

Operational Services Briefing to

Executive Committee

2026 April 14

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Extended Producer Responsibility Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

This briefing provides an update on the transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a provincial policy that transfers responsibility and cost for managing certain recyclable and hazardous materials from local governments to producers (e.g. manufacturers, brand holders). Implementation of the EPR system began on 2025 April 1. A summary of previous Council direction is included in Attachment 1 and an EPR Info Sheet can be found in Attachment 2.

EPR implementation is proceeding well in Calgary. With respect to Blue Cart recycling and Hazardous and Special Products, Calgarians experienced a seamless service transition and continue to receive the same high quality collection services they had prior to EPR. Monthly Blue Cart program charges were reduced from \$9.34 to \$2.17 on 2025 April 1. Funding received from producers for the collection of Hazardous and Special Products resulted in Waste & Recycling Services relinquishing \$500,000 in property tax funding as part of 2026 budget adjustments.

EPR has also led to expanded access to battery recycling for Calgarians. Call2Recycle, the Producer Responsibility Organization for batteries, has worked with retail businesses and The City's household hazardous waste depots to establish 159 battery collection sites across Calgary, resulting in 92,925 kilograms of batteries collected for recycling in 2025. New drop-off locations continue to be added, and The City has established more than 200 collection points for City operations and staff. In February 2026, Call2Recycle named The City of Calgary as a Leaders in Sustainability Award recipient for our leadership in battery recycling and commitment to environmental stewardship. Beyond the environmental and economic benefits of battery recycling, keeping batteries out of regular waste streams will reduce fires and other hazards in collection vehicles, waste processing facilities and landfills.

2026 Updates

Multi-family developments will see EPR implementation for packaging and paper recycling starting 2026 October 1. Recycling costs will be covered by producers, resulting in lower costs for multi-family properties. Circular Materials, a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), will be responsible for managing recycling collection for multi-family properties. Property owners and managers may voluntarily register directly with Circular Materials to coordinate service delivery. As of mid-February, multi-family developments representing more than 50 per cent of multi-family households in Calgary had registered to receive service under EPR. Service start dates depend on when a property registers. Circular Materials is hiring recycling collection contractors through a competitive procurement process.

Also on 2026 October 1, a unified material list will be implemented province-wide, resulting in the same materials being accepted in recycling systems across Alberta. Calgarians will be able to put more materials in their Blue Carts, such as flexible plastics like chip bags and snack wrappers. Waste & Recycling Services is preparing for operational changes and customer communications to support this change.

Waste & Recycling Services continues to collaborate and advocate for a strong system that meets the needs of Calgarians and improves over time, building on productive relationships with the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Recycling Management Authority and Producer Responsibility Organizations. We continue to coordinate with Alberta Municipalities, the City of Edmonton, and other municipalities across Alberta and Canada to share learnings and advance common interests in EPR system design and implementation.

Responsibilities as a Producer

The City is also a 'producer' in the Extended Producer Responsibility system because we produce and distribute packaging and paper products such as receipts, tax assessments, transit tickets, notices and door hangers. As a producer, The City provides regular reporting and pays fees to the Alberta Recycling Management Authority and to a Producer Responsibility Organization to manage those materials on our behalf. The City is preparing for new reporting and verification requirements that will come into effect in 2026. In 2026, the cost to fulfill producer responsibilities is estimated at \$127,000, which is minimal compared to the overall financial benefit of Extended Producer Responsibility. Fees may change over time based on changes to fee-setting methodologies established by the Producer Responsibility Organization and other factors.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attach 1 – Summary of Previous Council Direction
2. Attach 2 – Extended Producer Responsibility Info Sheet 2026

Author: Lee-Anne Bell, Waste & Recycling Services

General Manager Doug Morgan concurs with the information in this Briefing.