



# Recycling Updates

**AMSA Fall 2018 Convention**  
**Nov 21, 2018**

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RCA Executive Director



# The RCA

- We are a multi-sectoral non-profit organization that has advanced waste prevention and recycling in Alberta since 1987.
- We represent a diverse membership with 340 strong across Alberta.
- We advocate. We connect. We collaborate. We educate.

## **Our Vision**

Create a pathway to zero waste Alberta.

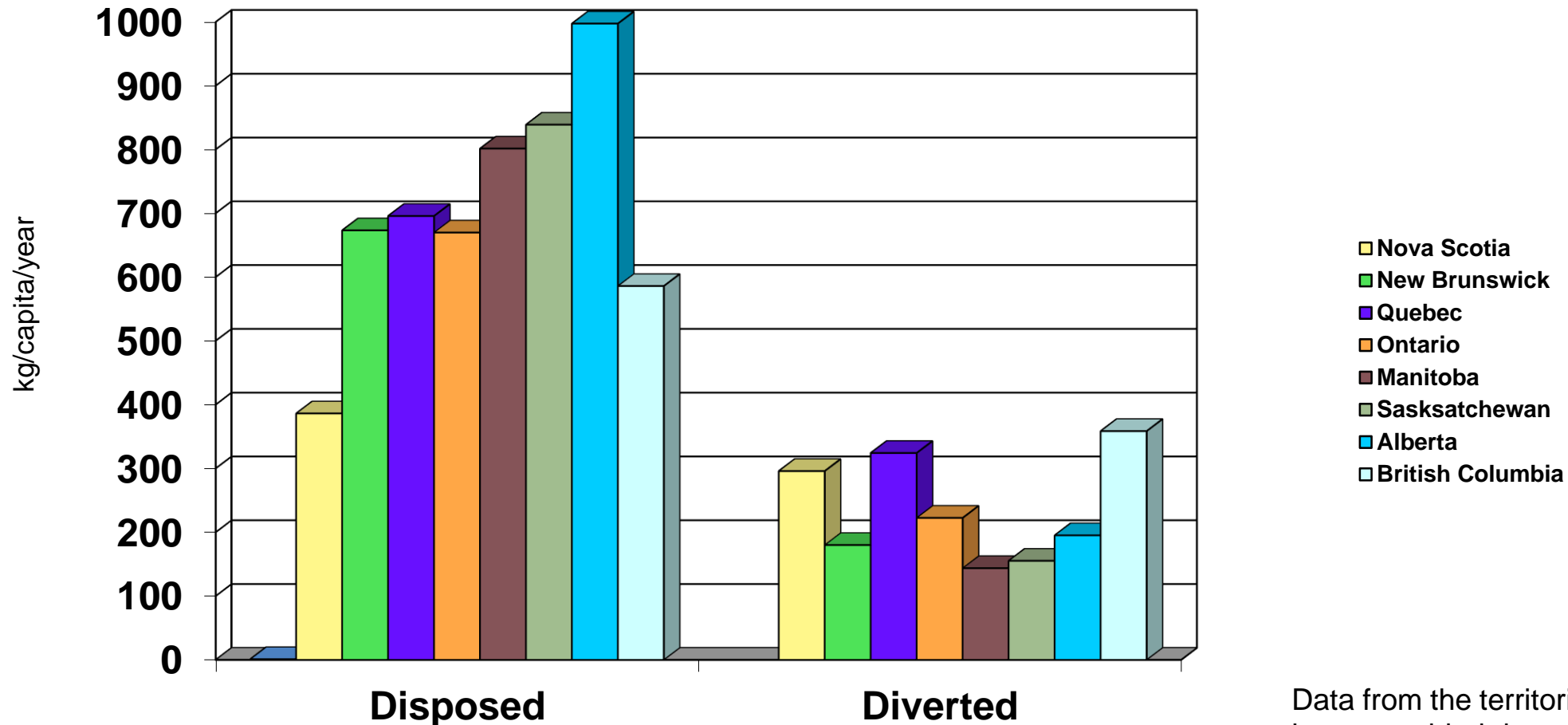
## **Our Mission**

To promote and facilitate waste reduction, recycling and resource conservation in the Province of Alberta.

# Waste Update

Defining the Challenge

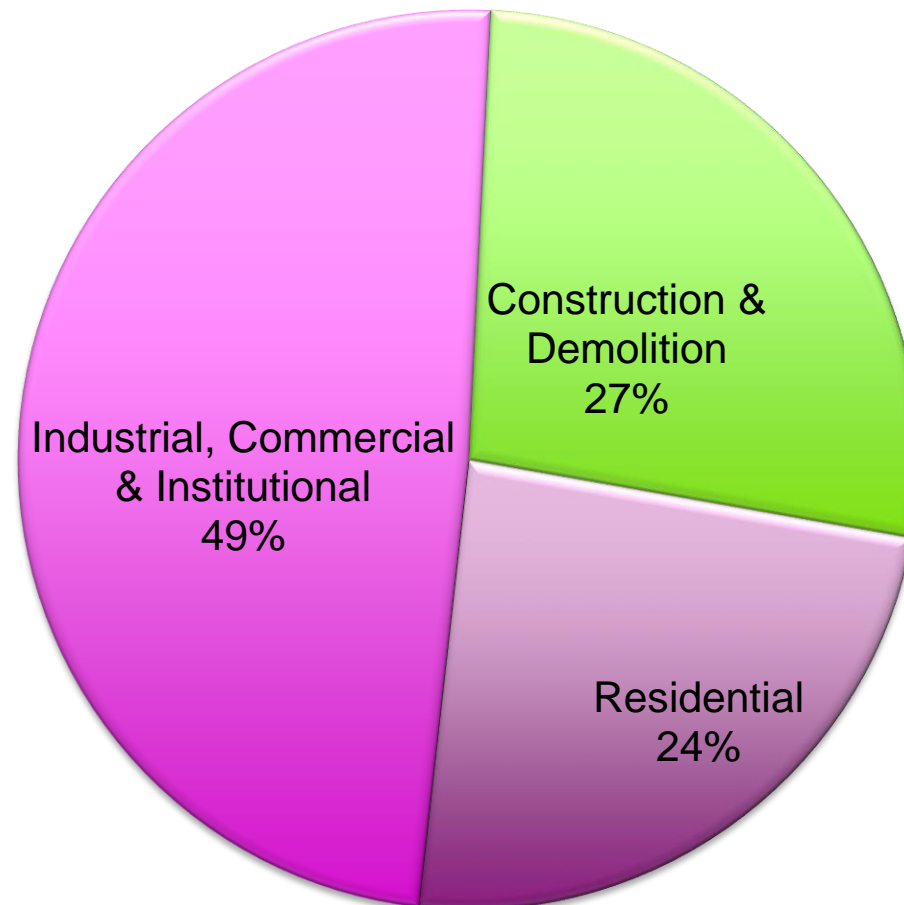
# Provincial Trends



Data from the territories, NL and PEI is not provided due to confidentiality reasons  
Source: Statistics Canada 2014 data

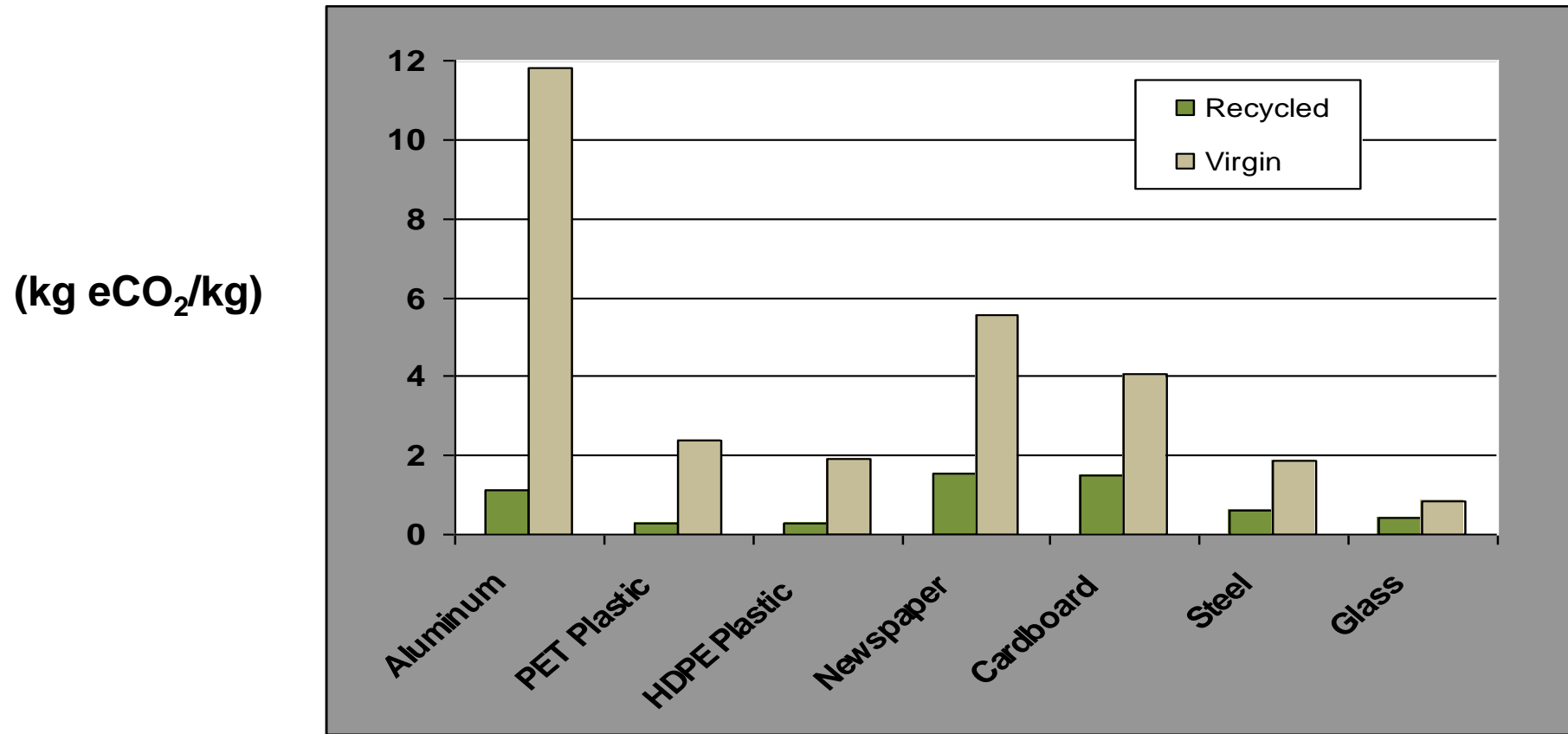


# Sources of Waste Materials generated in Alberta



Source: Stats Canada

# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions: Recycled & Virgin Content Products



# Net GHG Emissions from MSW Management Options (tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub>/tonne)

Material	Source Reduction	Recycling/ Composting	Anaerobic Digestion	Thermal Treatment	Landfill
Newspaper	(3.81)	(2.81)	(0.49)	(0.05)	(1.22)
Fine Paper	(5.93)	(3.33)	(0.34)	(0.04)	1.18
Cardboard	(5.22)	(3.34)	(0.32)	(0.04)	0.29
Aluminum Cans	(4.55)	(6.49)	0.01	0.01	0.01
Steel	(1.95)	(1.15)	0.01	(0.99)	0.01
Glass	(0.40)	(0.10)	0.01	0.01	0.01
HDPE	(2.74)	(2.27)	0.01	2.85	0.01
PET	(3.50)	(3.63)	0.01	2.13	0.01
Computers	NA	(1.59)	0.01	0.41	0.01
Food Waste	NA	(0.24)	(0.10)	0.02	0.80
Yard Waste	NA	(0.24)	(0.15)	0.01	(0.33)

# Alberta's Proposed Regulatory Changes

Ensuring Sustainability for Current Programs



# Existing Stewardship Programs & Regulations

Materials	Existing Regulations	Delegated Administrative Organization
1. Beverage containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beverage Container Recycling Regulation (1997)</li> </ul>	Beverage Container Management Board
2. Used oil materials (used oil, oil filters, oil containers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lubricating Oil Material Recycling &amp; Management Regulation (1997)</li> <li>Lubricating Oil Material Environmental Handling Charge Bylaw</li> <li>Lubricating Oil Material Recycling and Management Bylaw</li> </ul>	Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA)
3. Tires 4. Paint & Paint Containers 5. Electronics (computer equipment/televisions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated Material Recycling and Management Regulation</li> <li>Tire Designation Regulation (1992)</li> <li>Paint and Paint Containers Designation Regulation (2008)</li> <li>Electronics Designation Regulation (2004)</li> <li>Recycling and Management Bylaw</li> </ul>	Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA)

## Consultation

- In 2013, Environment & Parks (at the time ESRD) had completed an extensive consultation on the development of a new recycling regulation that would include necessary regulatory amendments to existing Provincial programs that would ensure their long term sustainability.
- As a result, a Designated Materials Recycling Regulation package was proposed for decision makers' review.



# The Intention

- Improve the performance of existing product stewardship programs
- Streamline Alberta's regulatory framework
- Create additional product stewardship programs, specifically for PPP and HHW
  - Provide options to shift end-of-life management responsibilities from taxpayers to producers and consumers
- Reduce municipal solid waste in Alberta

## High Level Outcomes

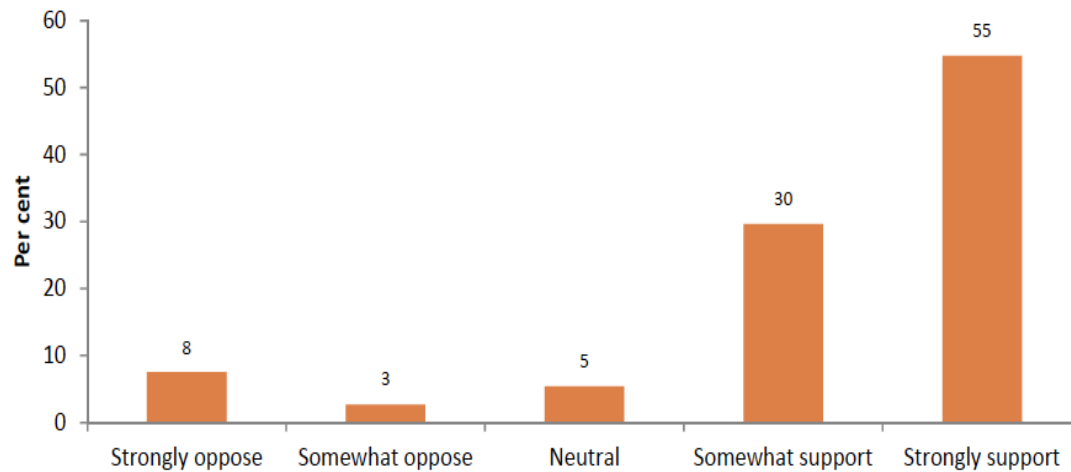
1. Consolidate existing regulations under the “Designated Materials Recycling Regulation”
2. Remove specified maximum environmental fees from regulation while still ensuring consumer protection from excessive fees;
3. Expand the existing electronics program;
4. Expand the used oil materials recycling program and adjust existing fees.
5. Enabling of extended producer responsibility
  1. Designation of packaging and printed paper
  2. Designation of household hazardous waste



## New #5 – Enable EPR

- **Proposed Changes**
  - *Enabling extended producer responsibility in regulation.*

FIGURE 9 – ENABLING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY IN REGULATION (N=186)



Sector/Organization	Base size (n=)	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support
Municipal government	29			3%	35%	62%
Business/industry	70	10%	6%	4%	31%	49%
Industry association	29	14%	3%	10%	31%	42%
Delegated administrative organization	2				50%	50%
Government agency/ board/commission	9				22%	78%
Non-government/non-profit organization	11			9%	18%	73%
General public	18	11%		6%	22%	61%
Other	4				50%	50%

## Current Status

- Despite consultations around these proposed changes in 2013, no further progress has been made by the Province.
- City of Red Deer put forward a resolution to AUMA in 2013 calling for these changes.
- In 2018, Strathcona County RFD and Resolution to AUMA's Municipal Leaders' Caucus and AAMDC Spring Convention respectively
- City of Calgary brought forward RFD to AUMA's Municipal Leaders' Caucus specific to enabling EPR
- These provincial programs are being strained financially resulting in extra stress on the service providers, typically municipalities, to provide these programs at point of collection.



# Impacts to Municipalities

- This issue affects all municipalities in Alberta that provide recycling programs.
- Municipalities across Alberta are the collection point for these programs.
- Through the recycling fees that are collected at point of purchase, these programs were originally intended to fully fund collection, transportation and recycling.
  - These fees are set in regulation making it difficult for the stewardship organizations to adjust their programs based on economic fluctuations.
- As a result, municipalities are left to subsidize these programs in their local communities.

## **Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts**

- Municipalities are subsidizing the paint program by about 40-60%.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to secure reliable collection services for tires.
- In some parts of the Province, oil collection has discontinued leaving residents without an option for environmentally safe disposal.
- Municipalities are already collecting materials that are covered under the proposed expansion.
- The continued expectation of Albertans that their municipality will provide diversion services in their community despite difficult circumstances.

# Extended Producer Responsibility

Building on Stewardship



## **CCME EPR Definition**

“Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle.”

## **Benefits of EPR**

- Transfers cost and liability from municipalities and taxpayers to producers
- Provides incentive to producer to improve design
- Provides provincial program consistency
- Economy of scale provides market resilience
  - e.g., China Sword market restrictions

# National EPR

## CCME Canada-Wide Action Plan (2009)

- Phase 1 (by 2015)
  - Packaging
  - Printed materials
  - Mercury containing products
  - Electronics and electrical products
  - Household hazardous and special wastes
  - Automotive products
- Phase 2 (by 2017)
  - Construction / demolition materials
  - Furniture
  - Textiles and carpet
  - Appliances



Table 1: Waste Diversion Initiatives in Canada for CAP-EPR Phase 1 Materials (July 2014)

Material/ Product Category	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	PE	NB	NS	NL	YT	NT	NU
Packaging - milk Containers	E - V	P	E - V	S	S	S	P	E - V	S	(E - V)	consider	P	
Packaging - beverage containers	E - L	P	P	E - L	P liquor/wine	P beer & soft drinks	P	P	P	P	P	P	(P) liquor/beer
Multi-packaging and printed materials	E - L	consider	S	S	S	S	consider	consider	consider	consider			
Electronics - audio-visual and telecom	E - L	consider	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
Electronics - cell phones	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - V*	E - L	E - L	E - V consider P	E - V	
Electronics - computers, accessories and IT equipment	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
Electronics - tools	E - L	consider				consider	consider						
Electronics - TVs	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
HHSW - batteries (single use, rechargeable)	E - L	S*	E - V	E - L	E - L single use	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V*			
HHSW - corrosives & irritants	E - L	S*	consider	E - L corrosives		consider	P		consider	consider			
HHSW - aerosols, solvents & flammables	E - L	S*	consider	E - L solvents & flammables	E - L solvents	consider	P		consider	consider			
HHSW - mercury lamps, other mercury products	E - L	consider	consider	E - L	P	E - L	E - L		consider	consider			
HHSW - paint	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L			
HHSW - pesticides/fertilizers & containers	E - L pesticides	E - V	E - V*	E - L	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V			
HHSW - pharmaceuticals	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - L	E - L	E - V	E - L	E - V	E - V*	E - V	E - V		E - V
HHSW - sharps/syringes			consider	E - L	E - L	consider	E - L		E - V*	consider	E - V		
Automotive - batteries	E - L			E - L		consider	E - L	E - V		E - V*			
Automotive - tires	E - L	P	P	E - L	E - L	P*	P	P*	P	P	P		
Automotive - used oil, oil containers and/or filters	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L containers and filters	E - L	E - L	E - L	P* used oil	P*			
Automotive - other (e.g., glycol)	E - L	consider	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	consider	pending			

Notes: Table developed by Giroux Environmental Consulting, 2014. \* = legislated EPR being considered; (P) = Deposit is charged territory-wide, collection depot only in Iqaluit. This inventory does not take into account initiatives led by individual manufacturers or retailers to collect end-of-life products.

## EPR Update

- BC implemented EPR for packaging and printed materials
  - Industry managed – MMBC, now RecycleBC
    - Similar models in SK & MB
- Ontario Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016
  - Outcomes-based EPR
- Alberta consultation demonstrated support for EPR for packaging, printed materials and HHW - 2013
  - RCA held consultation sessions Fall 2014

## How EPR Program Design Affects Municipalities

Prov.	Muni role (material management)	Producer Cost Obligation	Producer Funding (2016)	Collected (2016 tonnes)
AB	collect, process & market	0 %	\$0 \$0 /capita	comparable stat n/a
BC	1) opt out -status quo; <u>or</u> 2) opt in -collect at \$ rate; <u>or</u> 3) opt in –no role –i.e., Recycle BC collects, processes & markets	up to 100% (all costs)	\$74 million \$15.88 /capita	185,477 41 kg /capita
SK	collect, process & market	up to 75% (agreed to costs)	\$5.6 million \$5.06 /capita	36,675 44 kg /capita
MB	collect, process & market	up to 80% (agreed to costs)	\$16.3 million \$12.72 /capita	82,184 72 kg /capita
ON current	collect, process & market	up to 50% (agreed to costs)	\$121.6 million \$9.04 /capita	comparable stat n/a
QU	collect, process & market	up to 100% (agreed to costs)	\$150 million \$18.37 /capita	776 000 <sup>(2015)</sup> 94 kg /capita



## Alberta Advocacy

- RCA project team dedicated to collaboration on EPR
- Delivered workshops on EPR
- RCA working with AUMA, AAMDC and individual municipalities to advance EPR
- Implementation of EPR in other provinces was **driven by municipal advocacy**
- We have the opportunity to develop a made-in-Alberta EPR program that incorporates lessons from existing stewardship programs and EPR programs in other jurisdictions

# Markets – The New Reality




# The China Problem


- 2013 – Green Fence
  - Contamination limits
- 2017 - China announces bans for 2018
  - Mixed paper
  - Mixed plastic
- 2018 – Limit contamination to 0.5%
  - Essentially a ban on post-consumer
  - Market collapse
- 2018 – Blue Sky
  - Targets OCC





## Mixed Paper Imported by China

2014 - 2016  **6,000,000  
Tons**

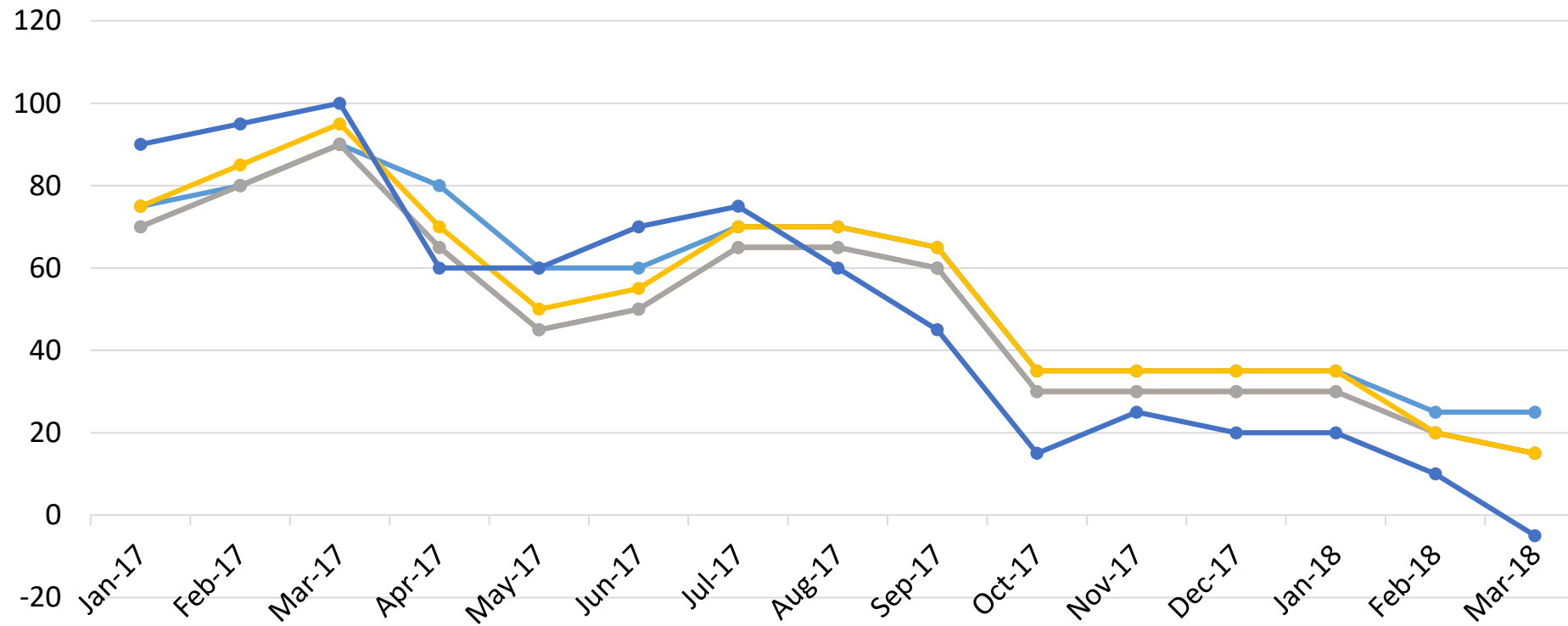
Mid 2017  Decline begins  
...

2018 Outlook  **0 Tons  
Imported**

***This is a Global Challenge...***

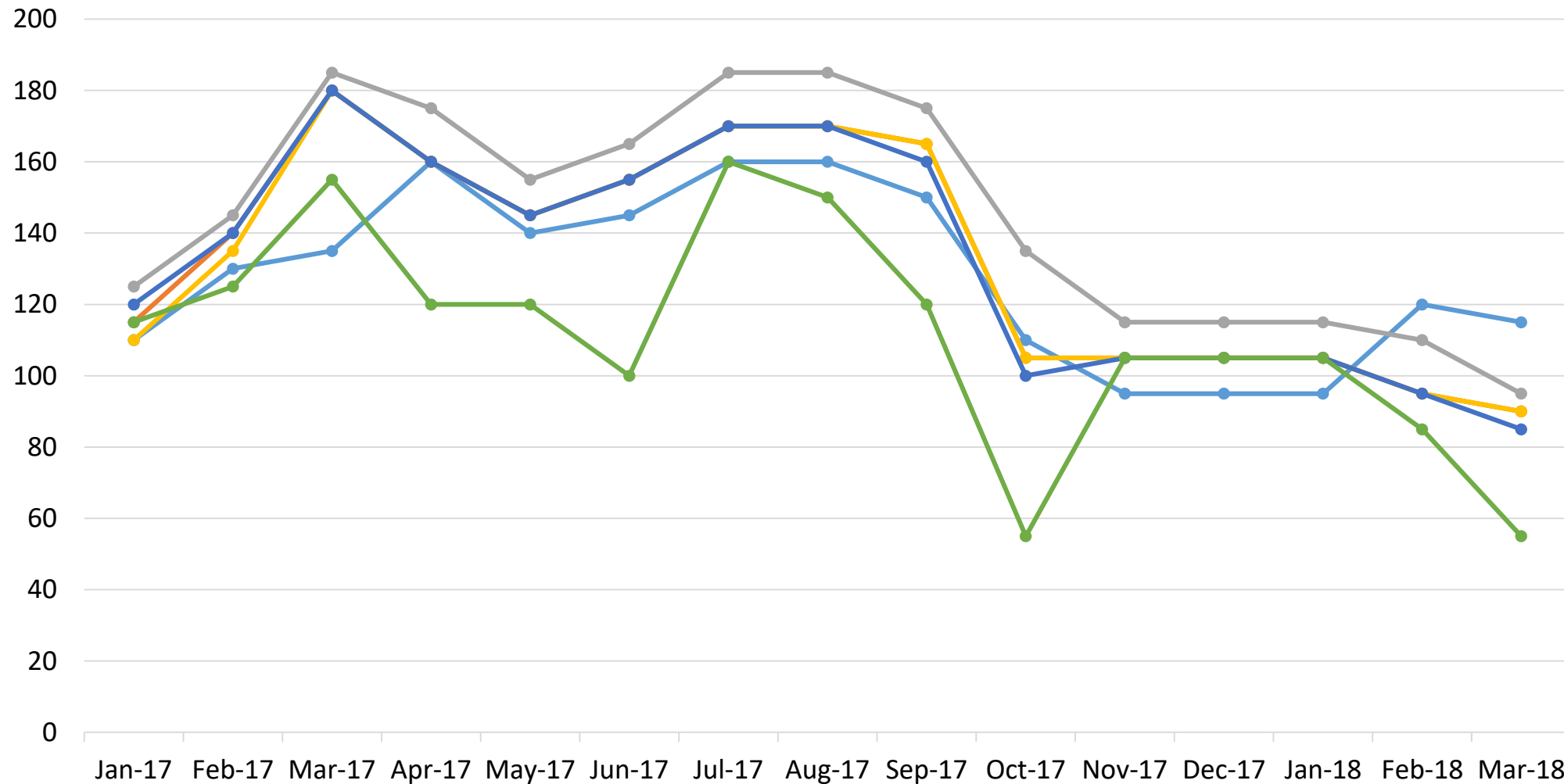
# Market Price Trend

Mixed Paper



# Market Price Trend

OCC



## **Future**

- No more 'wishcycling'
- Source separation
- Processing enhancements
- Build domestic markets
- Circular Economy and Extended Producer Responsibility





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