

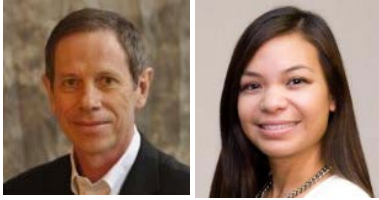


## **EPR UPDATES: CANADA, USA & EUROPE**

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## INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the second PAC NEXT quarterly EPR report for 2016. In this quarter, Canadian provincial stewardship programs have released their 2015 annual reports.

To look more closely at the range of programs across Canada, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Waste Management Task Group organized an EPR Consistency workshop at Toronto's Novotel Toronto Center on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. At this workshop, a wide range of stakeholders – packaging and printed paper forming the largest group – gathered to review key themes areas, such as inconsistencies in terminology used to define obligated stewards across jurisdictions and product lists for obligated materials. Noteworthy points included that product lists should allow for packaging innovation as it continually evolves, IC&I inconsistencies need to be clarified, and there is need for further clarity on which package is obligated under which policy where there are multiple policies (e.g. blue box and deposit-return). A summary of understanding of the areas of broad agreement by stakeholders was drafted as a result of the meeting for submission to the Council.

Of course, the major headline of this quarter is the passing of the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* and the *Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016* by the Government of Ontario on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Commonly known as *Waste-Free Ontario Act*, there is much anticipation on what the finer details of this legislation will reveal and how it will be implemented.

We are pleased to have Jo-Anne St.Godard, Executive Director of Recycling Council of Ontario, share insights on what makes this legislation different than any other in North America and how Ontario moves forward with transitioning under the new regime.

We hope that find this quarterly update helpful and the article links useful.

*Alan and Rachel*  
PAC NEXT

## FEATURE COLUMN



### **A closer look at how Ontario moves forward with the *Waste-Free Ontario Act***

**Jo-Anne St. Godard, Executive Director, [Recycling Council of Ontario](#)**

On June 9, 2016 the Government of Ontario passed the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* and the *Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016*, otherwise known as the *Waste-Free Ontario Act*. This new legislation was preceded by two previous failed attempts and endless years of consultation to replace the *Waste Diversion Act*, Ontario's first attempt at extended producer responsibility policy.

What makes the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* unique is it goes beyond setting up a new regime for producer responsibility. Drawing from principles and provisions of planning legislation the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* uses provincial interest statements that set high-level objectives to grow a circular economy, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce waste generation. When applied to supply or value chains the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* can require systems to drive wastes out of products or packaging and encourage economic models that redirect discards back into production cycles, which are theories central to activating a circular economy.

The act also removes producer responsibility provisions that prescribe *how* producers comply by refocusing on *what* they must achieve to comply. The elimination of mandated Industry Funding Organizations and program plan approvals with predetermined funding methodologies shifts focus to individual producers. Producers are identified as one of the potentially obligated parties that will be required to register with the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority, a new body that will monitor compliance against prescribed requirements. Under this structure direct liability is assigned to producers (not an agent), which gives them freedom to engage in partnerships that facilitates more informed management choices and direct accountability.

While we don't want perfect to be the enemy of good the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* does have shortcomings. The lack of clear definitions for terms that are used to describe the core function of the *Waste-Free Ontario Act*, and the requirements of the parties obligated by it, are inadequate: *circular economy, recycling, reduction, reuse, and resource recovery*. Carefully crafted regulations made under the act may correct this; however, each term should provide clarity to obligated parties and signal what operational investments and changes are required to drive the more effective use of discarded resources resulting in the best environmental outcomes.

In short, by encouraging a transition to a circular economy and improving the producer responsibility framework with broader policy instruments, the *Waste-Free Free Ontario Act* has the potential to be one of the most effective waste policies in North America.

## CANADIAN NEWS

### New Four-Step Fee Methodology Receives Broad Stakeholder Support and Board Approvals

The new fee methodology and its guiding principles, developed over the past year by the Steward Consultation Committee (SCC), have received broad support from stakeholders and has now also been approved by the Boards of Directors of MMBC, MMSW, MMSM and Stewardship Ontario.

In summary, stakeholders generally expressed support for both the principles that underpin the methodology as well as the new methodology itself. The concerns that were expressed relate to:

- Timing for the implementation of the methodology and the need for strategies to mitigate anticipated fee rate increases for specific materials;
- Ensure the integrity of the key inputs to the methodology such as ABC and density inputs;
- Clarification on fee rate aggregation; and
- Use of the 3 year rolling average for determining commodity prices.

A summary of the stakeholder input can be found in the [Consultation Report on the Proposed New Fee Methodology](#). Read more [here](#).



### MMBC reports strong performance in 2015

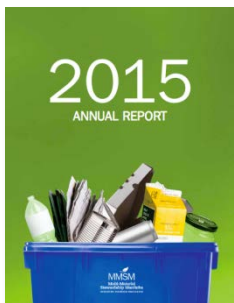
Multi-Material BC (MMBC) has released its [2015 Annual Report](#) detailing successful partnerships and demonstrated results delivered in its first full year of operations.

Among the key highlights of the 2015 Annual Report:

- 86% of British Columbians living in areas that are part of the MMBC program reported that their recycling service is unchanged or better than one year earlier.
- MMBC continued to increase access to reliable and convenient recycling services, with 24 new depots and an additional 15,000 households receiving curbside or multi-family pick-up service.
- Over 1.7 million BC households in 151 communities now have access to MMBC services.
- MMBC collected 186,509 tonnes of packaging and printed paper, or 43.6 kg per capita, in 2015.



### 2015 MMSM Annual Report is now available



Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba completed its sixth year of operations in 2015 and reports another great year for printed paper and packaging recycling in Manitoba. The most recent data available shows that the recovery rate increased by two percentage points to 65%.

Access the 2015 MMSM Annual Report [here](#).

## 2015 Stewardship Ontario Annual Report

The [2015 Annual Report](#) showcases Stewardship Ontario's recycling performance over the last year, outlines new partnerships and projects, and considers how the organization will adapt to the evolving mix of materials (also known as "The Evolving Tonne") that find their way into Ontarians' blue boxes.

- A 65% recycling rate and continuing to perform above the government-mandated target;
- Over 880,000 tonnes of PPP was recycled, and over 24,000 tonnes of hazardous waste was collected;
- 97% of Ontario households had access to the Blue Box program; and
- Over 18,000 locations were available for consumers to safely dispose of household hazardous waste materials.



## Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) holds its Annual General Assembly



Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) held its Annual General Assembly at the Omni Mont-Royal Hotel on April 21, 2016. The event enabled ÉEQ to report on activities carried out over the past year and to present its 2015 annual report, which is now available [here](#) (French only, English version to come).

After the assembly, Jean Lacroix, President and CEO of Réseau Environnement, gave a luncheon conference entitled "L'après COP21 : la nécessité pour les entreprises d'être au cœur de l'action" (Post COP21: Companies need to be at the heart of the action).

Read full press release [here](#).

## U.S. NEWS

### **NJ lawmakers again consider bottle deposits**

A committee in the New Jersey General Assembly voted to advance the "Smart Container Act," which would place a 10-cent deposit on containers of less than 24 ounces and a 20-cent deposit on larger ones. Under the legislation, [A2281](#), all beverage retailers would be required to accept empty containers. The bill covers containers holding beer, juice, soda, sports drinks, water and wine. The Assembly's Environment and Solid Waste Committee voted 3-1 on April 4 in favor of the bill, with two other representatives not voting. It has yet to be scheduled for a vote by the full chamber.

Source: <http://resource-recycling.com/node/7264>

### **NY State legislators vote to block bag fee, support bag recycling**

The New York State Senate voted June 7 to block local efforts to ban fees on disposable shopping bags—a move that would block New York City's recently-approved 5-cent fee—but also voted to support a move requiring more signage and better placement of bag recycling bins at stores.

Read full article: <http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20160608/NEWS/160609813/ny-state-legislators-vote-to-block-bag-fee-support-bag-recycling>

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **NGOs call the EP to get the Circular Economy Back on Track**

11 NGOs including Zero Waste Europe have called on the European Parliament to introduce 10 key changes to get the circular economy back on track. These ten changes intend to maximize the potential of a circular economy and eliminate loopholes that could be used by Member States to avoid necessary action.

Reacting to the Circular Economy Package presented on December 2, 2015, Zero Waste Europe welcomes the initiative of the EC to widen of the scope of the Circular Economy, however it warns about the fact that the ambition regarding waste legislation has been weakened in comparison with the 2014 proposal.

The document [10 KEY STEPS](#) primarily calls for addressing directly waste prevention, by including waste generation reduction targets and capping residual waste.

Read more: <https://www.zerowasteurope.eu/2016/05/ngos-call-the-ep-to-get-the-circular-economy-back-on-track/>

### **Australia's most populated state to begin bottle deposits**

Australia's most populous state, New South Wales (NSW) — which is home to Australia's largest city, Sydney — will start a bottle deposit program starting in July 2017.

NSW Premier Mike Baird announced the bottle deposit system this month. The 10-cent deposits will apply to containers ranging from 1.5 to 3 liters, with a range of collection points, from large-scale depots to stand-alone, reverse-vending machines and pop-up sites.

Baird said the 10-cent refund and all handling and administration fees will be financed by beverage suppliers.

Source: <http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20160519/NEWS/160519757/australias-most-populated-state-to-begin-bottle-deposits>

## HELPFUL LINKS

BC

<http://multimaterialbc.ca/notices-archive>

Alberta

<http://esrd.alberta.ca/waste/>  
<https://www.recycle.ab.ca/public-policy>

Saskatchewan

<http://www.mmsk.ca/notices-alerts>

Manitoba

<http://stewardshipmanitoba.org/mmsm/whats-new/>

Ontario

<http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/latest-news/>  
<https://www.rco.on.ca/wra-overview--timeline>

Quebec

<http://www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca/news-and-events>

Nova Scotia

<http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/waste/>

Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance

<http://www.cssalliance.ca/latest-news>

U.S.

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/advancing-sustainable-materials-management-facts-and-figures-report>

Europe

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target\\_review.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target_review.htm)  
<http://www.europen-packaging.eu/downloads/1608.html>

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