

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021**

SUBJECT **Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper – Feedback and Next Steps**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the committee with a synopsis of the results of the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy's (ENV) consultation process regarding its September 2020 Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper.

BACKGROUND

On September 12, 2020, the ENV released an Intentions Paper to solicit feedback on expanding extended producer responsibility (EPR) by including more products under the BC Recycling Regulation to ensure these products are managed properly. The Intentions Paper sought feedback on expanding EPR to include:

- Mattresses and foundations
- Additional residual household hazardous waste products, including:
 - pool chemicals
 - fire extinguishers
 - compressed gas cylinders (fuel and helium)
 - flares
 - medical syringes
 - bear spray
 - fertilizer
 - additional paints, sealers and adhesives
 - additional pest control and rodenticides
 - automotive additives
 - veterinary pet medicines
- An expanded range of electric and electronic products, including electric car batteries and charging equipment, solar power equipment and other electric products, such as drones, motorized yard decorations and e-cigarettes.
- Non-residential industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) packaging and paper products (PPP).

Though not explicitly being considered for EPR, ENV also sought feedback on how to manage lost and abandoned fishing gear. Comments were accepted up to November 20, 2020 and a total of 165 responses from stakeholders and individuals were received. A copy of the Summary of Feedback Report is provided for information in Appendix A.

Approximately 90% of respondents expressed support for adding mattresses and box springs/foundations to the BC Recycling Regulation. There were also suggestions that exemptions be made for contaminated mattresses due to health and safety concerns, as well as for waterbeds and hospital beds that contain electronic equipment.

Approximately 80% of respondents expressed support for expanding the list of household hazardous waste products that would be subject to the BC Recycling Regulation, including all local government respondents. Conversely, none of the responding product sellers indicated support for their products becoming subject to extended producer responsibility (EPR).

About 74% of respondents expressed support for expanding the electronic and electrical product category of the BC Recycling Regulation to include electric and hybrid car batteries and their charging equipment, solar panels, as well as other powered products, including drones, motorized yard decorations and e-cigarettes. Electric car batteries were most commonly suggested as the product type that should be prioritized for EPR, though some concern was raised by industry stakeholders with regard to potential challenges with securing insurance for handling these items.

There was a split in the responses received with regard to including industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) packaging and paper products (PPP) under the BC Recycling Regulation. Most local government and public respondents indicated support for expanding EPR to include ICI PPP. In contrast, the majority of product sellers expressed opposition to the idea. Of the ICI sources of PPP, food services, sports stadiums, office buildings and medical facilities were identified as those that should be prioritized for EPR first.

Finally, the majority of respondents expressed support for the use of policy approaches to better manage fishing gear. There was general support expressed for the use of EPR or similar policy approaches and some support indicated for the use of alternate forms of management, such as licences.

Respondents indicated that prioritization in order of highest to lowest for the product categories being considered for EPR should be: additional residual household hazardous waste products tied with mattresses, then ICI PPP, followed by expanded range of electric and electronic products and, lastly, fishing gear/marine debris.

Expanded EPR programs are a key component of the new CRD Solid Waste Management Plan. Staff believe this is particularly true with respect to ICI PPP, which comprises an estimated 18% of the waste being received at Hartland Landfill. While ENV has not yet identified any next steps with regard to adding materials to the BC Recycling Regulation, staff will continue to advocate for the continued and rapid expansion of this important regulation, and updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

CONCLUSION

In September 2020, the BC Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change Strategy released an Intentions Paper soliciting feedback on expanding the extended producer responsibility to include more products under the BC Recycling Regulation. The results of the consultation process have now been released and indicate overall strong support for expanding the BC Recycling Regulation, and particularly for the mattresses and residual household hazardous wastes. Staff support an expansion of the BC Recycling Regulation and believe doing so will be key, particularly insofar as industrial, commercial and institutional packaging and printed products are concerned, to achieve the targets in the new Solid Waste Management Plan. The Ministry has not yet identified any next steps but staff will continue to advocate for the expansion of the BC Recycling Regulation and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That this report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: BC Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper – Summary Feedback Report
(March 8, 2021)