

MUNICIPAL REGISTRATION: EPR for PPP

October 24, 2023

This is the first of a series of updates for municipalities about the transition to Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging, Paper Products and Packaging-like Products (EPR for PPP).

BACKGROUND

The new EPR for PPP program is part of Nova Scotia's plan to reduce waste disposal rates and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Under the new program, producers of packaging and paper products will have to meet recycling targets that, over time, will encourage more eco-friendly packaging and reduce single-use plastics. The diversion targets attached to the EPR for PPP program are some of the highest in the country in recognition of the strong performance of existing curbside recycling programs in Nova Scotia.

The program will also standardize recycling programs across Nova Scotia and incentivize producers to reduce consumer packaging. EPR for PPP moves the physical and financial obligation of collecting, sorting, and processing curbside recyclables to producers and away from municipal governments and taxpayers, saving Nova Scotia municipalities an estimated \$20-25 million annually.

The blue bag programs currently operated by municipalities will be assumed by a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) that will act on behalf of the various packaging producers. Divert NS was appointed by the Province to administer and provide oversight for the EPR for PPP program.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Transitioning to the new industry-led program will take about two years, so a phased approach will ensure our plan is workable for all stakeholders. The first phase of the transition to EPR for PPP is focused on preparing the foundations for the program. For municipalities, this means registering and providing data on their curbside recycling programs to Divert NS. **The deadline for these actions is January 1, 2024.**

The registration and data collection process will require municipalities to indicate if they will opt in to the EPR for PPP program or if they will continue to run their curbside recycling program at their own cost.

Over the coming weeks, we will be providing municipalities with further information about the registration process. Divert NS will provide resources and assistance to support municipal staff in the data collection process.

Below you will find some frequently asked questions for municipalities. If you have any additional questions, please send them along by emailing us at EPResupport@divertns.ca.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can municipalities determine whether they should opt in to the EPR for PPP program?

With EPR for PPP the cost and responsibility of operating curbside recycling programs will be transferred from municipalities to producers. Across the province, municipalities spend an estimated \$20-25 million annually on curbside blue bag programs, so there are significant cost savings for municipalities that opt in to EPR for PPP.

Municipalities who opt out of the EPR for PPP program will continue to operate their own blue bag programs at their own cost.

What is required to register with Divert NS? What type of data does Divert NS need?

Registering is a simple matter of providing basic information about the municipality.

The data required is focused on each municipality's existing blue bag program, such as number of households served, tonnage of material collected, type of materials collected, etc. Municipalities may also choose to provide financial data during registration, but it is not required.

Municipal data is intended to support the PRO in preparing the foundations for the EPR for PPP program. Good quality data will help the PRO better understand the size and scope of curbside recycling programs across Nova Scotia and enable a smoother transition to an industry-run program.

How and when can I get data to Divert NS?

An excel spreadsheet will be distributed by Divert NS to key municipal stakeholders by October 27. The deadline to submit your data is January 1, 2024.

Who owns this data? Who gets to see it? How will Divert NS ensure that the data is protected?

The data will be shared with the PRO. Divert NS will take all necessary steps to receive and transfer municipal data in a secure manner. Additional information about this will be available over the coming weeks.

How will the PRO use this data?

The data provided by municipalities will help the PRO design a standardized and efficient curbside recycling program to replace the one operated by municipalities. Data provided by municipalities will be critical to create an effective program that will achieve the goals of reducing waste disposal rates and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Were municipalities consulted on EPR?

Yes, municipalities were consulted, both through direct engagement and through the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

What support and assistance will be provided to municipalities to register and submit the needed data?

Divert NS will be supporting municipalities through a webinar and other resources.

More information is available on Divert NS' [EPR web page](#), which will be updated regularly. We encourage municipalities to check this page frequently.

If you need help or support, please email us at EPRsupport@divertns.ca

What if we miss the January 1, 2024 deadline?

If you do not think your municipality will be able to meet the deadline, please get in touch with us at EPRsupport@divertns.ca

