

Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable

Stewardship Plan Title: BC Major Appliance Stewardship Plan
Proposed Amendments to Program in the
Approved Plan

Product Category: Major Household Appliances within the
Electronic and Electrical Product
Category

Original Approval Date: August 7, 2018



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Contact

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Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable
2017-2021 Stewardship Plan Amendments

Consultation Timeline October 1, 2019 – October 31, 2019

Background

The Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable (MARR) is a not-for-profit stewardship agency created to implement and operate a stewardship plan for end-of-life major household appliances in the province of British Columbia.

The MARR BC Major Appliance Stewardship Plan (the plan) plan is focused on enhancing the performance and transparency of the existing market-based system of collecting and recycling major household appliances in BC.

On January 12, 2018, MARR submitted the plan to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry). The plan was approved Ministry on August 7, 2018 pending the development of targets that required some operational history. MARR is proposing changes to this plan in accordance with the approval letter received and as required by the approval letter public consultation will focus on:

1. Incorporating financial performance targets
2. Incorporating ODS removal targets and;
3. Setting consumer awareness targets improving on the 2016 baseline data, annual consumer awareness survey requirements and corrective actions, along with timelines for implementation of those actions that MARR will take if consumer awareness is below the set targets.

Proposed Amendments – Financial Performance

Upon careful consideration MARR has developed a financial performance target designed to ensure there are sufficient funds to operate the stewardship plan and maintain the appropriate level of reserves, consistent with the MARR not-for-profit mandate.

Proposed Performance Targets for Consultation:

MARR will maintain a reasonable reserve fund that does not exceed the planned costs of the program for the following year.

Proposed Reporting Commitments:

MARR commits to producing and publishing independently audited financial statements annually, detailing revenues and expenditures for any fees associated with the approved stewardship plan that are charged separately and identified on the consumer receipt of sale.

The above information will be included in the agency's annual financial statements. The financial statements will be appended to the agency's annual report, which is published on the program website and accessible to the public at www.marrbc.ca.

Proposed Amendments – ODS Removal

Many large appliances are used for cooling or freezing. These appliances use chemical refrigerants that as a group are classified as ozone-depleting substances (ODS). ODS must be handled by qualified ODS removal technicians and improvements in GHG performance can be achieved from the proper recovery and reuse of ODS materials.

Proposed Performance Targets for Consultation:

Removal of ODS gas from all units collected that contain refrigerant gasses used for cooling purposes.

Proposed Reporting Commitments:

- *Report the percentage of units collected that had the ODS gas removed prior to collection.*
- *Efforts taken by or on behalf of producers to reduce environmental impacts throughout the product life cycle and to increase reusability or recyclability at the end of the lifecycle.*
- *A description of how the recovered product was managed in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy, including:*
 - *Conformance with acceptable product and/or material end disposition.*
 - *Program environmental and safety risk management practices and due diligence processes for the collection and processing of product(s) and/or material(s).*
- *A status update with respect to industry adoption of the major appliance processing standard.*

Proposed Amendments – Consumer Awareness

Since the approval of the initial product stewardship plan for major appliances in 2012, MARR has developed consumer education materials and resources for producers and retailers, and online resources directly for consumers. It has also partnered with other organizations to increase its presence and accessibility to consumers.

MARR is committed to working with partner stakeholders, including First Nations, local government and non-profit associations – along with other stewardship agencies – to improve consumer awareness on an ongoing basis.

Proposed Performance Targets for Consultation:

MARR will target a consumer awareness level of 75% determined by an annual survey with a margin of error of less than +/-5%, 19 times out of 20. The results of the survey will be statistically weighted according to the most current demographics that ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of BC.

If consumer awareness levels fall below the set target MARR will review the consumer awareness results and develop a consumer awareness plan to reach the target awareness level.

Proposed Reporting Commitments:

MARR will report annually on the program's consumer awareness level and in addition report on the educational materials and strategies, as well as:

- *The number of unique visitors to MARR's website.*
- *The number of RCBC inquiries for MARR program materials.*

Conclusion

MARR has developed an efficient and highly functional EPR program plan. Following the year of operations MARR has proposed targets that we believe are challenging and will continue to deliver high standards for operation. We request your input by October 31 with regard to the amendments outlined in this document.