



**Subject:** *Status of Extended Producer Responsibility - Packaging and Printed Paper  
\*New Nova Scotia Recycling Program\**

**To:** Executive Committee of Council

**Date Prepared:** January 8, 2025

**Related Motions:** C18(175)

**Prepared by:** Andrea Trask, Manager of Solid Waste

**Approved by:** Jesse Hulsman, Director of I&O

### Summary

The new province-wide curbside recycling program will launch December 1, 2025. This program is being established due to a change in Environment Act regulations (August 2023). The regulations require the product producers responsible to managing their product packaging to the end of the life cycle, including collection, transportation and processing costs. This report provides a status update on this new program and seeks direction where necessary for the East Hants services.

### Financial Impact Statement

The budget for recycling collection, transportation and processing for 2024/25 is projected to be \$890,000 and is based on current level of service, tonnages, and current contract pricing. Under this new program East Hants would see a significant portion of the recycling budget transferred to industry, with the method dependent on contracts and agreements.

### Recommendation

To pursue an EPR agreement where the Municipality would collect materials on behalf of Circular Materials and to then bring back a report on service levels related to the change that would need additional decisions with respect to what additional level of services would East Hants seek to continue that may not be part of the EPR transition.

### Recommended Motion

*Move that Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend to Council to have a letter sent to the Circular Materials stating the Municipality of East Hants' interest to continuing to explore East Hants managing the curbside collection program on behalf of Circular Materials are part of a transition related to the Extended Producer Responsibility programming.*

## Background

Staff have prepared a supplement PowerPoint slide deck with background information related to this program.

August 1, 2023	Regulations approved	
January 1, 2024	Last date for Municipalities and Producers to register with Divert NS for participation in the EPR for PPP program	East Hants responded with interest to Opt-In
January 1, 2024	Municipalities to submit <i>NS Municipal Data Collection</i> report to Divert NS	Completed.
January 1, 2024	Producers must select a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to consult with stakeholders, including municipalities	Circular Materials was designated the PRO
April 26, 2024	Consultation Round 1 - Readiness Report Feedback Deadline	Completed
June 28, 2024	Consultation Round 2 - Readiness Report Feedback Deadline	Completed
October 1, 2024	PRO must consult with every municipality in the province and submit a readiness report to Divert NS	Completed
December 20, 2024	Municipalities requested to review and provided feedback to Circular Materials on two draft documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Master Service Agreement</li> <li>- Statement of Work for Community Curbside Collection</li> </ul>	Completed
December 1, 2025	Full EPR for PPP implementation	

## Discussion

As the launch of the new province-wide curbside collection program nears staff want to ensure Council is informed on decisions that will be required and timelines.

Topic #	Decision Topic	Status	Decision Required By
1	Written interest to continue to explore East Hants managing the curbside collection program on behalf of Circular Materials.	Circular Materials is to send draft financial agreements to municipalities in January. However, contracts do not require approvals until April. The written interest is a signal to continue on the process.	January 31, 2025
2	Service Standards for East Hants - for those locations and/or materials not included in the province-wide program but are currently provided in East Hants	Seeking direction from Council/CAO on options to bring back for discussion (Feb/Mar).	March 31, 2025
3	Opting to be (or not to be) Service Provider, under contract to Circular Materials for the curbside recycling program in East Hants.	More information will be provided January to March, as available.	April 18, 2025

### Topic #1

Written interest to continue navigating a partnership (contract) option with Circular Materials is required by January 31, 2025. This letter will not bind the Municipality to a contract or any other agreement with Circular Material but indicates simply the interest to continue to investigate options.

**Staff are seeking direction on this topic.**

### Topic #2

The new curbside collection program has many benefits for municipalities, and some challenges with changes as well. One challenge for East Hants is under the new program businesses will not be provided services. East Hants currently provides limited curbside collection services to businesses, regardless of size. Businesses are entitled to double collection limits of residential locations as long as the material is prepared as required for households. That means, businesses in East Hants are allowed:

- 10 bags of garbage
- 16 bags of recyclables
- 2 green carts

**Staff are seeking direction on this topic.**

---

## **Alternatives**

1. The Municipality can opt-out of the program and continue to offer services as is.
  2. The Municipality can opt-in but not provide the collection services, and Circular Materials would contract the services through another provider.
-