

Litter Reduction - Regulatory Tools

March 31, 2022

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Overview



PROPOSED TOOLS



EDUCATION/PROMOTION



CURRENT TOOLS

Plastic Bags Reduction Act

- ▶ The Plastic Bags Reduction Act came into effect on October 30, 2020.
- ▶ Provide an opportunity to limit at source
- ▶ Compliance with the Plastic Bags Reduction Act appears to be very favorable
- ▶ Reductions in litter (Trashformers data)
- ▶ Tracking data to evaluate any potential for unintended consequences



Littering fines

- ▶ Under the *Environment Act*, Inspectors can
 - ▶ issue litter-control orders to require the person responsible to clean-up any litter deposited contrary to the Environment Act
 - ▶ can issue summary offence tickets for \$467.50 for an out-of-court settlement or court prosecutions can result in court orders to clean up and fines of up to \$100,000.

Mandate Letter – Litterbug Act

- ▶ Enact legislation (*Litterbug Act*) establishing the highest provincial penalties for littering and embark on an advertising campaign to inform Nova Scotians.

	Individuals	Corporations
Nova Scotia	\$10,000	\$100,000
Alberta	\$250 <u>or</u> \$50,000*	\$1,000 <u>or</u> \$500,000*
British Columbia	≤ \$2000	NA
Prince Edward Island	\$200	\$1,000

* for larger scale littering events

Expanding EPR in NS

Current EPR programs:

- paint, used oil/filters, electronics

EPR for PPP:

- includes materials commonly found in NS' blue bag system

Many PPP items are reported in litter audits/clean ups

As part of ECC engagement, staff are asking input on whether litter objectives should be incorporated in a proposed EPR for PPP program



Education/promotion

- ▶ Annual program funding:
 - ▶ Adopt-A-Highway and Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up programs, which assist volunteer groups and individuals completing community litter clean-ups.

- ▶ Education a theme throughout:
 - ▶ Part of the compliance continuum
 - ▶ Element of the bag ban (why ban was implemented)
 - ▶ EPR for PPP – producers can use education as a means for reducing litter

Thank you for your time!

If interested in providing input to the EPR for PPP engagement, please contact Bob or Ashley to access the feedback portal. The response deadline is April 11, 2022.

Ashley David - Ashley.David@novascotia.ca

Bob Kenney - Robert.Kenney@novascotia.ca