



Canadian Council of Ministers
of the Environment Le Conseil canadien
des ministres
de l'environnement

**PROGRESS REPORT
ON THE CANADA-WIDE ACTION PLAN
FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

2014

**PN 1524
ISBN 978-1-77202-007-6 PDF**

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) is the primary minister-led intergovernmental forum for collective action on environmental issues of national and international concern.

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
123 Main St., Suite 360
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A3
Telephone: (204) 948-2090
Email: info@ccme.ca
Website: www.ccme.ca

PN 1524
ISBN: 978-1-77202-007-6 PDF

Ce document est également publié en français.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	iv
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility	1
1.2 Progress Report	1
1.3 Extended Producer Responsibility.....	1
2. Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility	2
2.1. Commitments	2
2.2. Progress Since 2009	3
2.3. Measuring Progress.....	4
2.4. Program Performance: Snapshot	8
2.5. CAP-EPR Implementation Challenges	9
2.6. Status Update for the Territories.....	10
2.7. Canada-wide Outlook on Waste	11
3. Looking Ahead	12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) approved a Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (CAP-EPR) in October 2009, where jurisdictions committed to working towards the development of extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework legislation and/or regulations and promoting a harmonized approach to EPR policies and programs across Canada.

CAP-EPR has had a positive influence in establishing EPR programs and/or requirements across Canada. Since the adoption of CAP-EPR, nine out of ten provinces have legislated EPR programs or requirements and the number of product categories covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements, both in effect or soon to be, has almost tripled.¹ Jurisdictions continue to expand their programs or requirements, with almost half of the product categories identified in CAP-EPR now covered.² Some jurisdictions have non-EPR programs operating for Phase 1 materials, established before CAP-EPR, that are achieving environmental outcomes and as such this approach is not expected to change. Additionally, the territories have made important strides towards exploring opportunities for EPR in Canada's North.

In implementing a Canada-wide approach to EPR, jurisdictions have encountered a number of challenges, including the issue of harmonization, delays in implementation of EPR programs or requirements and slow progress in some areas of CAP-EPR (e.g., mercury-containing lamps). In 2014 CCME undertook a five year review of CAP-EPR to determine the best path forward in addressing these and other implementation challenges.

CCME concludes that jurisdictions have been successful in working towards the objectives of CAP-EPR, while working towards a harmonized approach to EPR through the coordination and implementation of policies and programs across the country. EPR as one approach to increase waste diversion will continue to play an important role in Canada in the years to come.

¹ Based on Table 1 (p.7), 94 product categories are covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements (July 2014), compared to only about 33 product categories at the time of CAP-EPR adoption in October 2009. Calculation excludes federal government and the territories where there are no legislated EPR programs or requirements. This includes shared responsibility programs for packaging and printed paper in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Québec.

² Based on Table 1 (p.7), calculation excludes federal government and the territories where there are no legislated EPR programs or requirements. Based on the number of product categories covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements; includes shared responsibility programs for packaging and printed paper in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Québec. ($94/200 = 47\%$).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) approved a Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (CAP-EPR) in October 2009, where jurisdictions committed to working towards the development of extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework legislation and/or regulations and promoting a harmonized approach to EPR policies and programs across Canada. EPR was adopted as a component of Canada's overall waste management strategy.

CAP-EPR identifies timelines for the designation of materials and product categories to be managed under EPR programs or requirements in jurisdictions. It also provides direction and guidance to Canadian jurisdictions to extend the principle of producer responsibility across the country in a consistent and harmonized manner.

1.2 Progress Report

CCME has prepared this progress report as part of its commitment in CAP-EPR to report on the number of product categories covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements.

This report includes an overview of the commitments and the status of activities by jurisdictions for each product category under CAP-EPR, as well as a snapshot of program performance for select sectors. The report also recognizes other provincial programs (e.g., product stewardship programs) and industry-led voluntary programs in place, listed in Table 1, which also contribute to waste diversion and the achievement of important environmental outcomes across the country.

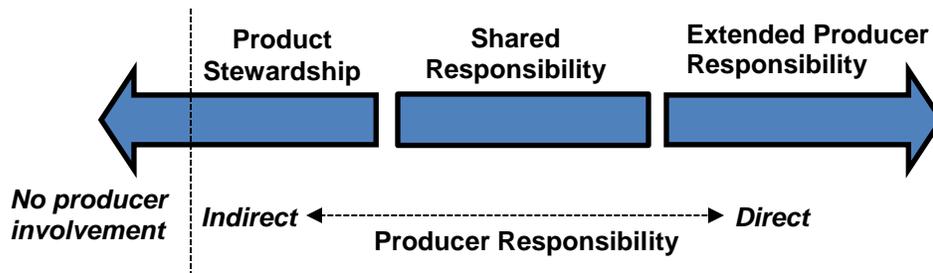
1.3 Extended Producer Responsibility

CCME defines EPR as “a policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the postconsumer stage of a product’s life cycle.” The objective of EPR policies is to shift the physical and/or financial responsibility upstream in the product’s life cycle to the producer.³ By designating producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products, EPR can shift the expenses associated with the end-of-life management of products from governments (e.g., municipalities) and taxpayers to producers and consumers, while reducing the amount of waste going for disposal and increasing producers’ awareness of end-of-life management of their products. EPR has been implemented in other jurisdictions around the world and has been supported by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

³ The term “producer” is generally defined as the highest responsible entity in the distribution chain in a jurisdiction and may include but is not limited to the brand owner, manufacturer, franchisee, assembler, filler, distributor, retailer or first importer of the product who sells, offers for sale or distributes the product in or into a jurisdiction, as defined in the Acts and/or regulations applicable in Canadian jurisdictions.

It should be noted that other approaches beyond EPR can include varying degrees of a producer responsibility component. These include shared responsibility and product stewardship approaches, defined in this report (see Section 2.3 Measuring Progress).

Figure 1. Degree of producer responsibility – Continuum



The first EPR program in Canada was the paint stewardship program in British Columbia, established in 1994. Since then, forms of EPR have found significant application in Canada and have been adopted or are being considered by jurisdictions for specific product categories. The practice and experience with EPR in Canada is being closely followed around the world.

2. CANADA-WIDE ACTION PLAN FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

2.1. Commitments

Under the terms of CAP-EPR, jurisdictions committed to working towards the development of EPR framework legislation and/or regulations for the implementation of EPR programs and/or requirements in two phases, in accordance with the following timelines and list of priority products and materials.

Phase 1 Product Categories, by 2015

- Packaging – all packaging currently handled by municipalities or generated from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, e.g., PET (#1) and HDPE (#2) plastics, steel and aluminum cans, glass bottles or jars, aseptic (juice) boxes, gable top cartons.
- Printed Materials – printed materials will be included in all packaging EPR programs, e.g., newspapers, advertising flyers, magazines, directories.
- Mercury-containing lamps – including compact fluorescents lamps (CFLs) and other lamps containing mercury as identified in CAP-EPR, Appendix I.
- Other mercury-containing products – thermostats, thermometers, barometers, or other measuring devices and switches, as identified in CAP-EPR, Appendix I.

- Electronics and electrical equipment – all products identified on the common list of CCME recommended electronics in CAP-EPR, Appendix D, e.g., laptop computers, televisions, cell phones, DVD players.
- Household hazardous and special wastes – all products identified in the common list in CAP-EPR, Appendix F, e.g., paints, coatings, solvents and their containers, fertilizers and pesticides, including containers, pharmaceuticals and sharps.
- Automotive products – used crankcase oil, filters and containers, lead acid batteries, lamps, tires, refrigerants and anti-freeze, brake, transmission, other fluids and their containers.

In addition, existing product stewardship and non-EPR programs for the Phase 1 product categories that were established before the adoption of CAP-EPR will be reviewed by jurisdictions within the context of CAP-EPR by 2015.

Phase 2 Product Categories, by 2017

Jurisdictions commit to working to incorporate into operational EPR programs the following product categories, subject to further elaboration by CCME:

- Construction materials
- Demolition materials
- Furniture
- Textiles and carpet
- Appliances, including ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

2.2. Progress Since 2009

CAP-EPR has had a positive influence in establishing EPR programs and requirements across Canada. Since the adoption of CAP-EPR in October 2009, most provinces have adopted legislation and/or regulations designating additional materials and products to be managed under EPR programs, and the number of product categories covered by EPR programs or requirements, both in effect or soon to be, has almost tripled.⁴ Additionally, nine out of ten provinces have EPR programs or requirements in place. The section below provides a quick snapshot of recent successes since CAP-EPR's adoption.

For *electronics*, there are now EPR programs or requirements in eight out of ten provinces, plus a product stewardship approach in Alberta. Industry has established a national organization (Electronic Products Recycling Association) to support producers in meeting their requirements. Northwest Territories and Yukon are considering an electronics recycling program, while New Brunswick is currently developing an EPR approach for electronics.

⁴ See footnote 1

For *packaging and printed paper (PPP)*, there are various forms of producer requirements in five out of ten provinces for packaging and printed paper. Of these, four are shared responsibility programs (i.e., legislated cost sharing approach) and one is a full EPR program (i.e., 100% producer responsibility), as shown in Table 1. Manitoba launched a PPP program in 2010 (80/20 industry/municipal cost share), while British Columbia's full producer responsibility PPP program launched in May 2014. Saskatchewan introduced shared responsibility requirements for PPP to launch in January 2015 (75/25 industry/municipal cost share), and Québec has moved its program to 100% industry funding, operated by municipalities. Ontario's shared responsibility program remains at a 50/50 industry/municipal cost sharing, while new legislation is under consideration. The Atlantic provinces are currently collaborating on the development of a common framework for the implementation of a PPP EPR approach across the region and Alberta is considering designating PPP to be managed under an EPR recycling program.

For *household hazardous waste*, a number of EPR programs or requirements have been adopted by jurisdictions since 2009. Manitoba adopted an EPR regulation in 2010 to manage designated household hazardous waste materials through EPR programs. Newfoundland and Labrador launched the province's first EPR program targeting paint; there are now legislated EPR or product stewardship programs or requirements in all provinces. Québec has established EPR programs for paint, batteries and mercury-containing lamps. Alberta is proposing to designate household hazardous waste under an EPR approach; currently a voluntary program operates for household hazardous waste funded by government and municipalities and a regulated stewardship program operates for paint.

For *automotive products*, used oil and related materials (e.g., oil filters, oil containers, antifreeze and containers) are covered under EPR requirements in six out of ten provinces. For used tires, three provinces have EPR requirements and seven provinces as well as one territory have product stewardship programs in place.

As a result of these new programs or requirements and expansion of existing ones, almost half of the product categories for Phase 1 are now covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements across Canada.⁵

2.3. Measuring Progress

Jurisdictions have made significant advances in waste diversion since 2009, with the implementation of a number of legislated EPR programs or requirements and other waste diversion initiatives.

Table 1 presents an overview of provincial, territorial and Canada-wide waste diversion initiatives, including legislated EPR programs or requirements, as well as voluntary, shared responsibility and product stewardship programs for Phase 1 materials.

⁵ See footnote 2

Overview of Waste Diversion Initiatives: Phase 1 Materials

Table 1 Terminology:

Legislated EPR (E-L): programs or requirements in which manufacturers, brand owners and/or first importers are directly responsible for both the funding and the operation of the programs, as required via legislation or regulations. This includes both operational programs and those to be implemented at a future date (i.e., regulations and/or legislation have been adopted).

Voluntary EPR (E-V): industry-led programs where manufacturers, brand owners and/or first importers have come together to provide a provincial, territorial or Canada-wide collection and recycling program for specific products that have reached their end-of-life. Governments have not regulated or otherwise mandated these EPR programs and are not involved with their operations. Such programs may report publicly, and in some cases are required to achieve performance targets and report publically via commitments made in memoranda of understanding. This inventory does not take into account initiatives led by individual manufacturers or retailers to collect end-of-life products.

Shared responsibility (S): programs operated by governments (e.g., municipalities or other public agencies) but with varying degrees of producer responsibility and/or funding (see Figure 1). These are commonly found in the areas of packaging and printed paper, where municipalities provide collection and sorting/processing services with substantial funding provided by producers, notably through a producer responsibility organization or an industry funding organization.

Product stewardship (P): programs in which manufacturers, brand owners and/or importers are neither directly responsible for program funding, nor for program operations. These are waste diversion initiatives funded by consumers or general taxpayers and are operated by public agencies or delegated administrative organizations. These programs may be mandated through legislation and regulations or may be voluntary. Producers may play an advisory role.

Pending: programs or requirements for which regulations or legislation are being developed. The colour of the cell refers to the type of program or requirement. These are shaded in lighter colors.

Consider: programs or requirements that are being considered by governments, subject to consultations. The colour of the cell refers to the type of program or requirement. These are shaded in lighter colors.

Note that the term *Household Hazardous and Special Wastes* (HHSW) is used to facilitate presentation, but we recognize that the “special wastes” in some cases are from the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors (not residential), and that not all jurisdictions use this terminology.

If an entry is in parentheses () then the program is only operated in part of the jurisdiction (not jurisdiction-wide yet) and a jurisdictional authority is involved in the program.

Also, initiatives that are indicated with a descriptor may not cover all of the materials listed in that material/product category (e.g., includes oil filters and oil containers, but not used oil).

Note: there is a national stewardship program for mercury switches in end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) not shown in Table 1, as part of the federal notice to prepare and implement pollution prevention plans for mercury releases from ELVs processed by steel mills. Currently, there are no legislated EPR requirements at the federal level.

All EPR programs or requirements are shaded in blue cells.

Legislated EPR Program: E-L

Voluntary EPR Program: E-V

Shared responsibility programs are shaded in green cells with an S: S

Product Stewardship programs are shaded in orange cells with a P: P

Table 1: Waste Diversion Initiatives in Canada for CAP-EPR Phase 1 Materials (July 2014)

Material/ Product Category	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	PE	NB	NS	NL	YT	NT	NU
Packaging - milk Containers	E - V	P	E - V	S	S	S	P	E - V	S	(E - V)	consider	P	
Packaging - beverage containers	E - L	P	P	E - L	P liquor/wine	P beer & soft drinks	P	P	P	P	P	P	(P) liquor/beer
Multi-packaging and printed materials	E - L	consider	S	S	S	S	consider	consider	consider	consider			
Electronics - audio-visual and telecom	E - L	consider	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
Electronics - cell phones	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - V*	E - L	E - L	E - V consider P	E - V	
Electronics - computers, accessories and IT equipment	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
Electronics - tools	E - L	consider				consider	consider						
Electronics - TVs	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
HHSW - batteries (single use, rechargeable)	E - L	S*	E - V	E - L	E - L single use	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V*			
HHSW - corrosives & irritants	E - L	S*	consider	E - L corrosives		consider	P		consider	consider			
HHSW - aerosols, solvents & flammables	E - L	S*	consider	E - L solvents & flammables	E - L solvents	consider	P		consider	consider			
HHSW - mercury lamps, other mercury products	E - L	consider	consider	E - L	P	E - L	E - L		consider	consider			
HHSW - paint	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L			
HHSW - pesticides/fertilizers & containers	E - L pesticides	E - V	E - V*	E - L	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V			
HHSW - pharmaceuticals	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - L	E - L	E - V	E - L	E - V	E - V*	E - V	E - V		E - V
HHSW - sharps/syringes			consider	E - L	E - L	consider	E - L		E - V*	consider	E - V		
Automotive - batteries	E - L			E - L		consider	E - L	E - V		E - V*			
Automotive - tires	E - L	P	P	E - L	E - L	P*	P	P*	P	P	P		
Automotive - used oil, oil containers and/or filters	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L containers and filters	E - L	E - L	E - L	P* used oil	P*			
Automotive - other (e.g., glycol)	E - L	consider	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	consider	pending			

Notes: Table developed by Giroux Environmental Consulting, 2014. * = legislated EPR being considered; (P) = Deposit is charged territory-wide, collection depot only in Iqaluit. This inventory does not take into account initiatives led by individual manufacturers or retailers to collect end-of-life products.

Overview of Waste Diversion Initiatives: Phase 2 Materials

While EPR programs or requirements to date have focused largely on Phase 1 materials and products, there are some legislated EPR programs or requirements in place for CAP-EPR Phase 2 materials, notably in British Columbia for small and large appliances under the electronic and electrical product category, and Manitoba for microwave ovens (appliances) and ozone-depleting substances (ODS) with regulated return to supplier requirements.

Refrigerant Management Canada currently operates a national industry-led voluntary program to recover ODS. Environment Canada is proposing to support the life cycle management of ODS and their halocarbon alternatives with a Pollution Prevention Planning Notice to manage end-of-life refrigerants used in the stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning sector.

2.4. Program Performance: Snapshot

Canada-wide EPR program performance data are currently limited. This section of the progress report provides a snapshot of the performance of EPR programs for electronics and used oil, where legislated requirements are in place and data are readily available. Reporting on EPR performance varies depending on regulatory requirements and on how producers have organized themselves for data reporting and the format chosen for reporting.

Electronics

There are EPR programs or requirements in eight out of ten provinces, plus a product stewardship approach in Alberta. Table 2 presents data for the six most-mature programs with data publicly available for 2012. The remaining programs are not included because their collection programs were launched in 2013 (Newfoundland and Labrador) or they do not have data readily available with respect to 2012 (Manitoba). Note that some programs cover a larger segment of materials and therefore would collect substantially more end-of-life products.

Table 2: End-of-Life Electronics and Electronic Products Diverted in 2012⁶

Indicator	BC (2012)	AB (2012- 2013)	SK (2012)	ON (2012)	NS (2012)	PEI (2012)	TOTAL
Tonnes collected	21,963	17,280	3,425	75,702	4,719	605	123,694
Kilograms per capita	4.8	4.67	3.24	5.61	4.97	4.14	
Collection sites	142	336	72	444	37	6	
Collection events		90	24	228	2	1	
Population awareness	75%	80%	87.5%	67%	79%	69%	
Total program cost per tonne (e.g., collection/processing costs)	\$1,208	\$1,120	\$1,760	\$1,105	\$1,269	\$1,393	

⁶ Source: CM Consulting 2013. "The Canadian WEEE Report: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Reuse and Recycling in Canada 2013" and Alberta Recycling 2012-2013 Annual Report.

Used oil and related materials

Programs or requirements to collect and manage used oil and related materials are well established in most provinces. A legislated EPR approach is used in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario (containers and filters only)⁷, Québec, and New Brunswick⁸. Alberta uses a product stewardship approach.

Table 3: 2012 Reported Recovery Percentages for Used Oil and Related Materials in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario⁹

	BC	AB ¹⁰	SK	MB	QC	ON
Used Oil	79%	82%	78%	77%	94%	-
Oil Filters (Used)	85%	94%	85%	79%	83%	98%
Oil Containers (Used)	79%	92%	52% (+24% reuse)	33% (+20% reuse)	95%	87%

2.5. CAP-EPR Implementation Challenges

Jurisdictions recognize that despite best efforts to support a Canada-wide approach to EPR, there are ongoing challenges with the implementation of the CAP-EPR commitments and EPR programs and requirements. These include but are not limited to:

- Anticipated delays for some jurisdictions in implementing programs or requirements for Phase 1 materials by 2015. Smaller jurisdictions may need more time because of capacity issues. Some jurisdictions have existing programs for Phase 1 materials that are achieving results and are not expected to transition to an EPR approach.
- Slower than anticipated progress by jurisdictions in implementing programs or requirements for some of the Phase 1 materials, including:
 - mercury-containing lamps and other mercury-containing products
 - sharps (e.g., syringes, lancets).
- The issue of harmonization. Efforts are underway by jurisdictions to ensure a consistent approach to EPR. CAP-EPR was developed with promoting consistency across jurisdictions as a fundamental goal; however there is recognition some factors may contribute to differences amongst jurisdictions in implementing EPR programs or requirements. Producers and industry stakeholders have identified to CCME that this is an ongoing challenge.

⁷ Due to an already well-developed collection and recycling infrastructure for used oil, Ontario did not pursue an EPR approach.

⁸ There are no data for New Brunswick as the program only became operational in 2014.

⁹ All data presented in this table are from the 2012 annual reports of the used oil management associations (<http://usedoilrecycling.com>). Ontario data are from Stewardship Ontario's 2012 Annual Report for the MHSW program.

¹⁰ Some plastic containers are being collected in Alberta that are not officially part of the program (i.e., windshield washer containers)

- CCME recognizes that harmonization is a process of continuous improvement and that both industry and governments need to provide leadership in the development and implementation of EPR programs or requirements to achieve the objectives of CAP-EPR.
- Some jurisdictions are facing challenges in transitioning pre-existing stewardship requirements under existing legislation/regulations to move to an EPR framework.
- Visible fees (e.g., eco-fees) at the point of sale on designated materials have been an issue in some jurisdictions.
- Jurisdictions note that e-tailing sales (i.e., direct to consumer), which sometimes fall outside the scope of legislated EPR programs or requirements (e.g., from the United States), is likely to become a larger challenge in implementing successful EPR programs.
- Recognition that EPR may not be the most appropriate policy approach for certain Phase 2 products/materials.

In 2014 CCME undertook a five year review of CAP-EPR to determine the best path forward in addressing these and other implementation challenges.

2.6. Status Update for the Territories

Under CAP-EPR, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon committed to review their progress toward the development of EPR frameworks for all product categories to determine whether EPR will be pursued, by 2015. None of the territories have yet made such a determination.

However, the Northwest Territories is exploring opportunities for EPR in Canada's North. While EPR is not enabled under current legislation, EPR is being reviewed for the future as part of a waste management strategy in development. Additionally, over the last few years, Environment Canada has undertaken studies in collaboration with the territorial governments to assess the quantities and distribution of recyclable materials available for recovery through EPR or other programs.

Given their unique circumstances of geography, population and infrastructure, EPR may not be an appropriate instrument for all products or product categories in the three territories. Other types of stewardship approaches, policies or supporting measures may therefore be necessary to achieve the desired outcomes in terms of waste diversion and recycling. For example, the Northwest Territories and Yukon are considering a product stewardship approach to the management of electronics in their territories, as shown in Table 1, and do not preclude involvement of the Electronic Products Recycling Association or a transition to EPR programs if future analysis shows that to be warranted and practical.

2.7. Canada-wide Outlook on Waste

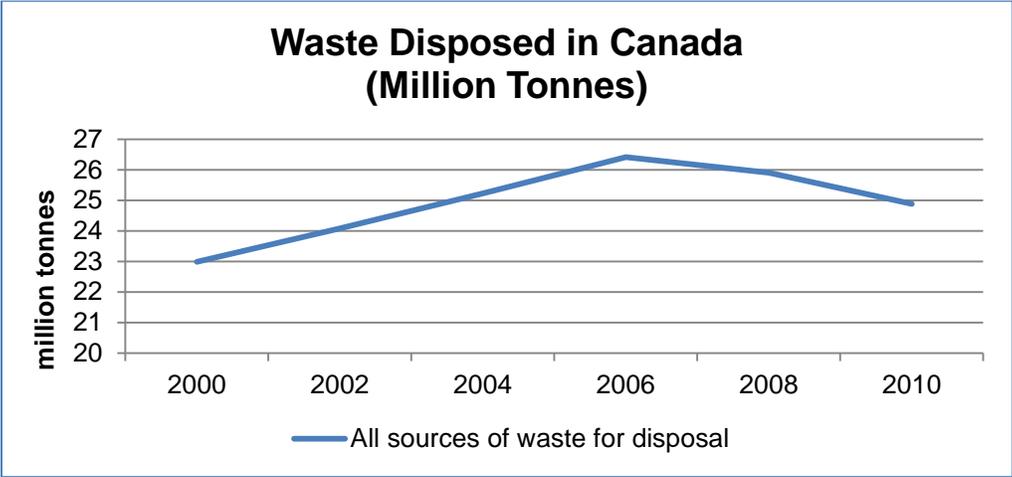
There are signs that waste diversion programs and efforts around the country are having a positive impact on the environment, and are likely a key factor in reducing the overall quantity of waste being sent to landfills. While total waste disposed of has increased by about 8% over the past decade, the per capita amount of waste disposed of in Canada has decreased by about 2%.¹¹

Diversion highlights from Statistics Canada show that from 2000-2010 the total amount of waste diverted to recycling or organic waste processing facilities increased by 33%.

Table 4: Quantity of Municipal Solid Waste Diverted (Recycled or Composted)¹²

Indicator	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	Long Term Change (2000 to 2010)
Tonnes (million)	6.1	6.6	7.1	7.5	8.3	8.1	+33%
Kg per capita	199	212	223	237	249	236	+19%
% diversion	21%	22%	22%	22%	24.3%	24.5%	+3.5%

Figure 2: Total Waste (Residential and non-Residential) Disposed in Canada (Million Tonnes)¹³

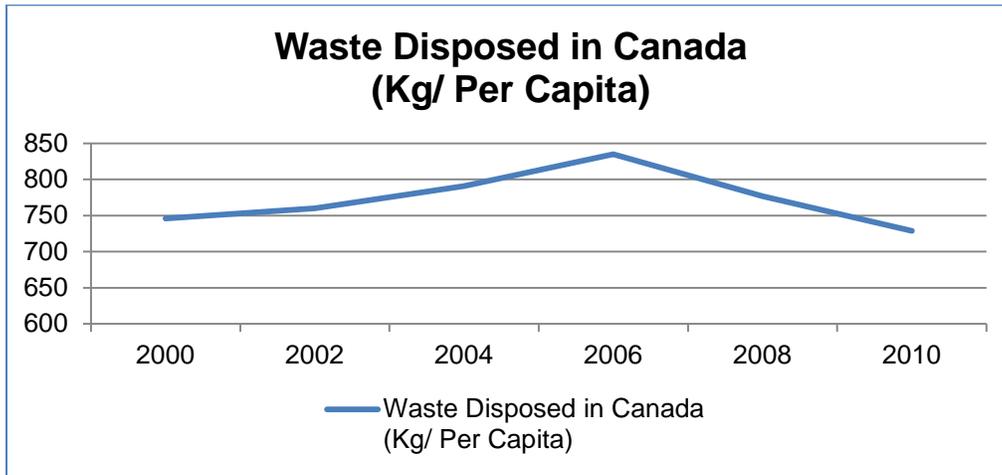


¹¹ Compiled information from Statistics Canada, Waste Management Industry Surveys (2003-2013)

¹² Compiled information from Statistics Canada, Waste Management Industry Surveys (2003-2013)

¹³ Compiled information from Statistics Canada, Waste Management Industry Surveys (2003-2013)

Figure 3: Total Waste (Residential and non-Residential) Disposed in Canada (Kg/ Per Capita)¹⁴



Jurisdictions recognize that EPR, as part of an umbrella of approaches and strategies for diverting waste, will help jurisdictions increase waste diversion while shifting the responsibility of managing waste to producers and consumers, and reducing the financial burden on governments for managing waste. Phase 1 CAP-EPR programs in Canada have focused on materials and products that are difficult or costly to manage or are toxic. With the exception of packaging and printed paper, these materials and products are not necessarily a large component of the overall waste stream by weight or volume. Phase 1 CAP-EPR materials are estimated in Ontario as 14% of the total waste stream. Phase 2 CAP-EPR materials and products have the potential to address a larger portion of the waste stream. EPR approaches, combined with other waste diversion tools can support overall waste diversion. EPR is recognized as one, but not the only approach, available to jurisdictions in addressing waste management issues in Canada.

3. LOOKING AHEAD

Since implementation of the first beverage container deposit-refund program (British Columbia – 1970), the first packaging and printed paper program (Blue Box, Ontario – 1980s), the first electronics program (Alberta – 2004) and the first EPR program (British Columbia, for paint – 1994), waste diversion programs in Canada have evolved to cover a wide range of materials. These early program models have been proven effective for increasing waste diversion, resource conservation and other environmental benefits. As jurisdictions continue to develop their waste diversion initiatives and approaches, more waste will be diverted from landfills, more materials and products will be recycled, with less financial pressure on governments, municipalities and taxpayers.

CCME concludes that jurisdictions have been successful in working towards the objectives of CAP-EPR, while working towards a harmonized approach to EPR through the coordination and implementation of policies and programs across the country. There are now 94 product

¹⁴ Compiled information from Statistics Canada, Waste Management Industry Surveys (2003-2013)

categories that are covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements (as of July 2014), compared to only about 33 product categories at the time of CAP-EPR adoption in October 2009. Additionally, there are a host of other programs operating in Canada (e.g., product stewardship and voluntary EPR) that are achieving important environmental outcomes.

EPR as one approach to increase waste diversion will continue to play an important role in Canada in the years to come. There is an ongoing opportunity to achieve further environmental outcomes with EPR programs in Canada considering the amount of waste that is still going to landfill. CCME looks forward to continued success of EPR programs, and harmonization of EPR approaches by jurisdictions, and in making Canada a world leader in waste diversion.