



Call for expression of interest for the conditioning and recycling of curbside recycling materials

No.: ÉEQ2302AI

Date March 31st, 2023



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1. INTRODUCTION TO ÉCO ENTREPRISES QUÉBEC

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) is a private non-profit organization representing container, packaging, and printed material producers since 2005 in their financial responsibility towards curbside recycling. Designated as Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) since October 24th, 2022, ÉEQ is the main contract giver in managing curbside recycling in Quebec from a sustainable development perspective.

ÉEQ, as the leader for extended producer responsibility (EPR), develops, manages, and provides circular economy solutions to its producer members with the aim of reducing their environmental footprint. ÉEQ places ecodesign, recyclability and traceability at the core of all actions with its partners.

ÉEQ will continue to fulfill its role as the organization managing producers' financial responsibilities during the transition of the compensation plan towards EPR.

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

2.1. Objectives

The present call for interest has the following objectives:

- To identify the names and contact details of organizations in Quebec and surrounding areas¹ who wish to express their interest in conditioning and recycling curbside recycling materials (containers, packaging, and printed materials) under the responsibility of ÉEQ.
- To obtain the required information for ÉEQ to evaluate current and expected conditioning and recycling thresholds for curbside recycling materials.²

This call serves as the first step for an upcoming qualification process, if necessary, or a call for tenders, to build commercial relationships with ÉEQ.

2.2. To whom the call for interest concerns

Conditioners, recyclers, carriers of conditioning or recycling technologies and any physical or legal entity capable of bringing existing or future solutions for the conditioning or recycling of curbside recycling materials (containers, packaging and printed material) under the responsibility of ÉEQ. For solutions under development,

¹ These include the provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Labrador as well as the Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania states.

² These include the type of materials processed, procurement, markets for processed materials, levels of tolerance for contamination, process flow diagram, quality control measures, information systems, etc.

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the technology readiness level (TRL) must be at level 7 and up.³ The call for interest is not open to brokers, market intermediaries or to transporters.

2.3. Context

With the enactment of the *Regulation respecting a system of selective collection of certain residual materials* in July 2022, the Government of Quebec entrusts producers who sell, market, or distribute containers, packaging, or printed materials in Quebec with the responsibility of developing, implementing, and financially supporting a modernized curbside recycling system. On October 24th, 2022, ÉEQ became the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) responsible for managing and implementing the modernization of curbside recycling⁴ in the name of producers.

This long-awaited change aims to increase the circularity of recyclable materials. Quebec is quickly becoming one of the most internationally ambitious jurisdictions when it comes to the local recycling of materials while also implementing criteria for traceability and accountability to this effect. By overseeing the achievement of the required material recycling rates, ÉEQ is required to ensure a market for every type of material with a balance between the quality of materials produced and the needs of conditioners and recyclers.

The main changes resulting from the modernization of curbside recycling, which will come into effect starting January 1st, 2025, are the following:

- ÉEQ has full responsibility over the curbside recycling system. ÉEQ intends to put in place the appropriate measures to become the owner of these materials from collection to sorting and shall oversee the management of the materials across the entire value chain, up until their recycling.
- New products are being added to the containers, packaging, and printed materials already covered by the current compensation plan. These include products geared towards preparing or consuming food products (i.e. straws and cutlery), printed matter with a shelf-life of less than 5 years (i.e. travel guides, wine guides, car guides, textbooks, etc.), and containers and packaging used to support or present products (i.e. hooks, hangers).
- All ready-to-drink beverage containers between 100mL and 2L will be deposited from the end of November 2023 under the expansion of the deposit system and will no longer be subject to curbside recycling.

³ Under Annex 2: Technology Readiness Level (TRL) Scale from the Government of Canada's Industrial Technologies Office. <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/industrial-technologies-office/en/technology-demonstration-program-tdp/application-guides/annex-2-technology-readiness-level-trl-scale>

⁴ <https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/actualite/modernisation-des-systemes-de-consigne-et-de-collecte-selective-deux-organismes-de-gestion-maintenant-designes/>

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- ÉEQ needs to oversee the sorting, conditioning, and recycling of materials and conclude contracts to this effect.
- ÉEQ needs to attain recovery, recycling, and local recycling (named reclamation in the Regulation) rates (see Table 1) and report them yearly.
- ÉEQ needs to implement a system allowing the traceability of materials, from their collection up until their recycling site.
- ÉEQ will need to accept all covered materials into the curbside recycling system within nine years following the enactment of the Regulation.
- Multi-unit building owners and managers as well as syndicates of co-owners will be required to participate in the curbside recycling system.
- The institutional, commercial, and industrial (ICI) sectors will be required to participate in the curbside recycling system.

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Table 1: Categories of materials for the *Regulation respecting a system of selective collection of certain residual materials* and their prescribed recovery and recycling rates over time, including their estimated yearly tonnage.

Categories	Recovery (starting in 2027)	Recycling ⁵ (from 2027 to 2029)	Recycling ⁶ (starting in 2030)	Local recycling ⁷ (starting in 2030)	Estimated yearly tonnage in 2021 ⁸
Cardboard	85% +5% every 5 years 90% end rate	75%	75% +5% every 5 years 85% end rate	90%	182,100
Fiber containers, packaging, and printed materials	80% +5% every 5 years 85% end rate	70%	70% +5% every 5 years 85% end rate	90%	308,558
HDPE type rigid plastics	80% +5% every 5 years 90% end rate	65%	65% +10% every 5 years 85% end rate	90%	14,289
PET type rigid plastics	80% +5% every 5 years 90% end rate	70%	70% +5% every 5 years 85% end rate	80%	26,370
Other rigid plastics	75% +5% every 5 years 85% end rate	65%	65% +10% every 5 years 75% end rate	75%	20,424
Flexible plastics	50% +5% every 5 years 85% end rate	40%	40% +10% every 5 years 80% end rate	50%	26,864
Glass	70% +5% every 5 years 75% end rate	65%	65% +10% every 5 years 85% end rate	70%	72,040
Metals excluding aluminium	75% +5% every 5 years 90% end rate	70%	70% +10% every 5 years 80% end rate	50%	17,001
Aluminium	55% +5% every 5 years 80% end rate	45%	45% + 10% every 5 years 85% end rate	50%	2,341
Total					669,987⁹

⁵ Based on quantities sent to a conditioner.

⁶ Based on quantities sent to an accepted recycling site.

⁷ Whereby “local” is understood as a recycling in an admissible recycling site in Quebec or its surrounding areas. These include the provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Labrador as well as the Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania states. A maximum of 30% of the total, in weight, of the materials sent to a local recycling site can be recycled locally outside of Quebec, for the purpose of successfully reaching the total local recycling rates.

⁸ Estimated yearly tonnage according to the quantity of materials received from municipal curbside recycling by sorting centres in 2021 from the 2021 assessment for the management of waste materials in Quebec by Recyc-Québec and the 2017-2018 characterization study by Recyc-Québec and ÉEQ.

⁹ Total quantity of materials received from municipal curbside recycling only (the quantity of materials received from ICI specific collection is not included), excluding the curbside recycling non-covered materials.

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These quantities are indicative estimates and contain no commitment from ÉEQ regarding quantities actually available.

Please note that current estimated quantities are expected to change under the:

- Expansion of the deposit system for all 100mL to 2L ready-to-drink beverage containers (plastic, glass, aluminium, and multilayer).
- Addition of new products covered by curbside recycling (cutlery, guides, textbooks, hangers, etc.)
- Expansion of the curbside recycling service for the institutional, commercial, and industrial (ICI) sectors.
- Expansion of the curbside recycling service for multi-unit buildings, outdoor public areas, and isolated and remote territories.
- Obligation to accept all covered materials into the curbside recycling system within nine years following the enactment of the Regulation.
- Increase of recovery and recycling rates prescribed by the Regulation.

3. CONDITIONS

3.1. Nature of the call for interest

The present call for interest and request for information does not constitute a qualification, nor a call for tenders, nor any commitment from ÉEQ to eventually launch a call for bidders or for tenders. This notice cannot be interpreted as creating a link between ÉEQ and those responding to this call for interest.

Conversely, indicating one's interest and sending information, answers, and discussions within this request for information in no way constitutes an agreement or a pre-contractual agreement from a respondent.

3.2. Expressions of interest

Any organization to whom the present call for interest concerns (see section 2.2) and who wishes to express their interest in the conditioning and recycling of curbside recycling materials under ÉEQ responsibility, is invited to respond by sharing their contact details to the following link: [Expression of interest form](#).

Respondents will then receive by email a questionnaire to be completed in connection to the information ÉEQ is collecting as part of this call for interest. Any other document providing additional information on the organization's conditioning and/or recycling activities can be sent alongside the completed questionnaire. The name of the respondent and the call for interest number (ÉEQ2302AI) must be indicated on all documentation.

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For any questions in relation to this call for interest, you are invited to contact Marylène Lavigne, materials and recycling advisor at mlavigne@eeq.ca or by phone at 514-987-1491 ext. 287.

3.3. Response deadlines

Please express your interest at your earliest convenience on the understanding that the final date to submit your questionnaire will be on May 31st, 2023.

3.4. Response processing

Responses will be compiled and analysed by ÉEQ. If necessary, ÉEQ may contact certain respondents to request further details or additional information. ÉEQ is not committing to contact every respondent.

Respondents who have submitted the required information before the deadline for this call for interest may request to ÉEQ information about future estimates of covered materials that are part of the modernization of curbside recycling. A mutual confidentiality agreement must be concluded beforehand.

4. SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING STEPS

The current process for the call for interest will follow the steps listed below:

Steps	Dates
Publication of the call for interest	March 31 st , 2023
Time frame to express interest and send the requested information	From March 31 st to May 31 st , 2023
Time frame for ÉEQ to compile and analyse the information received	From June 1 st to August 30 th , 2023
Start of the qualification process for conditioners and recyclers who will have expressed their interest	September 2023

5. GENERAL CONDITIONS

5.1. Confidentiality

Each party agrees that any information, document, correspondence, or other information reasonably understood as confidential or proprietary disclosed to the other party (the “**Receiving Party**”) by the disclosing party (the “**Disclosing Party**”) constitutes confidential information from the divulging party (“**Confidential**”).

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Information”). The Receiving Party will use reasonable efforts to prevent disclosure not authorized by this call for interest and to ensure the protection of confidential information, which efforts will be no less than the efforts made by the Receiving Party to protect its own information of a similar nature. The obligation of non-disclosure for the Receiving Party does not apply to information that the Receiving Party can prove:

- Was in its lawful possession or was known prior to the reception of the confidential information;
- Is or has become public without the Receiving Party being responsible for it;
- Was lawfully obtained by the Receiving Party from a third party without any breach of confidentiality;
- Was independently developed by employees of the Receiving Party who did not have access to this confidential information; or
- That the disclosure was required under an applicable law, but only to the extent that the disclosure made is minimal to comply with said law.

5.2. Personal information

In the case that a respondent submits personal information to ÉEQ with their proposal, ÉEQ agrees to preserve its confidentiality, in accordance with its confidentiality policy. “**Personal Information**” is understood as any information on a physical individual, and which allows their identification, as defined under the Act respecting the protection of personal information in the private sector.

Each respondent is responsible for obtaining the consent of individuals concerned before sharing their personal information in this call for interest. If the respondent discloses personal information with ÉEQ, the latter will consider that appropriate consent has been given.

5.3. Costs and expenses

Each respondent is responsible for all costs and expenses they incur regarding any aspect of their participation to this call for interest.

5.4. Applicable laws

This call for interest is governed by the domestic laws applicable in Quebec.