



First Nations Onboarding Framework

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Introduction

This document has been developed to outline the various opportunities for First Nation communities to partner with Recycle BC to support household packaging and paper recycling in their communities. These opportunities are presented in individual pathways below, including the phases associated with each pathway and the coordination required with other parties, as applicable.

This document focuses on opportunities for partnering with Recycle BC and does not include details relating to the roles that other external community partners play in funding, readiness support, and infrastructure development which falls outside of Recycle BC's program participation.

This document forms the basis of continuing engagement with Indigenous communities and interested parties and may continue to evolve to meet program and community needs.

Background

Recycle BC is a not-for-profit organization responsible for household packaging and paper recycling, including paper and cardboard, containers, glass bottle and jars, flexible plastics and foam packaging throughout British Columbia. We ensure packaging and paper is collected from households and recycling depots, sorted, responsibly managed and recycled.

We provide recycling services by working in partnership with First Nation communities, local governments, private companies, and other not-for-profit organizations to create a standard province-wide recycling network.

Our program is funded by businesses, like retailers, manufacturers and restaurants that supply packaging and paper to BC households. To learn more about extended producer responsibility, the BC Recycling Regulation, our Program Plan and more, please visit: RecycleBC.ca and explore "About Recycle BC" at the top of the page.

Indigenous Relations

At Recycle BC, we understand that growth comes through learning. We are focused on walking with intention, guided by respect and listening in our relationships with First Nation communities. Together, we can create opportunities that honour both the local and traditional ways of knowing while thinking of the future generations who will inherit this land.

- We will work in partnership with First Nation communities for long-term sustainability.
- We provide assurance that collected materials are responsibly managed and recycled.
- We cover post-collection costs.
- We provide financial incentives to support community-led recycling programs.

- We work to minimize our greenhouse gas emissions by sending most of the material to end markets in North America for recycling.

More about our journey of understanding and reflection can be found [here](#).

Recycle BC Onboarding Pathways

Our programs have been, and continue to be, shaped by our ongoing work with First Nation communities and community partners. We work to understand the unique community needs, interests and challenges faced in recycling to further evolve our programs.

This work is supported by our efforts in developing and building trusting relationships grounded in collaboration with First Nation communities, local governments and partners. Through this collaborative process, we strive for continued success and increased access to our recycling programs through First Nation community-led and operated programs, and partner-led collection services and events in partnership with local governments and other stewardship and partner agencies.

The following outlines the pathways in which a community can receive recycling services as part of the Recycle BC household packaging and paper recycling program. Not all options are suitable for all communities - the Recycle BC team works with communities to identify the best pathway for engagement.

1. Community-Led Recycling Programs - First Nation Collection Partners:

- Curbside Collection (includes curbside collection from individual and/or multi-family households)
 - Recycle BC provides a dedicated facility for collected material drop off at no cost to the collection partner - this drop-off location could be a Recycle BC network receiving facility or local government transfer station (former Bulk Drop program)
- Depot Collection (community members drop off at community depot location)
 - A Recycle BC contracted hauler will pick up collected materials from the depot location and manage post-collection services

2. Partner-Led Service Expansion:

- Expansion of existing nearby local government provided curbside recycling collection
- Expansion of existing nearby Recycle BC provided curbside recycling collection

3. First Nations Recycle Initiative (FNRI):

- Collection events identified in collaboration with and facilitated through the FNRI program

Recycle BC is responsible for managing in-scope packaging and paper from individual households only. Material from institutional, commercial or industrial (ICI) sources are out of scope to the Recycle BC program.

Community-Led Recycling Programs

The First Nation Collection Partner Agreements have been designed for First Nation partners operating either a curbside collection program (inclusive of the mobile eco-depot model described below) or a

community-operated depot collecting household packaging and paper recycling. Each program is described below and includes a diagram that outlines our engagement process with the community. The aspects of the agreement for each include:

Onboarding Period: Recycle BC requires 90-day (minimum) onboarding period between the agreement's effective date and commencement date when material can start to be collected. The signing of the agreement puts the agreement into effect (the effective date). The commencement date is the date material acceptance and payment models commence. The commencement date is dependant on receipt of the signed agreement. The onboarding period is needed to set up payment, reporting, post-collection partner coordination and other agreements to support the program (if needed).

Payment: As per the agreements, the community will receive payment based on an annual per household rate for curbside collection programs, and a weight-based payment model for depot programs. These funds are to support scope of work requirements within the agreements, including community education and sustainment of the program. Please refer to Schedules 5.1 in the First Nation [Curbside](#) and [Depot](#) Collection Partner Agreements for details related to the payment amounts.

Curbside Collection

Curbside collection is the collection of household packaging and paper products (PPP) from single-family dwellings, buildings with up to four households and row house complexes with any number of households, where each household sets out in-scope Recycle BC material for collection, by collection vehicles, or a mobile eco-depot. Multi-family buildings may also be considered within this collection model.

Collection and Transportation: The community is responsible for the collection of material from each household (by either an in-house collection service or a third-party contracted service) and transportation of the material to a designated drop-off location which will be confirmed no less than 30-days before the commencement date.

Curbside collection programs can be either single stream or multi stream, collected in collection vehicles, or the mobile eco-depot collection model. This model includes a cube van as shown below, which allows for super sacks (large collection bags) to be placed in the back to facilitate the collection and immediate sorting of household recycling.



Collection Methods and Accepted Material:

The curbside program includes the collection of the following Recycle BC materials by collection method:

- **Single Stream**, in which Paper and Cardboard and Mixed Containers are collected together.
- **Multi Stream**, in which Paper and Cardboard is collected in a separate bin/bag from Mixed Containers (excluding Glass Bottles and Jars which is collected in a different bin/bag).
 - Option to include Glass Bottles and Jars, which must be separated from Paper and Cardboard, and Mixed Containers.
 - Option to include Flexible Plastics, which must be separated from Paper and Cardboard, Mixed Containers and Glass Bottles and Jars.
 - Option to include Foam Packaging (white and coloured foam must be collected separated from each other), and must be separated from Paper and Cardboard, Mixed Containers, Glass Bottles and Jars and Flexible Plastics using the mobile eco-depot collection.

The collection method and material types require approval by Recycle BC prior to commencing a program, and prior approval must be sought from Recycle BC if there are any anticipated changes to the collection program. We work with the communities to understand the collection model that will work best for them in maximizing the collection of PPP material identified.

Local government transfer station drop off (former Bulk Drop program)

Through the First Nation Consolidation Pilot/Bulk Drop program we have worked to expand upon the opportunities for recycling services within First Nation communities, including expansion of local government curbside programs.

We have taken steps to formalize this pilot program through the development our First Nation Collection Partner Agreement, in tandem with a Consolidation Agreement. This provides a consistent and formal approach to drop off material from First Nation communities at depots in partnership with local governments that meets or exceeds the level of service provided by the original bulk drop-off

model. This will allow for deeper partnerships and opportunities between Recycle BC, First Nation communities and our partnering local government collectors.

Depot Collection

Depots provide collection services of all categories of accepted PPP at a transfer station, depot or other staffed and secured location. Depot collection can be the sole collection model in a community, supplement material acceptance of curbside programs or, act as a depot for surrounding communities improving accessibility. Depots also provide additional collection opportunities to residents in communities with curbside and multi-family collection, if some categories of accepted PPP are not collected through curbside and multi-family service.

Accepted Material Types:

- Mixed Paper and Cardboard
- Mixed Containers
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Flexible Plastics
- White Foam Packaging
- Coloured Foam Packaging

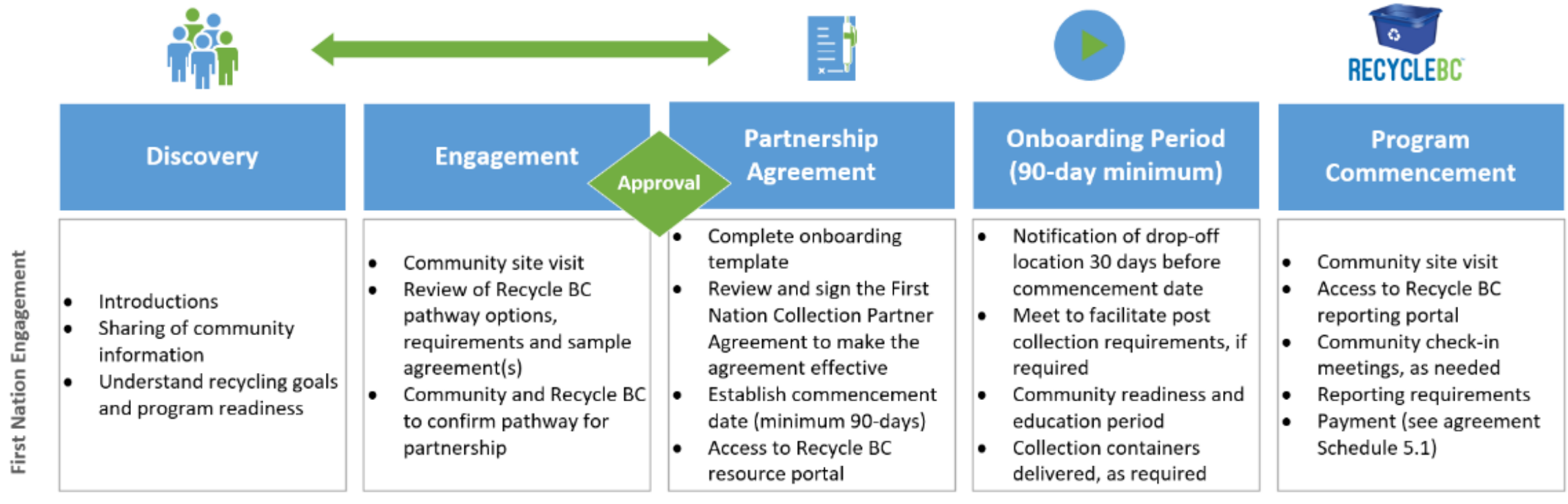
Transportation and Supplies: Recycle BC is responsible for the transportation of the material from the depot to the designated receiving facility as well as provision of determined collection containers (such as super sacks, liner bags and pallets, as required).

Community-Led Phases | Onboarding

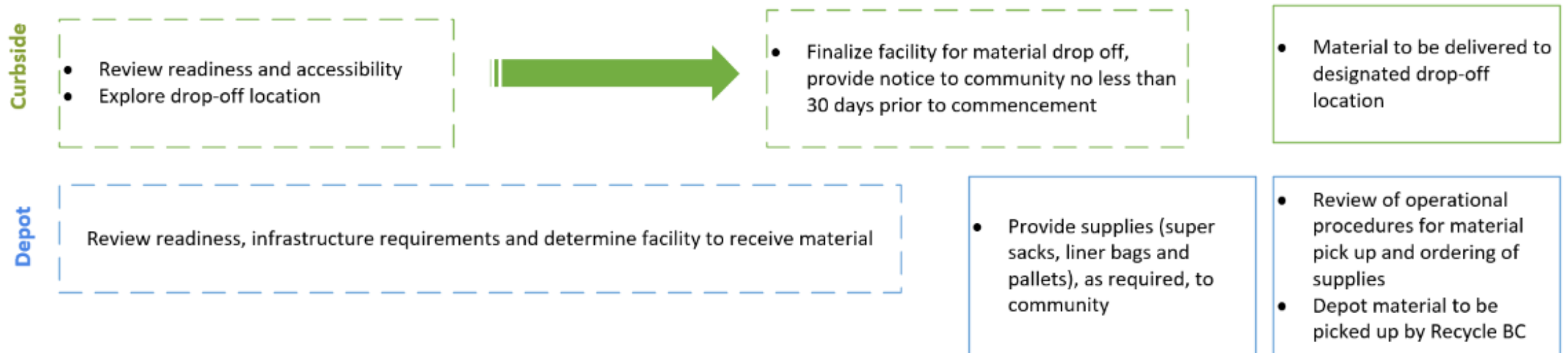
There are a few ways in which First Nation communities can initiate engagement with Recycle BC for the Community-Led programs:

- Contact our Indigenous Relations Representative directly (see contact information at the end of the document); or
- Work with other external community partners focused on funding, readiness support and infrastructure development which identify communities that meet program eligibility.

The diagram below provides an outline of the engagement process and phases for Community-Led programs.



Recycle BC Review & Post Collection Process



Partner-Led Service Expansion

Our Partner-Led Service Expansion may be an option for household recycling to be collected through an existing local government curbside collection service agreement, or in regions where Recycle BC provides collection services directly if a First Nation community is nearby to an existing service area. These opportunities do not require an agreement between Recycle BC and the First Nation community, though may require agreements and approvals between the First Nation communities and the local government or collection service provider to allow services within the community.

Onboarding Period: The time needed to set up this service with local governments and other partners varies. We will work to coordinate with other partners as needed and develop a plan and service commencement date with the community.

Local Government Service Expansion

We work with our local government partners to identify First Nation communities that are within or nearby the local government's service area and could benefit from the municipal or Regional District curbside collection of household recycling. This option requires the agreement and initiation of the local government. The collection service and recycling supplies will be provided by the local government and in alignment with the existing collection model. This will be outlined in Recycle BC's agreement with the local government.

Recycle BC will work to facilitate and coordinate the timing of the service commencement with the local government and First Nation community.

Direct Service

Recycle BC also provides curbside collection service directly where the local government has transitioned service to Recycle BC. In this case, Recycle BC is responsible for all aspects of the management of curbside collection services to households, including supplies. Similar to service expansion, First Nation communities within or nearby the direct service area could receive service directly from Recycle BC.

Partner-Led Service Expansion Phases | Onboarding

The primary way in which First Nation communities are identified for Recycle BC Partner-Led Service Expansion programs are through local governments or directly by Recycle BC. Other means include:

- community contacting our Indigenous Relations Representative directly (see contact information at the end of the document); or
- work with other external community partners focused on funding, readiness support and infrastructure development to identify communities that meet program eligibility.

The diagram below provides an outline of the engagement process and phases for the Partner-Led programs and the coordination required with local governments.



First Nation Engagement

- Introductions
- Sharing of community information
- Understand recycling goals
- Review community readiness
- Community site visit
- Confirm commencement date

- Community readiness and education period
- Provide educational material and support

- Community site visit, if needed
- Community support, as needed

Recycle BC, Local Government Household Collection

- Identify and review local government service expansion opportunity
- Coordinate information sharing with community

- Confirm partnership between Recycle BC and local government
- Facilitate agreement between First Nation and local government, as needed

- Amend local government agreement to include community

- Distribute supplies (collection bins, bags etc.) to community
- Meet with community and local government, if needed

- Curbside collection of material
- Local government reporting requirements
- Payment to local government

Recycle BC and Contractor Household Collection

- Identify Recycle BC service expansion opportunity
- Coordinate information sharing with community

- Confirm service expansion with Recycle BC contractor

- Amend Recycle BC contractor agreement to include community

- Distribute supplies (collection bins, bags etc.) to community

- Curbside collection of material
- Community check-in meetings, as determined

First Nations Recycling Initiative

In partnership with the First Nations Recycling Initiative (FNRI), Recycle BC supports community collection events for First Nations that are not yet part of our program. These events help address stockpiled materials and create pathways for improved recycling access in remote communities — supporting local stewardship and care for First Nation communities. More information can be found [here](#).

Other Resources

- [Recycle BC Accepted Materials List](#)
- [BC Recycling Regulation](#)
- [Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group Training](#)

Conclusion

As we strive to be a good community partner, continuously improving in our work, we are focused on evolving our programs and operations to prioritize relationship-building that reflects the values, knowledge systems, and priorities First Nation communities. Our approach is grounded in respectful, culturally informed, and phased engagement with First Nation communities to support packaging and paper recycling in communities.

Let's Work Together

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