Environment Canada

Environnement Canada

Overview of E-waste Management in Canada

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International E-waste Management Network (IEMN)

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Different levels of Canadian government control different aspects of e-waste

- E-waste remains a global issue of concern & an important issue to Canada
- An estimated 224,000 tonnes of e-waste was generated across Canada in 2010

- Federal government:
  - Regulates toxic substances & international / inter-provincial hazardous waste movements
  - Transcribes international agreements into national law (e.g. Basel Convention, OECD…)
  - Achieved through the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA 1999)
  - Environment Canada is the regulating authority

- Provincial & territorial government:
  - Regulates extended producer responsibility & intra-provincial movements
  - Control & license intra-provincial waste generators, carriers & treatment facilities

- Municipal government:
  - Oversee local waste management services (collection, recycling, disposal)
  - May impose local landfill bans
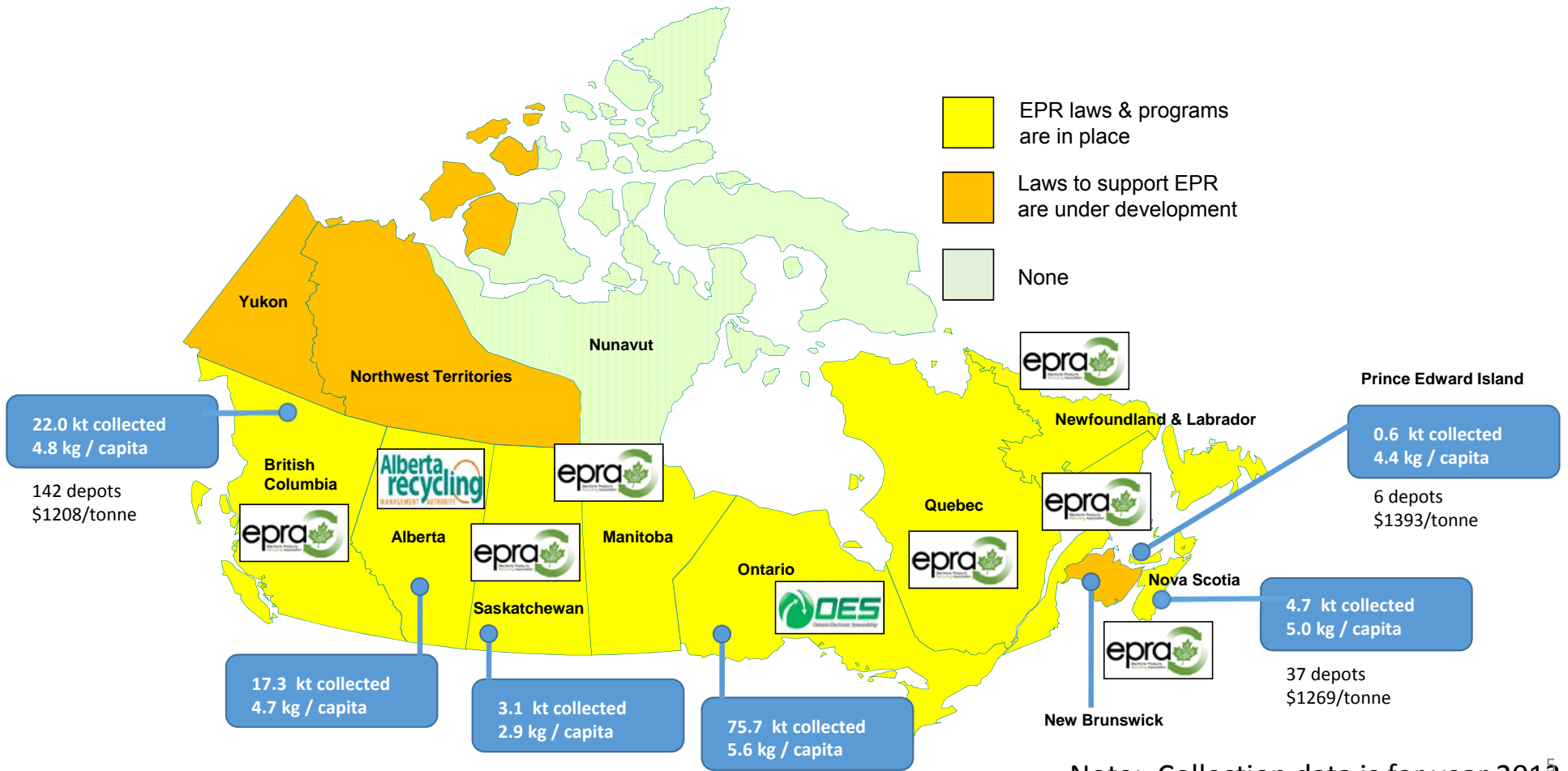 - Providing direction on recycling & disposal to the general public

Environment Canada controls toxic substances & fosters environmentally sound management

- Domestically, Environment Canada is taking action to:

    - Broaden regulatory controls applicable to the import & export of used & end-of-life electronics

    - Impose substance content restrictions for products, that may include EEE (e.g. Hg & PBDE)

    - Assess & manage risks posed by certain substances under Canada's Chemicals Management Plan

    - Support the Federal Electronic Waste Strategy to ensure that federal government e-waste undergoes ESM

    - Encourage nationally consistent approaches to foster environmentally sound management (ESM)

- Internationally, Environment Canada has been engaging e-waste mainly via:

    - Basel Convention (e.g. OEWG, PACE, MPPI)

    - NAFTA CEC (environmentally sound management training materials, estimating e-flows)

Provincial laws require EPR for e-products

- Nine provinces currently require Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for e-products
- Provinces generally target e-products using EPR in phases:

  - Displays; computers; printers
  - Home, vehicle & portable A/V equipment; selected telecom
  - Photocopiers, media, gaming devices, medical, servers, peripherals, etc.

- Harmonization is promoted through CCME & industry efforts
- Industry generally develops & implements product stewardship plans
- Programs are ultimately funded by consumers through eco-fees applied at the point of retail
- Eco-fees are intended to recover costs & range by product & jurisdiction

  - Portable video players (e.g. $0.40 - $0.45)
  - Desktop computers (e.g. $1.60 - $15.00)
  - Floor printers (e.g. $173.75)

- Annual performance is reported publicly & financials undergo independent third-party audit review

Status of EPR for e-waste across Canada

Legend:
- EPR laws & programs are in place (yellow)
- Laws to support EPR are under development (orange)
- None (light green)

British Columbia
22.0 kt collected
4.8 kg / capita
142 depots
$1208/tonne

Alberta
17.3 kt collected
4.7 kg / capita

Saskatchewan
3.1 kt collected
2.9 kg / capita

Ontario
75.7 kt collected
5.6 kg / capita

Prince Edward Island
0.6 kt collected
4.4 kg / capita
6 depots
$1393/tonne

Nova Scotia
4.7 kt collected
5.0 kg / capita
37 depots
$1269/tonne

Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Manitoba, Quebec, Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick

Note: Collection data is for year 2012

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Current Status of E-Waste Industries

- More than 150 e-refurbishing & e-recycling facilities exist across Canada

- Service providers must meet standards to participate in provincial EPR programs

  - E-recycling standard established by Electronic Product Stewardship Canada (EPSC) (www.epsc.ca)
  - E-refurbishing standard developed by Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) (www.eprassociation.ca)
  - EPRA's Recycler Qualification Office verifies facility conformity with standards (http://rqp.ca/verified-recyclers)
  - About one-third of e-refurbishing & e-recycling facilities currently meet standards

- Environmental, health & safety considerations are key elements of standards

- EPRA, EPSC & Retail Council of Canada promote harmonization of EPR programs

Closing remarks

- Canadian governments began targeting the management of e-waste about 15 years ago

- Advancement to support a comprehensive system for ESM has been an evolutionary process

- Engagement has included a mix of:

    1. actors   (e.g. governments, OEMs, e-recyclers, e-refurbishers, consumers)
    2. instruments (e.g. EPR, regulations, procurement policies, landfill bans, other strategies)

- Industry has been helpful along the way (e.g. standards development, program harmonization)

- Lessons learned have been shared to benefit other countries
(e.g. UN Basel Convention, NAFTA CEC, OECD)

- Transboundary movement issues represent a key outstanding challenge
(e.g. ambiguity regarding the application of Basel provisions to used electronics)

- Canada continues to work with the international community to resolve critical e-waste issues
(e.g. UN Basel Convention)