



RECYCLEBC™

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Reduction in 2025 Fee Rates and Fee Management Overview

January 9, 2025

	Question	Response
1	Does Recycle BC host other webinars to explain the blue box system and the need for a PRO in Canada?	Recycle BC does not host webinars on the Canadian landscape. Recycle BC speaks at a variety of opportunities about our program, such as conferences and targeted information sessions. Our comprehensive website RecycleBC.ca has lots of general information plus a specific tab for “Producers” in the top ribbon on the home page.
2	Why are glass fees increasing 14%? The high fees for glass do not encourage industry to move away from plastics. Is there any improvement in future for recycling glass?	Fee rates are calculated using the Four-Step Fee Methodology to ensure fairness and to cover program costs. Glass is collected segregated within the Recycle BC supply chain, as it has negative impacts to other materials, and this adds cost. Also, the commodity value for glass is often negative. Specific details can be seen in the Cause of Change Graphs on our Fee Schedule webpage .
3	If I understand correctly, the 2025 fee will increase but not at the rate that was previously budgeted?	Correct. The fee budget has increased by 5.6% but that rate is lower than the 10.6% increase shown in October’s Annual Producer Meeting. This is due to the second surplus drawdown approved in December to provide additional relief based on a revised forecast of further surplus at end of 2024.
4	What is the reasoning for the 14% increase for glass? I would be curious to know how much glass is recovered as we pay on total distributed but the recovery rate is very low.	Please see answer to Q#2 above for increase information. In 2023, the glass recovery rate was 98%. Recycle BC’s Annual Report provides the recovery rate by material category. Program Performance on page 29 of the 2023 Annual Report is a good snapshot view.
5	P&E may have limited success in meeting performance targets. Have you considered having governments implement local bylaws to enforce recycling participation by residents?	We are fortunate that there is a strong history of recycling in the province and Recycle BC is well supported by municipal partners. Many use by-laws to ban recyclables from landfills. To increase performance, we are deploying a targeted approach for specific materials and a broad approach to improve collection overall.
6	Does this fee schedule change affect the 2025 invoices we have already received?	The 2025 invoices were based on the new fee budget we presented today. Updating the rates delayed the invoices slightly so that the ones sent are the revised new rates.
7	What were the reason for increase in Newspaper/newsprint. As we understand, Newspaper weights in Blue Box are reducing every year and therefore its share in supply chain should also reduce.	Fee rates are calculated using the Four-Step Fee Methodology to ensure fairness and to cover program costs. The fee methodology is a basket of goods approach for share of the cost pie. Newsprint includes flyers, free-standing inserts, and other items printed on newsprint paper. Details can be seen in the Cause of Change Graphs on our Fee Schedule webpage .
8	What about compostable plastics - are they to be reported? Flexible and	Compostable plastics are to be reported. The reporting sub-categories for plastic packaging have titles that refer to the resin type, i.e., report

	or rigid? If so, under what material category?	for “PLA, PHA, PHB Plastic Film” vs. “LDPE/HDPE Film”. Select the sub-category that best matches your plastic.
9	Is Recycle BC considering environmental benefits through Life Cycle Assessment to incentivize packaging design and material choices? Could Rcycle BC consider a design and material choice incentive for greener choices?	Recycle BC does not use a Life Cycle Assessment approach to incentivize material choice. Recycle BC, as part of the broader PRO community in Canada, uses the Four-Step Fee Methodology and its Material Cost Differentiation (MCD) method, for a harmonized approach to fee setting (ÉEQ excepted). The MCD has a cycle of renewal, and a study is underway in 2025 which will start the next cycle. One item under consideration is eco-modulation as it is of interest to many producers.
10	How do I obtain training on what needs to be considered and how to ensure everything is covered when reporting totals? Is there any appetite to hold webinars?	Circular Materials, on behalf of all producers, holds a Ready to Report webinar each year in February. Invitations are sent in January. The Ready to Report webinar dates for 2025 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A separate Ready to Report webinar will be held for Circular Materials in Ontario producers only on February 25, at 1:00 p.m. EST. • For all other programs including Circular Materials in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and the Yukon; MMSM; SK Recycles; and Recycle BC, the Ready to Report webinar is scheduled for February 26 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Past Ready to Report webinars can be found on our Producer Information Session webpage.
11	You keep four months operations expenses in reserve, what happens if something happens in 2025 and it exceeds the reserve amount? Will we take higher fees all at once to bring the reserve back to a set level?	Should a significant or catastrophic event occur, management would present mitigation scenarios to our Finance & Audit Committee for consideration and the Committee would make a recommendation to the Board for approval and action. This process can take place off-cycle from regular meetings depending on the urgency of the situation.
12	Is there a fee now on compostable plastics? What about bagasse (corn starch)?	Please see answer to Q#8 above for further information. Cellulosic fibre sources include wood, wheat, rice, cotton, bananas, eucalyptus, bamboo, hemp and sugar cane (bagasse).
13	Can Recycle BC please send over the new rates as a PDF via email? It's very confusing now to cross-reference it against the rates previously given a few months back.	The updated 2025 fee information, in a downloadable Excel file, can be found with resources from the Annual Producer Meeting , or a PDF can be found on our Fee Schedule webpage under the fee chart or linked directly here .

The Cause of Change document also provides the table:

Recycle BC



RECYCLE BC FEE SCHEDULE (CENTS/KG)				
Category	Material	2025 Fee Rates (cents/ kg)	2024 Fee Rates (cents/ kg)	Variance %
PRINTED PAPER	Newsprint	69.00	55.00	25.5%
	Magazines and Catalogues	28.00	25.00	12.0%
	Telephone Books	28.00	25.00	12.0%
	Other Printed Paper	72.00	61.00	18.0%
PAPER PACKAGING	Corrugated Cardboard	53.00	48.00	10.4%
	Boxboard	31.00	29.00	6.9%
	Gable Top Cartons	69.00	71.00	-2.8%
	Paper Laminates	62.00	53.00	17.0%
PLASTICS	Aseptic Containers	83.00	77.00	7.8%
	PET Bottles	98.00	98.00	0.0%
	HDPE Bottles	40.00	46.00	-13.0%
	Plastic Film	146.00	140.00	4.3%
	Plastic Laminates	146.00	143.00	2.1%
	Expanded Polystyrene	310.00	282.00	9.9%
STEEL	Rigid Polystyrene	125.00	106.00	17.9%
	Other Plastics	86.00	77.00	11.7%
	Other Steel Packaging	62.00	55.00	12.7%
ALUMINUM	Steel Aerosols	42.00	36.00	16.7%
	Steel Paint Cans	63.00	47.00	34.0%
	Aluminum Food & Other Containers	59.00	67.00	-11.9%
GLASS	Other Aluminum Packaging	67.00	63.00	6.3%
	Clear Glass	48.00	42.00	14.3%
	Coloured Glass	48.00	42.00	14.3%

14	Thank you for the answer to my compostable question, can you share the reporting guide?	Please sign into the Producer Portal either through the Recycle BC access point or on Circular Materials website to access the reporting information for Recycle BC and the other programs.
15	We use Circular Materials as our PRO. Have their invoices taken the fee change into account?	Recycle BC's invoices for 2025 were issued with the new fee rates. Circular Materials is the administrative service provider for Recycle BC and SK Recycles and provides producer assistance on our behalf.
16	Appreciate the reduction of fees from the overbudgeting of the previous year. Was the lower collection costs caused by lower quantities being recycled/collected or was there a reduction of materials reported/shipped by producers into BC?	Recycle BC's 2024 surplus is primarily due to additional interest revenue above budget, increased commodity revenue above market forecast, and lower collected volumes. The latter was unused budget as planned collection tonnes were not achieved and this is being returned to producers, plus the new revenue, rather than being held in reserve.