



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Ministry Update

Waste Management Association of BC 11th Annual Conference

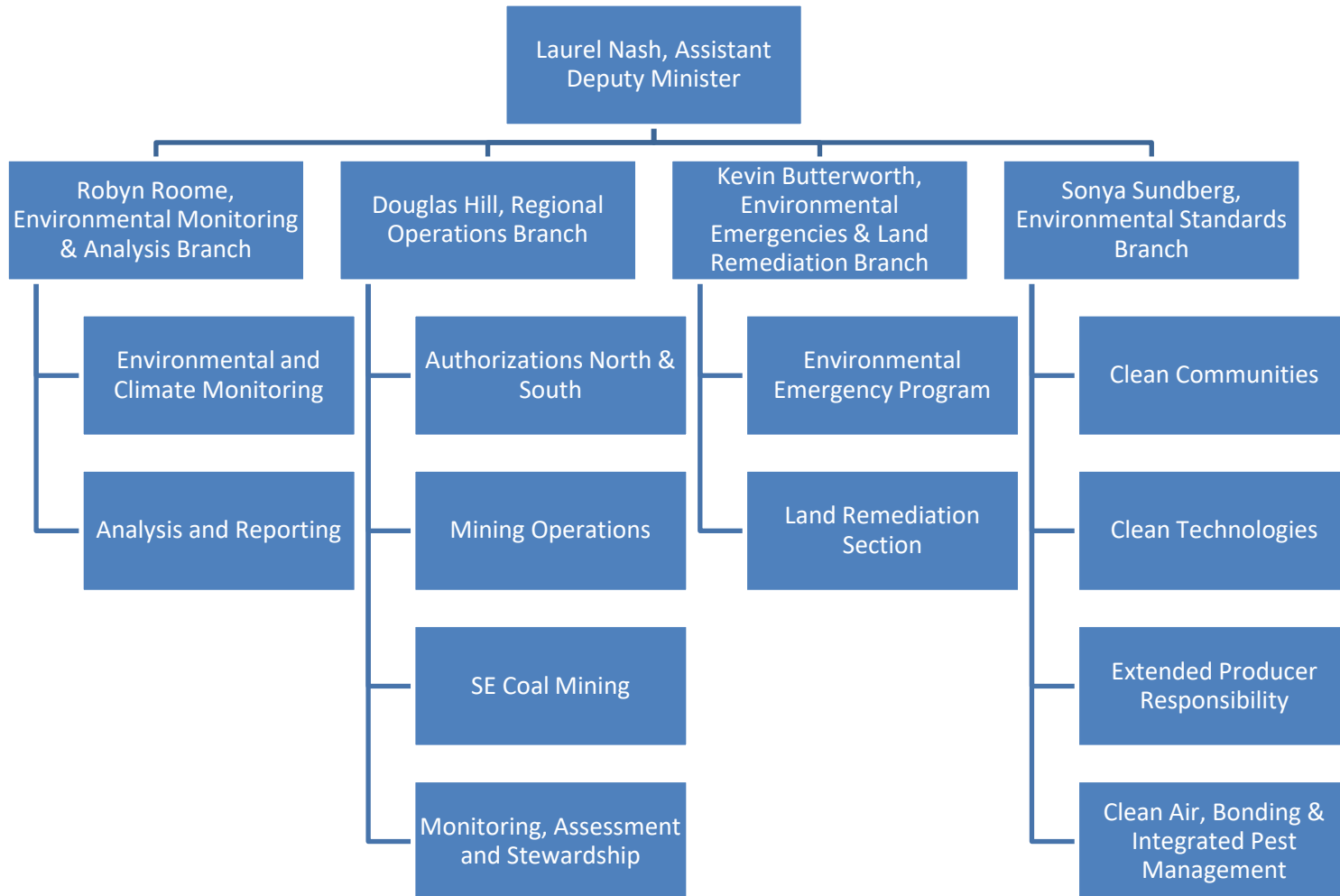
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February 23, 2023

Overview

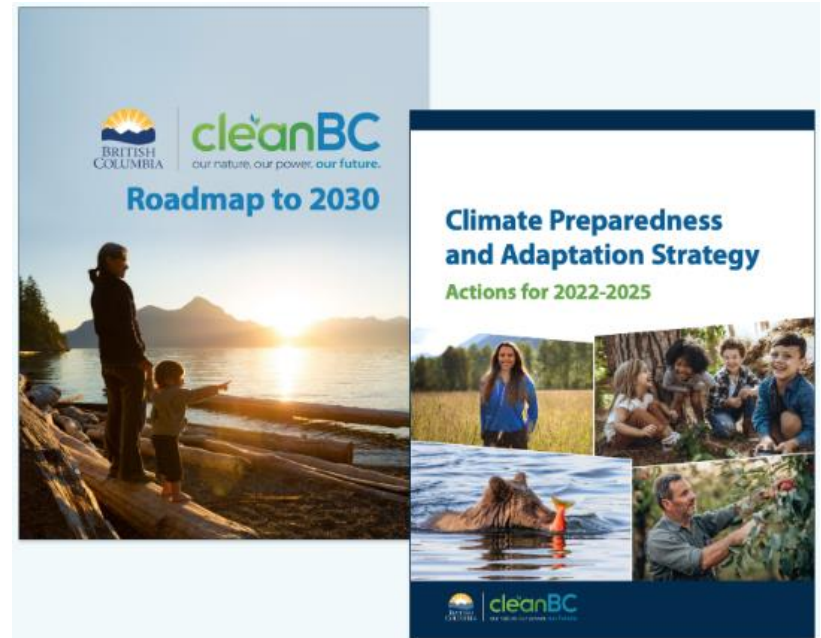
- Environmental Protection Division
- Circular Economy
- CleanBC Plastics Action Plan
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Organics Initiatives
- Bonding

Environmental Protection Division



Circular Economy

- CleanBC [Roadmap to 2030](#):
 - B.C. to develop a new Circular Economy (CE) Strategy.
 - CE Strategy will support B.C.'s climate goals and our economy.
 - Key components include advancing the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan.

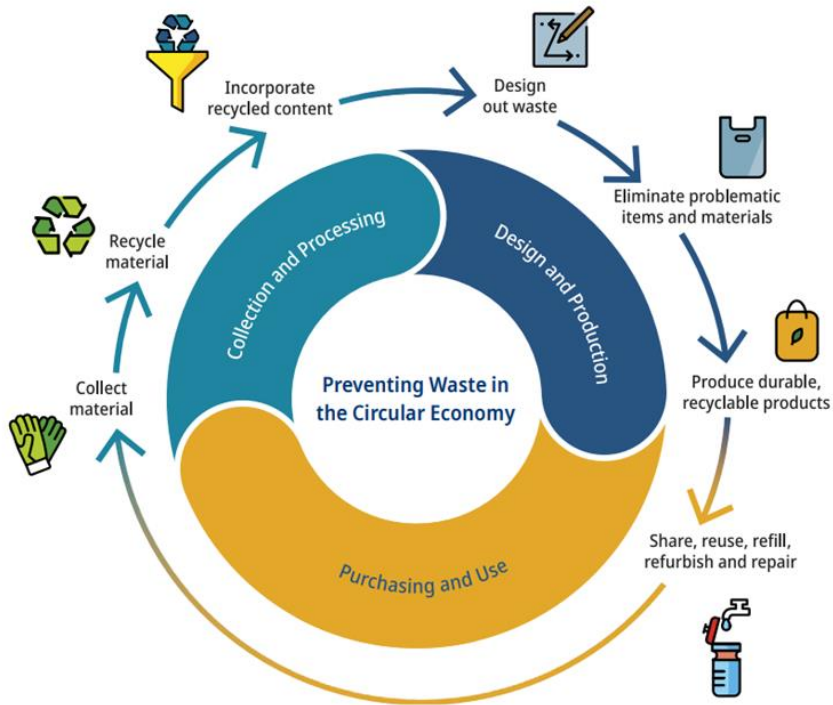


Provincial MSW Framework

- Environmental Management Act
- Regulations
 - Organic Matter Recycling Regulation
 - Recycling Regulation
 - Landfill Gas Management Regulation
 - Waste Discharge Regulation
- Guidance and policy
 - Targets
 - MSW disposal per capita
 - Population covered by organics landfill restrictions
 - Food Waste Prevention



CleanBC Plastics Action Plan



Phase-out Single-Use Items



Expanding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs



Reducing Plastics Overall

Waste Prevention Regulation



- Intentions paper released April 2022
- Aim to phase-out single-use items province-wide and move plastics into the circular economy
- Provide a consistent approach to regulating single-use and plastic items
 - Checkout bags
 - Disposable foodservice accessories
 - Problematic plastic foodservice packaging (PVC, compostable plastics, polystyrene)
 - Oxo-degradable plastics
- Align with Federal government regulations
- What We Heard report to be published Spring 2023

EPR Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026

Household Single Use Items and more packaging

- Regulated in 2021
- Operational January 1, 2023 by Recycle BC
- e.g., straws, cutlery, party supplies, food storage containers, freezer bags, bubble wrap, etc.

Regulate more products 2023

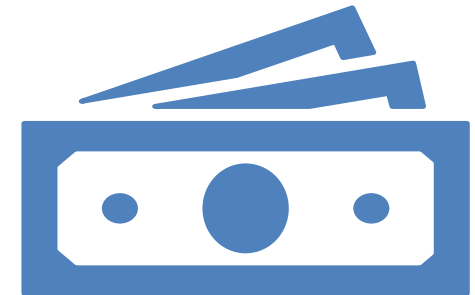
- Mattresses and foundations
- More aerosols, pressurized cylinders, fire extinguishers
- More batteries
- Medical sharps

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging

- ICI Packaging Baseline Report Complete
- Currently establishing rural and remote working group
- Identify policy approach by 2025

EPR Policy Priorities

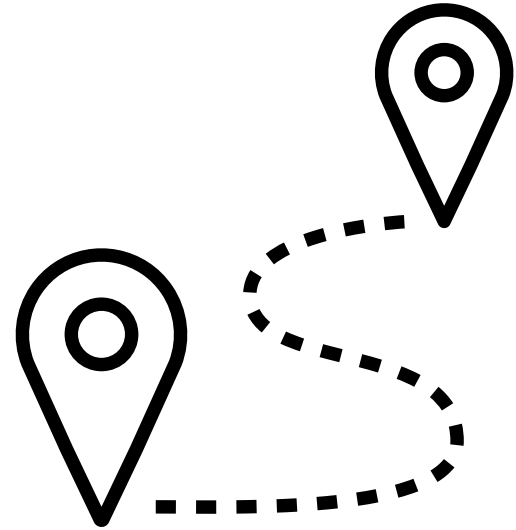
- Financial Reporting
 - Policy guidance in development
 - Increased granularity and transparency
- Producers Paying the Cost
 - Regulatory requirement for EPR plans to provide for producer paying the costs of collecting and managing products
 - Guidance provided for improved plan commitments and consultation
- Reviewing Governance Arrangements
 - Supports financial accountability and public trust in the system



EPR Policy Priorities - Accessibility

Objectives of the study:

- Accessibility remains a focus for local governments and public
- Contract underway to review EPR program accessibility criteria
- The study will have a focus on rural and remote areas and Indigenous communities



Phase 1

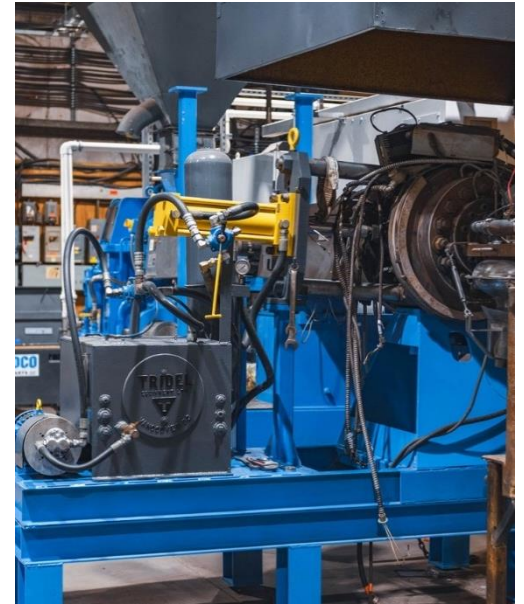
Identify factors of accessibility to recycling services under EPR through consultation

Phase 2

Develop recommended framework and tools to support access

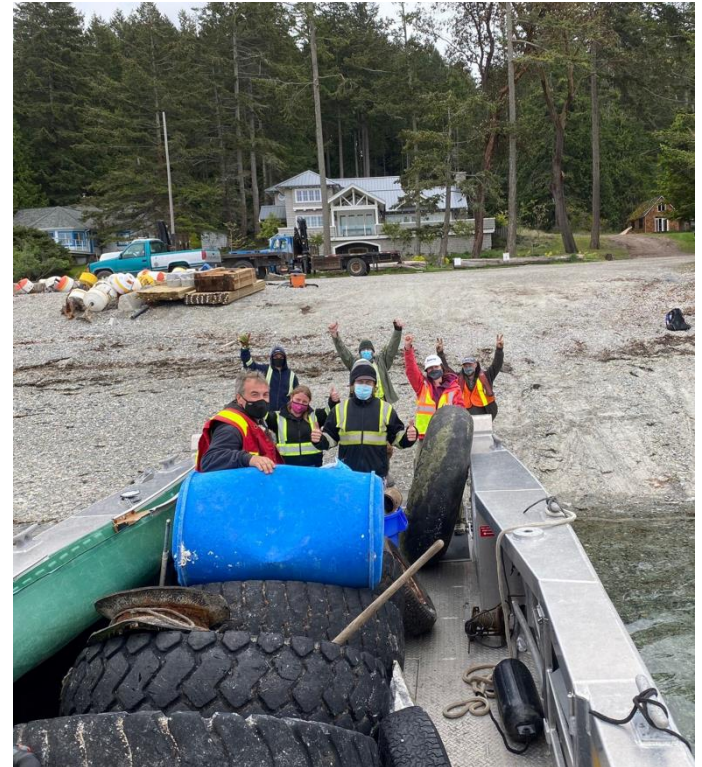
CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

- Supporting innovative projects from reuse systems to post-consumer recycled plastic processing and remanufacturing.
- Over \$9M available for grants in the second intake
 - Expansion of types of projects supported to include reuse in packaging.
- Builds upon \$5M distributed to 9 projects in 2021.



Clean Coast Clean Waters: 2022 Update

- Support B.C.'s work on addressing marine debris through marine shoreline clean-up and derelict vessel removal
- An additional \$5M was awarded in 2022
 - Total awarded to date: \$24.83M
- 2022 project targets:
 - 1,000 km of shoreline cleaned
 - 30 derelict vessels removed
- Will add to the 3,940 km of shoreline already cleaned and 86 derelict vessels removed
- Over 1,000 tonnes of debris already removed since 2020, recycled or upcycled 65% of material recovered from shoreline projects



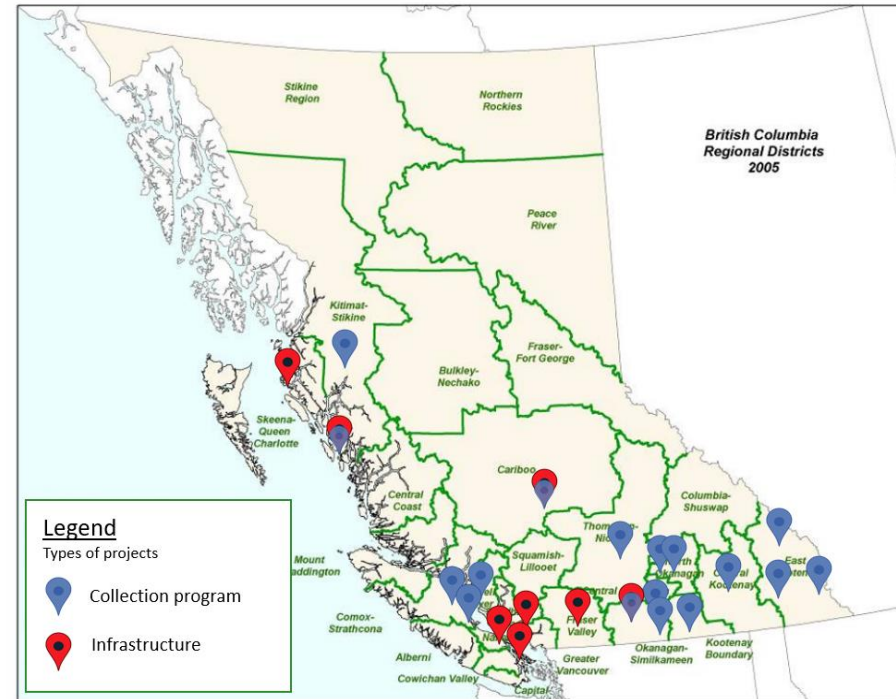
Organic Infrastructure Program (OIP)

- Invested \$20 million in partnership with the Federal government to support 17 projects to increase organic waste processing capacity.
- OIP recently opened the second funding opportunity and offered funding for three more projects. Successful recipients included:
 - Kwadacha Nation, Heiltsuk Nation, and Kitimat
- Several projects under OIP are completed or nearly completed. All projects will be operational by March 2024.



CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP)

- The province has invested \$25.9 million across two funding streams supporting:
 - 7 organic processing facilities
 - 17 residential organic waste collection programs
- Several projects under OICP are completed or nearly completed. All projects will be operational by March 2024.



Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) Modernization

- OMRR regulates compost facilities and land application of compost and biosolids
- Proposed amendments:
 - 2018 Intentions Paper
 - 2022 Project Update
- Objectives of OMRR amendments are to:
 - Better align with present day practices
 - Promote best achievable technology and practices
 - Improve clarity regarding requirements
 - Increase transparency and enhance Indigenous engagement



Public Interest Bonding Strategy

Mandate Commitment

“Deliver the first phase of B.C.’s new bonding policy toward ensuring **owners of large industrial projects are bonded** moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the **full costs of environmental cleanup** if their projects are abandoned.”

Project objectives

- Ensure owners of high-risk industrial projects, not British Columbians, pay the full costs of environmental cleanup and reclamation, even if projects are abandoned
- Ensure the Province has the authority to require environmental cleanup, and collect/use/enforce associated financial assurance requirements

Public Interest Bonding Strategy

Phase 1 engagement

- Targeted engagement with key stakeholders in early 2022
- Discussion paper and summary What We Heard Report (<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/public-interest-bonding>)
- NRS Working Group

Next steps:

- Policy development towards new framework
- Further engagement 2023 to specific policy concepts

