

March 10, 2025

Extended Producer Responsibility Q&A (External)

At their regular meeting on March 10, 2025, City Council was asked to approve an amended budget for the Waste Management Utility and approve reduced utility rates for residential recycling services.

1. What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a provincial system that shifts the physical and financial burden of collecting, sorting, processing and recycling certain types of waste to the producer (manufacturer) and away from local governments and taxpayers. This legislation means producers take responsibility at end-of-life for the packaging and paper products they put in the marketplace. EPR systems encourage producers to design packaging and paper products that are more easily recyclable and create less packaging waste.

2. When will EPR take effect?

This new provincial policy goes into effect on April 1, 2025

3. Will residents' Blue Cart Collection schedule change?

Residents' Cart Collection Schedule, including the Blue Cart Collection schedule will not change.

4. Will there be a new contractor collecting residents' Blue Carts and recycling bins?

The City's current collection contractor will continue to collect Blue Carts and multi-family recycling bins after the implementation of EPR.

5. Will EPR impact what is accepted in residents' Blue Carts or multi-family recycling bins?

There are no changes in what is accepted in residents' Blue Carts, or multi-family recycling bins. EPR covers packaging and paper products, the things residents already put in their Blue Carts and multi-family recycling bins and take to the Recycling Drop-off Depots.

6. Will EPR impact residents' recycling collection Utility Rates?

With the producers of packaging and paper products paying the cost of collection and recycling, the utility rate for cart collection and multi-family recycling collection will decrease. Residents with carts will see a \$5.20 per month decrease on their utility bill beginning April 1, 2025, and utility account holders for multi-family properties will see a monthly decrease of \$5.15 per dwelling unit on their utility bill beginning April 1, 2024. This reflects the cost of recycling collection, sorting and processing that will no longer be the financial responsibility of residents. The EPR legislation requires the producers provide the recycling service at no charge to residents or municipalities. The decreased utility rate will be prorated for residents whose utility bill does not cover the full month of April.

7. Will EPR affect the Recycling Drop-off Depots?

What is accepted at Recycling Drop-off Depots as well as the hours of operation will not be affected by EPR.

8. Will the list of what is accepted for recycling be consistent across the province?

EPR is a large and complex system to implement. Initially the list of items accepted for recycling will remain the same as it was before EPR was implemented. In time, what is recyclable will be consistent across the province and Red Deer residents will be able to recycle additional items.

If residents are unsure of where an item should go, our [search tool](#) can assist with finding the disposal answers.

9. Who will residents call for recycling and cart questions and concerns?

Residents can continue to call the Blue Line, 403 340-BLUE (2583) with any cart or recycling questions.

10. Where can residents find more information on EPR?

Residents can find more information at <https://www.alberta.ca/regulated-extended-producer-responsibility-programs>.