

Jurisdiction Scan for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility (physical and/or financial) for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of the product's life cycle. EPR shifts responsibility upstream in the product life cycle to the producer and away from municipalities and regional waste authorities.

Provincial regulations determine packaging and paper EPR obligations & the responsible parties. Circular Materials Ontario (CMO), SK Recycles (formerly MMSW) and Recycle BC have been appointed as the PRO's – Producer Responsibility Organizations for each province respectively.

The tables and summaries below shows the different approaches used by municipalities who have or are currently transitioning to EPR across Canada – focusing specifically on their involvement acting as a collector on behalf of the PRO. The information presented was prepared using a combination of publicly available online documents, news articles and dialog with jurisdictional operations.

1. **Province:** Ontario

EPR Status: Transition Phase

PRO: Circular Materials Ontario (CMO)

Transition Schedule: The ministry considered municipal preferences for the date of transition. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) canvassed all municipalities and sought their input on when they would like to transition. To minimize impacts to municipalities, the ministry also considered expiry dates for municipal blue box service contracts and the ability for municipalities to extend current contracts (where this data was available). The ministry did not assign any municipality a transition date that is earlier than their preference, to minimize the potential for breaking contracts¹. Additionally, there are no contamination fees issued to collectors during the transition phase, although CMO has an aspirational contamination rate of 4% for collection agreements during the phase.

Post-Transition: CMO will be in total control of recycling programming and operations throughout Ontario as of Jan 1, 2026. They have stated that they may make changes to the way recycling is collected. This could include changes to materials collected, recycling collection schedule, collection mechanism, etc.

¹ [Blue-Box-Transition-Schedule-updated-Feb-2024.pdf](#)

Table 1

City	Population (approx.)	Assigned Transition Date	Acting as collector	Comments
Toronto	3.0 million	2023-07-01	Yes, until Dec 31, 2025	The City and CMO were in discussions regarding the continued provision of recycling services on CMO's behalf post-transition phase (Jan 1, 2026, onwards); however, CMO confirmed their position Feb 5, 2024, stating their inability to continue negotiations regarding Blue Box collection services due to the inability of both parties to align on mutually acceptable contract terms ² .
Hamilton	500,000	2025-04-01	No	Will be handing over to CM at transition date assigned ³ .
Ottawa	880,000	2023-07-01	Yes, until Dec 31, 2025	The transition date selected by CMO was after the expiration of their collection contracts. Contracts were extended to the end of the transition phase (Dec 31, 2025) when CMO will take over ⁴ .
RM of Waterloo,	260,000	2024-03-02	No	CMO awarded collection contracts to the regions existing contracts for the transition period only (Miller Waste Systems & Emterra Environmental) ⁵ .
Barrie	150,000	2024-05-01	No	CMO contracted Emterra to provide collection after the transition date ⁶ .
Windsor	220,000	2024-08-28	No	CMO contracted GFL to provide collection after transition date ⁷

² [Post-Transition of the Blue Box Program to Extended Producer Responsibility and Results of District 2 Service Delivery Options Review](#)

³ [Blue Box Transition | City of Hamilton](#)

⁴ [Recycling | City of Ottawa](#)

⁵ [Blue Box - Region of Waterloo](#)

⁶ [Recycling Collection | City of Barrie](#)

⁷ [Blue Box Recycling \(Residents & Eligible Sources\) | Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority \(EWSWA\)](#)

2. Province: British Columbia

EPR Status: Established

PRO: RecycleBC

Recycle BC provides incentives to local governments, First Nations, private companies, and non-profits to collect residential packaging and paper under contract with recycle BC. In speaking with municipalities and referencing the sample Statement of Work⁸, there are also Service Level Failure credits built into the contracts with collectors which, if applied, could result in significant financial penalties.

Table 2

City	Population (approx.)	Acting as collector		Comments
City of Abbotsford	150,000	Yes	Single Stream	Currently implementing a Contamination Remediation Plan (CRP) as required by the PRO to reduce the City's contamination rate by 25% before Dec 31, 2024 'to ensure the curbside recycling program remains affordable & sustainable' ⁹ .
City of Richmond	210,000	Yes	Multi-stream	Low contamination rate – service level failure rates less of a concern
Regional Districts of Central Okanagan (RDCO)	220,000	Yes- but transitioning.	Single Stream	Will be transitioning collector responsibilities to the PRO (RecycleBC) in 2026. <i>"Having Recycle BC provide direct service reduces financial risk and penalties to municipalities, and ultimately taxpayers, due to excessive recycling contamination and increasing contract costs. With Recycle BC providing direct service, residents will better understand who is ultimately responsible for residential recycling"</i> ¹⁰
District of North Vancouver (DNV)	95,000	No	Multi-Stream	Transitioned collector responsibilities to the PRO (RecycleBC) in 2020. This transition was council-directed and well timed with existing contracts.

⁸ [Recycle-BC-Local-Government-Curbside-SOW-SAMPLE-2022.pdf](#)

⁹ [Contamination Remediation Plan | City of Abbotsford](#)

¹⁰ [Recycling - Regional District of Central Okanagan](#)

