

Nova Scotia Transition to EPR for Packaging and Paper Products

Community Resource Guide



What is EPR?

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which producers (the businesses that supply packaging and paper to residents) are operationally and financially responsible for the end-of-life management of the materials they supply to consumers.
- Many jurisdictions across Canada are moving to this framework.
- Circular Materials supports producers in meeting their obligations under each jurisdiction's EPR regulation.



About Us

- National not-for-profit organization created and governed by producers.
- Support producers in meeting obligations under extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulations.
- Building efficient and effective recycling systems to:
 - Advance innovation.
 - Increase performance.
 - Deliver improved environmental outcomes.

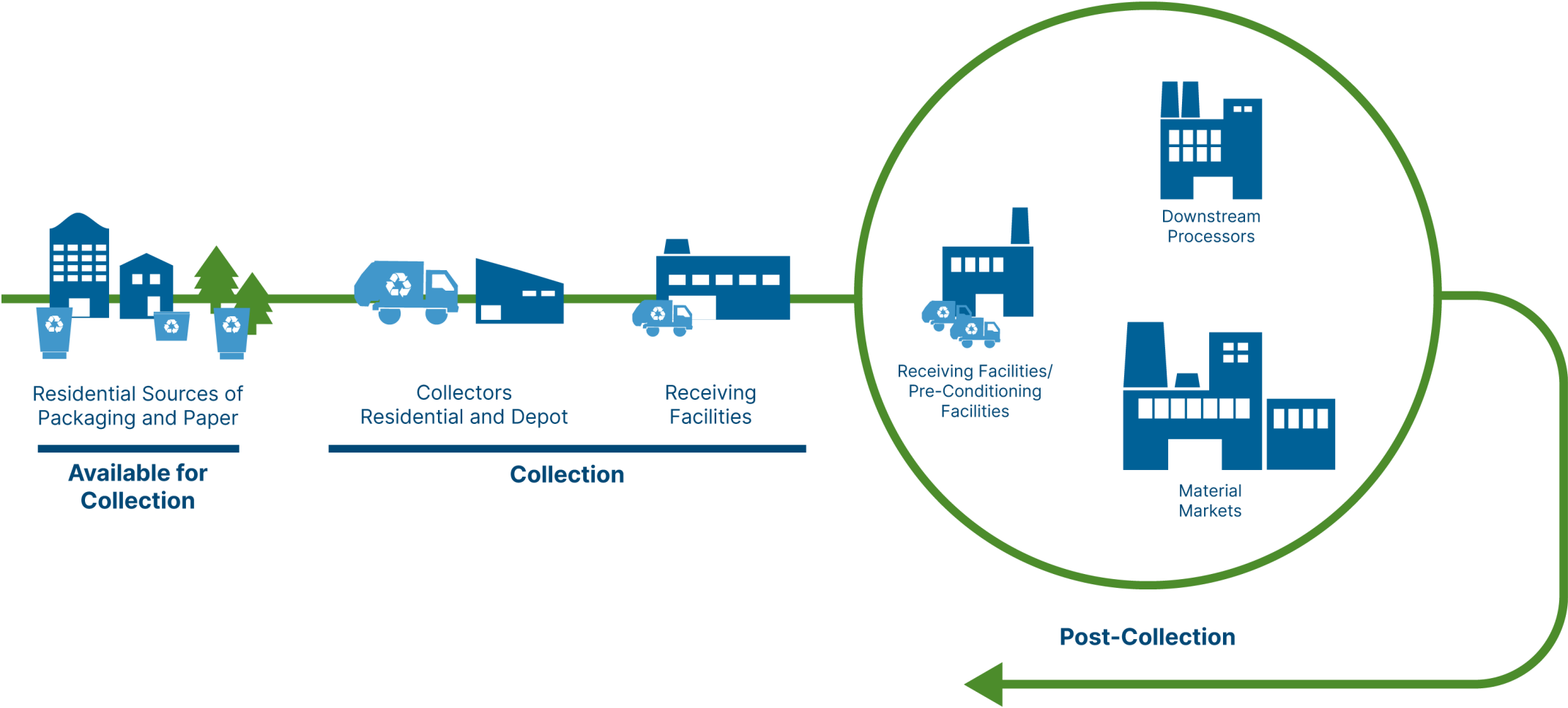


A blue recycling bin is positioned in the lower-left foreground of the slide. The background is a soft-focus garden scene featuring a large evergreen tree, yellow flowering shrubs, and a stone path. The entire image is framed within a circular cutout on a light blue background.

Nova Scotia's EPR Regulation

- On August 2, 2023, the Nova Scotia [Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation](#) was approved for packaging, paper products and packaging like products.
- The Regulation outlines program requirements, targets, and timelines.
- Circular Materials is operating as the not- for-profit producer responsibility organization (PRO) in Nova Scotia that supports producers in meeting their obligations under the Regulation.

Nova Scotia Provincial Operations Plan



Infrastructure and Collection System



Utilizing Infrastructure and Collection Systems

Preference for leveraging existing infrastructure that meets regulatory and market standards.

Considering short-term solutions through successful commercial negotiations

Developing a common collection system to support high-level management options.

Map out the potential need for new infrastructure to meet future demand.



Maximizing Recycling Efficiency

Strategies to minimize contamination.

Examining audit data to implement educational campaigns to improve consumer recycling behavior.



Operationalizing the Collection System

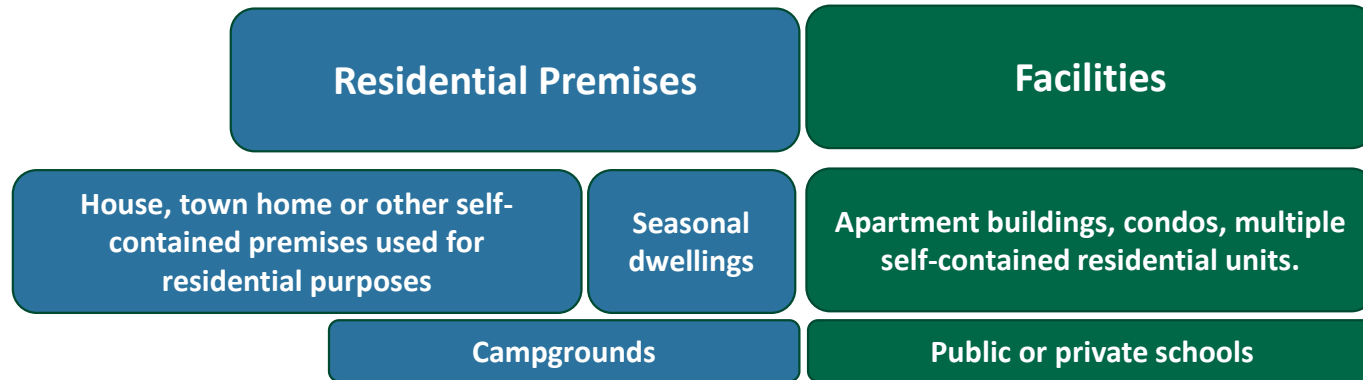
Collection Service Coverage

- Services to every **eligible source** in the province.
- All Designated Materials to be accepted.

Eligible Sources

Services to every **eligible source** in the province.

Eligible Sources



Non-Eligible Sources



Transition Operational Models

OPT-IN SERVICE MODEL

Community will continue managing current recycling **collection**.



Payment provided by Circular Materials based on a **cost per stop**.



Community will manage **customer service** under current contract.



Community will continue to **manage P&E** with support from Circular Materials, and a top-up will be provided for P&E and contract administration.



OPT-OUT SERVICE MODEL

Circular Materials will manage **collection** for the recycling program.

Circular Materials will negotiate directly with a **collection service provider** and administer the **collection contract**.

The **collection service provider** will be responsible for **customer service**, with escalated inquiries managed by Circular Materials.

Circular Materials will directly **lead P&E** in **collaboration with the community**.

Collection Service Partners



Partnering with Collection Service Providers

- Circular Materials will contract with service providers.
- Partners may include but are not limited to private providers, municipalities, and First Nations.

Service Provider Requirements

- Circular Materials will contract with service providers to ensure we operate the common collection system in accordance with the requirements of the regulations and
- Ensure we can meet our material management requirements.

Other Items

Local Bylaws:

- Local bylaws should not include restrictions on the residential recycling program (e.g., source separation, frequency of collection, flow control).

Operations Customer Service and Management:

- Contractor will maintain 24-hour emergency telephone number for use by CM to respond to operations-related inquiries.
- Not for public use.
- For emergencies related to operations.



Materials List for Nova Scotia Blue Bag Program

Curbside Collection (Status Quo)

- Dual-stream bag system
- Uniform sort list
- Similar Plastic/Glass/Metal list
 - Plastic Film (e.g., bags)
 - Glass food containers
- Similar Fiber List
 - Paper
 - Boxboard/Corrugated Cardboard

New items

- Polystyrene
- Paper Laminates (e.g., frozen juice)
- Flexible Plastics (e.g., pouches, chip bags, candy wrappers)
- Non-hazardous aerosols

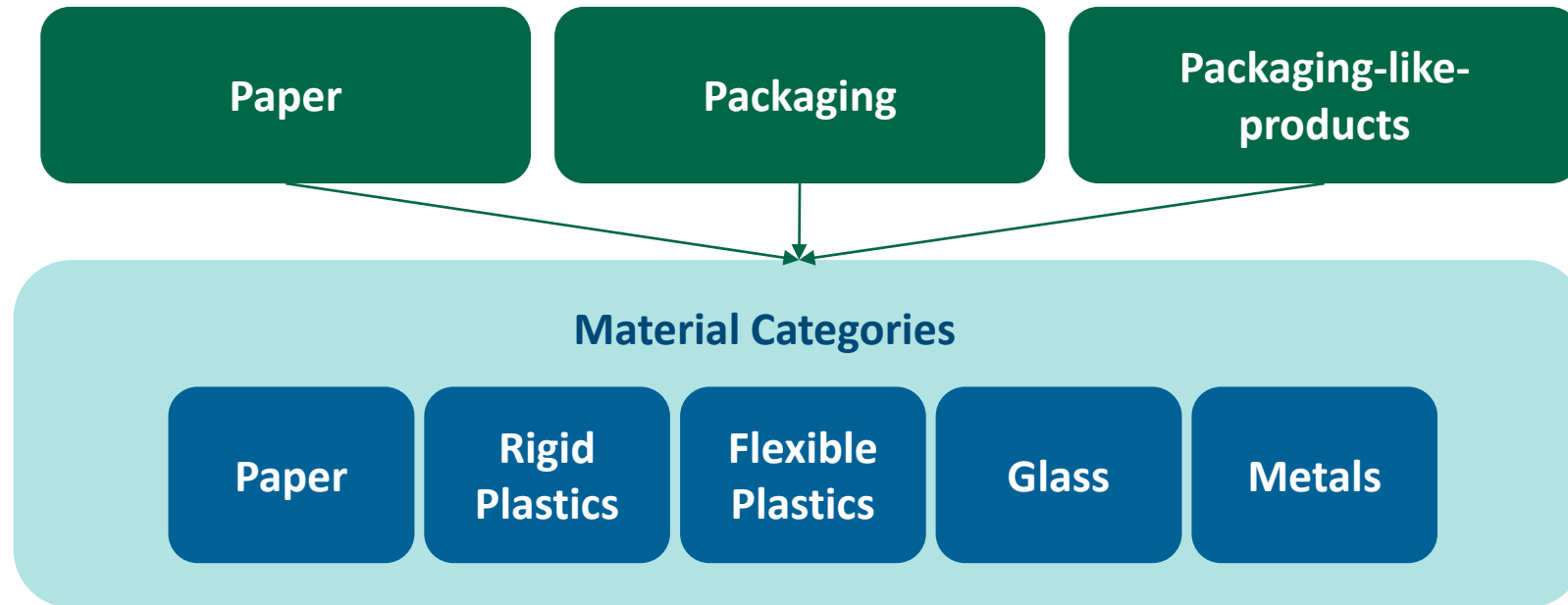
Items that will be removed

- Books
- Textiles
- Pots/Pans

Any material changes to the collection service will be communicated to affected eligible sources, where possible, at least three months before the change takes effect.

IC&I sources and materials are not part of the Nova Scotia's PPP EPR program.

Material Categories





- Used for printing, copying, writing, or general use.
- Includes newspapers, magazines, promotional materials, directories, and catalogues.

- Books (hard or soft-covered), reference/literary books, textbooks.
- Hard-covered periodicals.
- Paper unsuitable for recycling due to safety or sanitation concerns.

Packaging

Eligible Packaging

- Primary Packaging: Directly contains and presents the product.
- Convenience Packaging: Facilitates handling or transportation by the end user.
- Transport Packaging: Used for handling or transportation by others than the end user.

Excluded Packaging

- Long-term storage packaging.
- Reusable/refillable packaging lasting at least five years.
- Products not made primarily from glass, plastic, metal, paper, or any combination thereof
- Rigid or flexible plastics made from certified compostable plastic or biodegradable plastics.



Packaging-like Products



Eligible Packaging-like Products

- A product used for protection, containment, handling, delivery, presentation, or transportation of a commodity or product.
- Includes aluminum foil, metal trays, plastic film, plastic wrap, food containers, wrapping paper, paper bags, beverage cups, plastic bags, cardboard boxes and envelopes.
- Packaging-like product includes single-use products and those intended for short-term use (5 years or less), regardless of reusability.

Excluded Packaging-like Products

- Single-use products intended for use beyond 5 years (e.g., large plastic storage totes).

Depot Collection Services



Depot Collection for Non-Curbside Areas

- Depot services for premises without curbside collection.
- Collection of all designated materials, including problematic items.
- Strategic depot locations for convenient access.



Communication of Depot Changes

- Advance notice of depot location or operation changes.
- Methodology for determining access thresholds.

A **Depot** is any location that accepts PPP from residents

Partnering on Reducing Contamination

Working towards 4% contamination rate

- Reducing contamination in the residential recycling stream is a collaborative effort.
- Circular Materials will work together with communities on contamination reduction strategies for those who have opted-in for curbside.
- Circular Materials is committed to reducing contamination through collaboration with communities.
- Our approach is cooperative, not punitive. No penalties will be imposed if targets are not met, emphasizing our commitment to working together towards common goals.



Promotion and Education Objectives



Meet P&E Regulation Requirements

Deliver a P&E program that meets the required information, free of charge to eligible sources that are serviced under the common collection system.



Seamless Transition for Residents

Support and maintain, with plans to enhance, recycling-related P&E residents received prior to program roll-out.



Increase Recycling Rates

Use education to positively influence behaviour, increase recycling participation rates, and reduce contamination.

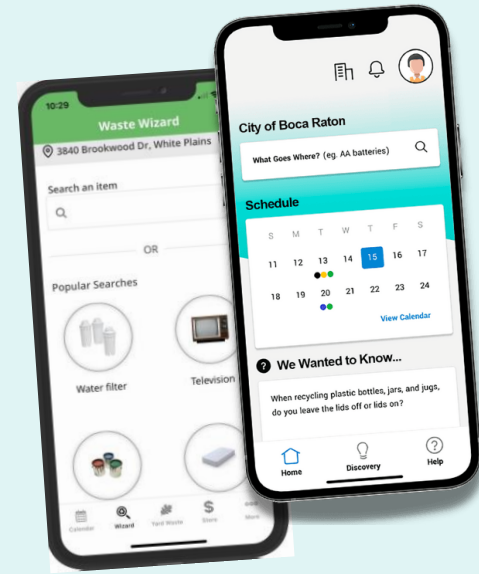
P&E Approach

- Circular Materials will develop P&E with input and collaboration from Nova Scotia municipalities and First Nations.
- Where Circular Materials manages a local recycling program, P&E will be led by Circular Materials.



Recycling App

- Launching a recycling app in **opt-out communities** as an extension of the P&E program and to meet requirements and future KPIs.
- Following a robust RFP process, the successful proponent we will be partnering with to launch our Circular Materials branded app is **Recycle Coach**.
- Opt-in communities will continue to use current apps for information on garbage, compost, etc.
- We are working on an integration process for how recycling information can be shared with communities that currently have an app and residents can seamlessly obtain all waste info via each app.
- Planning to launch in opt-out communities on December 1, 2025.



Financial Offers

During collection agreement review, Circular Materials will make financial offers:

- Consist of cost per stop for eligible sources.
- Include consideration for administration, P&E, and customer service.
- Basis includes financial data provided by municipalities to Divert NS and through commercial discussions with individual municipalities.



Compensation

Cost Per Stop:

- ‘Stops’ means, collectively, the number of Single-Family Dwellings and Multiple-Family Dwellings.
- ‘Stops’ will not equal all collection points, e.g., common collection points for private roads.
- Cost per stop for most municipalities will be the same for SFD and MFDs.
- MFDs – include what the municipality is currently servicing.



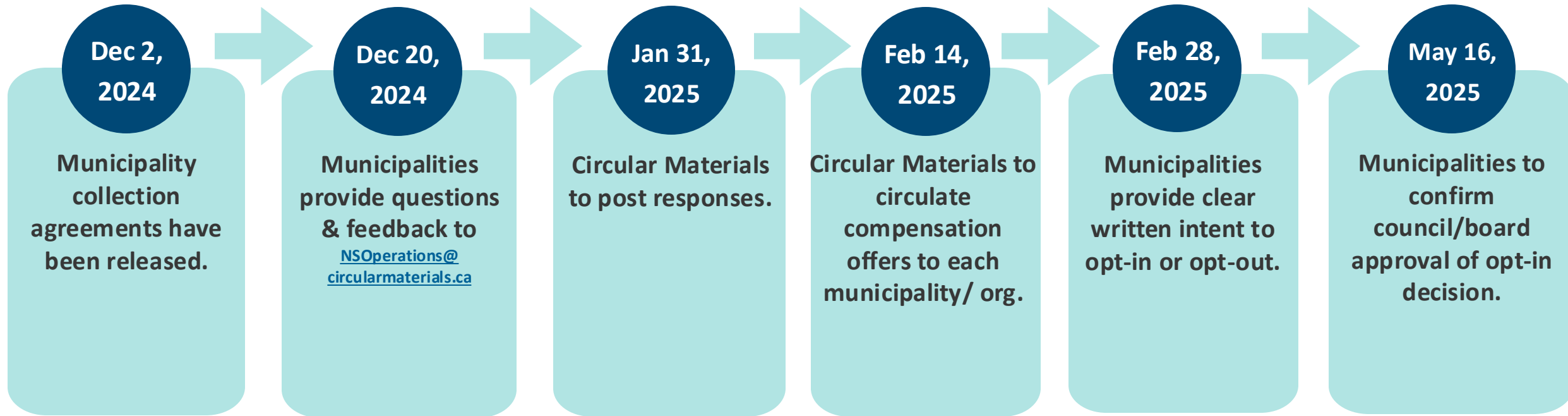
Compensation

Annual Adjustment:

- Cost per stop can be adjusted by CPI ~ annually.
- CPI considers energy pricing.
- No separate adjustment for changes to fuel prices.



Reminder: Community Collection Agreements Next Steps



Post-Collection

- Execution of post-collection contracts are on separate timelines than community collection agreements.
- Post-Collection Facility: Delivered to facility within 60 km or to be negotiated if currently traveling longer distances or due to unique geographic considerations.
- Inbound weighing of containers and fibres separately (more ideal) or combined will be permissible.



Processing of Designated Materials

Expected Material Management Strategies



Paper

Sorting and directed to recycling end markets.



Rigid Plastics

Sorting into resin categories where possible and directed to recycling end markets.



Flexible Plastics

Sorting into single category of flexible plastics, shipped downstream for recycling or further processing or to alternative fuel.



Metal

Sorting into steel and aluminum and directed to recycling end markets.



Glass

Downstream processing for various applications.

Materials not captured during processing will be sent to alternative fuel/energy for waste and/or landfill.