

Recycling Services for First Nations Communities

November 4, 2026

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Our Commitment to Indigenous Communities in Alberta

As a national not-for-profit organization, Circular Materials' purpose is to accelerate a circular future for people and the planet.

We recognize Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the land, for whom circularity has been a way of life since time immemorial.

Circular Materials in Alberta acknowledges that we are working on the traditional and ancestral territories of many uniquely diverse Indigenous Peoples.

We respectfully recognize the distinct treaties of this territory and homeland of the Métis. Specifically, at this event, we acknowledge the living presence of Treaty 6 and celebrate its 150th anniversary this year alongside the Cree, Nakota Sioux, Dene, and Saulteaux signatories.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we are committed to collaborating with and continually learning from Indigenous communities and partners.



Thank you for having us!

- Thank you for welcoming us to this conference.
- We appreciate the opportunity to build relationships and work together in a spirit of respect, partnership, and collaboration.
- We look forward to beginning this journey together and supporting the development of a recycling program that reflects the distinct needs, priorities, and values of each Nation.

Agenda

1. Introduction to EPR
2. About Circular Materials
3. How we work with First Nations
4. Nations with Circular Material Programs
    - Enoch Cree Nation
    - O’Chiese First Nation
5. Resources and Support

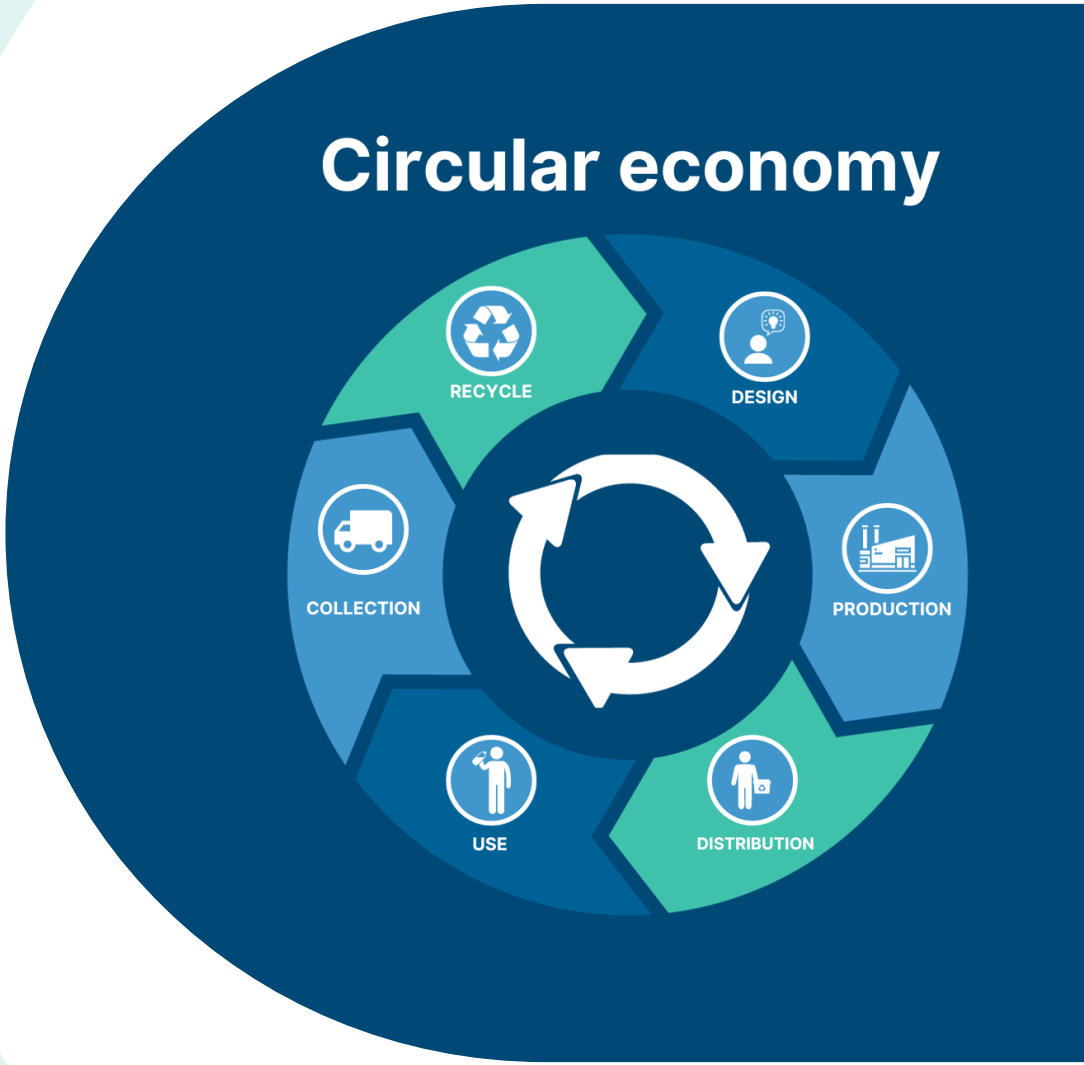


What is EPR?

- Under new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulation in Alberta, **producers are now responsible** for funding and managing Alberta's recycling system for packaging and paper **(at no cost to a Nation).**

- The Alberta Recycling Management Authority(**ARMA**) is the government **regulator** that oversees the provincial framework.
  - **Communities choose to register with ARMA** to receive EPR recycling services.

- EPR program covers recycling of **single-use packaging and paper products** from community members (commercial sources are not included).



About Circular Materials & Our Role as a "Producer Responsibility Organization"



Supporting Alberta Businesses (Producers) to Meet New EPR Regulation

- Circular Materials is a **not-for-profit** producer responsibility organization (PRO) that supports **Alberta businesses (also known as producers)** in meeting their EPR obligations.
- We are regulated by ARMA to deliver provincial EPR program for packaging and paper materials.



Community Partnerships

- Circular Materials is working with municipalities, First Nations and Metis Settlements across the province to transition to an EPR recycling framework and **ensure a seamless transition for community members**.



Advancing a Circular Economy in Alberta

- We are focused on building an enhanced recycling system in Alberta that **improves recycling rates and environmental outcomes through innovative recycling systems.**

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Benefits of EPR for Communities

Collection System
Circular Materials establishes and maintains collection systems (household and depot) to collect materials.

Single Stream Material Collection
"Single stream" (i.e., collection in one container) makes it **easier for community members to recycle as no sorting required.** Single stream also enables a technologically advanced system that reduces waste sent to landfill.



Promotion & Education
Circular Materials pays promotion and education initiatives to encourage recycling in a community.

Household Collection
- Communities receive household collection at **no cost to community.**
- Circular Materials manages relationship with local collection contractor.

Depot Collection
- Communities receive collection at depots at **no cost to community.**
- Circular Materials contracts or funds the transfer of depot materials to "receiving facilities" for processing.

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How We Work With First Nations



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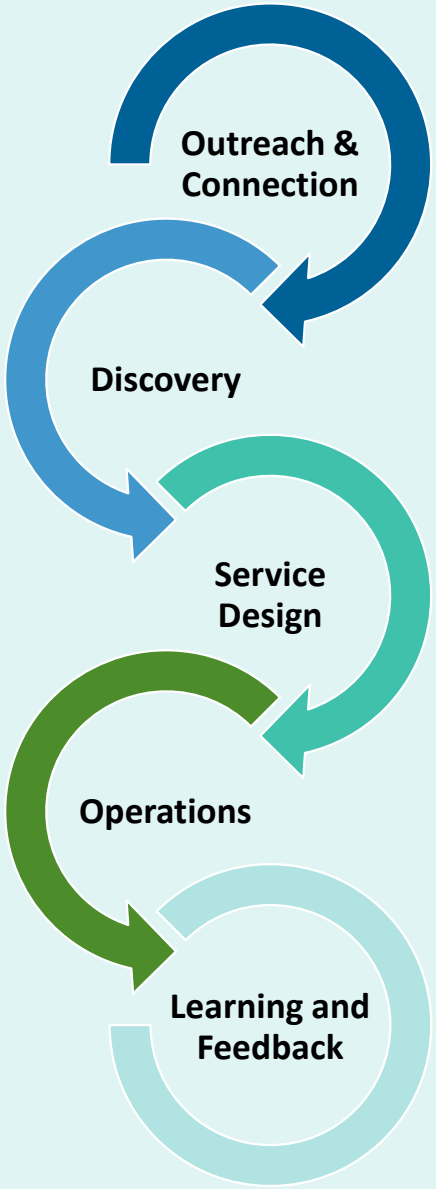
Learning about your Nations

- What are your community's priorities and interests?
- What waste management services do community members currently have access to?
- How do you work with the other Nations in the area on waste management efforts?
- How are decisions about waste management made in your Nation?
- How best should Circular Materials work with your Nation?
- How would you like to proceed with next steps?

Approach

Our engagement and outreach efforts encompass four broad stages.

- Introductory Outreach & Connection to confirm appropriate contacts and schedule preliminary meeting.
- Discovery and Learning to build relationships and understand community needs and preferences.
- Service Definition and Approval to incorporate Indigenous knowledge in the recycling system design (i.e. household, central depot/drop-off location etc).
- Transition Planning and Implementation to ensure culturally appropriate communications and preparedness for community members.
- Learning and feedback is ongoing.



Community Stories



Enoch Cree Nation

Connection: Sean Cavalli, Recycling Supervisor.

Discovery: Depot site visit and exploring household collections.

Service Design: Started with collection bins at waste diversion station, arena and new school.

Operations: Pilot household collection for 30% of community that is paved in 2027. Applied for a grant with ISC for collections.

Learning & Feedback: Nation members getting used to taking material to a central location.



O’Chiese First Nation

Connection: Oliver Mackinaw – Manager, Public Works

Discovery: Site visit to transfer station and regular meetings.

Service Design: Depot collection was determined to be the best way to begin collection and introduce recycling to community. Household collection of recycling is being explored.

Operations: Collection bins were installed at the transfer station. Bins and collection are provided by Empringham Disposal.

Learning & Feedback: O’Chiese First Nation was the first Indigenous community to sign with Circular Materials and began collections in Fall 2025.

Community usage of the bins has been consistent and contamination is low.



Stoney Nakoda First Nations

Connection: Luis Mora-Castillon – Director of Public Works, Stoney Tribal Administration

Discovery: Community is eligible for depot and household collection. Regular meetings and a site visit helped determine community needs.

Service Design: Preference was to prioritize depot service at four sites to avoid excluding houses inaccessible by collection trucks and reach more people

Operations: Collection will begin following review of proposal by Chiefs and Councils

Learning & Feedback: Depot service is preferable in areas with complex roads and access issues, and helps reach more community members.





Alexander First Nation

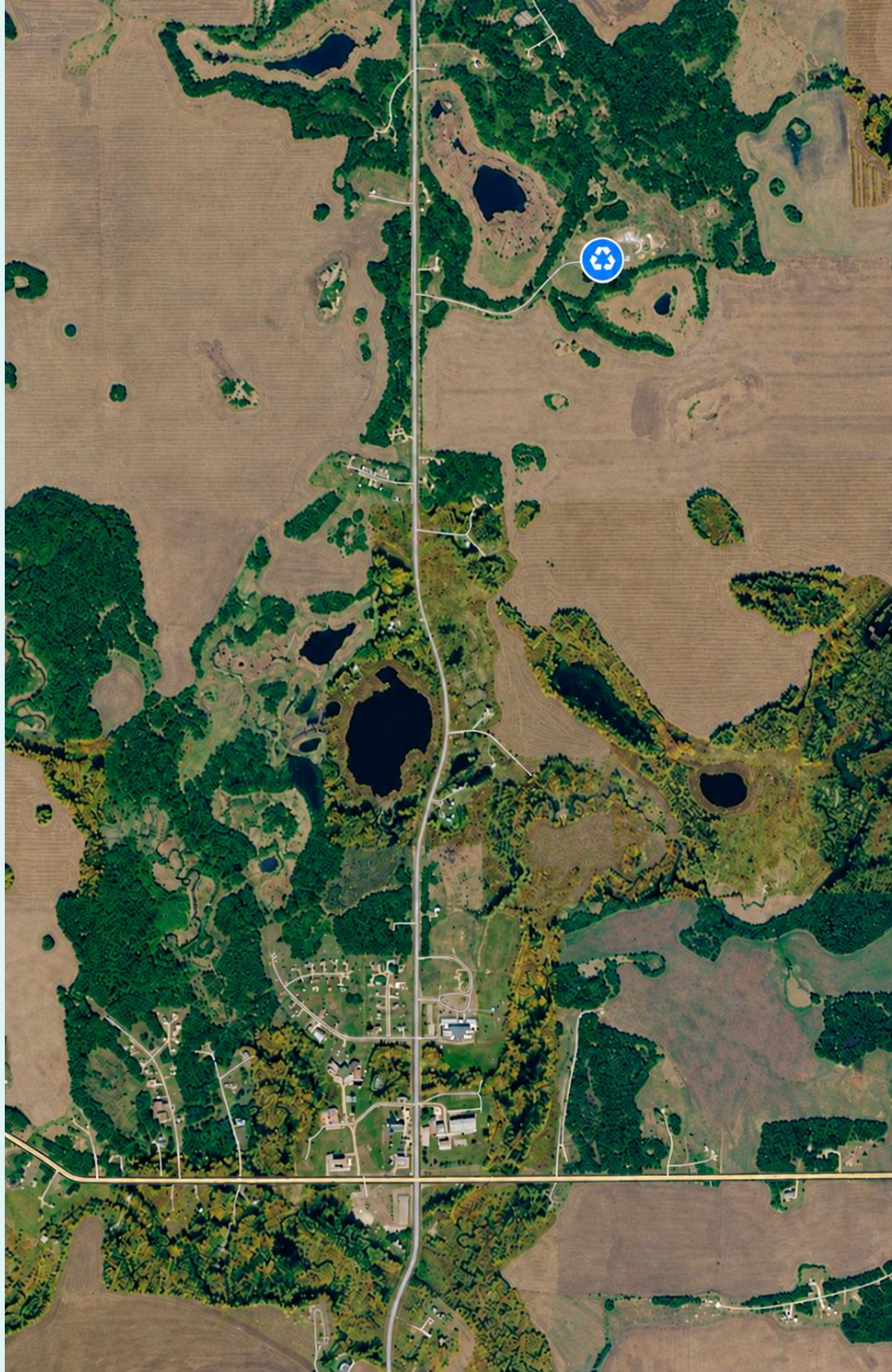
Connection: Deanne Campbell, Administrative Support

Discovery: Depot site visit and in-person meeting.

Service Design: Collection with bins at waste transfer station.

Operations: Service to start November 15, 2026.

Learning & Feedback: Request for classroom materials highlights the role of youth in bringing recycling knowledge home.



Resources & Support



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Some Possible Promotion and Education Initiatives to Encourage Recycling



Attending community events



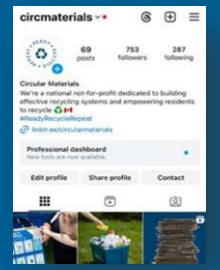
Earth Rangers recycling school toolkits



Recycling app



Circular Materials Website



Community Social Media & Website



Oops stickers



Community promotion and education materials



Contest and incentive programs



Advertising



Importance of Ongoing Collaboration

Circular Materials is committed to delivering reliable, fully compliant recycling services that support Albertans.

We will continue to engage with municipalities and communities to support the efficient and effective delivery of the province's recycling program.

Continued partnership, information sharing and discussions are critical to understanding resident behaviors and needs. We are focused on working together and providing support to all Albertans.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration, feedback and partnership.

Q&A and Discussion



Circular Materials' Contacts



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Thank you



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For Discussion/Input:

Possible Next Steps:

- Introductory meeting (today) and any needed follow-up meetings.
- Following your input, Circular Materials will develop a **draft proposal of services** for Nation to review.
- Following Nation's input on the draft proposal, Circular Materials will then prepare a **draft agreement** for community review.
- **Community review and approval** of agreement.
- **Transition planning** for EPR recycling services (operations and promotion and education efforts).
- **Launch** and implementation of EPR recycling services in community.

Recycling Services Proposal

Following meetings and input from Alexander Nation, Circular Materials will develop a proposal for collection services that includes:

- **Depot Collection:** Where a depot might be located and how it would be operated.
- **Household Collection**: collection container type and number required for community.
- Identify a **collection contractor** (Nation-led or external).

Draft Agreement for Community Review

- Following Nation input on the draft proposal, Circular Materials will then develop a draft agreement for community review and input.

- Agreement to be reviewed and approved by Nation.

- A final agreement to be signed by both parties (Nation and Circular Materials).

Preparing for Transition to EPR Recycling Services

- Circular Materials and Nation to work together to operationalize recycling system in community.
- Circular Materials to coordinate with **collection contractor (Nation-led or external)** and set up introductory meetings (if external).
- Circular Materials collaborates with community to create a tailored and effective **promotion and education campaign** to prepare community members for new services in advance of the program launch.

Launch of EPR Recycling Services

- Collection services and operations begin in community.

- Circular Materials and Nation meet regularly to:
  - Monitor operations and provide updates.
  - Seek feedback from community members and address any concerns.

- Following launch, with community permission, Circular Materials would like to make regular visits to the community to ensure operations are running smoothly and as needed for community members.