes;
  - Proposed streetscape program design; and
  - Proposed financial incentive rates.

## 2.2 Consultation Process

In 2019, Recycle BC engaged a third-party organization, Alces Technologies Inc., to facilitate six round table sessions among local government representatives in BC. Twenty-seven of the 31 eligible municipalities participated in some form for the duration of the series from May to November 2019. At least 50% of invited municipalities attended a majority of the sessions held by webinar (3), and in-person (North Vancouver, Burnaby, and Kelowna). Representatives from the MOECCS also participated in the roundtable series, with a presentation by the Ministry during the second in-person session.

Municipalities within BC came together to:

- Discuss a suitable recycling or recovery model and inputs to inform the development of a financial incentive offer from Recycle BC for the collection of streetscape material;
- Assess current and historical findings from local governments with streetscape programs; and
- Seek consensus on best practices for execution.

Extensive information collection exercises with the municipal partners occurred during the series in the form of surveys, polls, and facilitated discussions, and additional research was conducted to inform the ongoing discussions. Municipal audits were harmonized and aggregated alongside Recycle BC audit data to show accuracy and capture rates as available.

Recycle BC's consultant undertook an external jurisdictional scan through North American interviews and international online research. The intent was to gauge and evaluate current practices in higher performing jurisdictions globally to determine materials collected and what is recycled versus disposed. Scanned jurisdictions spanned Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The latter part of the round table series involved Recycle BC presenting its preliminary streetscape program design considerations to inform future program requirements for participating municipalities.

Following the round table series, Recycle BC further consulted on program design and financial incentives. Recycle BC's process was as follows:

- Consultation Invitation
  - Sent to all 31 eligible municipalities; and
  - The MOECCS was invited to attend the consultation as an observer.
- Consultation Webinar

- Recycle BC’s consultation webinar provided an overview of streetscape recycling, a recap of the 2019 round table series and a summary of Recycle BC’s considerations in developing its proposal. This webinar outlined the new proposed program design and financial incentive. It concluded with a question-and-answer period; and
- During the webinar, Recycle BC noted that specific feedback by collectors is essential to the consultation process.
- Feedback Process
  - The webinar agenda provided time for participants to ask questions, which were answered during the webinar. The Question-and-Answer document was posted on Recycle BC’s website alongside the webinar post; and
  - Following the consultation webinar there was a two-week consultation feedback period.
- Consultation Report
  - The feedback received was reviewed in detail by Recycle BC and considered against the proposed program design and financial incentive offer; and
  - The Streetscape Recycling Program Design and Financial Incentive Consultation Report, September 2020, summarizes Recycle BC’s consultation process. It is posted on Recycle BC’s website.

## 2.3 Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholder comments were solicited through the consultation process, written feedback was received from four collectors and addressed in the consultation report as follows:

1. Organics - Two local governments provided feedback on their program design of including soiled and unsoiled paper in the green organics receptacle for end fate composting and want this element to be allowed as multi-stream collection.
  - Recycle BC consideration: It is not yet determined how to address an organics stream as the OMRR revisions, including to add paper as an acceptable material for organic collection, have not been implemented. Currently, under OMRR, paper is a contaminant. If OMRR is revised to include paper as acceptable for compost recycling, Recycle BC will revisit this element in its proposal as part of multi-stream collection.
2. Annual Audit – Three local governments requested more information on the audit process.
  - Recycle BC consideration: The audit will have a format - by sample size, materials and weights - for a common methodology and to compare/compile audit results. The size of the sample will in part be determined by how many stations/receptacles there are for collection. It will be a representative sample of streetscape collection containers on, at minimum, an annual basis, in order to calculate the amount and type of contamination in the collected material.
3. Processing - Two local governments queried why Recycle BC would not provide access to end processors.
  - Recycle BC’s proposal is for separate management because high contamination levels in streetscape create unmarketable material that must not impact Recycle BC’s current residential recycling program and its ability to market clean recyclables. We do not have the capacity to ease access to markets. Markets operate independently of our program,

competition is intense, and we must maintain our focus on ensuring we can successfully market the majority of the +200K tonnes that make up our core program.

4. End Fate - Two local governments questioned the detail required for end fate reporting.
  - Recycle BC consideration: As part of program compliance, it is important for Recycle BC to have transparency in reporting on the end fate for the material collected. For end fate, the processor will provide the local government with what they did with the collected material. Avoiding this requirement could result in legitimate charges of greenwashing.

## 2.4 Service and Funding Commitments, and Program Deliverables

Recycle BC presented its service and funding commitments at the conclusion of the 2020 streetscape consultation. Only four local governments responded to Recycle BC's proposed program offer, and none accepted the proposal.

To address the challenges surfaced during Recycle BC's 2020 consultation, Recycle BC will undertake several activities that are necessary to a new program offer:

- Develop a baseline standard for collection contamination as the threshold for entering the Recycle BC streetscape program and set a minimum recycling rate (collected vs. marketable) for end-of-life material management to ensure a positive environmental outcome for the program;
- Following the implementation of single-use product bans, audit on-street receptacles to determine material composition and the appropriate disposal containers – recycling (paper, containers), organics (dependent upon OMRR), and garbage. Recycle BC's audit will occur the later of April 2022 or 6 months following MOECCS approval of this amendment;
- Develop a separate audit methodology that is practical and affordable to use to set and validate Recycle BC's program entry parameters for collection contamination, to ensure brand owners are funding a program for their materials and not general waste; and
- Test the audit methodology in a streetscape community that has implemented single-use product bans and has demonstrated a reasonable contamination rate.
- Prepare the revised service and funding commitments to collectors and consult with collectors prior to implementing this program.

Recycle BC's revised service and funding commitments, and program deliverables for streetscape, will be for our program stewards' materials. For materials that fall under the responsibility of other stewardship programs, Recycle BC defers to the MOECCS for their direction to other programs.

Recycle BC will use all the above deliverables to construct our next service and funding offer for an effective streetscape program for packaging and paper products.

## SECTION 3: Amendment

### 3.1 Regulation Subsection 5(1)(c)(iii)

Recycle BC's Program Plan adequately provides for reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities. Recycle BC provides accessibility through curbside, multi-family, depot and First Nations Recycling Initiative collection of residential waste packaging and paper. Ninety-nine percent of households have access to Recycle BC's program in the province. The Recycling Regulation also requires Schedule 5 programs to adequately provide for the collection of their material from municipal property.

Recycle BC has demonstrated through this report the inherent challenges in on-street recycling collection of discarded paper and packaging, and the significant work undertaken to date on streetscape to address proof of concept. Proof of concept, for Recycle BC, must include the necessary data for the creation of a commercial agreement, the proffering of a financial incentive, and the demonstration of positive environmental outcomes.

This amendment adds to Recycle BC's Program Plan the steps necessary to create an extended producer responsibility system for streetscape that is practical, defensible, reasonable, and sustainable, while respecting the three principles of trust, cost, and fairness.

### 3.2 Amendment Language

Recycle BC proposes for approval the following amendment language, to expand Section 4.3.10 Streetscape Collection of its current Program Plan. Note: amendments are housed in the posted Program Plan Amendments document on Recycle BC's website.

*Recycle BC completed its 2020 commitments for a 2020 consultation and program design offering. The supporting documents to Recycle BC's work on streetscape are posted on its website (<https://recyclebc.ca/promotion-education-resources/on-street-recycling/>).*

*The context for streetscape has continued to evolve. Streetscape collection as it is generally delivered today is not aligned to the Clean BC strategy. It currently represents an unacceptably high greenhouse gas emission-intensive process as compared to the data which has generally demonstrated poor environmental outcomes for materials resulting from extremely high contamination.*

*To address the challenges surfaced during Recycle BC's 2020 consultation, Recycle BC will undertake several activities that are necessary for a new program offer:*

- *Following the implementation of single-use product bans (either federal or provincial), audit on-street receptacles to determine material composition and the appropriate disposal containers – recycling (paper, containers), organics (dependent upon updates to the Province's Organic Matter Recycling Regulation), and garbage;*
  - *Timing: to provide a reasonable and practical timeline, given the uncertainty of federal and provincial bans, Recycle BC's audit will occur the later of April 2022 or 6 months following MOECCS approval of this amendment. The audit will target streetscape recycling stations within the City of Vancouver as the City will*

*have then banned 4 of 6 of the federal items (relies upon City approval and their planned launch date of January 1, 2022 for ban of single-use shopping bags). Should the federal ban go into effect prior to the City of Vancouver audit date, other potential streetscape communities could be included in the audit.*

- *Develop a baseline standard for collection contamination as the threshold for entering the Recycle BC streetscape program and set a minimum recycling rate (collected vs. marketable material) for end-of-life material management to ensure a positive environmental outcome for the program. The program participation standard for local governments within the streetscape program will be adjusted upward over time from the initial baseline to incent environmental outcomes to continuously improve;*
  - *Timing: following the Q2 audit of streetscape, Recycle BC will develop its baseline standard and minimum recycling rate in Q3 2022 utilizing the audit results (or if amendment approval delays audit, in following quarter to audit).*
  - *Recycle BC will set a baseline standard that takes into consideration a pathway from reasonable entry metrics (baseline), through continuous improvement stages, to an optimal target level of contamination (goal), for the compensation offered.*
- *Develop an audit methodology that is practical and affordable to use to set and validate Recycle BC's program entry parameters for collection contamination, to ensure brand owners are funding a program for their materials and not other stewardship programs' materials or general waste;*
  - *Timing: following the Q2 audit of streetscape (see bullet above), Recycle BC will develop its audit methodology in Q3 2022 (or if amendment approval delays audit, in following quarter to audit).*
- *Test the audit methodology in a streetscape community that has implemented single-use product bans and has demonstrated a reasonable contamination rate;*
  - *Timing: Recycle BC will test its audit methodology during Q4 2022 (or if amendment approval delays sequence above, in following quarter to completion of above activities).*
- *Recycle BC will prepare its revised service and funding commitments to collectors, and consult with collectors prior to implementing this program;*
  - *Timing: Recycle BC will provide the streetscape program to collectors in Q2 2023 for collectors to request an offer to join the program.*

*Recycle BC's revised service and funding commitments, and program deliverables for streetscape, will be for its program stewards' materials. For materials that fall under the responsibility of other stewardship programs, Recycle BC defers to the MOECCS for its direction to other programs.*

*As outlined above, Recycle BC's revised streetscape program, including revised financial incentive and service agreement, is dependent upon other activities beyond Recycle BC's control, to ensure that the three principles of trust, cost, and fairness are respected. Nonetheless, with this amendment Recycle BC has developed a path towards a streetscape program, mitigating external influences where possible and providing concrete timelines for action. Going forward, as the MOECCS implements amendments to OMRR, Recycle BC will consider the impact of these changes on its financial incentive and service agreement offering.*

## **SECTION 4: Next Steps**

### **4.1 MOECCS Approval**

Once the MOECCS has approved the proposed amendment as outlined (3.2 Amendment Language above), Recycle BC will post this amendment to its Stewardship Plan Amendments document on the Recycle BC website.

### **4.2 Streetscape Program**

Upon approval by the MOECCS of the proposed amendment, Recycle BC will begin the series of activities that are necessary to its new streetscape program offer, as outlined above, ensuring that the three principles of trust, cost, and fairness are respected.





CLIFF #383090  
eApproval 12038

December 20, 2021

Tamara Burns  
Executive Director Western Canada  
Recycle BC  
171 Esplanade West, suite 230  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3J9

Dear Tamara Burns,

Thank you for submitting the August 31st, 2021 program plan amendments for curbside equivalency, streetscape, multi-family service, and glass and metal targets in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 5(1)(a)(iii), (c)(iii) and (d)(ii) of the Recycling Regulation (the regulation) made under the *Environmental Management Act*.

I have completed my review of the proposed amendments to your Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan, and I am satisfied they meet the requirements of the regulation.

Specifically, I have been satisfied of the following:

1. Curbside Equivalency Definition

The proposed amendment has demonstrated how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation. This amendment justifies the methodology, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, and includes equivalency definition parameters, and timelines for offers to communities meeting the equivalency definition.

2. Streetscape

The proposed amendment has demonstrated how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(d)(ii) of the Regulation. This amendment summarizes the advisory group consultation methodologies, the process involved, how stakeholder comments were solicited and addressed, and the resulting service and funding commitments, and program deliverables.

3. Multi-Family Service

The proposed amendment has demonstrated how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(c)(iii) of the Regulation. This amendment provides a methodology for tracking and reporting annually

on the expansion of multi-family service, as well as confirms the promotion of such service offerings to multi-family facility owners/operators.

4. Glass and Metal Targets

The proposed amendment has demonstrated how the plan itself meets subsection 5(1)(a)(iii) of the Regulation. These amendments provide for performance targets that are capable to achieve in a reasonable time.

Thank you for your efforts on these plan amendments that demonstrate continuous improvement on several fronts. I also appreciate the industry's continued commitment to achieving compliance in this regard.

Sincerely,



Laurel Nash  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Sonya Sundberg, Executive Director, Environmental Standards Branch  
Bob McDonald, Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Section  
Tim O'Rourke, Ministry file lead, Extended Producer Responsibility Section



**RECYCLEBC™**

**Recycle BC**

**New Plastics Targets**

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

August 1, 2022

Revised October 20, 2022

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## Introduction

Recycle BC's second program plan, dated June 2019, introduced material category recovery performance targets for Paper, Plastic, Metal and Glass. In addition to establishing targets for these four major categories, Recycle BC set recovery performance targets for rigid and flexible plastic subcategories. As a material category achieves and maintains its target recovery rate for two years, a new target will be set. Recycle BC, when preparing for its next 5-year program plan (2023 – 2028), will consult on performance targets and measures as per its commitment in Appendix B of the current program plan ([https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RecycleBCStewardshipPlan\\_16July2019.pdf](https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RecycleBCStewardshipPlan_16July2019.pdf)).

Recycle BC reports on the performance of its packaging and paper (PPP) program in an annual report submitted to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy ("the Ministry") and posted on its website by July 1 each year (<https://recyclebc.ca/about-recyclebc/program-overview/annual-reports/>). Starting in 2019, tonnes and recovery rates for the following material categories are reported annually: paper, plastic, metal and glass, as well as plastic sub-categories of rigid plastic and flexible plastic.

Recycle BC achieved its glass and metal targets in 2018 and 2019 and therefore set new targets for these two materials for 2020. These new targets, and performance against them, were reported in Recycle BC's 2020 Annual Report. For 2021, target recovery rates were increased for plastic, rigid plastic and flexible plastic and 2025 was set as the year to achieve the new targets.

The Ministry requested Recycle BC submit amendments pertaining to new targets, and to also provide the methodology used to set new targets. This document contains the amendment and the additional information requested.

## Target Details

Recycle BC was the first jurisdiction in North America to have material-specific reporting for packaging and paper product and to set targets for rigid and flexible plastic subcategories. These first material-specific recovery targets were consistent with the European Union's targets, including plastic targets of 50% by 2025 and 55% by 2030, set as part of the efforts to transition to a circular economy. Similarly, they were consistent with the targets set in the Plastics Charter, tabled by Canada at the 2018 G7, (i.e., recycle and reuse 55% of plastic packaging by 2030 and recover 100% of all plastics by 2040).

The target rate chart in Recycle BC's program plan (revised June 2019) was:

Material Category	2017 Recovery Rate	Target Recovery Rate	Year to Achieve Target
Paper	87%	90%	2020
Plastic	41%	50%	2025
Rigid Plastic	50%	55%	2022
		60%	2025
Flexible Plastic	20% <sup>26</sup>	22%	2022
		25%	2025
Metal	66%	67%	2020
Glass	72%	75%	2020

(footnote 26: Please note that in 2017 plastic laminates were not targeted for collection but nonetheless residents disposed of them in the Recycle BC system and those quantities are included here.)

Recycle BC achieved its glass and metal targets in 2018 and 2019 and therefore set new targets for these two materials for 2020. These new targets, and performance against them, were reported in Recycle BC's 2020 Annual Report. The Ministry approved Recycle BC's proposed Amendment for new Glass and Metal targets. The new targets were published in a companion document to the program plan, as follows:

Material Category	2020 Recovery Rate*	Updated Target Recovery Rate	2019 Recovery Rate	Target Recovery Rate	Year To Achieve Target
Paper	90%		83%	90%	2020
Plastic	52%		46%	50%	2025
Rigid Plastic	64%		56%	55%	2022
				60%	2025
Flexible Plastic	24%		22%	22%	2022
				25%	2025
Metal	85%	81%	73%	67%	2022
Glass	97%	98%	87%	75%	2022

\* The pandemic effect on recycling behaviour made 2020 an anomalous year to historical trend. 2021 is anticipated to be affected as well.

Recycle BC achieved its plastics targets in 2019 and 2020, including achieving the subcategories of rigid plastic and flexible plastic, and therefore set new targets for all plastic material for 2021.

## 2.1 Target Methodology

The material specific target rate method outlined below is principally in line with the calculation of the regulatory recovery rate (RR) whereby the RR is a percentage with the numerator representing the quantity of PPP collected and the denominator representing the quantity of PPP supplied.

The methodology for setting material-specific targets considers the last three calendar years preceding the year of the new target, for the respective supply and collection years as reported in each Annual Report, in order to assess the trend and trajectory of the material's performance.

The material specific target rates are calculated as follows:

*Recovery Rate Target =*

$$\frac{\text{Latest Material Specific Collection Quantity} \times (1 + \text{Material Specific Collection Growth}) \times (1 + \text{Program Growth})}{\text{Latest Material Specific Supplied quantity} \times (1 + \text{Material Specific Supplied Growth})}$$

The components of the calculation are defined as follows:

- Latest Material Specific Collection Quantity:
  - Material specific collection quantity as reported in the Annual Report preceding the year of the new target.
- Material Specific Collection Growth:
  - The growth in the net collected quantities of the material in question over a period of the last three calendar years preceding the year of the new target.
- Latest Material Specific Supplied Quantity:
  - Material specific supplied quantity as reported in the Annual Report preceding the year of the new target.
- Material Specific Supplied Growth:
  - The growth in the supplied quantities of the material in question over a period of the last three calendar years preceding the year of the new target.
- Program Growth:
  - Estimated growth in the program collection over the last three years including the year of the new target.

The above methodology and specific calculations for plastic and its two subcategories were performed for the new 2021 targets. This resulted in new targets of:

- Plastic: 58% (previous target 50%)
- Rigid: 73% (previous target 55%)
- Flexible 27% (previous target 22%)

## 2.2 Additional Information

Stakeholders can be confident in the metrics reported by Recycle BC because each year Recycle BC is subject to third party assurance for non-financial information in the annual report. Annually, Recycle BC provides its auditors with the *Product Stewardship Annual Report Submission Checklist and Guidance* document provided by the Ministry to ensure the objectives of the audit are satisfied. The findings of the third-party assurance audit are included in Recycle BC's annual report.

It should be noted that the pandemic effect on recycling behaviour continued in 2021. Recovery rates will continue to be impacted by the pandemic for the next couple of years until stability in supply and collection resume.

The 2021 Annual Report was approved by Recycle BC's Board of Directors at its June 21, 2022, meeting. The 2021 Annual Report, submitted June 30, 2022 to the Ministry, was assessed as a Notice of Compliance by the Compliance and Environmental Enforcement branch (inspection report (IR 191642)) on July 20, 2022.

## Amendment

The following amendment pertains to Recycle BC's new targets for plastics, and performance against them, as reported in Recycle BC's 2021 Annual Report. The amendment, once approved by the Ministry, will be published in a companion document to the program plan within 30 days of approval. This

companion document will hold all future amendments to the June 2019 plan in one place for ease of reference. All links contained in the amendment will be active upon publishing.

**Amendment:**

The government-approved 2019 Recycle BC Program Plan (PP) introduced material category recovery performance targets for paper, plastic, metal and glass (section 5.3.2 *Material Category Performance Targets*). The targets were established to promote continuous improvement. Once a target has been achieved and maintained for two years, Recycle BC has committed to revising the target and publishing in its Annual Report (AR). New target rates for these materials are:

Material Category	Updated Target Recovery Rate (2021 AR)	Updated Target Recovery Rate (2020 AR)	2021 Recovery Rate	Year to Achieve Updated Target*	Original Target Recovery Rate (2019 PP)	Original Year to Achieve Target (2019 PP)
Paper			101%		90%	2020
Plastic	58%		55%	2025	50%	2025
Rigid Plastic	73%		67%	2025	60%	2025
Flexible Plastic	27%		28%	2025	25%	2025
Metal		81%	83%	2025	67%	2020
Glass		98%	116%	2025	75%	2020

\*Recycle BC will update 2025 targets as part of its 2022 consultation for its new 5-year program plan.





**RECYCLEBC™**

**Single-Use and Packaging-Like Products**  
Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan  
Amendment

October 5, 2021, Revised and Resubmitted August 4, 2022

## SECTION 1: Introduction

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Ministry) enacted amendments to the *Recycling Regulation* in June 2020, through *Order in Council #370*, including changes to the materials to be included in the Recycle BC program. Beginning January 1, 2023, producers of Single-Use Products and Packaging-Like Products (SUP/PLP) will be obligated for these materials.

As a result, producers are required to track 2021 sales data of SUP/PLP to prepare for the 2022 reporting cycle. Reports submitted in 2022 will include 2021 SUP/PLP sales data to inform 2023 fee rates and invoices. Recycle BC will begin collection of designated SUP/PLP in 2023. Current definitions and examples of SUP/PLP are included in an [Explanatory Note](#) to the Regulation.

## SECTION 2: Recycle BC Proposal

Recycle BC's amendment seeks to address the inclusion of the newly obligated materials (SUP/PLP) in its Program Plan, and to shift the responsibility for Service Packaging as currently included in Recycle BC's Program Plan from the "filler" who supplies such packaging to consumers at point of sale, to either the brand owner, first importer or franchisor of the packaging that is ultimately supplied to consumers in British Columbia.

By introducing an obligation for SUP/PLP and listing the types of materials covered by the amendments, the Ministry's amendments will supersede Recycle BC's Program Plan definition for Service Packaging. Service packaging, as currently defined in Recycle BC's Program Plan, is comprised of both Single-Use Products and Packaging-Like Products.

Packaging-like products as defined by the Ministry include, but are not limited to, items such as:

- Food bags and films purchased as a product, food storage, sandwich and freezer bags, paper lunch bags, aluminum foil wrap, plastic shrink film wrap, paper wrap (e.g. wax paper, parchment paper);
- Disposable food storage containers purchased as a product, (i.e. containers intended for short term use), non-durable plastic, paper or other food containers (e.g. plastic lunch containers), aluminum foil pie plates and baking trays, etc.; and
- Household items purchased as a product, corrugated cardboard moving boxes, banking boxes and cardboard boxes, recycling bags (i.e. bags used to collect recyclables), LDPE/HDPE film (e.g. used as drop sheets for painting, covering items like furniture or equipment), bubble wrap, plastic plant pots and saucers.

Single-use products as defined by the Ministry include, but are not limited to, items such as:

- Straws, stir sticks, utensils, plates, bowls and cups; and
- Party supplies and paper party décor (e.g. paper streamers, pinwheels and piñatas), but does not include items such as costume wear (e.g. eye glasses), balloons, ribbons, that prove especially problematic in a recycling system.

Starting with the 2022 reporting year (2021 data) and consistent with the amendment to the Regulation, the obligated party will be required to report SUP/PLP and Service Packaging under Recycle BC's program plan. This data will inform the 2023 fees and generate the incremental revenue required to fund Recycle BC's management of these materials starting on January 1, 2023.

Service Packaging is packaging which may or may not bear a brand that is supplied at the point of sale by retail, food-service or other service providers to facilitate the delivery of goods. Service Packaging includes all bags, boxes, and other items for the containment of goods at point of sale.

As noted above, for Service Packaging, this responsibility will shift from the "filler" who supplies such packaging to consumers at point of sale, to either the brand owner, first importer or franchisor of the packaging that is ultimately supplied to consumers in British Columbia.

### **SECTION 3: Amendment Language**

Note: amendments are housed in the posted Program Plan Amendments document on Recycle BC's website.

The obligations of "small producers" and "franchise systems" will continue to be determined in accordance with the Recycling Regulation and the Government's policy guidance, as may be updated from time to time.<sup>1</sup>

Recycle BC proposes amending Section 3.1 (Packaging) to include:

*(f) effective January 1, 2023, packaging and paper products include:*

- (i) "Designated Packaging-like Products" as defined by the 2020 Amendments to the BC Recycling Regulation; and*
- (ii) "Designated Single-use Products" as defined by the 2020 Amendments to the BC Recycling Regulation [Explanatory Note](#).*

### **SECTION 4: Next Steps**

Once the Ministry has approved the proposed amendment as outlined (Section 3: Amendment Language above), Recycle BC will post this amendment to its Program Plan Amendments document on the Recycle BC website.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/recycling/recycle/paper-package/sm-producer-definition-policy-interp.pdf>



CLIFF #382796  
eApproval #11875

Tamara Burns  
Executive Director Western Canada  
Recycle BC  
171 Esplanade West, suite 230  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3J9

Dear Tamara Burns,

Thank you for your August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and revised October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 submissions regarding the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) plan amendment for New Plastics Targets in fulfillment of the requirements of your approved EPR plan (the plan). Thank you for your October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and revised August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 submissions regarding the Single-Use Plastics and Packaging-Like Products (SUP/PLP) amendment in fulfillment of the requirements of Order in Council #370, Appendix 2, which amends the Recycling Regulation (the regulation), made under the *Environmental Management Act*, to include SUP/PLP as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Under the Regulation, the director can both amend an approved EPR plan on their own initiative and approve amendments to an approved plan that are proposed by the producer.

I have completed my review of the proposed amendments to your Packaging and Paper Product (PPP) EPR plan and identified that, while elements of the proposed amendments meet the criteria set out in s5(1) of the regulation and my previous direction, certain components remain outstanding.

Prior to the issuance of this decision letter, Recycle BC was provided with feedback on the New Plastics Targets amendment as well as extensive feedback on the SUP/PLP amendment, and has had the opportunity to propose further amendments or provide additional information for consideration.

Recycle BC addressed several of the identified deficiencies either through revising the proposed amendment itself or through providing supplementary information. Matters that I do not consider to be effectively addressed are set out below. Please be advised that in addition to the amendments proposed by Recycle BC, I am making the amendments identified below, pursuant to section 5(5) of the regulation.

## 1. New Plastics Targets

Recycle BC has been a leader in the recovery and recycling of residential plastics, and I commend the efforts and progress the program has made to date on this front. This is a trend that the Ministry would like to see continue.

The proposed amendment has demonstrated how the plan meets subsection 5(1)(a)(iii) for the rigid plastic target and provides for a performance target that is achievable in a reasonable timeframe. Therefore, I approve the amendment target of 73% for rigid plastics, to be achieved by 2025.

However, I note that the proposed flexible plastics target has already been surpassed, with Recycle BC reporting a 28% recovery rate in 2021. Currently, 72% of producer's flexible plastics are not being collected for recycling and are instead either being landfilled or filtering into the environment. I do not consider that the proposed flexible plastics target meets producers' obligation to manage their products.

As the overall plastic target is calculated as a combination of the rigid and flexible plastic subcategories, an increase in the flexible plastic target will automatically increase the plastic target. Given this link between the two targets, neither are approved.

As Recycle BC is currently consulting on its 2023 EPR plan, I do not require Recycle BC to resubmit improved targets for flexible plastics and overall plastics. I do however expect to see substantially higher plastic and flexible plastic recovery rates proposed in the 2023 EPR plan to ensure that continuous progress is being made.

## 2. Single-Use Products and Packaging-Like Products

The proposed amendment has demonstrated how the plan fulfills the requirements of Order in Council #370, Appendix 2, which amends the regulation to include SUP/PLP; however, I am amending section 2 of the plan (The Extended Producer Responsibility Agency), the footnote on page six of the plan, section 3.1 of the plan (Packaging), and Appendix D of the plan to align the definition of "producer" to that established under the regulation, which prevails. I understand that these amendments were discussed at length between the ministry's and Recycle BC's legal representation, agreed by both parties, and were expected by the ministry to be included in Recycle BC's proposed amendment.

Specifically:

- i. The final paragraph of Section 2 (The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Agency) of the plan is amended to read:

“For the purposes of the Program Plan, the producer for a specific unit of packaging or paper product is generally the supplier of service packaging or the first of the following: brand owner, the franchisor or the first seller (also known as the first importer).<sup>9</sup>”

- ii. The footnote nine on page six of the plan, referring to Appendix D, is amended to state:

“<sup>9</sup> B.C.’s Recycling Regulation defines “producer”. For Recycle BC’s working definition, see Appendix D.”

- iii. I approve section 3.1 (packaging) and further amend it to better reflect SUP/PLP descriptions. I amend the plan to read:

*(f) effective January 1, 2023, packaging and paper products include:*

- (i) “Packaging-like Products” as described in section 2 of Schedule 5 of the Recycling Regulation (see B.C. Reg 162/2020); and*
- (ii) “Single-use Products” as described in section 4 of Schedule 5 of the BC Recycling Regulation (see B.C. Reg 162/2020).*

- iv. In Appendix D of the plan, under the heading ‘Designation of Producers’, I amend sub-section ‘Producers for Packaging’, to read:

*“Producers for Packaging*

*For Packaging the Producer is the Person Resident in British Columbia who:*

- a) manufactures the product and uses in a commercial enterprise, sells, offers for sale or distributes the product in British Columbia under the manufacturer's own brand,
- b) if subparagraph (a) does not apply, a person who is not the manufacturer of the product but is the owner or licensee of a trademark under which a product is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale or distributed in British Columbia, whether or not the trademark is registered, or

- c) if subparagraphs (a) and (b) do not apply, a person who imports the product into British Columbia for use in a commercial enterprise, sale, offer for sale or distribution in British Columbia”

Thank you for your efforts on this plan amendment and I appreciate the industry’s continued commitment to achieving compliance in this regard.

Sincerely,



Laurel Nash  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Sonya Sundberg, Executive Director, Environmental Standards Branch  
Bob McDonald, Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Section