



**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

**SUBJECT Options for Flexible Plastics Collection for Multi-Family Dwellings**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide information on options for flexible plastic packaging collection from multi-family dwellings in the capital region.

**BACKGROUND**

At its October 16, 2024 meeting, the Environmental Services Committee approved a motion directing staff to provide a report regarding options for the collection of soft plastics from multi-family dwellings. Recycle BC is the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) stewardship agency responsible for collecting and recycling residential packaging and paper products (PPP) in BC under the BC Recycling Regulation. Residential PPP includes paper and cardboard, mixed containers, glass bottles and jars, flexible plastics and foam packaging generated from single family and multi-family dwellings (MFDs).

Rather than providing direct collection of PPP from MFDs in the capital region, Recycle BC instead offers financial incentives to private waste management firms to collect selected PPP material streams from MFD on its behalf. In turn, these private waste management firms offer a variety of waste management services for MFDs in the capital region, including recyclables collection, on a fee-for-service basis. Each MFD is free to contract for the collection services that best meet their needs. The array of collection services offered by these firms is outlined in Appendix A for information. The recycling services being offered by these private waste management companies typically only includes paper, cardboard and mixed container collection. Other materials, such as soft/film/flexible (flexible) plastics that residents may wish to recycle, must be dropped off at a participating recycling depot. However, a few companies offer on-site collection of flexible plastics, often as an add-on service to other recycling services.

The table below lists private companies in the capital region that offer flexible plastics collection services. Of the ten private companies offering recycling services to MFDs in the capital region, five indicated that their services include a flexible plastics option.

While most private companies offer collection services outside of Recycle BC’s program, The Bottle Depot is currently partnering with Recycle BC on a pilot project to assess the feasibility of a flexible plastics collection program for MFDs in the capital region. The pilot began in August 2024 and is expected to continue until spring 2025. Results will inform next steps and any implications for the Capital Regional District.

Private Companies Offering Flexible Plastics Collection to MFD in the capital region:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Service Description</b>
The Bottle Depot	Offered as an add-on service.
Capital City Recycling	Offered as an add-on service.
reFUSE (Emterra)	On-call or scheduled pick-ups available.
Cascades Recovery	Service available on case-by-case basis.
Pacific Mobile Depot (PMD)	Rates based on bag size.

Recycling depot drop-off locations for flexible plastics are spread throughout the capital region and include the Hartland Recycling Depot, two Island Return-It depots, three Bottle Depot locations, as well as multiple grocery store and London Drugs locations. Facilities collecting flexible plastics on behalf of Recycle BC do not charge for this service, but those providing the service directly charge a fee for flexible plastics drop-off. There are also mobile ‘pop-up’ drop-off points offered by private companies like Pacific Mobile Depot, on a fee for service basis.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That staff report back to committee with the results of the pilot project.

*Alternative 2*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That this report be referred back to staff for additional information

**CONCLUSION**

Recycle BC is responsible for the management of residential packaging and paper products, including flexible plastics in BC. While flexible plastic packaging from multi-family dwellings is typically collected through a drop-off depot system, there are five private waste management companies that offer onsite collection, often as an add-on to existing services. The Bottle Depot is offering collection of flexible plastics in multi-family dwellings through a pilot project, in collaboration with Recycle BC, which is anticipated to run through spring 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That staff report back to committee with the results of the pilot project.

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**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Private Waste and Recycling Collection Service Providers in the Capital Region