



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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Building a Competitive and Sustainable Economy for Plastics in Canada

Canadian EPR Forum

Environmental Protection Branch
Environment and Climate Change Canada



Canada 

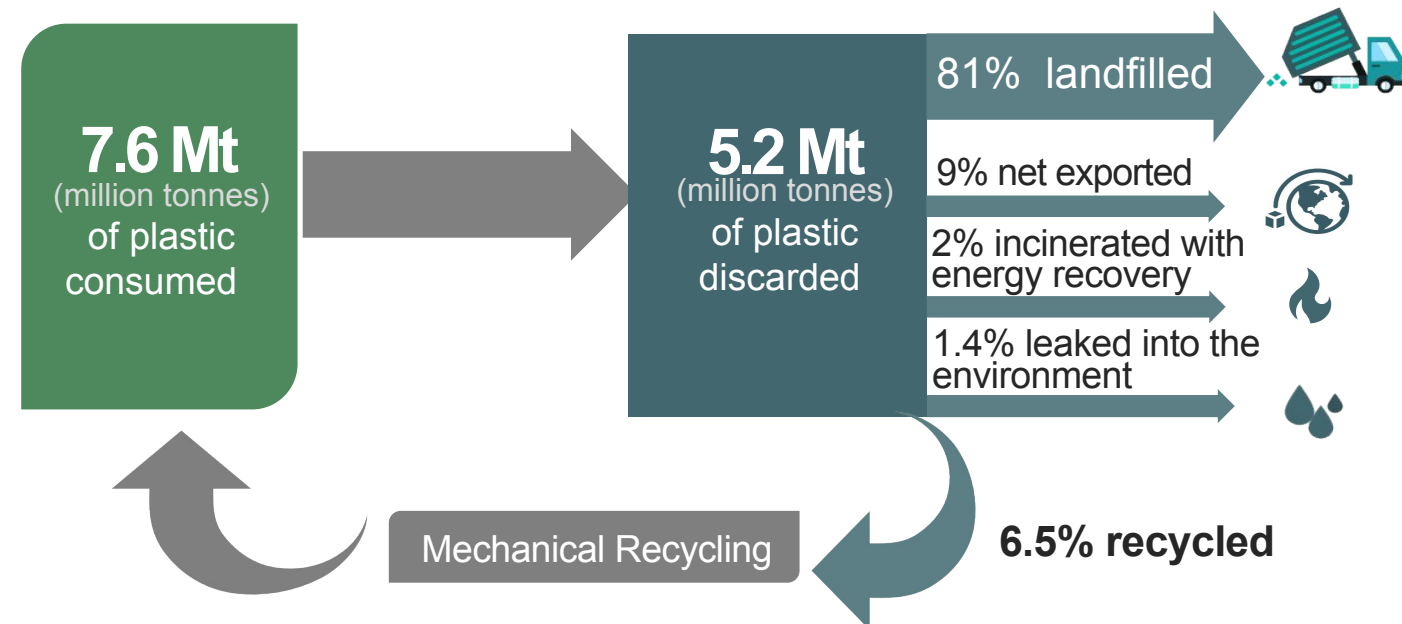


Flows of plastic through the Canadian economy

In Canada, in 2022



1.4% (~74 thousand tonnes) ended up in the environment equivalent to approximately **44 million garbage bags** of plastic waste



Source: Statistics Canada. 2026. Physical Flow Account for Plastic Material (2022 reference year)



Topics

- Federal Plastics Registry update
- Recycled content policy update
- Considerations informing federal approaches
- Future direction of federal plastics policy



Federal Plastics Registry

Federal tool to gather data from across the plastics value chain to **monitor and track the lifecycle of plastics**

- Addresses need to develop and maintain **Canada-wide data** on plastic moving through the economy

Will provide Canadians with **reliable data to identify opportunities** for further action and help **monitor progress**

- Covers other plastic categories not captured through EPR (e.g., inclusion of ICI packaging and downstream outcomes)

Phased implementation

- Phase 1 (2025): focus on packaging, single-use and disposable plastics, and electronics
- On March 14, 2026, a Notice amending the current Notice was published officially delaying Phases 2 and 3
- A Notice of Intent was also published, formally signaling that a new Notice will be published later in 2026

Data on plastic flows will inform whether further recycling infrastructure investment is required to build more domestic capacities.

Federal Plastics Registry: Current Status

Completed the first round of Phase 1 reporting:

Who had to Report

- Producers of plastic packaging, SUDPs, EEE for residential waste stream
- $\geq 1000\text{kg/year}$ threshold

What was Covered

- Category and subcategory
- Resin type
- Resin source
- Quantity (in kg) imported, manufactured and placed on the market
- Calculation methods

Next Reporting Deadline for Phase 1

- September 29, 2026;

ECCC intends to publish an annual report and share data both on Open Government and Canada.ca.

Stakeholder engagement ongoing

- 4 workshops held (April 2026)
- Feedback under review to inform next notice

For support on reporting:

RFP-FPR@ec.gc.ca



Federal Plastics Registry: Changes Under Consideration

Packaging and provincial/territorial alignment

- Align packaging categories with provincial and territorial approaches
- Remove the filled/unfilled packaging distinction
- Limit resin reporting to ASTM resin codes #1-7

Definitions and categories

- Revise the producer definition by removing the terms “IP holder” and “manufacturer”
- Add definitions for currently undefined terms (e.g., plastic product, hazardous packaging)
- Explore changes to the de minimis threshold

Waste generator requirements

- Explore options to streamline waste generator reporting requirements
- Consider reducing or removing requirements where data can be obtained more reliably from other sources

Service provider requirements

- Adapt requirements to better reflect the operational realities of different types of service providers

Recycled Content (RC) Policy



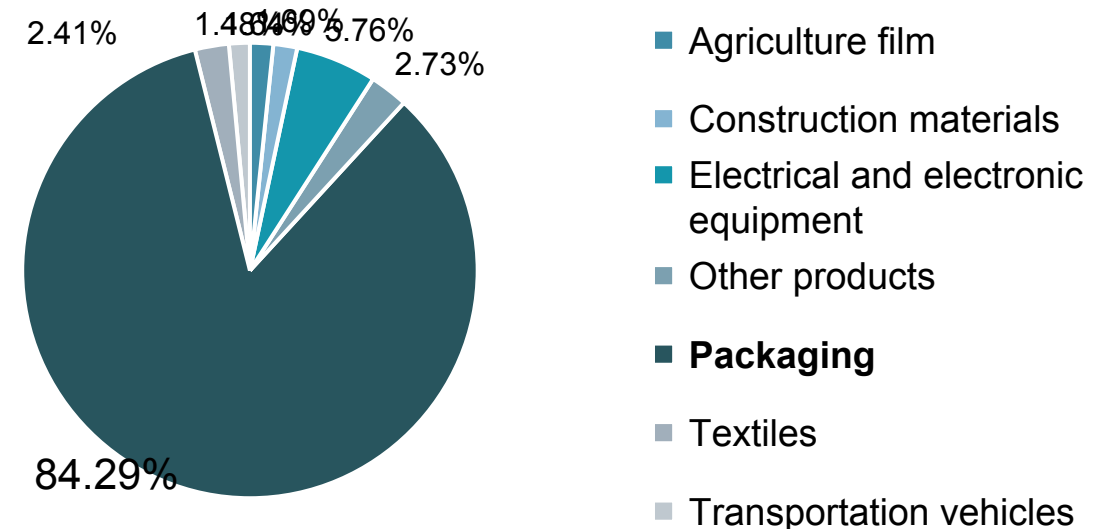
RC policies aim to **strengthen demand and provide market certainty for recycled plastic**

- 🗣️ EPR programs are working to increase collection/recycling rates
 - 🗣️ Lack of incentive to use recycled resin remains due to higher costs & technical barriers compared to virgin resin
- 🗣️ Market certainty is important for the recycling industry to invest in operations and system improvements.
- 🗣️ Many of Canada's existing and new trading partners have introduced RC mandates (e.g. 5 U.S states; EU; UK; etc.); opportunity to build an economy sharing similar policy pathways.

Source of recycled plastic pellets, flakes, and fibres

Focus on Packaging

- 🗣️ Packaging is the primary source of recycled plastic pellets, flakes and fibres (2022, Stats Can)
- 🗣️ High turnover of packaging could equal more opportunity to spur market demand
- 🗣️ Potential opportunity to explore other sectors



RC Policy: Current Status & Future Direction



What we are hearing:

- Support for federal leadership on RC requirements
- Preference for a more flexible approach than the 2023 proposal, including company- or portfolio-level compliance options
- Stakeholders seeking incentives and investments to support recycling infrastructure and costs associated with adopting RC
- Need to address broader market challenges affecting the recycling industry (e.g. dumping/subsidizing issue)
- Broad support for using mechanical recycling as primary method, with chemical recycling used for hard-to-recycle/contaminated plastic
- Revising the federal approach based on stakeholder feedback and internal analysis
- Assessing lessons learned from other jurisdictions
- Examining recycled content use across products and packaging
- Exploring a range of tools to support RC uptake, improved recyclability and stabilizing end-markets

Looking ahead:

- Continuing engagement to inform future policy development
- Improved national data and market intelligence
- Evidence-based policy development



Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

The *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*, published in June 2022, are part of the Government of Canada's comprehensive plan to **reduce plastic pollution**.

- Aims to prevent plastic pollution by eliminating or restricting **six categories of single-use plastics** that pose a threat to the environment, are difficult to recycle and have alternatives.

The Regulations prohibit the manufacture, import and sale of single-use plastic:

- checkout bags,
- cutlery,
- foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics,
- ring carriers,
- stir sticks, and
- straws, with some exceptions for **single-use plastic flexible straws**

Impact

From 2023 to 2032, it is estimated that the Regulations will avoid 769 million garbage bags (1.3 Mts) of plastic waste and 13 million garbage bags (22 kts) of plastic pollution, which is equivalent to over **thirteen million garbage bags**.



Proposed Amendments to the *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*

Recent developments

- Proposed amendments to the Regulations to allow the export of the six categories of single-use plastics were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I on December 20, 2025, for a 70-day consultation period, which ended on February 28, 2026

Considerations

- Would prevent loss of Canadian manufacturing jobs and preserve important facility investments made by Canadian companies, while ensuring the Regulations continue to effectively protect the environment from the harms of plastic pollution
- Aligns Canada's approach with major trading partners, such as the European Union, who also have single-use plastics bans in effect

Next steps

- Aim to finalize amendments in 2026 after considering received comments



Regulatory efficiency and cooperation

- Since 2018, Canada has seen ambitious action from all levels of government and industry to transform the plastics value chain and protect the environment from plastic waste and pollution, while harnessing the inherent value plastics hold
- EPR is especially important for creating a circular economy, and the Government of Canada supports provincial and territorial leadership in this area
- The growing number of requirements across Canada, however, has created burden while uncertainty from differing actions risks investment chill
- Regulatory costs can negatively impact the competitiveness of Canadian businesses and the overall health of the Canadian economy
- The Government of Canada wants feedback on how governments and industry can work together to build a circular plastics economy that protects the environment while advancing shared goals, including:
 - building one Canadian economy
 - bringing down costs for Canadians
 - diversifying Canada's export markets

Better data

- Federal Plastics Registry will improve national information on plastics flows
- Better data supports policy development, investment decisions, and performance measurement

Market Conditions

- Stronger end markets are needed to improve uptake of recycled plastics
- Understanding barriers to recycled resin use remains a key priority

Alignment and collaboration

- Ongoing engagement with EPR organizations, producers, recyclers, provinces and territories
- Opportunities to improve alignment across jurisdictions where appropriate

International trends

- Major trading partners are advancing recycled content and circular economy policies
- Canada continues to monitor developments and lessons learned

Policy effectiveness and implementation

- Policies must be environmentally effective, operationally feasible, and informed by stakeholder experience
- Focus on reducing burden while improving outcomes



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Learn more about Canada's Zero Plastic Waste efforts:
www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste

