

# Preventing Waste in BC

Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products

Discussion Paper

May 14 and 15, 2024

Avery Gottfried, Senior Policy Specialist  
Erin Prescott, Senior Policy Analyst

Environmental Policy and Initiatives Branch  
Environmental Protection Division

# Polls

- What sector are you from? (select from list)
- One aspect I am interested in learning more about is ....?

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# Objectives

## Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products discussion paper

- CleanBC Plastics Action Plan
  - EPR Five-Year Action Plan
- What is the non-residential sector?
- Why focus on non-residential packaging?
- Proposed desired outcomes
- Possible policy approaches
- How to engage

Engagement open to July 23, 2024  
[engage.gov.bc.ca/preventingwasteoutsidethehome](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/preventingwasteoutsidethehome)

## Preventing Waste in British Columbia: Non-Residential Packaging & Paper Products Discussion Paper



# We are looking to hear from you

## How can we prevent waste from non-residential (ICI) packaging waste?

- What are important desired outcomes we are looking to achieve with provincial approaches?
- What approaches would work best in B.C.?
- What is already working in B.C. – for businesses, institutions, haulers, local governments?
- How should we prioritize actions?
  - Geography, materials, sources
- Which actions should we prioritize? Why?
- How do we measure success? What data is necessary?

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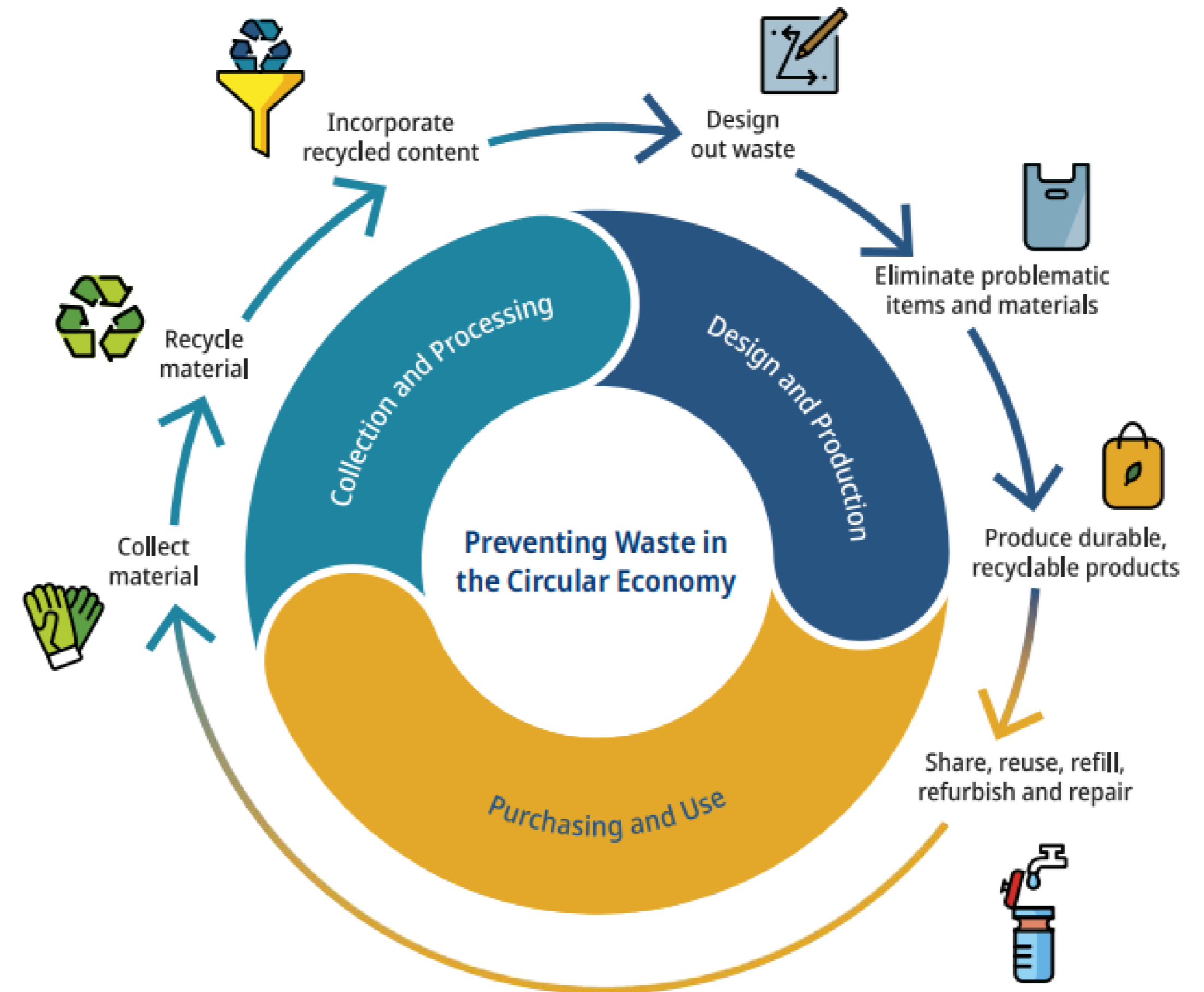
# CleanBC Plastics Action Plan

The CleanBC Plastics Action Plan is helping move plastics into the circular economy.

## Key areas:

- Bans on plastic and single-use items
  - Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation
- Reducing Plastics in Landfills and Waterways
  - Clean Coast, Clean Waters
- Reducing Plastics Overall
  - CleanBC Plastics Action Fund
  - Non-residential Packaging

More Info on Plastic Waste Prevention:  
[gov.bc.ca/reuse](http://gov.bc.ca/reuse)



# Background

## Identify a long-term approach for improved recycling of packaging

- 2022/2023 – Baseline study on ICI waste in British Columbia published by Canada Plastic Pact
- 2022/2023 – Working group on Interim Options for ICI Packaging Waste in Rural and Remote communities
- 2024 – Discussion paper on desired outcomes
- 2025 - Policy approach to be identified

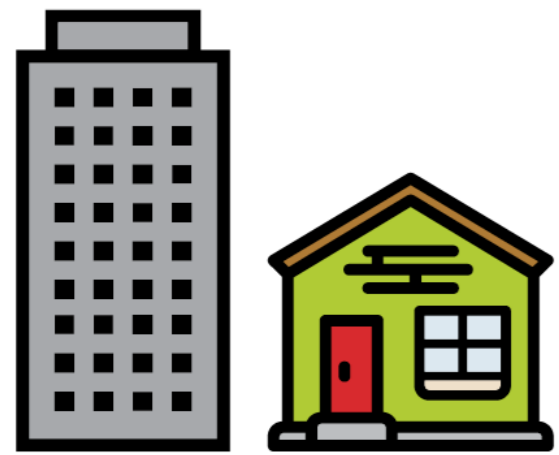


Support data collection and research to better understand the management of packaging and paper from the ICI sector

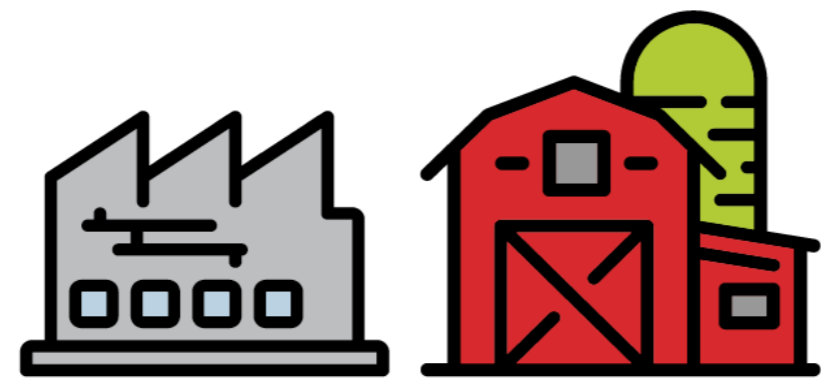
Data evaluation and engagement



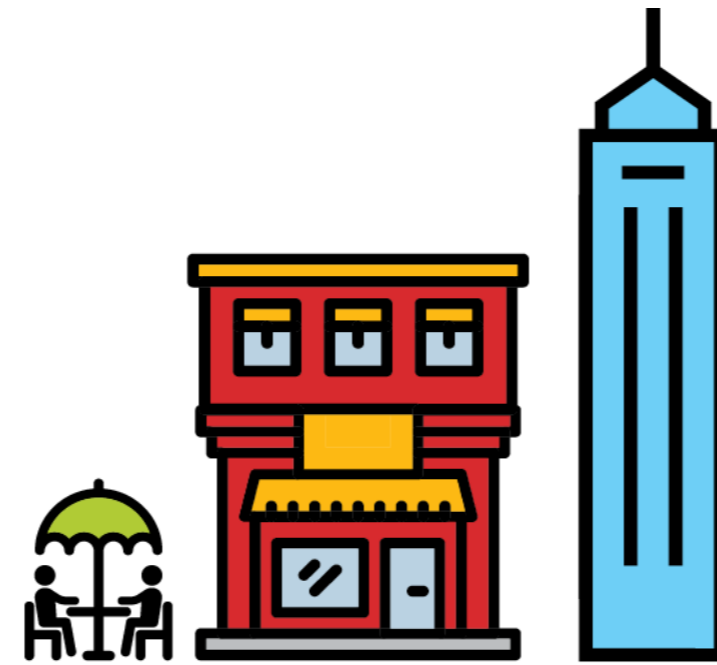
# Non-Residential (ICI) Sector



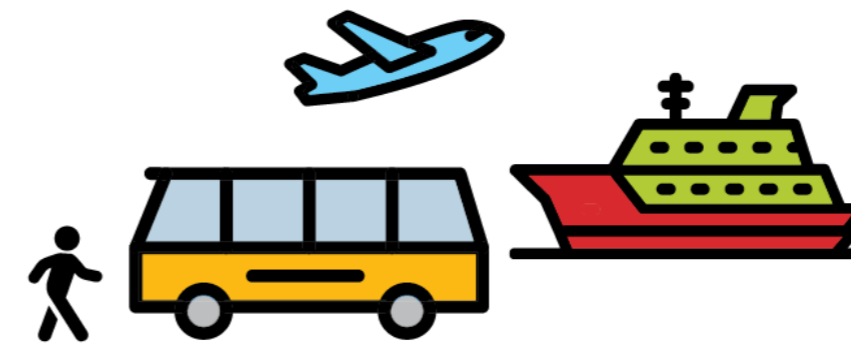
households,  
multi-family buildings



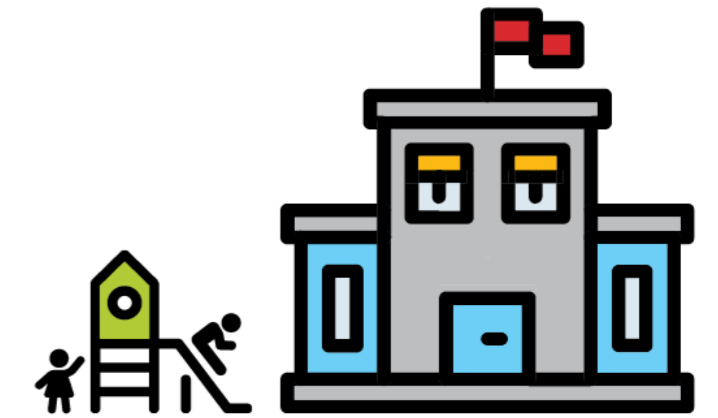
e.g. manufacturing  
and processing,  
agriculture,  
job-sites



e.g. retail businesses,  
restaurants,  
offices hotels



e.g. stadiums, airports,  
transit



e.g. schools, hospitals,  
government buildings

(Light) Industrial

Commercial

Institutional

RESIDENTIAL SECTOR

NON-RESIDENTIAL SECTOR



# What is non-residential packaging?

## ■ Business-to-consumer packaging

- Plastics
- Paper, boxboard, cardboard
- Glass
- Metal

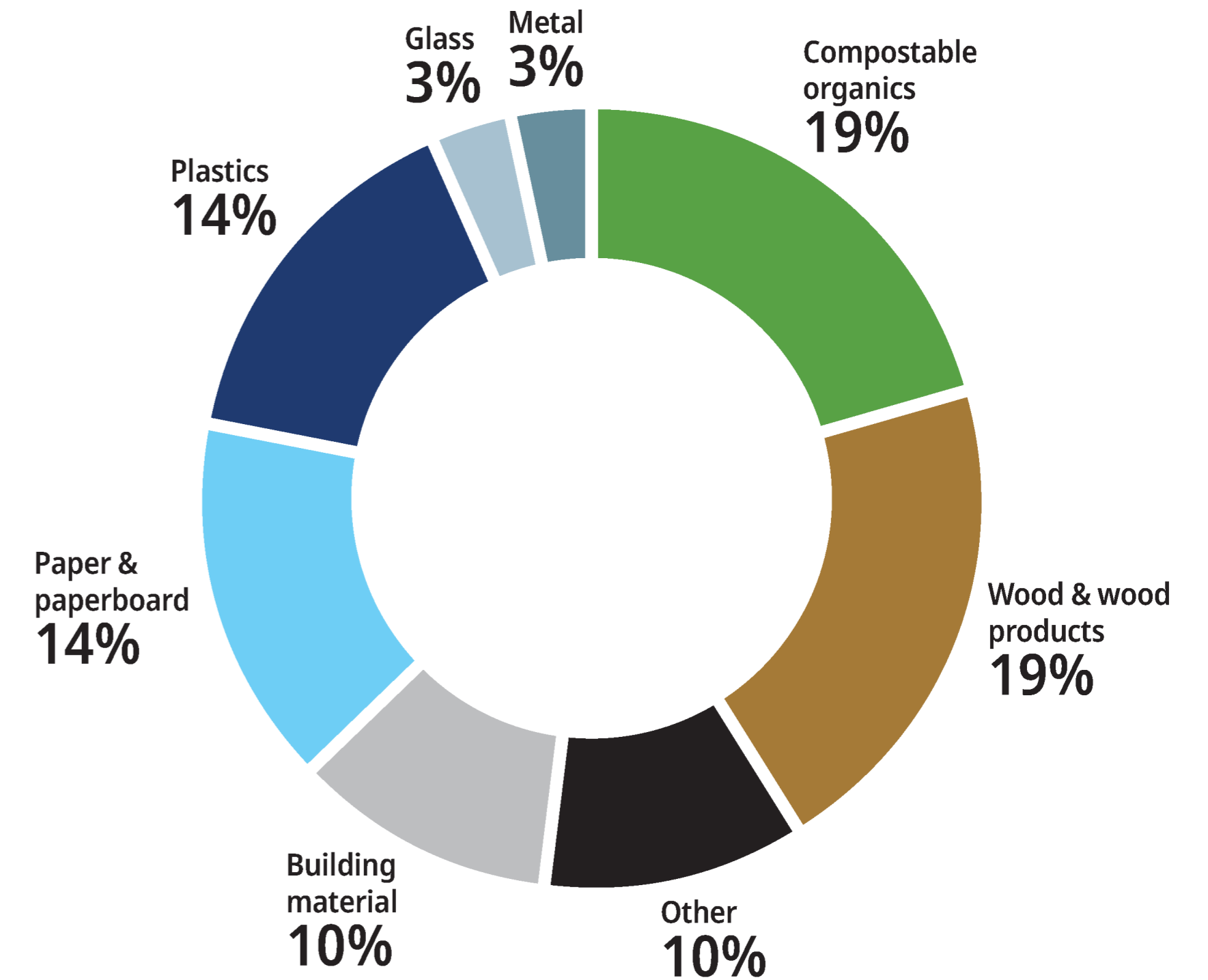
## ■ Business-to-business packaging

- Plastics
- Paper, boxboard, cardboard
- Glass
- Metal
- Wood



# Why focus on non-residential packaging?

- 2.5 million tonnes each year (500kg waste disposed per person)
  - Over half the municipal solid waste disposed is made up of highly recyclable or compostable materials
  - One-third of this waste is packaging and packaging like materials
- Over 99% of British Columbians have access to residential recycling, through curbside pick-up, multi-family building programs, depot services
- Waste management has significant costs, and space in landfill is limited



Overall B.C. Waste Composition

# The Opportunity

- Non-residential recycling is not as consistent as residential recycling and waste prevention.
  - Could be prevented through reuse and recycling actions.
- No one approach will solve the waste management challenge for non-residential packaging.
- Combination of options to move materials into circular economy.
  - Target setting
  - Collaboration and support across all levels of government
  - Policy approaches
  - EPR approaches



# Guiding Principles

- A clean environment and climate resilient communities, free of waste and pollution;
- A circular economy, supporting, B.C. businesses and jobs, where products and materials are used for as long as possible and materials can easily be repaired, reused, or recycled; and
- A true, lasting, and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

## The Pollution Prevention Hierarchy



**Reduce** Reduce by as much as possible the amount or toxicity of material that enters the solid waste stream and also the impact on the environment of producing it in the first place.



**Reuse** Ensure that materials or products are reused as many times as possible before entering the solid waste stream.



**Recycle** Recycle as much material as possible.



**Recovery** Recover material and/or energy from the solid waste stream through the use of technology.



**Residuals Management**

Provide safe and effective residual management, once the solid waste stream has been reduced.

# Overview - Proposed Desired Outcomes



**Prevention-first approach**



**Consistency and confidence**



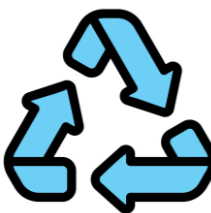
**Accountability and transparency**



**Access**



**Economic benefits for a strong circular economy**



**Maximize material recovery**

# Proposed Desired Outcomes



## Prevention-first approach

- Actions are prioritized using the pollution prevention hierarchy.
- Focus on waste reduction and materials reuse over recycling, and recycling over energy recovery or disposal.
- Materials are kept out of landfills and are used at their highest value.



## Consistency and confidence

- Prevention of packaging is supported and incentivized regardless of location.
- Consistency with residential recycling options.
- Confidence that materials are being reused and recycled at their highest value regardless of where they are disposed.



## Accountability and transparency

- Businesses and institutions are accountable for their waste generation, management, and reduction efforts.
- Ambitious waste prevention targets and reliable, transparent systems of collecting data show progress in waste prevention.

# Proposed Desired Outcomes



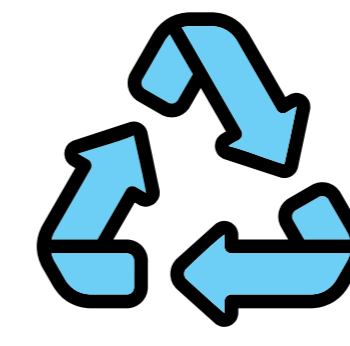
## Access

- Businesses and organizations in all sectors and communities, have access to cost-effective choices to manage non-residential packaging.
- Access to waste prevention and recycling options in Indigenous communities is prioritized.



## Economic benefits for a strong circular economy

- Government leadership supports cost-effective, sustainable business practices that leverage market conditions and create green jobs for British Columbians.
- Waste management spending and procurement promote a healthy environment and circular economy.



## Maximize material recovery

- Material collection, processing and recycling produce higher quality materials that are used in manufacturing new products with recycled content.

# Potential policy approaches

## Target setting

- A provincial target for non-residential packaging, aimed at promoting continuous improvement.
- Important for any policy approach identified, to provide a consistent, unified goal across B.C.
- At national level, several targets set in the last 5 years to address packaging and plastic waste:
  - Environment and Climate Change Strategy Ocean Plastics Charter
  - Canada Plastics Pact 2025 Targets



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada





# Potential policy approaches

## Local government actions

- Opportunities for local governments to address their local waste challenges
- Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation
  - Desire from local governments to implement region specific approaches
- Solid waste management planning
  - Can identify opportunities specific to local conditions
- Indigenous organizations and First Nations have provided information regarding prevention of non-residential packaging specific to Indigenous people and First Nations
  - Unique challenges and opportunities, specific to a community

# Potential policy approaches

## List of designated materials

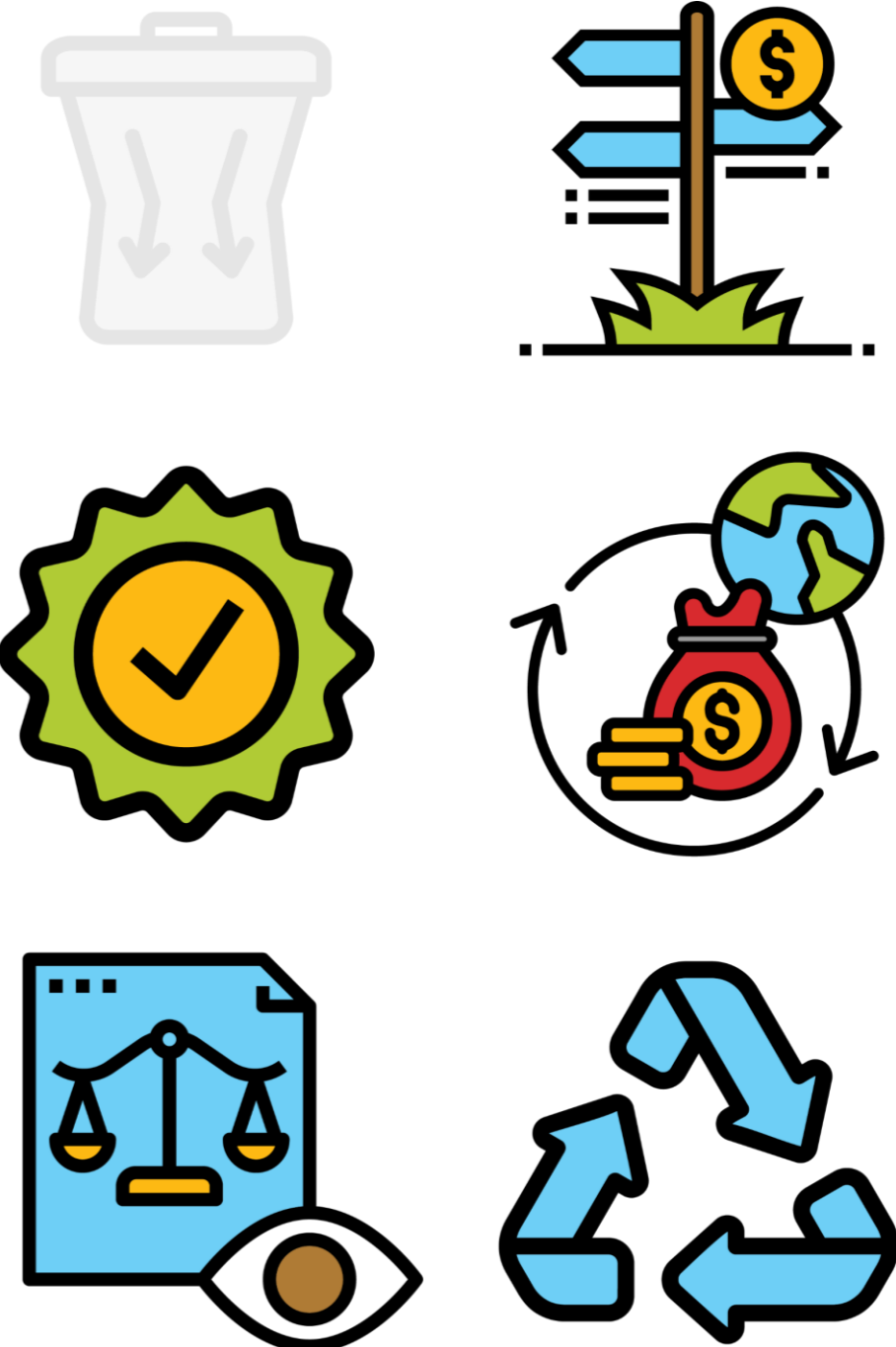
- A list of packaging materials and types that are readily recyclable.
  - Supports other actions such as:
    - Consistency between recycling programs
    - Requirements for waste sorting and material acceptance
    - Inclusion in expanded EPR programs, waste targets or disposal bans.

### Materials:

- Recyclables

### Sources:

- All



**Desired outcomes**



Prevention-first approach



Consistency & confidence



Accountability & transparency



Access



Economic benefits for a strong circular economy



Maximize material recovery

# Potential policy approaches

## Disposal bans

- Regulation to prohibit designated materials from disposal across B.C.
- Would include:
  - Setting a list of materials
  - Establishing a target date
  - Identifying supporting actions for implementation
- Requires a system for reporting on compliance

## Materials:

- Old corrugated cardboard (OCC)
- Organics, e.g. food scraps
- Plastic
- Other recyclables

## Sources:

- All



**Desired outcomes**



Prevention-first approach



Consistency & confidence



Accountability & transparency



Access



Economic benefits for a strong circular economy



Maximize material recovery

# Potential policy approaches

## Reuse requirements

- Requirements for reuse in specific or designated sectors
  - For closed-loop systems
- Would include a system for data collection and monitoring.

## Materials:

- Single-use items
- Recyclables

## Sources:

- Events
- Institutions (food service providers)
- Ferries/Airports
- Hospitals
- Work Camps



### Desired outcomes



Prevention-first approach



Consistency & confidence



Accountability & transparency



Access



Economic benefits for a strong circular economy



Maximize material recovery

# Potential policy approaches

## Standardized actions

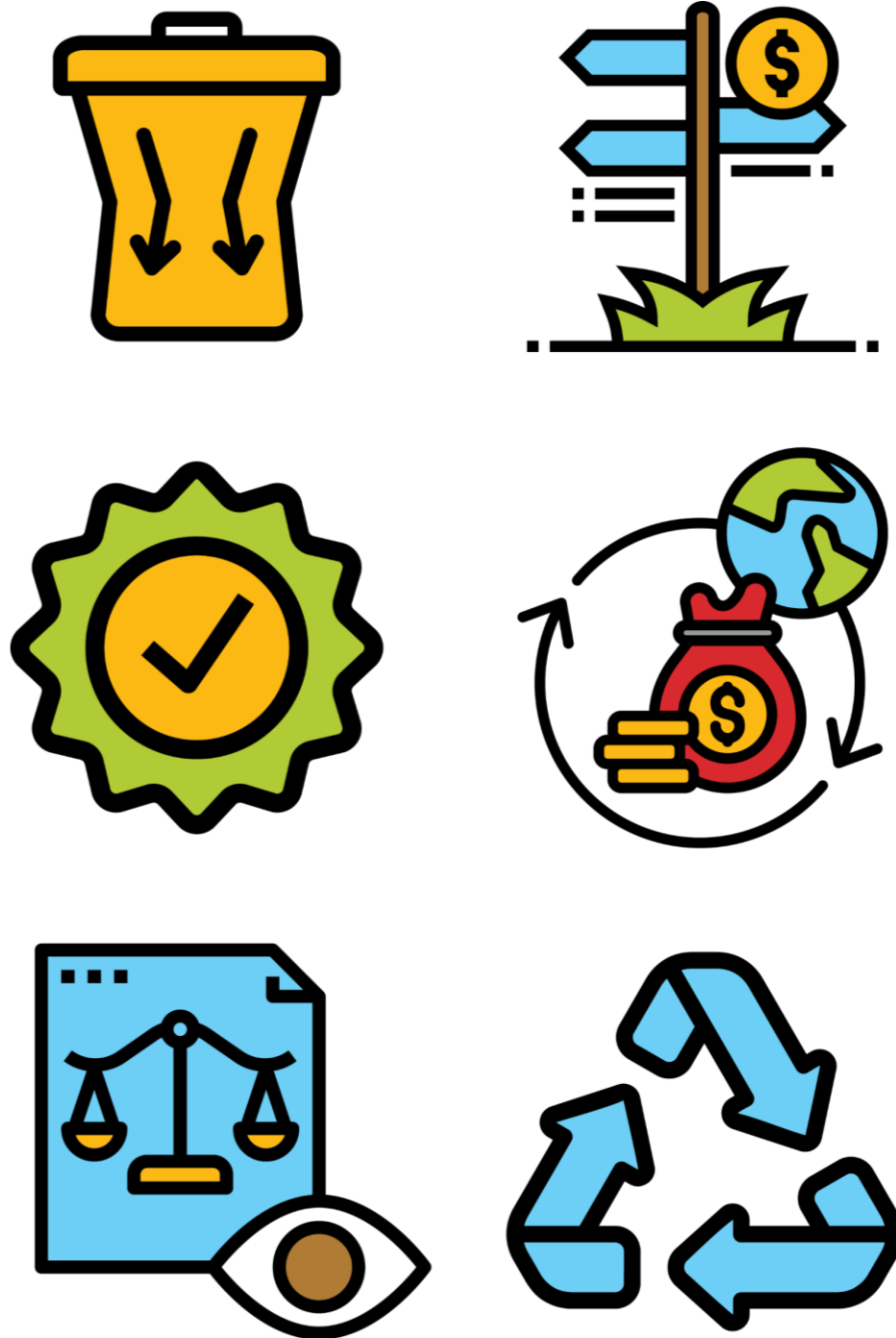
- For businesses and institutions to:
  - Submit waste prevention plans;
  - Conduct audits, or
  - Adopt specific waste prevention actions.
- Province could provide guidance to improve consistency and reduce burden







## Materials:

- Recyclables
- Organics, e.g. food scraps

## Sources:

- All



<b>Desired outcomes</b>	 <b>Prevention-first approach</b>	 <b>Consistency &amp; confidence</b>	 <b>Accountability &amp; transparency</b>
	 <b>Access</b>	 <b>Economic benefits for a strong circular economy</b>	 <b>Maximize material recovery</b>

# Potential policy approaches

## Provincial data standardization

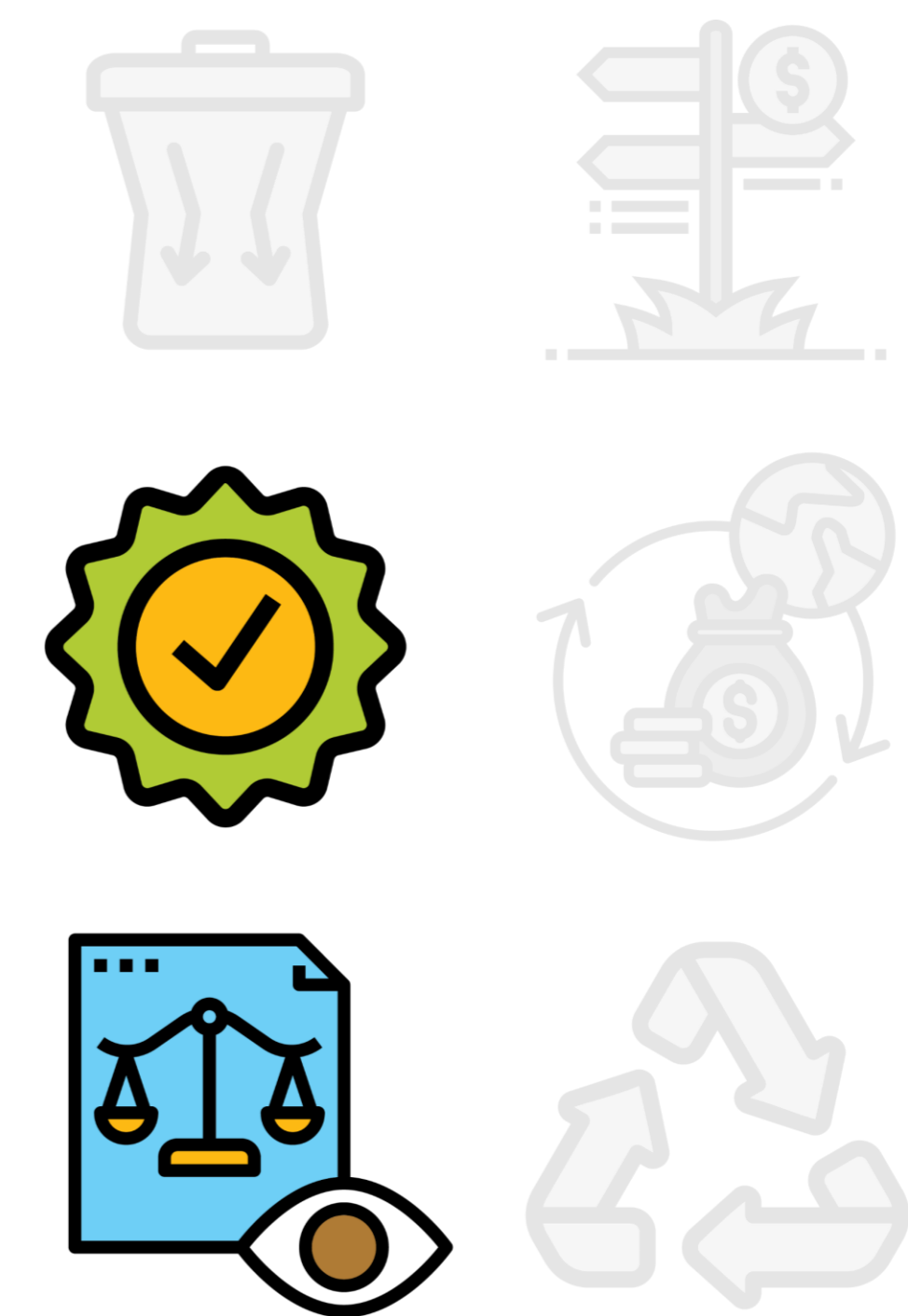
- Under solid waste management planning, develop standardized categories for waste audits
  - For local governments and/or businesses
- Would require sharing of metrics and collection volumes between all parts of the waste management chain (e.g. haulers, local governments and/or businesses).







### Materials:

- Recyclables
- Organics, e.g. food scraps

### Sources:

- All
- Local governments



<b>Desired outcomes</b>	 <b>Prevention-first approach</b>	 <b>Consistency &amp; confidence</b>	 <b>Accountability &amp; transparency</b>
	 <b>Access</b>	 <b>Economic benefits for a strong circular economy</b>	 <b>Maximize material recovery</b>

# Potential policy approaches

## Expansion of EPR sources

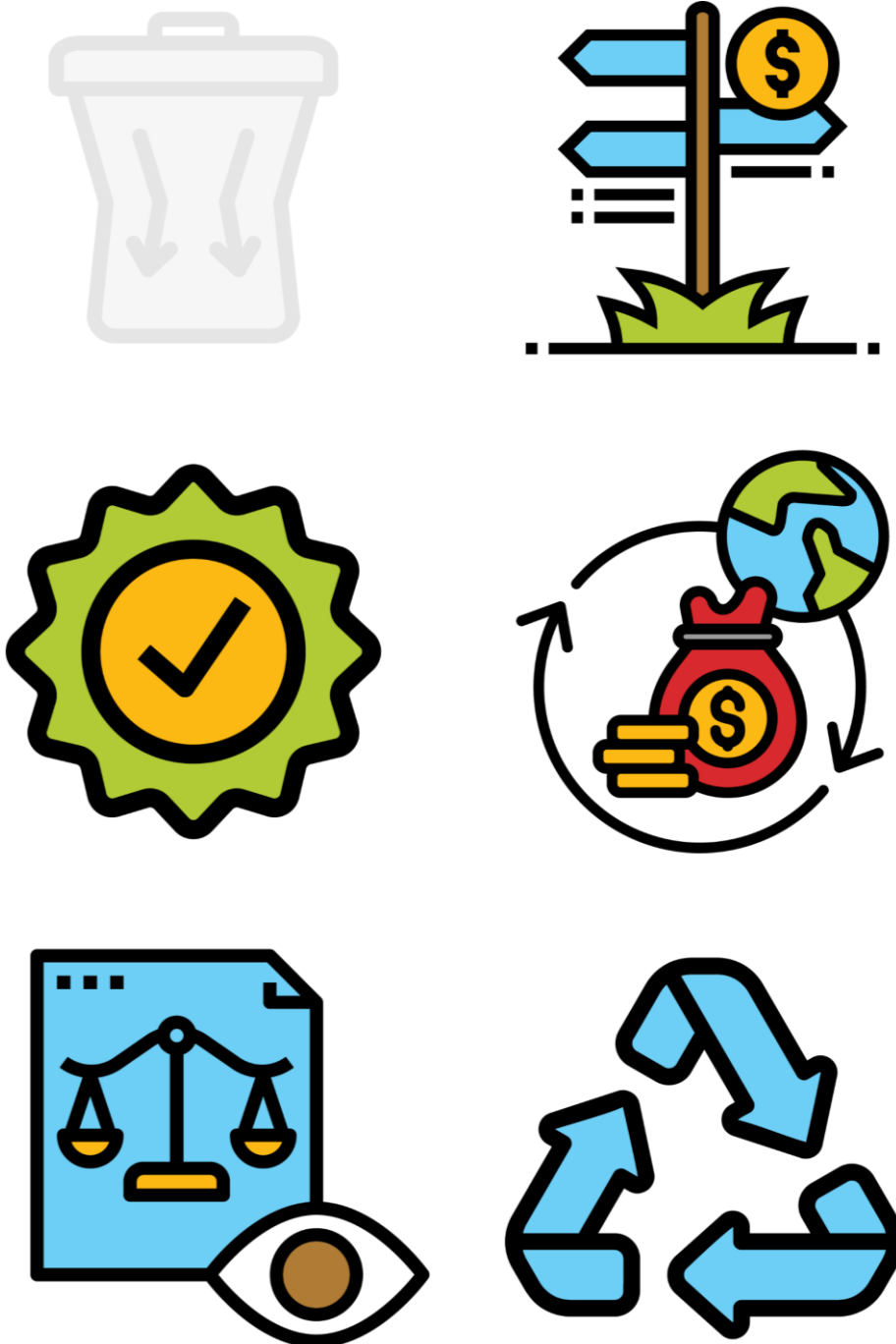
- Expand EPR programs to cover collection from businesses or institutions with similar waste streams.
- Potential to opt-in for small businesses or geographical locations or specific material types.

### Materials:

- Grocery and consumer goods packaging
- Old corrugated cardboard (OCC)

### Sources:

- Schools
- Long-term care homes
- Accommodations
- Public parks, campsites
- Small businesses
- Industry
- First Nations



### Desired outcomes



Prevention-first approach



Access



Consistency & confidence



Economic benefits for a strong circular economy



Accountability & transparency



Maximize material recovery

# Potential policy approaches

## EPR expansion by sector

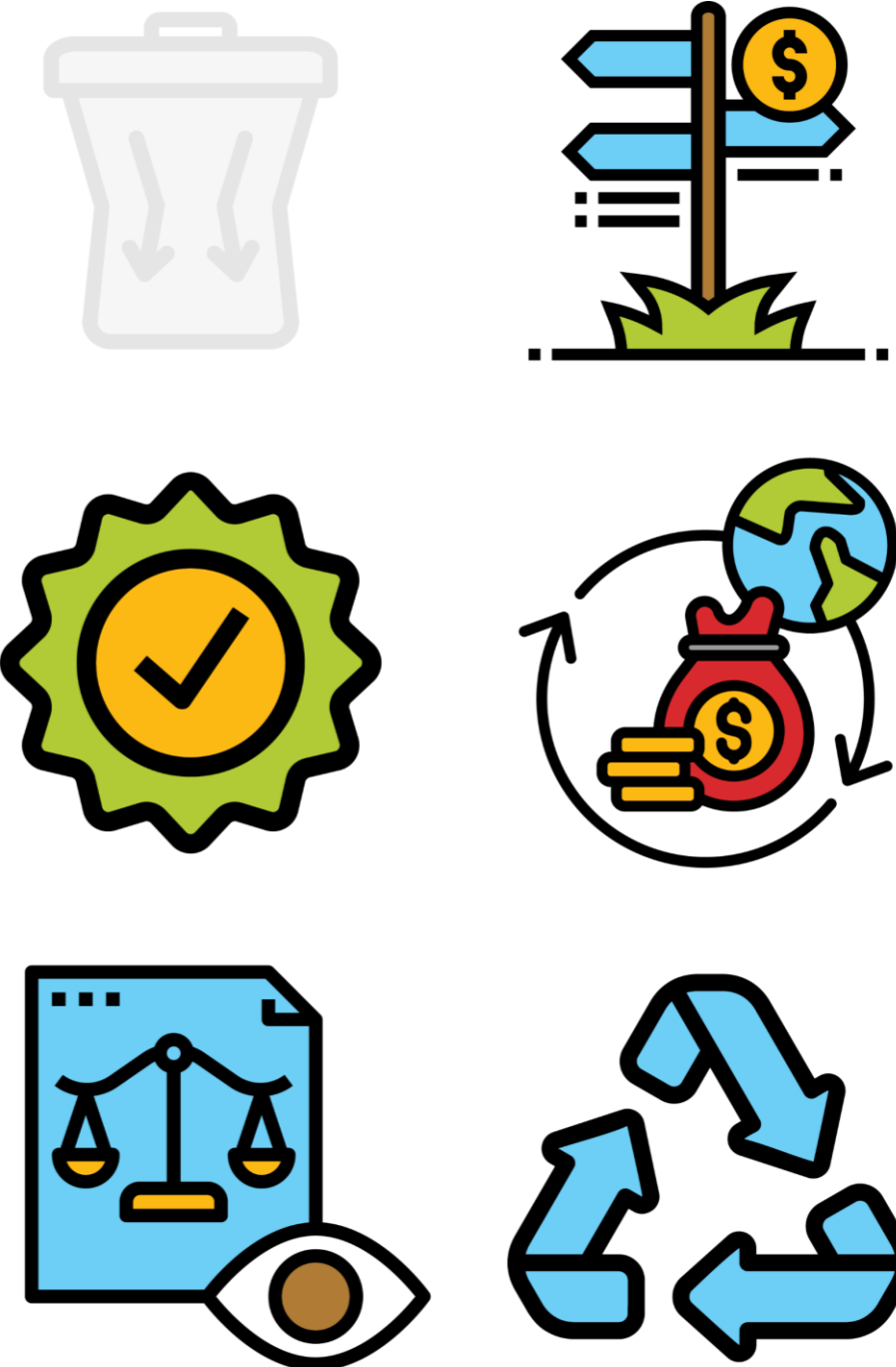
- Regulation to prohibit designated materials from disposal across B.C.
- Requires a system for reporting on compliance
- Would include:
  - Setting a list of materials
  - Establishing a target date
  - Identifying supporting actions for implementation

## Materials:

- Specialty packaging materials

## Sources:

- Agriculture



**Desired outcomes**



Prevention-first approach



Access



Consistency & confidence



Economic benefits for a strong circular economy



Accountability & transparency



Maximize material recovery



# Workshop Discussions

**Provide input and share your perspectives**  
**Hear from others interested in the topic**

## **Data and Standards**

Tuesday June 11 1:30 – 3:00

Desired Outcomes

Potential Policy Approaches

- Target setting
- List of designated materials
- Disposal bans
- Standardized actions
- Provincial data standardization

## **Other Provincial Policies, including EPR**

Wednesday June 19 9:30-11:00

Desired Outcomes

Potential Policy Approaches

- Local government actions
- Reuse requirements
- Expansion of EPR sources
- EPR expansion by sector

# How to get involved



Participate in Workshop Discussions

Provide Written Feedback

Including responses to relevant questions in the Discussion Paper

Complete the Questionnaire and Share

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[CircularCommunities@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CircularCommunities@gov.bc.ca)





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# Thank you

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[circularcommunities@gov.bc.ca](mailto:circularcommunities@gov.bc.ca)

# Poll

- When thinking about policy approaches to prevent waste from non-residential (ICI) packaging in B.C.
  - One opportunity I see is ...?
  - One aspect I am concerned about is....?



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# Questions

[engage.gov.bc.ca/preventingwasteoutsidethehome](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/preventingwasteoutsidethehome)  
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