



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-022

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: November 5, 2020

Subject: Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report entitled “Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper,” for discussion.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Province of B.C. legislates the management and diversion of recyclables through the “BC Recycling Regulation”. Under the regulation:

1. Producers are responsible for collecting and processing recyclables as part of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) via the eco-fees charged at point of sale.
2. Household recyclables are covered off under EPR only from residential sources, meaning that there is an additional cost to consumers for the recycling of products used by commercial entities.

The Province of BC has released the attached policy intentions paper for consultation, which will inform a new version of the Recycling Regulation, and is providing opportunity for feedback. As per the paper, the Province is considering the addition of product types, such as mattresses and single-use propane bottles, as well as expanding the categories for electronic products¹ and packaging/printed paper (PPP) beyond residential sources.

Responses to the Ministry’s questions have been compiled and are attached for the Committee’s consideration.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize submission of applicable comments which reflect how recycling works in the PRRD to the province regarding the “Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper.”
2. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

¹ Currently includes multimedia devices such as computers, smaller copiers, television, modems, phones, etc.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Costs for processing recyclables in our region outside of an EPR program is \$2,000,000 annually (approximately 16% of the Solid Waste Budget, which is currently \$12,300,000).

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Feedback will be submitted online via the Ministry website.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The proposed changes to the Recycling Regulation could affect the capture of household recyclables by bringing the bulk of the material under EPR and significantly reducing recycling processing costs for the PRRD.

The deadline for submission of comments is November 20, 2020, however the Ministry will accept responses beyond this date and utilize them in consideration of the proposed changes to the regulation. The Ministry has stated in its paper that the proposed changes will be part of a multi-year strategy, but does not specify a timeline.

Attachments:

1. Recycling Regulation Policy Paper –Comments for MoECCS
2. Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper