

FAQs - Packaging and Printed Paper Program Launching May 19th, 2014

What is the Packaging and Printed Paper Recycling program?

In 2011, the BC government passed a **regulation requiring all businesses that supply packaging and printed paper (PPP) to BC residential consumers** be responsible for collecting and recycling that material once consumers are finished with it.

As a result, a non-profit organization called Multi Material BC was formed to represent businesses to meet their obligation under the recycling regulation. MMBC, in consultation with stakeholders, including businesses and local governments, developed a stewardship plan to collect and recycle residential packaging and printed paper. MMBC's stewardship plan was approved by the provincial government in April 2013 and the program will launch on May 19, 2014.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan, City of Kelowna, District of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country and District of Peachland all have signed contracts with MMBC to collect recyclables on behalf of MMBC and in accordance with MMBC requirements.

Who is Multi-Material BC (MMBC)?

Multi-material BC is a non profit group that represents business and industry in the Province of BC who produce packaging and printed paper. Starting May 19, 2014, businesses that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents will be responsible for collecting and managing these materials so they can be recycled. Multi-Material BC (MMBC), working on behalf of these businesses, will be responsible for residential recycling programs in many areas across BC, either directly or by working with local governments, First Nations, private companies and not-for-profit organizations.

Through MMBC's packaging and printed paper recycling program, many BC residents will be able to recycle types of packaging that are not commonly included in current curbside and depot collection programs, including milk cartons, foam containers and packaging, disposable cups, aerosol cans and waxy coated frozen food containers.

MMBC is among more than 20 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs introduced in BC over the past two decades. Through these programs, industry is responsible for end-of-life management of items such as beverage containers, electronics, paint, used oil, tires and batteries. EPR is a way for industry to manage the environmental impact of products during all stages of the product lifecycle, from production to collection and recycling when a product is no longer useful.

How will this change affect recycling in the Central Okanagan?

Residents in the City of Kelowna, Districts of West Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland and RDCO will still continue to put recyclables in their blue curbside cart or take them to several recycling depots across

the region. However, starting May 19th, 2014 you will see the following changes to the recycling program:

1. Plastic bags and other stretchy plastic film will no longer be accepted in the curbside blue carts and will become a depot only item.
2. Many new items will be added to both the curbside cart collection and depots. This includes milk cartons, paper cups and lids, waxed frozen meal and ice cream containers, aerosol cans and lids, spiral wound cans and lids.
3. Foam packaging such as (StyrofoamTM egg cartons, meat trays, take out containers, block packaging) will be accepted in the region for recycling at DEPOTS ONLY starting May 19th, 2014

Will residents have to pay for this recycling service?

Historically, residents have paid for recycling through local government property taxes or utility fees. Starting May 19, 2014, under the BC *Recycling Regulation*, businesses that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents will be responsible for collecting and managing these materials so they can be recycled. Multi-Material BC (MMBC), a non-profit organization working on behalf of these businesses, will use its members' fees to fully finance residential recycling programs in many areas across BC, either directly or by working with local governments, First Nations, private companies and other non-profit organizations.

Will I see a reduction in my property taxes/utility fees as a result of MMBC taking over responsibility for packaging and printed paper (PPP)?

The intent of the program is to take the burden of recycling costs away from tax payers and put that responsibility onto the producers and users of packaging and printed paper (PPP). MMBC will be paying for the costs of recycling PPP and MMBC is making payments to municipalities to collect the recyclables. Municipalities who have a contract with MMBC are not allowed to double charge residents for recycling services. Each municipality in the Central Okanagan funds recycling services differently so residents should contact their municipality to see how this program will affect the fees they pay for recycling services once the program has been in place.

Why is plastic film (i.e plastic bags and other stretchy plastic) no longer accepted in my curbside cart?

Plastic film is required to be separated from other plastics in order to market it for recycling. It is easiest and most cost effective for MMBC to have this material source separated by residents and taken to a depot where it will have its own separate collection bin.

- Depots will accept plastic bags, prewashed salad bags, frozen vegetable bags, outer bags for diaper sand feminine hygiene products, outer wrap for soft drinks, water softener, salt, wood pellet and garden product bags, overwrap on mattresses, furniture and electronic equipment.
- **DO NOT** bag your recyclables that go into your carts, place material in the cart loose.

- Plastic grocery bags may still be used as garbage bags in your black garbage carts.
- The **ONLY** exception is shredded paper may be put in a **CLEAR** plastic bag, tied and placed in your cart

Are there any changes coming to the Recycling Depots?

All of the items that are new to this program will be accepted at various recycling depots located throughout the region. The biggest change at the recycling depots is that you will have to sort your material into more categories. Clean recyclables will have to be sorted into the following categories:

- **Paper** - anything paper based such as newspaper, cardboard, office paper, boxboard, magazines, catalogues, phone directories, gift wrap and greeting cards, paper bags
- **Containers** - paper cups, milk cartons, tin cans, aluminum foil, aerosol cans, paper cans, plastic containers with #1-#7 on it, plastic garden pots
- **Plastic Bags and Overwrap** – grocery bags, bread bags, plastic wrapping on soft drinks etc.
- **Glass** – coloured and clear food jars only, no ceramics, mirrors or window glass
- **Styrofoam™** – White (no packaging peanuts, chips or noodles)
- **Styrofoam™** - Coloured

Starting May 19th, I can take foam packaging (i.e Styrofoam™) to a recycling depot, why won't they accept packaging peanuts?

Packaging peanuts, chips and noodles are extremely small and light and are difficult to handle and collect without creating a litter issue. MMBC has excluded packaging peanuts from the program. Please either reuse them or place them in a bag and put them in your regular garbage.

When do these changes take place?

The changes take effect May 19th, 2014

- Plastic bags and other stretchy plastic will not be allowed in your carts after May 19th, 2014. Please take these to a depot for recycling. (NO zipper bags, cellophane, cling wrap, or bubble wrap will be accepted)
- The new items can be put into your carts or taken to a depot starting May 19th, 2014
- Foam packaging (such as Styrofoam™) will be accepted at **depots only** starting May 19th, 2014. (NO packaging peanuts, chips or noodles will be accepted)

How do I find out more information about the Printed Paper and Packaging Stewardship Program?

The not-for-profit organization that is managing the Printed Paper and Packaging program in the Province is called Multi-Material BC. You can visit their website at www.multimaterialbc.ca They will be continually updating their website over the next months leading up to the May 19th launch date.

Further information can also be found at www.regionaldistrict.com/recyclemore or by calling the Regional District Waste Reduction Office at 250-469-6250