

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Alberta Collaborative Extended Producer Responsibility Study

Report Purpose

To share information related to the collaborative study on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the Province of Alberta.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships
Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources

Report

Administration is providing an information update on Council Motion 2019/37 regarding EPR, as directed at the February 26, 2019 Council Meeting. The Alberta Collaborative Extended Producer Responsibility Study (ACES) was a collaborative effort funded by the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton and the Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance (CSSA). A further 35 Alberta municipalities, including Strathcona County, supported the ACES work by either passing motions, writing letters of support or supplying data to inform the study. The AUMA and Rural Municipalities of Alberta have both passed motions supporting EPR at their most recent conventions.

Strathcona County has demonstrated support for this study by sharing data and information related to our waste management programs. In addition, Strathcona County has been a vocal advocate to the province about strengthening policies within Alberta.

The ACES report provides baseline information about recycling programs in urban and rural Alberta municipalities, and the possible impacts to stakeholders of an EPR regulatory framework in Alberta. The ACES report confirms that EPR can save taxpayer dollars, reduce waste, and attract jobs and investment to Alberta. Alberta municipalities spent approximately \$107 million in 2018 collecting and marketing 197,000 tonnes of packaging and paper products (PPP). With an EPR framework in place in Alberta, that cost would be partially or wholly shifted to producers. The implementation of EPR in Alberta would mean that residents of Strathcona County could see waste management fees reduced.

The study's proposed made-in-Alberta EPR vision for residential PPP would see producers that distribute packaging and paper products in Alberta manage both the financial and operational obligations of collecting their products and finding markets to recycle them, relieving municipalities of their current obligations to do both.

Producers are already financially responsible for managing PPP at end of life in many other Canadian provinces.

Most recent producer funding obligations in Canadian EPR jurisdictions

Province	Program Type	Producer Obligation	Producer Funding
Alberta	Individual Municipalities	0%	\$0
British Columbia	Full EPR	100% (costs, risks, liabilities)	\$88,700,000
Saskatchewan	Partial EPR	Up to 75% (agreed to costs, liabilities)	\$6,000,000
Manitoba	Partial EPR	Up to 80% (agreed to costs, liabilities)	\$20,500,000
Ontario	Partial EPR	Up to 50% (agreed to costs, liabilities)	\$126,400,000
Quebec	Partial EPR	Up to 100% (agreed to costs, liabilities)	\$145,100,000

Priorities Committee Meeting_Nov17_2020

Given many of the largest producers price their products nation-wide, the costs of recycling PPP in other provinces is included in the price of products purchased in Alberta. If Alberta recycling costs shifted to consumers, the increase would be shared by consumers across Canada. Instead of subsidizing recycling elsewhere, Alberta would benefit from producer-funded and managed recycling programs.

If Alberta were to adopt this vision, the study results indicate that it would:

- Reduce the recycling collection services costs that municipalities charge their residents each year; this is Albertans' money and it can be provided as a cost savings to municipal residents or reinvested in other municipal services.
- Recycle an additional 21,000 tonnes of PPP each year.
- Increase recycling opportunities for rural Alberta and people who live in multi-dwelling residences.
- Make recycling more convenient for Albertans by collecting the same materials province-wide.
- Add \$16 million to the Alberta economy every year and gain an additional 220 new jobs in Alberta's recycling industry.
- Reduce CO2 emissions by 72,000 tonnes each year – the equivalent of removing 15,000 cars from the road annually.

The full study report can be found on AUMA's website.

https://auma.ca/sites/default/files/Advocacy/Programs_Initiatives/Toward_Zero_Waste/aces_project_summary_report_final_100320.pdf

Additionally, a provincial policy should consider the following:

- Responsibility for collection, post-collection and processing should be transferred to producers, empowering them to take responsibility and control of the end-of-life management of the PPP that they supply into the marketplace, thereby protecting municipalities from material risk.
- A future EPR framework in Alberta should allow the City of Calgary and all Alberta municipalities the flexibility to continue to provide PPP services complementary to garbage and organics services.
- Future provincial EPR regulations should ensure that a producer-funded and managed recycling system is easy for residents to use and understand, and is convenient, consistent and equitable across the province, including ensuring the same PPP materials are collected and recycled across the province.
- It should also ensure that producers that supply quantities of PPP below an established threshold (small businesses) in Alberta are exempted from regulation, ensuring they are not unfairly affected by EPR.

At this time, the Collaborative continues to share the study with partners, municipalities and provincial representatives in order to continue to raise awareness about the need to shift recycling policies in Alberta towards EPR.

Further actions related to EPR and plastics recycling in the province include:

- Alberta's Natural Gas Strategy identifies the need to establish the province as a centre of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling by 2030. There is recognition

Priorities Committee Meeting_Nov17_2020

under this strategy to develop markets through industry-operated recycling programs, such as EPR, that will allow the continued production of plastics for new products.

- Plastics Alliance of Alberta, a new collaboration between government, industry and academia, has been initiated to help transform and innovate Alberta's plastics sector by creating a plastics circular economy within the province.

Council and Committee History

February 26, 2019 Council approved:

1. That Administration work with other Alberta municipalities, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and producers and recyclers of packaging and paper products to develop baseline research to inform the design of provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program and provide a report on this work by Q1 of 2020.
2. That the Mayor, on behalf of Strathcona County, sign a letter of support indicating that Strathcona County is willing to participate in the research request, as set out in Enclosure 3 of the February 26, 2019 Utilities Report.

February 6, 2018 Council approved:

1. That the Request for Decision, as set out in Enclosure 2, be approved as Strathcona County's submission to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Spring 2018 Municipal Leaders' Caucus; and that Councillor Anderson be selected as the elected official spokesperson, on behalf of Strathcona County, to introduce the Request for Decision at the AUMA Spring 2018 Municipal Leaders' Caucus.
2. That the resolution, as set out in Enclosure 3, be approved as Strathcona County's submission to the Alberta Association of the Municipal Districts and Counties' (AAMDC) 2018 Spring Convention resolutions session; and that Councillor Smith be selected as the elected official spokesperson, on behalf of Strathcona County, to introduce the resolution at the AAMDC 2018 Spring Convention resolutions session.
3. That the Mayor, on behalf of Strathcona county, sign the letter of support for the City of Calgary's Request for Decision, as set out in Enclosure 4.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Intergovernmental Affairs was advised of the collaboration.

Master Plan/Framework: n/a