



Nova Scotia's EPR Program for Packaging, Printed-Paper, and Packaging Like Products

Staff Update: January 2025



EAST HANTS

What is EPR?

- EPR stands for Extended Producer Responsibility.
- EPR programs are often regulated by governments to ensure the management of a product, including the packaging, is managed by the producer of product.
- Examples of current EPR programs in Nova Scotia include:
 - Passenger Tires
 - Electronics (TVs, computers, etc.)
 - Paint
 - Motor Oil and more
- Goals of EPR programs include:
 - Improved design for environment of products and packaging
 - Efficiencies in managing the end product & improved end-markets
 - Transitioning the end-management costs to the producer and customers vs. the general population

What is EPR for Packaging, Printed Paper and Packing Like Products?

- This new program is often referred to as EPR for PPP
- The materials included in this program are generally those that are currently accepted in curbside recycling programs.
- Current System:
 - An individual buys an item, uses it and then discards the packaging curbside
 - The waste is managed and paid through the municipal system
- EPR System:
 - Individual buys an item, uses it and discards the packaging
 - There is a minimal fee built into accepted items (sometimes as low as 100th of a cent); this fee accumulates into a fund
 - The waste is managed and paid through the industry fund (education, collection, transportation and processing).

Nova Scotia's EPR for PPP Program

In August 2023 the Province of Nova Scotia amended the Environment Act to add extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper. This has been a request from municipalities for many years - moving the responsibility (costs and end-marketing) to those that create the products.

The Province has designated Divert NS as the Oversight Body for the program.

Circular Materials (CM) has been designated by industry parties to represent them in Nova Scotia to ensure they meet their regulatory obligations. CM operates in New Brunswick, Alberta, Ontario, and Yukon.

Provinces currently with similar EPR programs or transitioning like Nova Scotia include: BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick.

Opting In or Out: The Program Decision #1

There are two levels of “Opt-In” for municipalities to decide on - The Program & The Service Delivery.

Opt-In or Opt-Out (The Program: Decision #1)

This first decision is if a municipality wants producers to take responsibility for the recycling program. This means producers must pay for the collection, processes, education and customer service for the recycling program. In choosing YES the municipalities give up control on what the recycling program looks like for their communities, but the costs are no longer a municipal responsibility. Material types and service levels will be the sole decision of the producers. ****Municipalities *can* work to be part of the system - that comes under Decision #2****

In choosing NO the municipality continues with the service, including full control over service levels and managing the costs (status quo). However once a municipality opts out they can not opt-in at a later time.

To-date East Hants has been moving toward Opt-In for The Program.

Council Position on EPR for PPP Program

The discussion on EPR for PPP has spanned more than a decade, including workshops, webinars, and reports for and by staff and elected officials across Nova Scotia. East Hants Council has been supportive of the concept for many years as noted by two specific actions.

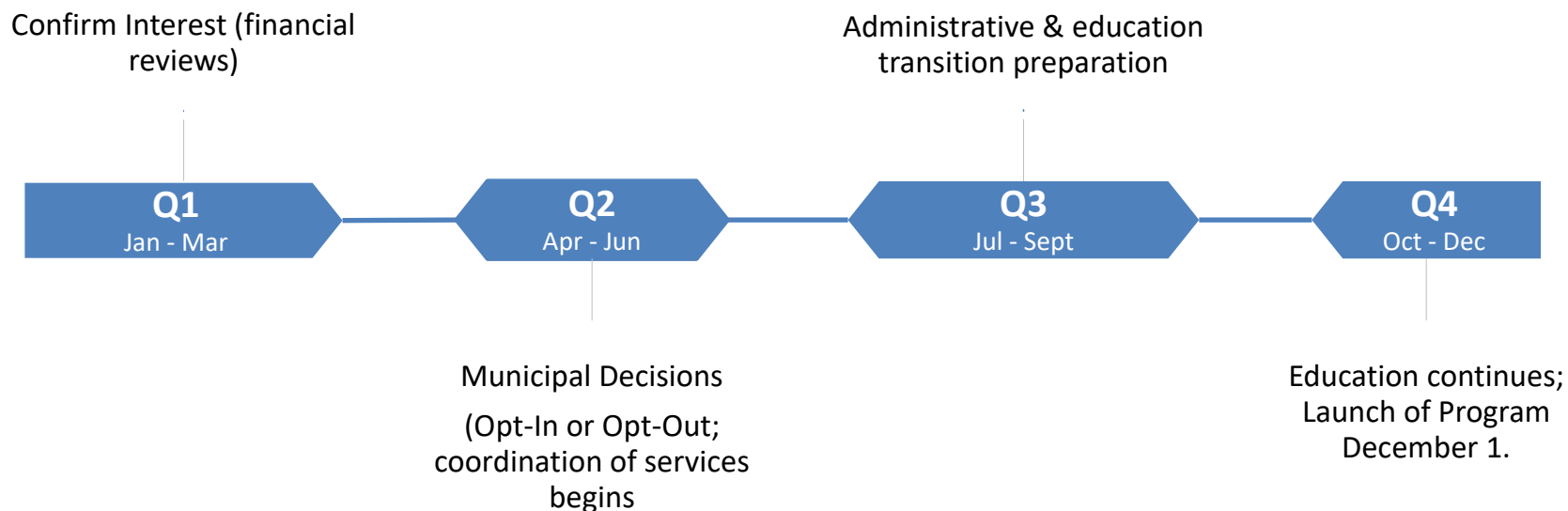
June 27, 2018: Council's first motion in support of Nova Scotia implementing an Extended Producer responsibility program specifically for the packaging and paper material. Motion C18(175)

November 18, 2020: Letter from Warden Roulston to Gordon Wilson, Minister of Environment requesting movement on the EPR for PPP file.

September 27, 2023: Council motions C23(303) & C23(304) directing staff to officially register East Hants as a municipality supporting EPR for PPP.

Direction to staff has been to continue to monitor and participate in discussions based on support for a program. Staff have worked to ensure where needed contracts related to collection and recycling processing included clauses or length of terms with flexibility due to the uncertainty if/when a new program would be created.

EPR for PPP Nova Scotia: Milestones 2025



Nova Scotia's New Recycling Program: What's In

The new recycling program will see a province-wide system standard - same materials collected the same way regardless where you live.

Status Quo

- ✓ Curbside collection for all residential households, including multi-residential properties.
- ✓ Dual-stream bag system
- ✓ Similar plastic, glass, metal list as today
- ✓ Similar fibre list as today such as paper and boxboard

New

- ✓ Polystyrene (* East Hants currently accepts but not all areas do)
- ✓ Plastic laminates - example frozen juice package
- ✓ Flexible plastics - example chip bags, candy wrappers, pouches
- ✓ Non-hazardous aerosols

New Recycling Program: What's Out or Unknown

The program is based on provincial regulation and therefore industry must meet only those requirements, and will do so in the most cost effective and efficient manner. As a result some things will be changing.

Removed from Recycling Program

- Books
- Textiles
- Pots & pans

Unknown

- Polystyrene is currently collected in East Hants in our program, however this is not a service provided by all municipalities. Therefore, this product is considered 'new' under the program because it is required to be diverted. This could mean that the material will need to be managed in a different way for our residents such as drop-off to a designated location. (Industry to determine)
- Businesses are not eligible under this program. Therefore those municipalities, including East Hants, need to evaluate level of service for those customers. (Council to determine)

Opting In or Out: The Service Delivery Decision #2

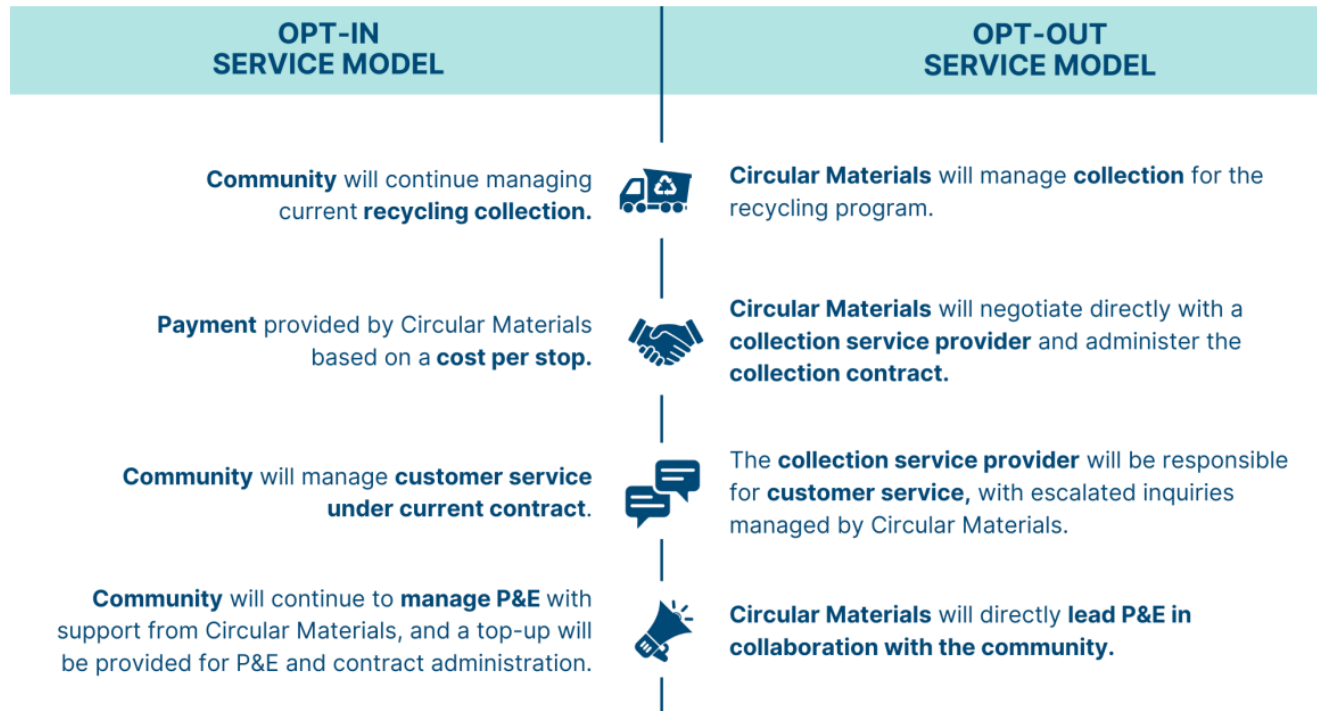
There are two levels of curbside services available under the EPR program (a model diagram is on the next slide). Council must decide which model they want for East Hants.

Opt-In: This means the municipality would enter an agreement with Circular Materials to provide the services. East Hants would be the ‘contractor’ and would need to provide the services stipulated by Circular Materials. No authority in the program - only delivering. East Hants would continue to provide customer service & education. East Hants would be financial compensated for providing the services.

Opt-Out: This means all services related to the curbside recycling program are no longer the responsibility of the municipality - from direct collection of materials to customer service supports. Example: All customer service inquires would be forwarded to the contractor selected by Circular Materials. East Hants would remove costs for recycling from our budgets, with the exception of any services requested by Council.

Various Options for Program Management

Transition Model Options



Council Decisions & Milestones for 2025

Provide Direction to Staff
(based on report updates)

Solid Waste Bylaw (Review,
Discussion, 1st Reading)



Confirm Opt-In or Opt-Out
to Circular Materials East
Hants (by Council motion)

Solid Waste Bylaw (2nd
Reading; Final
Approval)

Behind the Scenes Work

- ✓ The Manager of Solid Waste represents East Hants on a number of committees actively engaged in the EPR for PPP program, both regionally and provincially. Regular meetings and discussions occurring at various levels monthly.
- ✓ The Manager participates in the monthly NS First Nations & Municipal Working Group meetings - hosted by Circular Materials. These began in Fall 2024 and will continue until launch in December 2025.
- ✓ Staff submitted the East Hants response to the *Municipal Data Collection* document required by Divert NS (December 2023).
- ✓ Staff attended two Nova Scotia Readiness Report meetings (spring 2024) hosted by Circular Materials. Follow-up questions and feedback to Circular Materials/Divert NS was provided (June 2024).
- ✓ Staff reviewed, with legal staff as well, the draft Master Service Agreement and Statement of Work for Community Curbside Collection documents. These were provided by Circular Materials to all municipalities December 2, 2024 with a request to provide feedback by December 20th. This feedback was submitted.

Staff Next Steps

- Continue participation in all meetings and information requests required.
- Prepare options and analysis for any changes to the current recycling system and operations in East Hants.
- Seek direction from Council/CAO on service values and options, both brought forward by staff and requested by Council.
- Prepare a review of the Solid Waste Bylaw for review in the fall, as the new recycling program will have implications on current version.