



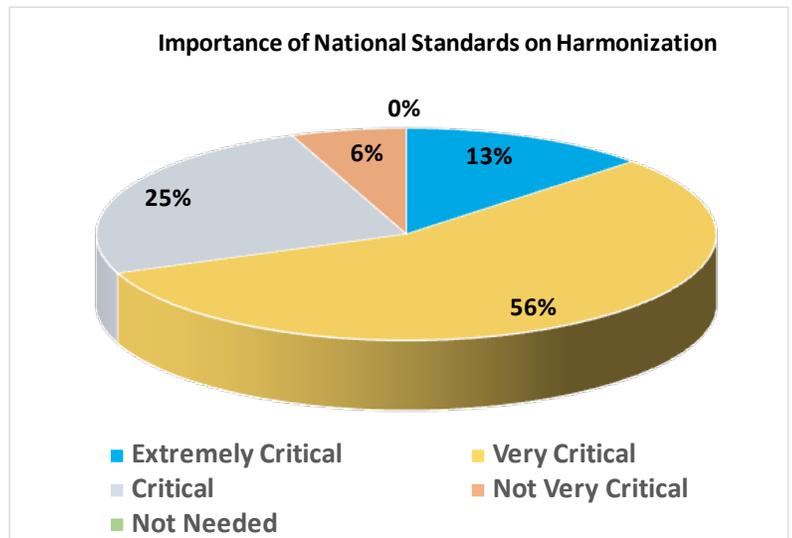
Top PAC Recommendations to the Environment Standing Committee on Plastic Waste

May 15, 2019

Below are the top PAC Plastic Waste Recommendations presented in Ottawa, May 6, 2019. Audience was the Federal Government Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on Plastic Waste. Jim Downham and Dan Lantz presented and answered questions on behalf of PAC Packaging Consortium. Added to the top six takeaways are the results of a survey of PAC NEXT members taken during the May 4th, 2019 webinar on harmonization.

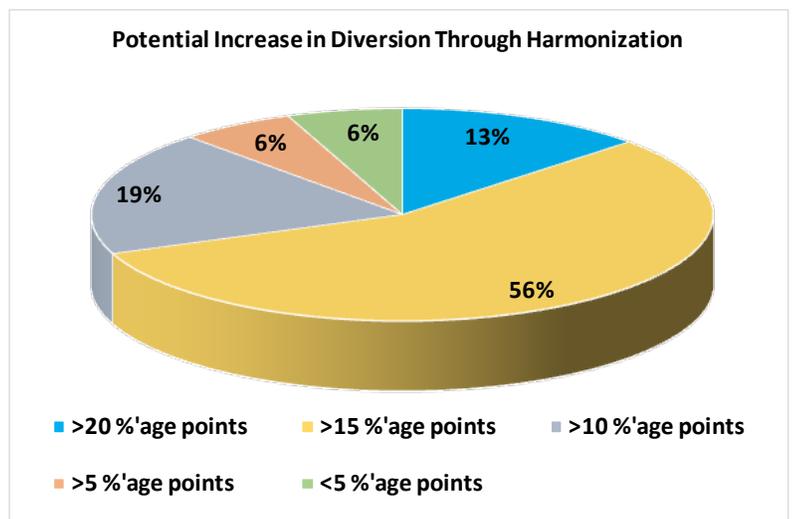
1 Harmonization of standards across Canada is necessary and must be done at the federal level if Canada is to achieve its circular economy goals.

The survey showed that 93% believe that it is extremely, very critical or critical to harmonize standards.



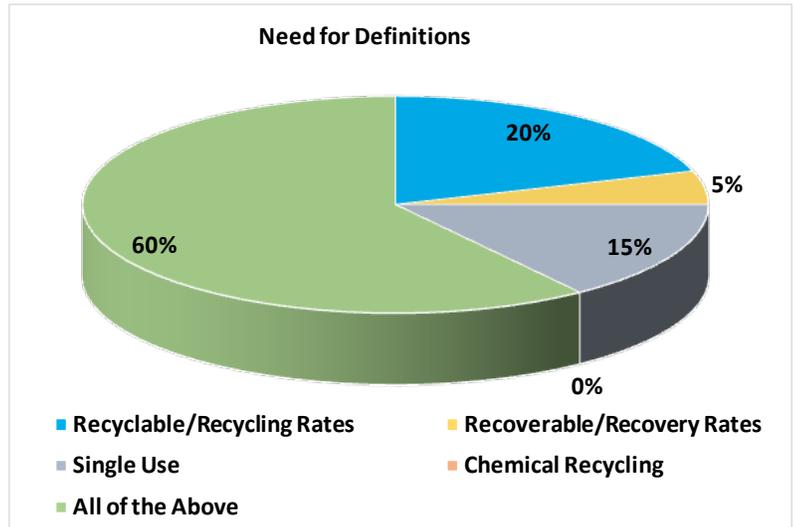
2 Harmonization of recycling programs across Canada is necessary to reduce confusion of both packaging stewards and consumers. Without harmonization, it will be extremely difficult to improve participation and recovery.

The survey showed that 69% believe that diversion could increase by at least 15 percentage points and 88% by 10% by implementing harmonization standards.



3

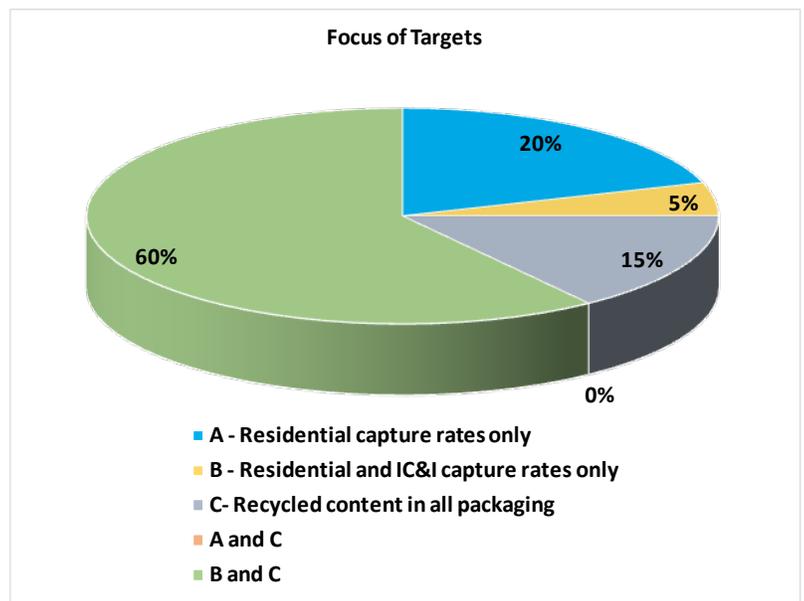
In order to achieve expectations under the circular economy, there needs to be clear definitions of key terms. Again, these terms need to be set and administered at the federal level to avoid any misinterpretation in implementation of programs or in packaging design.



The survey showed the majority of the members believe definitions are needed for all terms.

4

Although it was agreed that targets for performance in terms of diversion and recycled content are needed for Canada as a whole, it was clearly indicated that Canada, considering its economic size, should look to the standards of other jurisdictions including the EU when determining targets.

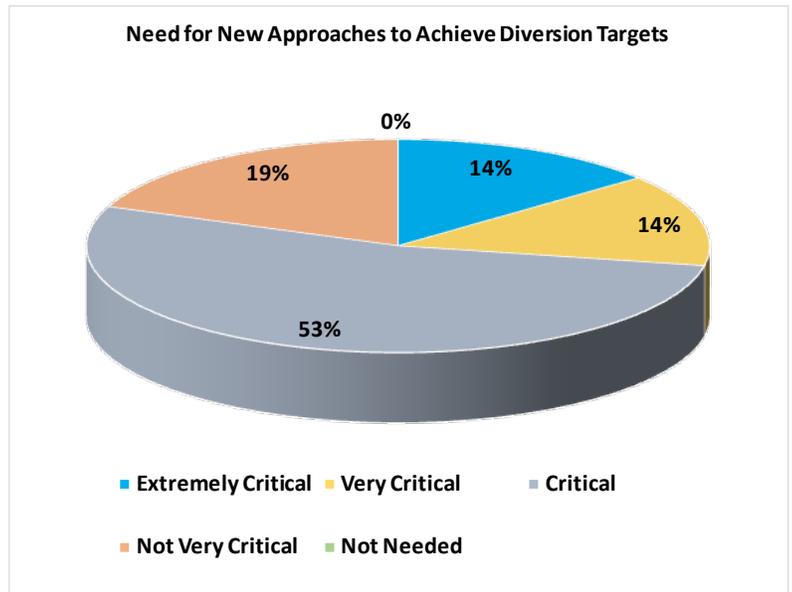


The survey showed the majority of members believe that targets need to be set for capture rates for both residential and industrial, commercial and institutional sectors and also for recycled content in packaging if Canada is to significantly reduce waste to disposal and increase circularity of its products and packaging.

4

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To achieve these targets, 81% of the members felt it was critical, very critical or extremely critical that alternatives to the current focus on the blue box are needed if Canada is to be successful in increasing diversion and reducing materials to disposal.



5

The cost of disposal is inconsistent with the actual social cost. Look at financial mechanisms to encourage good behaviour, diversion and minimize the waste of valuable resources. Look to:

- impose an added cost on disposal, e.g., landfill tax;
- restrict out-of-country shipment of waste;
- bans on recyclable material to disposal;
- subsidize the cost to produce recycled content in recognition of the low cost for oil;
- support the development of emerging diversion technologies, e.g., chemical recycling; and
- expand and harmonize extended producer responsibility programs giving full control to stewards providing financial support to programs.

6

Banning single use plastics can meet with unintended consequences. If there are to be bans, ensure that there are viable alternatives and the unintended consequences of the bans do not result in poorer environmental performance for Canada. For example, banning single use plastic bags have resulted in a net increase in film production as people are now buying more bags (e.g., single use bags for garbage, dog and cat litter, etc.) to make up the difference.