

Let's Talk About Single Use Items

June 20, 2019

Christina Seidel
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

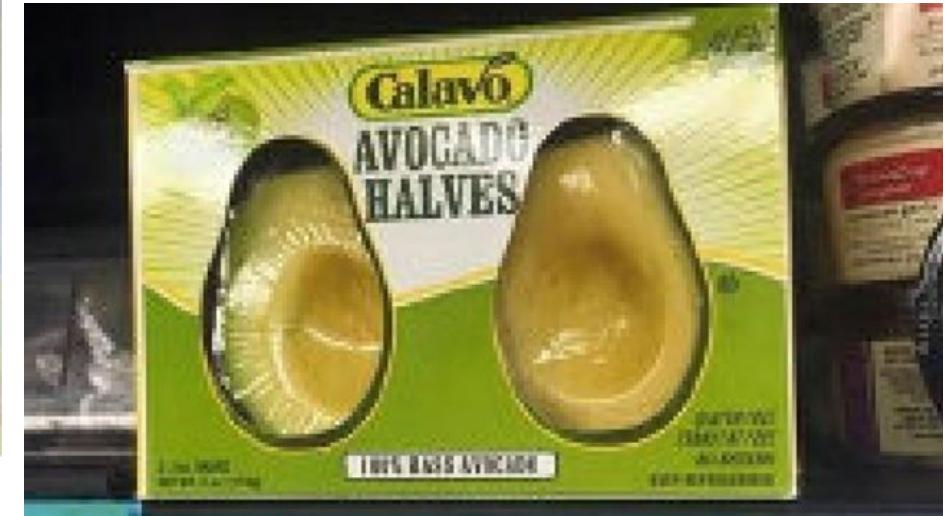
Create a pathway to zero waste Alberta.

Our Mission

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

Single Use Items

The Problem



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

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

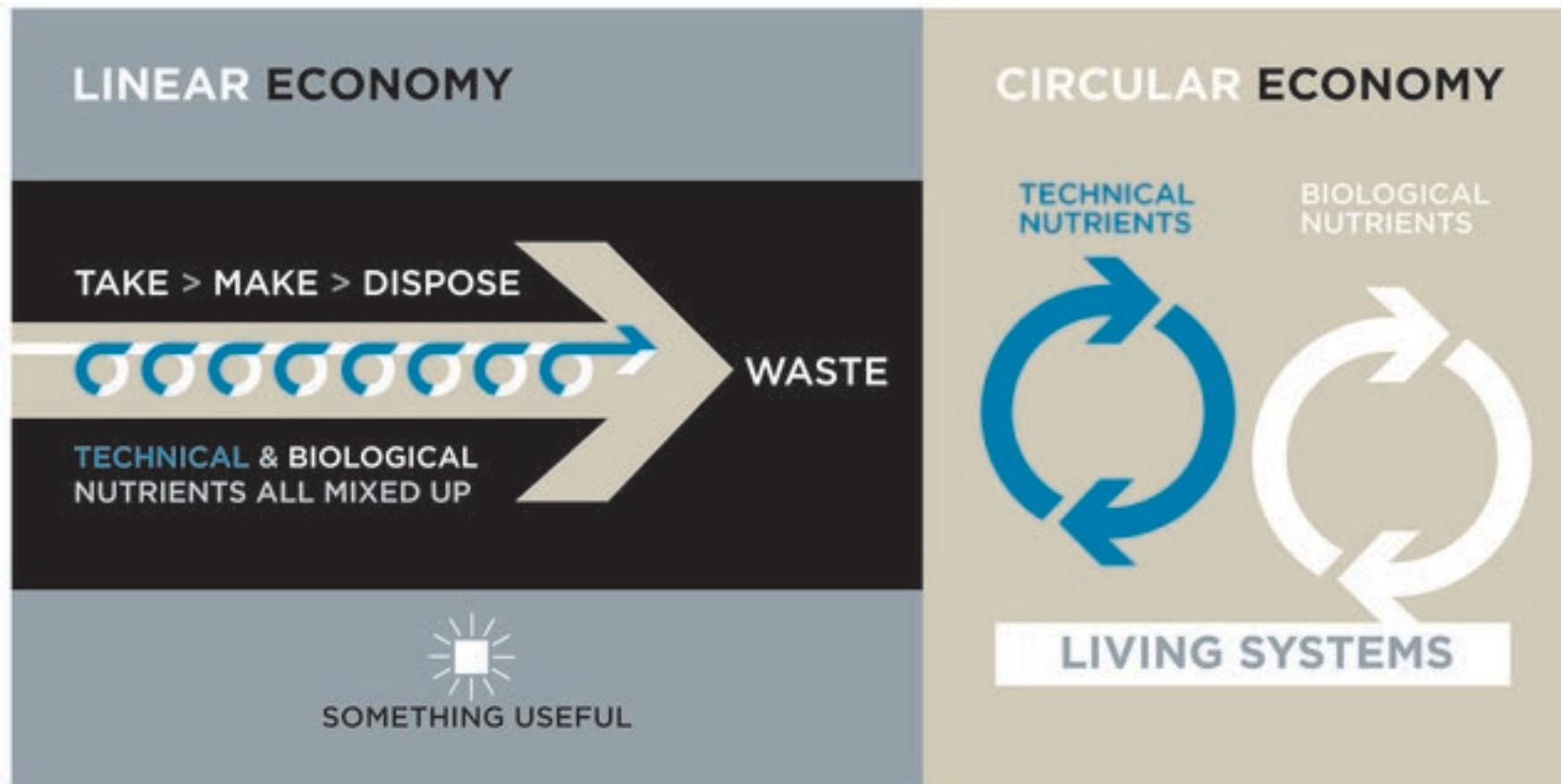
- RCA has project team dedicated to advancing EPR
 - First focus to inform and educate
 - Held workshops and education sessions
 - Connecting jurisdictions and stakeholders
- Collaboration between RCA, CSSA, and municipalities to conduct baseline research and advocate for EPR
- Increasing municipal lobby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

Circular Economy

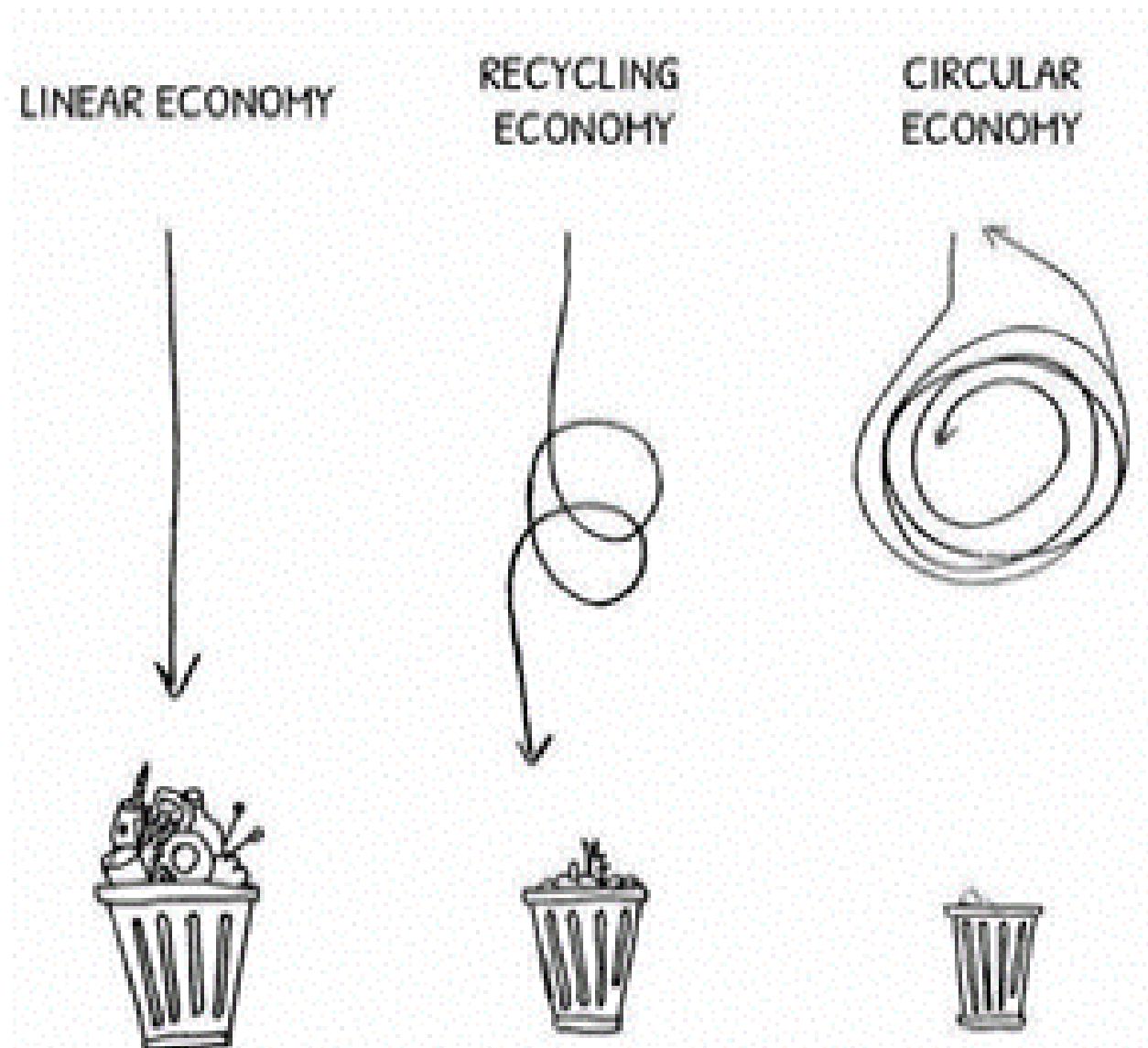
Linear Economy

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





AFTER W McDONOUGH AND M BRAUNGART
www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org



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

RCA RECYCLING COUNCIL
OF ALBERTA



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



PLASTIC BAGS

2 million plastic shopping bags are thrown in the garbage every week



DISPOSABLE CUPS

2.6 million paper cups are thrown in the trash every week



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS

50% of all garbage collected from street litter cans, is disposable cups and containers



FOAM CONTAINERS

9% of items collected in shoreline cleanups are small foam pieces



STRAWS & UTENSILS

2% of shoreline litter is plastic straws and stir sticks

It costs taxpayers \$2.5 million a year

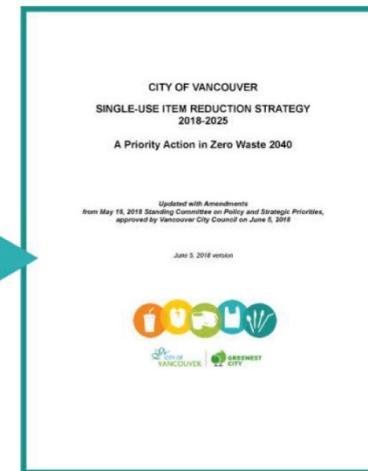
to collect single-use items from public waste bins and as litter.

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)

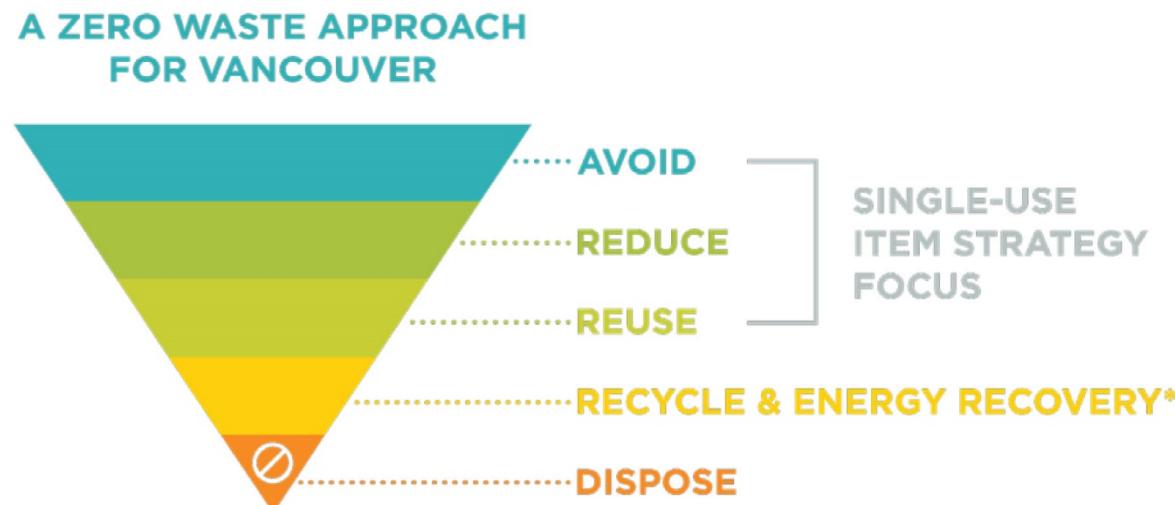


Slide provided by City of Vancouver to RCA

Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

Strategy Objective

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



*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



Slide provided by City of Vancouver to RCA

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**
 - RFEOL 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





RECYCLING COUNCIL
OF ALBERTA

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