

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021**

SUBJECT **Recycling in British Columbia – Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the committee with a summary of the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy's (ENV) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Five-Year Action Plan – 2021-2026.

BACKGROUND

On September 12, 2020, the ENV released an Intentions Paper to solicit feedback on expanding EPR by including more products under the BC Recycling Regulation to ensure these products are managed properly and fairly. The Intentions Paper sought feedback on expanding EPR to include recycling programs for:

- mattresses and foundations
- various additional residual household hazardous waste (HHW) products including fire extinguishers, compressed gas cylinders and medical syringes
- 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; and
- non-residential packaging and paper products.

The results of the consultation process, which were presented on July 21, 2021 to the committee in an Information Report, indicated overall strong support for expanding the BC Recycling Regulation (BCRR). In response to this feedback, ENV released an Action Plan entitled "Advancing Recycling in BC – Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan – 2021-2026" on September 10, indicating its intention to expand the BCRR. The Action Plan, a copy of which is provided for information in Appendix A, indicates ENV's intention to have EPR programs in operation for mattresses, compressed gas cylinders and medical sharps by 2025. It also indicates its intention to have EPR programs in operation for hybrid and electric vehicle batteries, as well as other types of currently non-regulated batteries, by 2026. As the Capital Regional District (CRD) currently provides recycling alternatives for both mattresses and compressed gas cylinders at Hartland Landfill, it is expected that the EPR programs for these materials will save the CRD approximately \$150,000 annually in processing costs when they become operational.

The Action Plan also indicates that the BCRR will be amended in 2026 to require EPR for a broader range of electronics and moderately hazardous products. As the CRD currently provides a HHW collection program for non-regulated HHW, subjecting additional hazardous products to the BCRR in 2026 can be expected to save the CRD additional costs. However, these savings cannot be precisely determined until the types of HHW that will be added to the regulation are identified.

Also within the Action Plan are plans to evaluate options for improved recovery and recycling of non-residential packaging and paper products. However, the Action Plan does not indicate that these materials will become subject to the BCRR and it instead only indicates that ENV will identify a policy approach by 2025 to better manage these materials.

Expanded EPR programs are a key component of the new CRD Solid Waste Management Plan, and staff believe this is particularly true with respect to non-residential packaging and paper products, which comprise an estimated 18% of the waste being received at Hartland Landfill. So, it is unfortunate that the Action Plan does not include a plan to have these materials become subject to the BCRR. Nonetheless, the Action Plan will aid the CRD in achieving the targets identified in its Solid Waste Management Plan and updates will be provided as new EPR programs are implemented.

CONCLUSION

On September 10, 2021, the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy released an Action Plan entitled “Advancing Recycling in BC – Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Five-Year Action Plan – 2021-2026” for the purpose of outlining its plan to expand EPR recycling programs in BC. This includes plans to amend the BC Recycling Regulation to require EPR for mattresses, compressed gas cylinders and medical syringes by 2025. It also includes plans to amend the regulation to require EPR for hybrid and electric vehicle batteries, as well as other types of currently non-regulated batteries, and a broader range of electronics and moderately hazardous products by 2026. The Action Plan unfortunately does not include plans to mandate EPR for non-residential packaging and paper products, which staff believe would significantly help the CRD in achieving the targets in its Solid Waste Management Plan.

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: Advancing Recycling in BC – Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan – 2021-2026