July 2022

MATERIALS GUIDE

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) presents your materials guide to help you classify the containers, packaging and printed matter your company puts on Quebec's market. The guide provides concrete examples and information regarding market outlets as well as some ecodesign tips. It was developed according to ÉEQ's Schedule of Contributions and the *Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials*.

TO REMEMBER

- **Novelties for the 2022 Schedule of Contributions (SoC) :**
  - Containers and packaging made of wood and cork are now designated materials that must be reported
  - Polypropylene (PP) containers and packaging must now be reported separately from other plastics, polymers and polyurethane
  - Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) as well as polylactic acid (PLA) containers and packaging and other degradable plastics must now be reported separately
- When components of a container, a packaging or a printed matter (CP&PM) are partially or entirely glued or attached together and are not easily detachable by the final consumer, they must be reported in the predominant material and the reported weight must be that of all components.
- CP&PM for which the final consumer is a company or an institution and which are not ultimately intended for Québec consumers must be excluded from the report.
- CP&PM used to protect and transport merchandise that are disposed within a company or an institution and that are not ultimately intended for Québec consumers must be excluded from the report.
- Marketed biodegradable or compostable packaging are materials subject to a fee and must be reported, like other types of packaging:
  - "The Regulation aims to empower companies in regards to the designated products that they market by obliging them to assume the costs of managing these products at the end of their life-cycle, whether or not they are compatible with the curbside recycling system. Otherwise, companies could be tempted to market products that are not compatible with curbside recycling." (Quote from the notice from the Direction of Residual Materials of MELCC).
  - "Compostability or incompatibility with the curbside recycling system does not imply an exemption from the payment of a contribution with regard to marketed containers or packaging." (Quote from the notice from the Direction of Residual Materials of MELCC).
  - This applies to compostable packaging, whether sold as products or added at point of sale (fruit and vegetable packaging, for example).

CLASSES OF MATERIALS

PRINTED MATTER

The "printed matter" class includes paper and other cellulose fibers, whether or not they are used to support a text or an image.

CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING

The "containers and packaging" class includes all types of flexible or rigid material, including paper, cardboard, plastic, glass or metal, used alone or in combination with other materials:

- To contain, protect or wrap products at any stage of product movement from the producer to the ultimate consumer, particularly for the purpose of presentation.
- Intended for single use or with a short lifespan, and designed to contain, protect or wrap products, including storage bags, wrapping paper, and paper or foam drinking cups.

Éco Entreprises Québec

CLASSES OF MATERIALS	CATEGORY OF MATERIALS	MATERIALS
PRINTED MATTER		Newsprint inserts and circulars
		Catalogues and publications
		Magazines
		Telephone books
		Paper for general use
		Other printed matter
CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING	PAPERBOARD	Corrugated cardboard
		Kraft paper shopping bags
		Kraft paper packaging
		Boxboard and other paper packaging
		Gable-top containers
		Laminated paper
		Aseptic containers
		Wood and cork
	PLASTICS	PET bottles
		HDPE bottles, any format & HDPE containers <5L
		Plastic laminates
		HDPE/LDPE plastic film
		HDPE/LDPE film shopping bags
		Expanded polystyrene - food
		Expanded polystyrene - protection
		Non-expanded polystyrene
		PET containers
		Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)
		Polylactic acid (PLA) and other degradable plastics
		Polypropylene (PP)
		Other plastics, polymers and polyurethane
	ALUMINIUM	Aluminium containers for food and beverages
		Other aluminium containers and packaging
	STEEL	Steel aerosol containers
		Other steel containers
	GLASS	Clear glass
		Coloured glass
		Ceramic

This document includes 34 information sheets, i.e. one sheet for each material designated in the Schedule of Contributions. Each sheet provides a description of the designated material, examples of containers, packaging and printed matter that should, or should not, be included under the category, reporting tips, ecodesign advice as well as examples of market outlets, i.e. possible uses for the material once it is recycled.

ECODESIGN : FOR ECO-RESPONSIBLE PACKAGING

Did you know that you can reduce the environmental footprint of your packaging and save money?

Ecodesign is an initiative where eco-responsible criteria are considered at the design phase of a product and its packaging. Specifically, the environmental impacts of the container, packaging or printed matter at all stages of its life cycle are taken into account at the design phase. From a practical standpoint, the ecodesign approach ÉEQ suggests applies to four strategies:

PROCUREMENT
Selection of suppliers and materials, as well as integration of recycled content.

OPTIMISED DESIGN
Packaging concept, paying particular attention to the interdependence between the product and its packaging.

END-OF-LIFE
Packaging simplification to make it as recyclable as possible. For example, reducing the use of different materials and liming the use of ink, glue, additives and labels.

COMMUNICATION
Identification of sorting instructions for consumers.

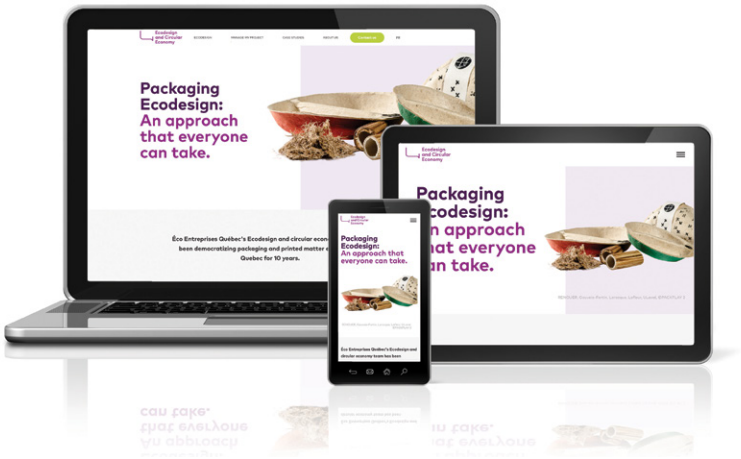
Concrete actions relating to those strategies are presented for each material to make your containers, packaging and printed matter more eco-responsible.

In addition to environmental benefits, ecodesign initiatives may generate economic advantages for companies with regard to ÉEQ's Schedule of Contributions, operational costs, logistics and procurement.

Within the company itself, your sustainable development, marketing or procurement departments may already be aware of ecodesign concepts or could be interested by such an approach. You are therefore invited to discuss the issue and forward this guide to them.

Regardless of whether your packaging is designed and manufactured in Quebec or elsewhere, there are ways to optimize various components such as transportation packaging or shelf presentation in order to lighten your environmental footprint.

For more information, go to **ecoconception.eeq.ca**. Designed to provide companies with tools to support their ecodesign initiatives, this free-access portal gives an overview of the main ecodesign strategies and its benefits as well as case studies.



INFORMATION

Still have questions after reading this guide? Contact Company Services at **service@eeq.ca** or call 514-987-1700 or, toll free, 1-877-987-1491.

Éco Entreprises Québec

PRINTED MATTER

- Newsprint inserts and circulars
- Catalogues and publications
- Magazines
- Telephone books
- Paper for general use
- Other printed matter

NEWSPRINT INSERTS AND CIRCULARS

INCLUDES

All newsprint materials other than newspapers (which are handled by Recycle Médias), whether or not stapled, distributed inside a newspaper, in a bag or directly to consumers.

EXAMPLES

- Inserts
- Circulars and flyers
- Tourist guides
- Newsprint publications, with or without a glazed cover (e.g. auto or real estate weekly) published to promote a product or service

EXCLUDES

Newsprint material used to wrap a product (which is included under "Boxboard and other paper packaging.")

REPORTING TIPS

- Calendered newspaper type paper, which may have a glazed appearance, should be entered under this category.
- Non-newsprint circulars should be entered under "Other printed matter."
- Your printing service generally knows what type of paper is used and can provide you with reports on quantities and types of paper consumed.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to any chemical substances in the composition of your printed matter that may complicate recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Opt for back-to-back printing when possible.
  - Reduce printed items at the source and invite the consumer to go to your website for detailed information.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues, staples and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Paper or cardboard products such as egg cartons, for example
- Insulating materials for buildings
- Paper towels and tissues

CATALOGUES AND PUBLICATIONS

INCLUDES

Publications, catalogues or other bound products printed on glazed paper whose main purpose is to promote or sell products or services.

EXAMPLES

- Retailer's seasonal catalogues
- Travel brochures
- Annual reports
- Promotional guides
- Magazines intended for professional groups, bound and printed on glazed paper

REPORTING TIPS

- Catalogues printed on newsprint should be entered under "Newsprint inserts and circulars."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Opt for back-to-back printing when possible.
  - Reduce the weight of the paper (grammage) when possible.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues, staples, bindings and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as printer paper, envelopes, paper towels and tissues.

MAGAZINES

INCLUDES

Publications (bound periodicals, whether or not printed on glazed paper) sold or otherwise provided to consumers, which express opinions, comments or which provide information on various subjects.

EXAMPLES

- Business magazines
- Specialized magazines: Beauty, health and wellness, cooking, decoration, children, family, culture, etc.

EXCLUDES

Catalogues and publications included in the "Catalogues and publications" category.

REPORTING TIPS

- Plastic film that protects magazines should be entered under "LDPE/HDPE film" or "Plastic laminants," as appropriate.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to any chemical substances in the composition of your printed matter that may complicate recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Reduce the weight of the paper (grammage) when possible.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues, staples and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as printer paper, envelopes, paper towels and tissues.

TELEPHONE BOOKS

INCLUDES

Printed residential and/or business directories generally bound with glue and containing private and business telephone numbers, postal codes and websites.

EXAMPLES

- Telephone books
- Neighborhood directories

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Reduce printed items at the source and invite the consumer to go to your website for detailed information.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues, staples, bindings and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as paper towels and tissues

PAPER FOR GENERAL USE

INCLUDES

White or colored paper for general or special use, for printers or copiers, notebooks and notepads, loose-leaf lined or graph paper sheets, either sold as products or otherwise provided to consumers.

EXAMPLES

- Printer paper
- Photographic paper
- Loose-leaf and graph paper
- Notepad
- Notebook (with or without spiral)
- Construction and craft paper
- Poster paper or cardboard
- Pre-printed thematic paper (graduation, anniversary, etc.)

REPORTING TIPS

- Paper for general use consumed within the company may be deducted according to Article 3.6.1 of the Schedule of Contributions. Paper used to print materials intended for consumers, such as invoices, should be entered under "Other printed matter" rather than "Paper for general use."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to any chemical substances in the composition of your printed matter that may complicate recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **End-of-life:** For notebooks, workbooks and similar products, check whether glues, staples, bindings and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as printer paper, paper towels and tissues

OTHER PRINTED MATTER

INCLUDES

All printed matter that is distributed or provided to consumers but not included in the previous categories.

EXAMPLES

- Mailings and invoices
- Non-addressed mailings (usually advertising)
- Mailing and return envelopes made of paper
- Inserts and circulars with or without printed discount coupons, printed on glazed paper
- Printed matter included in packaged products, such as assembly instructions, guarantee cards, coupons and directions for use
- Annual information on insurance policies (including insurance policy documents and statements)
- Monthly, quarterly and annual statements, investment reports and prospectuses
- Calendars
- Cash register receipts
- Geographical maps and road maps
- Agendas
- Greeting cards
- Coloring books, activity books (sudoku, crossword puzzles, etc.), workbooks (abcs, maths, etc.)
- Scrapbooking

EXCLUDES

School books and workbooks, personal medical files, identification documents, clothing hangtags (which are considered product packaging and should be entered under "Boxboard and other paper packaging").

REPORTING TIPS

- "Printed matter" provided to consumers and subsequently collected at the place of distribution may be deducted under Article 3.6.1 of the Schedule.
- Documents that are returned to your company by consumers (e.g. signed contracts, used coupons, etc.) may also be deducted, as are all documents for which the end-user is an industrial, commercial or institutional establishment (e.g. commercial statement).

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to any chemical substances in the composition of your printed matter that may complicate recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Opt for back-to-back printing when possible.
  - Reduce printed items at the source and invite the consumer to go to your website for detailed information.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues, staples, bindings and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as paper towels and tissues

CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING

DO NOT FORGET TO REPORT

- Short-life containers and packaging sold as products
- Containers and packaging accompanying the delivery of your products to consumers (online orders)

- Corrugated cardboard
- Kraft paper shopping bags
- Kraft paper packaging
- Boxboard and other paper packaging
- Gable-top containers
- Laminated paper
- Aseptic containers
- Wood and cork
- PET bottles
- HDPE bottles, any format & HDPE containers <5L
- Plastic laminates
- HDPE/LDPE plastic film
- HDPE/LDPE film shopping bags
- Expanded polystyrene - food
- Expanded polystyrene - protection
- Non-expanded polystyrene
- PET containers
- Polyvinyl Chloride(PVC)
- Polylactic acid (PLA) and other degradable plastics
- Polypropylene (PP)
- Other plastics, polymers and polyurethane
- Aluminium containers for food and beverages
- Other aluminium containers and packaging
- Steel aerosol containers
- Other steel containers
- Clear glass
- Colored glass

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

INCLUDES

All corrugated cardboard packaging.

EXAMPLES

- Box that protects an electronic device
- Pizza delivery box
- Beer bottle case (12 and 24)
- Delivery packaging for products purchased online
- Moving and storage boxes, etc, including those sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- Corrugated cardboard boxes designed to facilitate handling and transportation of multiple units to the point of sale and that are not given to consumers may be deducted by the company responsible to report the brand.
- Corrugated cardboard boxes given to consumers by a retailer to facilitate the transportation of their purchases, as well as shipping or delivery boxes given to consumers must be reported.
- Brown kraft paper added to shoe boxes or used to fill a corrugated cardboard shipping box must be entered under "Kraft paper packaging."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to any chemical substances in the composition of your packaging and printed matter that may complicate recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - For items shipped to consumers, such as e-commerce purchases for example, opt for packaging sizes that closely match the products so as avoid wasted space.
  - Opt for back-to-back printing, when possible. For example, to avoid providing an explanatory leaflet with a product, have instructions printed on the inner surface of the packaging.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Cardboard boxes
- Construction materials
- Kraft paper

KRAFT PAPER SHOPPING BAGS

INCLUDES

All kraft paper bags provided at a point of sale or cash register to contain purchases from that location, whether or not the bags are sold or otherwise provided.

EXAMPLES

- Brown paper grocery bags
- Brown prescription bags
- Bags for drive-thru orders

REPORTING TIPS

- Non-laminated paper bags that are not kraft paper bags must be reported in the "boxboard and other paper packaging" category, while those that are laminated must be reported in the "paper laminants" category.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to coatings and other chemical substances added to protect from light, moisture or air, etc. They may complicate packaging recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Avoid combining materials, e.g. the addition of a cellophane or plastic window on an envelope.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as cardboard boxes

KRAFT PAPER PACKAGING

INCLUDES

All non-laminated kraft paper packaging provided at the point of sale or used to contain, protect or wrap a product or group of products, as well as kraft paper bags not added at the point of sale.

EXAMPLES

- Non-laminated brown paper bread bags
- Kraft paper used for show box stuffing
- Non-laminated bags to contain flour, sugar, potatoes or oatmeal
- Kraft paper bags sold as products (lunch bags, candy bags, etc.)
- Rolls of Kraft paper sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- Brown kraft paper in delivery or shipping boxes whose end user is an industrial, commercial or institutional establishment may be deducted.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Pay particular attention to coatings and other chemical substances used to protect from light, moisture and air. They may complicate packaging recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Avoid combining materials, e.g. the addition of a cellophane or plastic window on an envelope.
- **End-of-life:** Check whether glues, staples and other components can be easily removed.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as cardboard boxes

BOXBOARD AND OTHER PAPER PACKAGING

INCLUDES

Boxboard boxes, molded pulp packaging, any paper packaging that is not included in other cardboard categories, any other container and packaging made from a wood (e.g. bamboo, eucalyptus) or other fiber (e.g. bagasse) source.

EXAMPLES

- Cereal boxes
- Egg cartons
- Molded trays
- Facial tissue boxes
- Clothing hangtags
- Newsprint used for packaging (e.g. to wrap shoes or gifts)
- Bread bags made of paper other than non-laminated brown paper
- Tissue paper, including the ones sold as products
- Toilet paper and hand towel paper cores
- Boxboard beer bottle boxes
- Boxboard dinner plates, boxes for pastries and baked goods, gift bags and boxes, sucker sticks made of paper
- Non-laminated wrapping paper, including the ones sold as products
- Non-laminated plates, bowls and other containers, including those sold as products
- Piñatas, party poppers, etc., sold as products or otherwise provided

REPORTING TIPS

- Blister-pack packaging with cardboard that is difficult to separate from the plastic must be entered under "Laminated paper."
- Paper bags that are not laminated nor made of kraft paper must be entered under this category of materials.
- Wrapping paper made of kraft paper must be reported in the category "Kraft paper packaging"

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Opt for single-material design for your packaging.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New paper products such as kraft paper

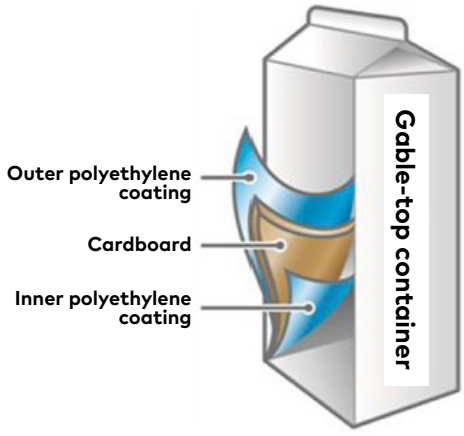
GABLE-TOP CONTAINERS

INCLUDES

Multilayer gable-top containers.

EXAMPLES

- Milk, juice or molasses cartons
- Tethrahedral packaging



REPORTING TIPS

- For gable-top containers that also have a plastic tip and cap, the cap must be entered under the appropriate category of material, while the remainder of the container should be entered under this category.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Avoid combining different plastics for inner and outer coatings.
- **End-of-life:** Check that the assembly, glue or other coating is as recyclable as possible.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Material increasingly accepted by North American paper manufacturers
- Construction panels to replace gypsum
- Paper products (for the fiber)
- Energy recovery (for the plastic component)

PAPER LAMINANTS

INCLUDES

Laminated paper packaging where paper is the main component and not included with other materials in the paperboard sub-category. Paperboard combined with aluminum, plastic or other materials.

EXAMPLES

- Fiber containers (where the bottom and lid are made of metal or plastic)
- Envelopes for granola bars
- Battery blister packs
- Ice cream packaging
- Bubble envelopes
- Cookie bags
- Instant oatmeal envelopes
- Frozen meal containers
- Laminated bags for flour or dessert mixes
- Popcorn bags
- Paper cups for hot beverages (e.g.: coffee cups), including those sold as products
- Laminated plates, bowls and all containers, including those sold as products
- Sandwich or burger packaging
- Muffin molds, including those sold as products
- Butcher paper
- Bread bags made of laminated paper or with a cellophane window, paper packaging in cigarette packages, jewelry boxes with an inner textile or other material lining
- Wax paper, including the ones sold as products
- Parchment paper, including those sold as products
- Paper laminant packaging, including the ones sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- Blister-pack packaging with cardboard that is difficult to separate from the plastic must be entered under "Laminated paper."
- Most fiber packaging used to package single-size servings for fast food is made of laminated paper (cups, bowls, sandwich paper, etc.).

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Opt for single-material design for your packaging.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Few market outlets for laminated paper.
- Testing is underway for the sorting and the recycling of the take-out cups and containers.

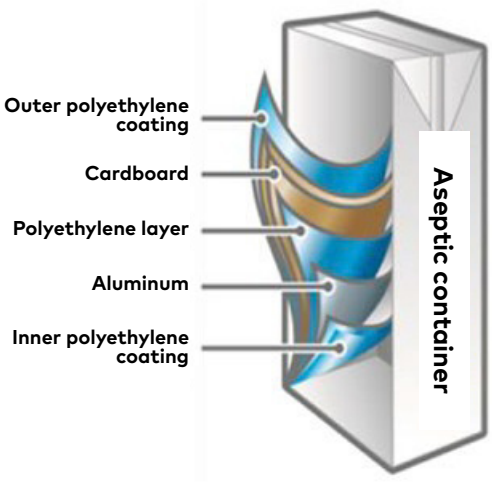
ASEPTIC CONTAINERS

INCLUDES

Multilayer containers with an inner aluminum lining (Tetrapak).

EXAMPLES

- Juice boxes
- Containers for soup, broth or wine



REPORTING TIPS

- The cap on aseptic containers with a plastic tip must be entered under the appropriate category of material, while the remainder of the container should be entered under this category.
- Straws that are provided with a container should not be reported because they are neither a container nor packaging. The plastic sheath protecting the straw, however, should be entered under "Plastic laminants."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Avoid combining different plastics for inner and outer coatings.
- **End-of-life:** Check that the assembly, glue or other coating is as recyclable as possible.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Material increasingly accepted by North American paper manufacturers
- Construction panels to replace gypsum
- Durable furniture
- Paper products (for the fiber)
- Energy recovery (plastic-aluminum component)

WOOD AND CORK

INCLUDES

All wood or cork containers and packaging.

EXAMPLES

- Cork stoppers, caps and lids (ex: Wine bottles, mustard containers and salt containers)
- Citrus fruit boxes
- Cheese boxes
- Wicker gift baskets

REPORTING TIPS

- Synthetic foam bottle stoppers should be entered under the category "Other plastics, polymers and polyurethane".
- Wooden utensils are not containers or packaging. They are therefore excluded from the payable contribution.

ECODESIGN

Procurement :

- Limit the use of wood and cork when other recyclable materials are available

MARKET OUTLETS

- Non-recyclable material
- May contaminate other materials in sorting centres

PET BOTTLES

1
PETE

INCLUDES

#1 transparent plastic bottles, jugs and jars, clear, or transparent green or blue PET. All #1 containers should be entered under "PET containers," while other types of PET should be entered under "Other plastics."

EXAMPLES

- Energy drink and water
- Edible oil and vinaigrette
- Peanut butter
- Dish detergent and mouthwash

REPORTING TIPS

- PET bottles, jugs and jars that are not clear or not transparent green or blue should be entered under "Other plastics."
- Detachable caps and covers that can be easily separated by consumers must be reported under the appropriate category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Always consider the consumer's experience and the concept of "spoonability," i.e. the ease with which the container can be emptied. This requires giving thought to the size of the opening and "shoulders" of the bottle.
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
- **End-of-life:**
  - Make sure that the various components of the bottle, including the label and cap, can be easily separated.
  - Avoid using plastic labels that are not compatible with recycling, such as those made with PVC or PLA. More information is available on **ÉEQ's website**.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as bottles, carpets, clothing, insulation, etc.

HDPE BOTTLES, ANY FORMAT & HDPE CONTAINERS <5L

INCLUDES

#2 plastic bottles, jugs and jars of any format, as well as containers of less than 5 liters, whether or not they are transparent and regardless of the color. All HDPE containers of 5 liters or more should be entered under "Other plastics."

EXAMPLES

- Laundry detergent
- Javel water
- Vinegar
- Windshield cleaner
- Milk
- Shampoo
- Ice cream
- Buckets for chlorine or maintenance products of less than 5 liters

REPORTING TIPS

- Detachable caps and covers that can be easily separated by consumers must be entered under the appropriate category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Always consider the consumer's experience and the concept of "spoonability," i.e. the ease with which the container can be emptied. This requires giving thought to the size of the opening and "shoulders" of the bottle.
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
- **End-of-life:**
  - Make sure that the various bottle components, including the label and cap, can be easily separated.
  - Avoid using plastic labels that are not compatible with recycling, such as those made with PVC or PLA. More information is available on **ÉEQ's website**.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as farm drainage pipes, patio boards, garden furniture, etc.

PLASTIC LAMINANTS

INCLUDES

Other film, bags and molded packaging made of flexible plastic not included in another plastics subcategory, as well as flexible multilayer laminated packaging where the main component is plastic. These products may contain plastic combined with: aluminum, cardboard, plastic laminants or other materials.

EXAMPLES

- Fresh pasta pouches
- Dry pasta packaging
- Candy packaging
- Coffee pouches
- Cheese packaging
- Cereal box liner bags
- Pre-packaged deli meat pouches
- Yogurt tube pouches
- Vacuum-packed packaging, including the ones sold as products
- Blister packs for medication or gum
- Chip bags
- Certain cookie bags
- Protective bubble packaging, including those sold as products
- Stand-up pouches for sauces or soap
- Plastic packaging for cigarette packs, individually-wrapped sanitary napkin packaging, plastic bag-in-box film

REPORTING TIPS

- All plastic films not made of LDPE, HDPE, PVC, PLA (polyactic acid) and any other degradable plastic should be entered under this category of materials. Film made of several different types of plastic or a combination of several materials, including plastic, should be entered under this category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Review the choice of resins included in your packaging.
  - Avoid resin combinations (laminants) so as to facilitate packaging recycling.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Currently, there is no large-scale market for this material, as it is difficult to recycle.
- There are projects underway to facilitate sorting and recycling; for example, cooling the plastic after melting to separate the various types of resin.

PLASTIC HDPE AND LDPE FILMS

INCLUDES

Polyethylene films other than shopping bags. These are usually stretchable and more porous than other types of film. Any film not made of HDPE/ LDPE should be entered under "Plastic laminants."

EXAMPLES

- Plastic wrap (food or other), including the ones sold as products
- Sandwich and freezer bags, including those sold as products
- Bags for fresh and frozen vegetables
- Milk bags and pouches
- Bread bags
- Shrink wrap (e.g. around a tray of 24 water bottles)
- Bags used to protect dry-cleaning
- Bags for soil, fertilizer and grass seeds
- Diaper packaging
- Sanitary napkin packaging
- Braided polyethylene bags for pet food or rice
- Recycling bags

REPORTING TIPS

- Bags made with LDPE or HDPE plastic film that are not shopping bags should be entered under this category of materials. LDPE or HDPE plastic film designed to facilitate handling and transportation of multiple units to the point of sale and not given to consumers may be deducted.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **End-of-life:** Check that the assembly, glue or inks facilitate the recycling process.
- **Communication:** Provide consumer advice, stressing the importance of facilitating sorting by stuffing all plastic bags and film in one bag before placing them in the recycling bin.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as plastic boards or bags.
- Paving stones and tiles when other materials such as glass are added.

HDPE, LDPE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

INCLUDES

All plastic bags provided at a point of sale to contain purchases, whether or not the bags are sold or otherwise provided.

EXAMPLES

- Grocery, clothing and drug store bags or other shopping bag given out free of charge or otherwise provided.

EXCLUDES

- Reusable bags

REPORTING TIPS

- Bags made with LDPE or HDPE plastic film that are not shopping bags should be entered under "HDPE and LDPE film."
- Shopping bags made with plastics other than HDPE or LDPE should be entered under "Laminated plastics."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Opt for bags and film made with a single resin.
  - Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Provide consumer advice, stressing the importance of facilitating sorting by stuffing all plastic bags and film in one bag before placing them in the recycling bin.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as plastic boards or bags.
- Paving stones and tiles when other materials such as glass are added.

EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE – FOOD PACKAGING

6
PS

INCLUDES

All types of #6 foam plastic used for packaging food.

EXAMPLES

- Meat trays
- Cups for hot beverages (e.g.: coffee cups), including those sold as products
- Egg cartons
- Styrofoam glasses and dishes, including those sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- Expanded polystyrene packaging (usually extruded) used to package foods during transformation or at the point of sale should be entered under this category.

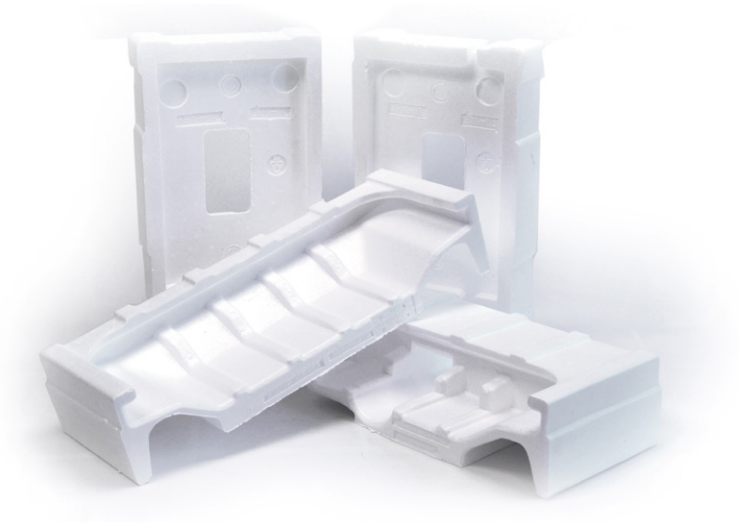
ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Reduce at the source by minimizing product or packaging weight and volume.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Expensive to recycle due to its lightweight.
- Innovative projects are currently under development to facilitate its use in packaging, photo frames, etc.

EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE – CUSHIONING PACKAGING



6
PS

INCLUDES

All types of #6 foam plastic, whether rigid or flexible, used as cushioning packaging.

EXAMPLES

- Foam packing peanuts, including those sold as products
- Polystyrene sheets
- Foam packaging (e.g. for household appliances)

REPORTING TIPS

- Expanded polystyrene packaging that is not used for distribution or the sale of food products should be entered under this category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Reduce at the source by minimizing product or packaging weight and volume.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Expensive to recycle due to its lightweight.
- Innovative projects are currently under development to facilitate its use in packaging, photo frames, etc.

NON-EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

6
PS

INCLUDES

All types of #6 non-expanded plastic.

EXAMPLES

- Small yogurt cups
- Cookie trays
- Clamshell for croissant
- Small coffee creamer containers
- Small butter containers, coffee capsules
- Small soy sauce containers (for sushi)
- Plates, bowls, cups, including those sold as products
- Lids for cups (coffee or other), including those sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- All non-expanded polystyrene containers or packaging (e.g. oriented polystyrene), regardless of the shape, should be entered under this category of materials, including caps and covers (coffee cup covers, for example).

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Reduce at the source by minimizing product or packaging weight and volume.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Expensive to recycle due to its lightweight
- Innovative projects are currently under development to facilitate its use in packaging, photo frames, etc.

PET CONTAINERS

1
PETE

INCLUDES

#1 plastic containers, clear or transparent green or blue. All other types of PET containers should be entered under "Other plastics."

EXAMPLES

- Clamshell containers for croissants, muffins, lettuce and berries
- Containers for foods prepared at the point of sale (fruits, vegetables, prepared meals)
- Plastic egg containers, other than polystyrene
- Blister packs for electronics, hardware or toys
- Plates, bowls, cups, including those sold as products
- Lids for cups (coffee or other), including those sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- PET bottles, jugs and jars that are clear or transparent green or blue should be entered under "PET bottles."
- Containers and packaging made of opaque PET, i.e. not clear or not transparent green or blue, should be entered under "Other plastics."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
  - Always remember the consumer's experience and the concept of "spoonability," i.e. the ease with which the container can be emptied. This requires giving thought to the size of the opening and shape of the bottle.
  - Avoid using opaque PET.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the bottle, including the label, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as bottles, carpets, clothing, insulation, etc.

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC)

INCLUDES

All #3 PVC plastic containers and packaging, whether rigid, flexible, clear, transparent, opaque or colored.

EXAMPLES

- Clamshell containers for hardware and electronic productss
- Bedding flexible packaging
- Food packaging films
- Transparent or colored bottles and containers
- Sealing strips (ex: medication containers and mouthwash)

REPORTING TIPS

- Some PVC containers look similar to PET containers, please verify the plastic resin identification code to properly categorize the material.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Opt for resins that are easily recyclable, such as PET, HDPE and PP for all containers and packaging, and LDPE for food packaging films.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Non-recyclable material
- May contaminate other materials in sorting centers

POLYLACTIC ACID (PLA) AND OTHER DEGRADABLE PLASTICS

INCLUDES

All #7 PLA plastics or other degradable and/or compostable plastics, whether rigid, flexible, clear, transparent, opaque or colored.

EXAMPLES

- Clamshell containers for croissants or muffins
- Containers and lids for take-out meals
- Lids for cups (coffee or other), including those sold as products
- Cups and lids for take-out beverages
- Degradable or compostable shopping bags

REPORTING TIPS

- Some PLA containers look similar to PET containers, please verify the plastic resin identification code to properly categorize the material.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Opt for resins that are easily recyclable, such as PET, HDPE or PP for all containers and packaging, and LDPE for flexible films shopping bags.

    Check the potential for using recycled content.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Non-recyclable material
- May contaminate other materials in sorting centers

POLYPROPYLENE (PP)

INCLUDES

All #5 plastic made of polypropylene (PP), whether rigid, flexible, clear, transparent, opaque or colored.

EXAMPLES

- Margarine, ice cream and yogurt tubes
- Hand-cream tubes
- Plastic clamshell containers for take-out dishes
- Medicine containers (ex. : under prescription)
- Containers with in-mold labels (ex. : dip, salad, hummus)
- Black or transparent containers and lids for take-out dishes
- Plastic trays
- Bags with holes for fruits (ex. : grapes)
- Plastic containers for body care products
- Plastic cups and lids for take-out beverages

REPORTING TIPS

- Bags and flexible films made of polypropylene should be entered under this category of materials

ECODESIGN

- **Design:** Check for the possibility of incorporating recycled content.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Growing market

OTHER PLASTICS, POLYMERS AND POLYURETHANE

INCLUDES

All non-coded plastics as well as #1, #2, #4 and #7 plastic containers, packaging, lids and caps excluded from other plastics categories, with the exception of HDPE containers of less than 5L. Also includes polyurethane containers as well as polymers of any other kind, except for PP, PVC, PLA and other degradable plastics.

EXAMPLES

- Netting for citrus fruits and avocados
- HDPE caps
- Buckets for chlorine and maintenance products of 5 liters or more
- Unidentified plastic clamshell packaging
- Trays suitable for the microwave
- Opaque PET bottles, containers and trays (ex. : cannabis container)
- Transparent colored PET bottles (other than green or blue)
- Opaque PET vitamins container
- Aseptic container seals and gable-top containers
- Deodorant packaging
- Plates, bowls, cups, lids or covers including those sold as products
- Paint tray liners sold as products or otherwise provided

REPORTING TIPS

- All containers and packaging made of opaque PET, i.e. not clear or not transparent green or blue, should be entered under this category of materials.
- Do not enter polypropylene, polystyrene, PVC, PLA or other degradable plastic containers and packaging under this category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Opt for resins that are easily recyclable, , such as transparent PET, HDPE and PP for all containers and packaging
- **Design:** Check for the possibility of incorporating recycled content.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Urban furniture

FOOD AND BEVERAGES ALUMINUM CONTAINERS

INCLUDES

All sealed containers used to package food or beverages.

EXAMPLES

- Juice cans
- Small cans of pet food
- Sardine cans
- Cans for non-flavored sparkling water

REPORTING TIPS

- Pay particular attention to excluding all containers covered by Quebec's recognized deposit program.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the container, including the label and lid, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as containers or construction materials.
- The metal industry is particularly developed in Quebec.

OTHER ALUMINUM PACKAGING

INCLUDES

Trays, covers, paper seals, semi-rigid aluminum, tubes, crown closures, twist caps and aluminum aerosol containers.

EXAMPLES

- Aluminum foil, including the ones sold as products
- Pie plates, including those sold as products
- Aluminum seals for yogourt/sour cream containers larger than 100 ml
- Frozen lasagna containers, including those sold as products
- Hair spray and mousse aerosol containers
- Candle containers made of aluminum
- Plates, bowls and any containers of aluminum, including those sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- Make sure to report the aluminum containers and packaging used to market your products, as well as those sold as products. They must be reported in their respective tabs in the reporting system.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:** Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the container, including the label and lid, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as containers or construction materials.
- The metal industry is particularly developed in Quebec.

STEEL AEROSOL CONTAINERS

INCLUDES

All aerosol containers where steel accounts for more than 50% of weight.

EXAMPLES

- Aerosol containers for air fresheners
- Deodorant
- Hair spray

REPORTING TIPS

- Aluminum aerosol containers must be entered under "Other aluminum containers and packaging."

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
  - More and more aerosol containers are made with aluminum, and even PET.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the container, including the label and cap, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as containers, tools or construction materials.
- The metal industry is particularly developed in Quebec.

OTHER STEEL CONTAINERS

INCLUDES

All other containers where steel and other metals account for more than 50% of weight. This category excludes aluminum containers.

EXAMPLES

- Metal cans for food (e.g. soup, tuna)
- Large juice containers
- Covers and caps
- Cookie, coffee and tea boxes
- Covers for glass preserve jars (lid and ring), including those sold as products

REPORTING TIPS

- Detachable covers that can be easily separated by consumers must be reported under their respective category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
  - Always consider the consumer's experience and the concept of "spoonability," i.e. the ease with which the container can be emptied. This requires giving thought to the size of the opening and "shoulders" of the bottle.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the container, including the label and cap, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- New products such as containers, tools or construction materials.
- The metal industry is particularly developed in Quebec.

CLEAR GLASS

INCLUDES

All non-colored transparent glass containers

EXAMPLES

- Pickle, salsa or pasta sauce jars
- Certain rosé, white wine, or liquor bottles
- Sparkling or spring water bottles

EXCLUDES

- Pyrex, crystal, earthenware, sandstone, porcelain or terracotta containers
- Pay particular attention not to include containers covered by a deposit program recognized in Quebec.

REPORTING TIPS

- Detachable caps and covers that can be easily separated by consumers must be reported under the appropriate category of materials.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
  - Always consider the consumer's experience and the concept of "spoonability," i.e. the ease with which the container can be emptied. This requires giving thought to the size of the opening and "shoulders" of the bottle.
  - When possible, make the container lighter while ensuring that the reduced quantity of materials does not compromise the protective function of the packaging.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the container, including the label and cap, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Swimming pool water filtration
- Abrasives
- Mineral wool
- Mulch
- Cement additive in products made of concrete
- Ecological flagstones
- Re-melt for bottles

COLOURED GLASS

INCLUDES

All colored glass containers (e.g. green, brown, blue)

EXAMPLES

- Red wine bottles
- Certain white wine bottles
- Imported olive oil or balsamic vinegar bottles
- Certain sparkling water bottles

EXCLUDES

- Pyrex, crystal, earthenware, sandstone, porcelain or terracotta containers
- Pay particular attention not to include containers covered by a deposit program recognized in Quebec.

REPORTING TIPS

- Detachable caps and covers that can be easily separated by consumers must be reported under their respective material category.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:** Check the potential for using recycled content.
- **Design:**
  - Consider marketing packaging, such as the cardboard tray, shrink wrap and handle.
  - Always remember the consumer's experience and the concept of "spoonability," i.e. the ease with which the container can be emptied. This requires giving thought to the size of the opening and "shoulders" of the container.
- **End-of-life:** Make sure that the various components of the container, including the label and cap, can be easily separated.

MARKET OUTLETS

- Swimming pool water filtration
- Abrasives
- Mineral wool
- Mulch
- Cement additive in products made of concrete
- Ecological flagstones
- Re-melt for bottles

CERAMIC

INCLUDES

Any ceramic container or packaging

EXAMPLES

- Bottles of mead
- Jars of meaux mustard
- Creme brulee containers

EXCLUDES

- Containers that accompany a product with a shelf life of more than 5 years (ex: plants)

REPORTING TIPS

- Detachable caps and covers that can be easily separated by consumers must be reported under their respective material category.

ECODESIGN

- **Procurement:**
  - Opt for the use of glass containers

MARKET OUTLETS

- Non-recyclable material
- May contaminate recycled glass

Éco Entreprises Québec

CONTACT US

1600 René-Lévesque Blvd. West
Suite 600
Montréal, QC H3H 1P9
Telephone: 514-987-1491
Toll-free 1 877 987-1491
Fax: 514-987-1598

E-MAIL

service@eeq.ca

INTERNET

www.eeq.ca