



The BC EPR Model: A Leader in North America

Allen Langdon
President and CEO
Encorp Pacific











Presentation Overview

- Overview of EPR in BC
- EPR for Packaging in BC
- Overview of the Encorp System
- Benefits of EPR
- Impact on Municipalities
- What's Next?





Extended Producer Responsibility

- Extended to what?
 - End-of-life (EOL) management of products and packaging
- Responsible for what?
 - Collecting, recycling and diverting material from landfill
 - Paying the costs associated with activities set out in a stewardship plan approved by the BC Ministry of Environment
- Whose responsibility?
 - Producer: the business that provides the product of packaging to the BC residential consumer is responsible
 - Producer also known as the "steward" in other provinces



EPR – BC Law

- July 2004 BC enacted Environmental Management Act (EMA)
- October 2004 BC filed Recycling Regulation
- Product categories included as separate schedules under the regulation (beverage containers are Schedule 1)
- There are now over 15 stewardship agencies in BC that manage materials such as paint, tires and electronics





Packaging EPR in BC

Encorp Pacific: 77.4% recovery rate (2018)

 Schedule 1 – Beverage Containers (both residential and IC & I)

Recycle BC: 78% recovery rate (2018)

 Schedule 5 – Packaging and Paper Products (residential only)





Encorp Pacific Overview

- Industry owned, not for profit, product stewardship agency with beverage container management as its core business
- Service provider to Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA)
 (2006) and Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable (MARR) (2018)

Five Members:

- Canadian Beverage Association (soft drinks)
- Juice Council of BC
- Retail Council of Canada (grocery trade)
- Canadian Bottled Water Association, and
- Beverage Alcohol Containers Mgmt. Council of BC.





Beverage Containers in the System

- Encorp is responsible for any liquid that is a ready-to-serve sealed drink, except:
 - Milk and milk substitutes, including rice milk, soya milk, infant formula, meal replacements, dietary supplements
- Beer in aluminum cans and refillable glass
 - Brewers Distributor is the steward





Corporate Governance

- 9 Board members:
 - 7 industry members
 - 2 unrelated members
- By practice unrelated members chair Audit and Governance Committees
- Advisory Committee
 - Government, recycling/NGOs, citizens, depots, small brand-owner





Encorp's Stewardship Obligation

- Must file a stewardship plan every five years.
- Must include:
 - Minimum 75% recovery rate
 - Convenient access to collection points
 - Consumer awareness
 - Consultation process
- Reporting requirements
 - Financial, recovery rate and non-financial (end fate) audits
 - Annual report to Ministry of Environment





System Infrastructure

- 170+ independently owned depots (93% of unit volume)
- Retail (7% of volume)
 - 350+ Grocery Stores
 - 220 Government Liquor Stores
- One billion containers collected and recycled (77.4% recovery rate)
- 95,000 metric tonnes recycled (plus 25,000 tonnes of electronics)





Consumer Awareness

- Research and Segmentation analysis
- Public information tools & social media
- Outreach Programs (Schools, Ambassadors etc)
- Specific container education & awareness
- Partnerships & Community support programs
- Use of traditional and non traditional media

www.returnit.ca/ar2018





Recycling Markets

- Aluminum
 - 100% to new aluminum can in Kentucky
- PET
 - 100% processed at Merlin Plastics in BC or Alberta
- Glass
 - Over 90% to new wine bottle glass in Seattle
 - Balance to sandblasting material in BC
- Aseptic and Gable Top Cartons
 - About 90% to tissue/toilet paper production in South Korea, balance to U.S.





Benefits of the BC Model

- Provides an opportunity to create a reverse-supply chain to manage material with opportunities for standardization and optimization
- Supports a circular economy where producers have influence on both the creation and end-of-life management of their materials
- Provides producers with best long-term opportunity to manage their material in light of increasing costs, volatile commodity markets and continued innovations in packaging types and materials





Impact on Municipalities

- To maximize the benefits of EPR, producers require control of the system in order to develop and optimize a reverse supply chain
- Transition can be difficult but as proven in BC it can be managed with collaboration from industry and local governments
- Key requirement is to provide municipalities with a range of choices and timelines





Requirements for Effective EPR

- Outcomes-based legislation
 - Provide industry with specific targets and the flexibility to develop the most efficient and effective approach
- Strong Governance for Stewardship Agencies
 - Balance of industry representation and independent directors
- Effective Oversight
 - In BC, third-party audits are required both for financial and non-financial information





WHAT'S NEXT?







- Offers consumers a fast, convenient and easy in-depot experience in under a minute
- Electronic funds transfer into account & redeemed via e-Transfer (once account reaches \$10)
- 60 locations
- YTD August 13 million units through Express
- 95% improved Depot customer satisfaction level
- Over 55,000 registrants
- 20% of registrants have not been to a depot in over 6 months; 7.5 % never been to a depot







Return-It Express Yaletown







What's New - Express & Go

- Piloted in Tofino and Simon Fraser
 University
- Express & Go outlets are smaller and do not offer cash refunds
- The smaller format is essential to locate in more accessible commercial locations







What's New - Textile Collection

- Find solutions for textile collection reuse & recycling
- ~40 participating Return-It locations (Lower Mainland)
- 1,200+ bags = 20+ metric tonnes of textiles diverted from landfills







More info: return-it.ca



