

Modernized curbside collection system in Quebec



Expected variances
from current system

The Government of Quebec announced its intention to modernize the curbside collection system based on the extended producer responsibility (EPR) approach and by adopting [Bill 65](#) on approach. By adopting Bill 65 on March 11, 2021, this commitment has now become a reality. This approach means the responsibility of companies that put non-refundable containers, packaging, printed matter and newsprint (hereinafter “covered products”) on the market will go beyond funding curbside collection, as is currently the case in the municipal curbside collection compensation plan. A single government-designated stewardship organization (DSO) representing these companies will be responsible for overseeing and helping manage various covered products throughout the territory and the value chain, from recovery to recycling.

Why modernize curbside collection?

- Companies that put covered products on the market or that offer services generating them currently only have a financial responsibility, without any clear responsibility or delegated power to optimize the value chain and thus improve the end-of-life management of their products.
- More efforts and investments are needed to improve practices and make the value chain less fragmented and less vulnerable.
- It is critical to take action to ensure proper alignment between products put on the market, recovery, sorting and processing as well as the development of local or nearby end-uses.



What modernization entails:

- Establish partnership framework agreements between the DSO and municipal bodies stipulating the criteria to be met for providing local services, including collection and transportation.
- Optimize services and standardize materials accepted in the recycling bin.
- Transition from an eligible costs compensation model to a reimbursement of services rendered model without any time lag.

Sorting and processing activities will be governed by agreements to be made between the DSO and the service providers who can satisfy the performance levels required by the DSO, whether they be private, public, non-profit or other. Compared to the current situation, the main impacts of this reform – to be gradually implemented as of 2022 – on municipal bodies would mean:

MATTER	CURRENT SYSTEM	MODERNIZED SYSTEM
Awarding of contracts	Municipal bodies award collection-transportation and sorting-processing contracts.	Collection-transportation contracts are awarded by municipal bodies, in compliance with the framework agreement determined with the DSO. Sorting-processing contracts are awarded by the DSO.
Reimbursement of costs	Municipal bodies are compensated for nearly all net eligible costs, with some time lag.	Municipal bodies are reimbursed for actual costs without delay, subject to complying with the framework agreement determined with the DSO.
Accounting	Recovered quantities and net costs are reported to RECYC-QUÉBEC, which compensates the municipal body.	The municipal body provides its accounting to the DSO, which reimburses it.
Accepted materials	Municipal bodies determine the list of materials that can be placed in the recycling bin.	The DSO determines the standardized list of materials accepted in curbside collection for all of Quebec.
Penalties	Municipal bodies are penalized if their Performance and Efficiency (PE) factor is higher than that of their group.	Municipal bodies are penalized if the framework agreement with the DSO is not respected. The DSO assesses penalties if recovery, recycling and reclamation goals set by the government are not met.

MATTER	CURRENT SYSTEM	MODERNIZED SYSTEM
Grouping	Municipal bodies can group together to offer curbside collection services.	Terms and conditions for territory coverage, including groupings, are provided to optimize collection and transportation services.
Organization responsible	Two approved funding organizations (AFOs): ÉEQ for non-refundable containers, packaging and printed matter, as well as RecycleMédias for newsprint.	A single DSO represents all covered products.
Relationship with responsible organization	Municipal bodies and sorting centres have no formal relationship with the AFOs (ÉEQ and RecycleMédias).	Municipal bodies are partners of the DSO for local services, including collection-transportation. Sorting centres and the DSO have direct business relationships.
Responsibility of stewardship organization	The AFOs only have a financial responsibility, without any control over the outcome of the materials throughout the value chain.	The DSO is responsible for developing, implementing and funding curbside collection (collection, transportation, sorting, processing, recycling, traceability, end-use development, eco design, etc.).

For more information:

Modernization of the Quebec deposit-return and curbside collection systems:

[Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change website](#)

[RECYC-QUÉBEC website](#)

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