

# Let's Talk About Single Use Items

**June 20, 2019**

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Executive Director



# The RCA

- We are a multi-sectoral non-profit organization that has advanced waste prevention and recycling in Alberta since 1987.
- We represent a diverse membership with 340 strong across Alberta.
- We advocate. We connect. We collaborate. We educate.

## **Our Vision**

Create a pathway to zero waste Alberta.

## **Our Mission**

To promote and facilitate waste reduction, recycling and resource conservation in the Province of Alberta.

# Single Use Items

The Problem





**RCA** RECYCLING COUNCIL  
OF ALBERTA





## Single-Use Plastic

- Half of plastic generated is made to be single-use
- Over 80 per cent of plastic material that enters the environment is single-use
- Great Pacific Garbage Patch bigger than BC and Alberta
- Scientists predict more plastic than fish in oceans by 2050





# Reducing Single Use Items

Solutions

## International Action

- EU has banned single-use plastic items
  - 10 products (plates, balloon sticks, food and beverage containers, cutlery, straws, and stirrers) banned in 2021
  - member states required by 2029 to collect and recycle at least 90% of beverage bottles
  - tobacco companies to cover costs for the collection of cigarette butts
  - manufacturers of fishing gear will pay for retrieval of plastic nets left at sea





## Federal Strategy

- Canada led G7 Ocean Plastics Charter
- Federal strategy intent announced in June
  - ban harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021
    - (such as plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, and stir sticks)
  - work to introduce standards and targets for companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging so they become responsible for plastic waste





# Extended Producer Responsibility

Building on Stewardship



## **CCME EPR Definition**

“Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle.”



# National EPR

## CCME Canada-Wide Action Plan (2009)

- Phase 1 (by 2015)
  - Packaging
  - Printed materials
  - Mercury containing products
  - Electronics and electrical products
  - Household hazardous and special wastes
  - Automotive products
- Phase 2 (by 2017)
  - Construction / demolition materials
  - Furniture
  - Textiles and carpet
  - Appliances



Table 1: Waste Diversion Initiatives in Canada for CAP-EPR Phase 1 Materials (July 2014)

Material/ Product Category	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	PE	NB	NS	NL	YT	NT	NU
Packaging - milk Containers	E - V	P	E - V	S	S	S	P	E - V	S	(E - V)	consider	P	
Packaging - beverage containers	E - L	P	P	E - L	P liquor/wine	P beer & soft drinks	P	P	P	P	P	P	(P) liquor/beer
Multi-packaging and printed materials	E - L	consider	S	S	S	S	consider	consider	consider	consider			
Electronics - audio-visual and telecom	E - L	consider	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
Electronics - cell phones	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - V*	E - L	E - L	E - V consider P	E - V	
Electronics - computers, accessories and IT equipment	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
Electronics - tools	E - L	consider				consider	consider						
Electronics - TVs	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	pending	E - L	E - L	consider	consider	
HHSW - batteries (single use, rechargeable)	E - L	S*	E - V	E - L	E - L single use	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V*			
HHSW - corrosives & irritants	E - L	S*	consider	E - L corrosives		consider	P		consider	consider			
HHSW - aerosols, solvents & flammables	E - L	S*	consider	E - L solvents & flammables	E - L solvents	consider	P		consider	consider			
HHSW - mercury lamps, other mercury products	E - L	consider	consider	E - L	P	E - L	E - L		consider	consider			
HHSW - paint	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L			
HHSW - pesticides/fertilizers & containers	E - L pesticides	E - V	E - V*	E - L	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V	E - V			
HHSW - pharmaceuticals	E - L	E - V	E - V	E - L	E - L	E - V	E - L	E - V	E - V*	E - V	E - V		E - V
HHSW - sharps/syringes			consider	E - L	E - L	consider	E - L		E - V*	consider	E - V		
Automotive - batteries	E - L			E - L		consider	E - L	E - V		E - V*			
Automotive - tires	E - L	P	P	E - L	E - L	P*	P	P*	P	P	P		
Automotive - used oil, oil containers and/or filters	E - L	P	E - L	E - L	E - L containers and filters	E - L	E - L	E - L	P* used oil	P*			
Automotive - other (e.g., glycol)	E - L	consider	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	E - L	consider	pending			

Notes: Table developed by Giroux Environmental Consulting, 2014. \* = legislated EPR being considered; (P) = Deposit is charged territory-wide, collection depot only in Iqaluit. This inventory does not take into account initiatives led by individual manufacturers or retailers to collect end-of-life products.

## EPR Update

- BC implemented EPR for packaging and printed materials (2014)
  - Industry managed – RecycleBC
    - Similar models in SK & MB
- Ontario Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016
  - Outcomes-based EPR



Only one true  
EPR program  
for packaging in  
Canada today



## Benefits of EPR

- Transfers cost and liability from municipalities and taxpayers to producers
- Provides incentive to producer to improve design
- Encourages Circular Economy
  - Producers have access to post-consumer materials
- Provides provincial program consistency
- Economy of scale provides market resilience
  - e.g., China Sword market restrictions





**Achieving a sustainable future: Canadian  
producers set global commitments to reduce  
waste and recycle more**

Report by Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance Inc.

January, 2019



Canadian Stewardship  
Services Alliance

# Overwaitea Food Group

NG COUNCIL  
RTA

## Global commitments:

- Continue to ensure 90% of products sold in stores are recyclable.
- Recycle 100% of cardboard, organics and plastics.
- 20% reduction in the amount of waste created.



# Ikea Canada

## Global commitments:

- 100% of wood, paper and cardboard to be made from recycled materials or Forest Stewardship Council certified by August 2020.
- 100% of all plastic material used in home furnishing products will be recyclable by August 2020.
- All main home furnishing materials and their packaging will be either made from renewable, recyclable or recycled materials by August 2015.
- 90% of waste from operations will be recycled or recovered.
- Reduce waste in stores by 10%.



- 25% increase in the amount of recycled plastic used in packaging by 2025
- 100% recyclable, reusable and compostable packaging by 2025
- Work with partners to increase recycling rates by 15% by 2020 in top 14 countries
- Half the waste caused as a result of disposal of products by 2020



# Alberta EPR Advocacy

- RCA has project team dedicated to advancing EPR
  - First focus to inform and educate
  - Held workshops and education sessions
  - Connecting jurisdictions and stakeholders
- Collaboration between RCA, CSSA, and municipalities to conduct baseline research and advocate for EPR
- Increasing municipal lobby for EPR

# Circular Economy

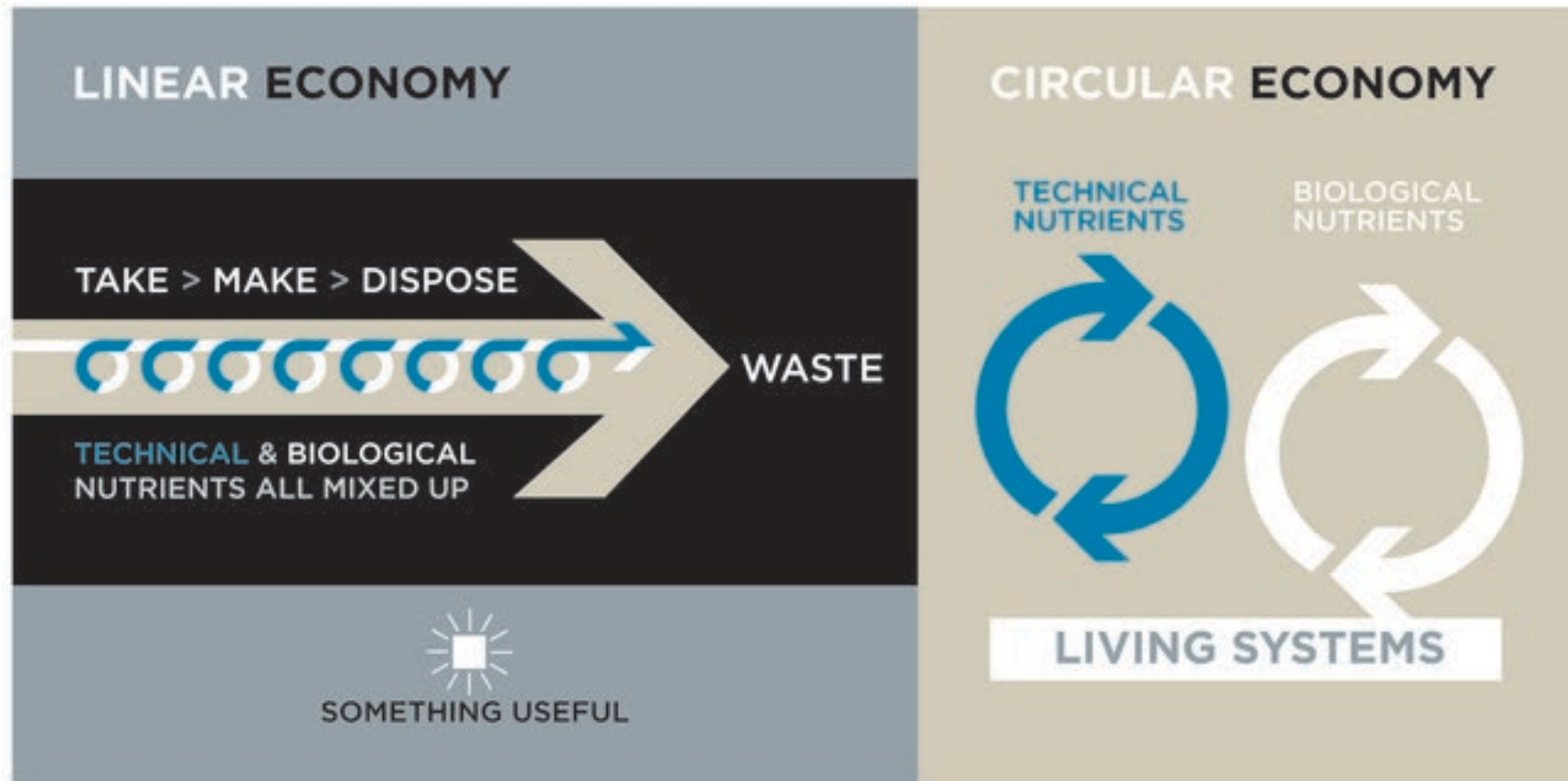


# Linear Economy

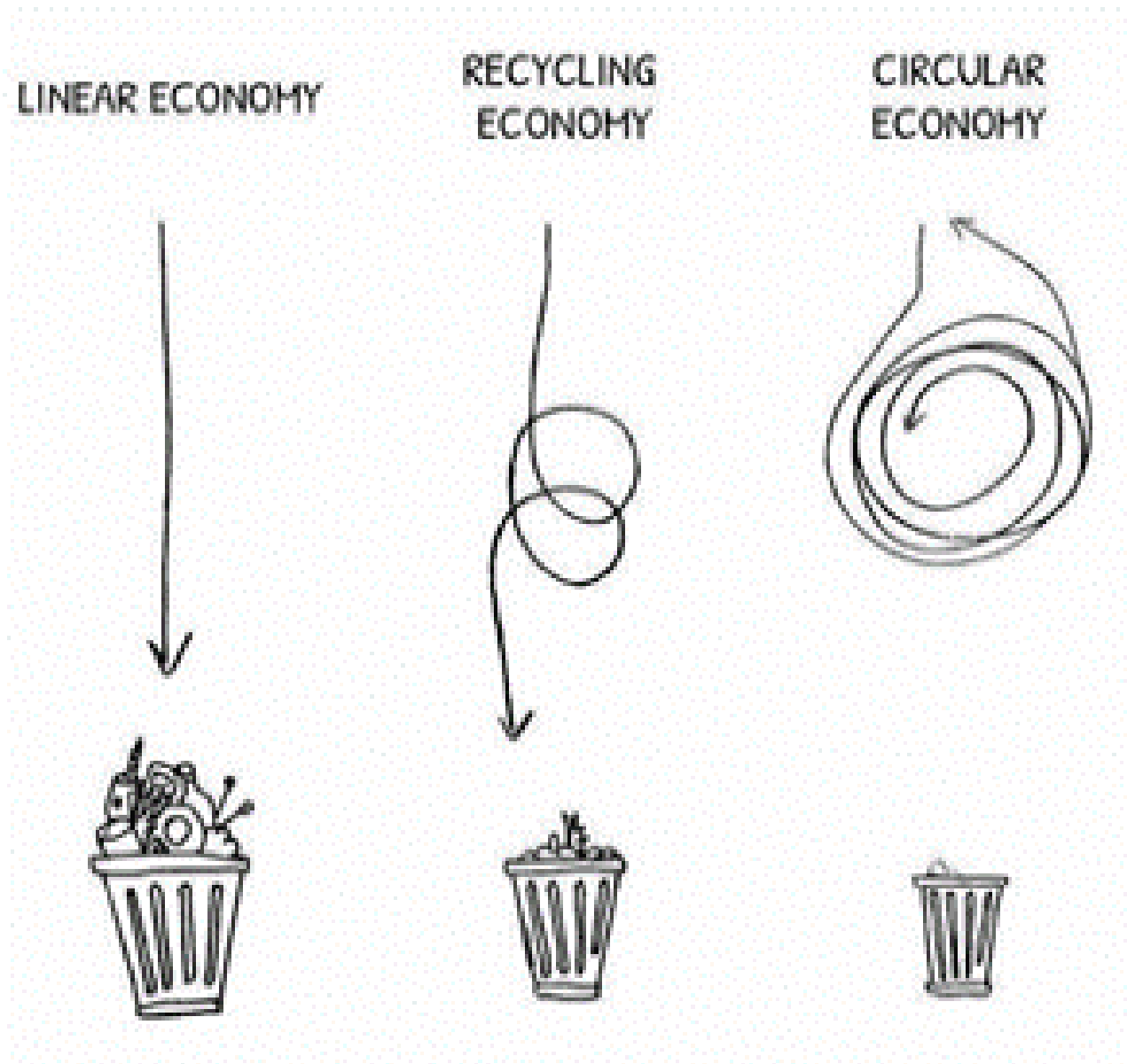
The use of resources worldwide is inefficient and creates too much waste

Image:  
Terracycle









## Circular Economy

- A circular economy eliminates waste by cycling materials through interconnected industrial systems and biological cycles. In a circular economy, **materials** are used in a manner that keeps them at their **highest utility and value at all times**, there is a shift towards the use of **renewable energy**, toxic chemicals are eliminated, and **waste is prevented through superior design**.



# Circular Supply Chain



Closing  
material loops

Regenerating  
natural assets



# Product Life Extension



*One of the most responsible things we can do is to make high-quality stuff that lasts for years and can be repaired so you don't have to buy more of it. –Rick Ridgeway, Patagonia*



# Product as a Service



Customer as user of a service, rather than consumer of a product (pay per use)

# Sharing Platform

I do not need a drill.  
I need a hole in the wall.





# Recovery & Recycling



Organic – Enterra



Technical – Novelis

The circular economy means addressing every link in economic value chains and eliminating the concept of waste, while creating shared prosperity.

William McDonough



# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

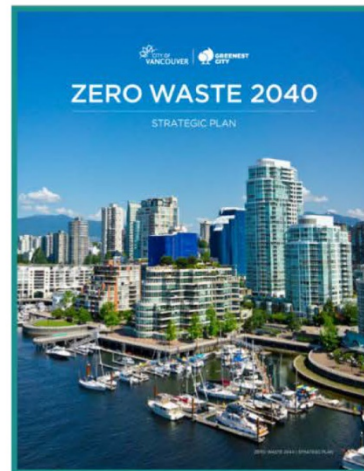


**It costs taxpayers \$2.5 million a year**  
to collect single-use items from public waste bins and as litter.

*Slide provided by City of Vancouver to RCA*

# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

The Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy is an early priority and transformative action in Vancouver's Zero Waste 2040 strategic plan.



**Zero Waste 2040**  
(June 5, 2018)



**Single-Use Item  
Reduction Strategy**  
(June 5, 2018)



# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

## Strategy Objective

1. Maximize reduction and reuse.
2. Recycle/compost any SUI's that must be used.

### A ZERO WASTE APPROACH FOR VANCOUVER

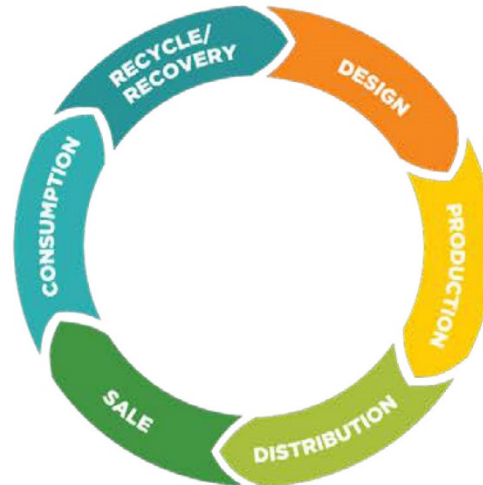


\*Recovering energy from organic materials such as food and, in the case of single-use items, compostable packaging



# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

## Moving to a Circular Economy





# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy



## Strategy Scope

- Covers plastic and paper shopping bags, cups, containers, foam, straws, and utensils
- All material types (not just plastic)
- Influencing actions (by-laws)
- Supportive actions (education, collaboration, infrastructure)
- Emphasis on reduction & reuse
- 2018-2025

Slide provided by City of Vancouver to RCA



# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

## Supportive Actions

- **Education & outreach**
  - Social media campaign, language-appropriate tools and resources, outreach to affected businesses, Zero Waste Ambassadors volunteer program
- **Infrastructure & programs to support reuse**
  - RFEOI for solutions like travel mug & take-out container exchange programs streetscape recycling, feasibility of mandatory dishwashers
- **Collaboration & dialogue**
  - E.g. Convene a forum for small businesses to explore group purchasing and reusable container programs





# Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

Proposed by-law requirements to:

- ban foam cups and containers
- ban the use of plastic straws
  - some exceptions for health care and accessibility needs
  - Includes compostable straws
  - Phased-in approach (restaurants first, followed by take-away)
- reduce the use of plastic and paper bags and disposable cups
- reduce the use of single-use utensils







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