



Setting the Standard for Sustainable Development: Extended Producer Responsibility

2nd NSS Conference:
Charting the Course - November 2004



Electronics Product
Stewardship Canada
www.epsc.ca

Recyclage des produits
électroniques Canada
www.rpec.ca

Extended Producer Responsibility

Canadian Electronics Industry

Issue:

- Increased obsolescence of electronic products
- More than 140k tonnes of electronics and small appliances end up in Canadian landfills annually (*Environment Canada*)
- Potential for toxicity increases if products are not processed responsibly
- Lack of infrastructure to divert and recycle these products
- Increased focus on Extended Producer Responsibility



Extended Producer Responsibility

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Industry takes action

- Founded the non-profit organization *Electronics Product Stewardship Canada* (EPSC)
- Mandate to design and develop a stewardship program for waste electronic products
- Working with government to promote a shared responsibility model involving industry, government, retailers, and consumers
- Industry-led, nationally harmonized program
 - CCME position supports this harmonized approach

Electronics Product Stewardship Canada



brother

Canon



EPSON

HITACHI



LG Electronics

LEXMARK

Panasonic

invent

SANYO

SHARP

SONY

TOSHIBA



THOMSON



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Recycling: The Challenge

- One of the most critical elements of the EPSC program
- Electronic products consist of hundred of different materials, some of which are potentially toxic
- Difficult to recycle, requires manual disassembly or expensive shredding/sorting equipment
- High cost often results in materials being shipped offshore for low-cost recycling or disposal
- No clear operating 'standard' for Canadian electronics recycling industry
- Canadian electronics recycling industry at a nascent stage



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Recycling: The Challenge

- EPSC created the *Recycling Vendor Qualification Committee* (RVQC)
- Mandate to develop a process to evaluate electronics recyclers used in the EPSC program
- Chaired by Sony and members include Brother, Canon, Epson, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Sharp, Electro-Federation and EPSC



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What we are trying to prevent from happening



Photos from “*Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia*”. Prepared by Basel Action Network and Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, February 25, 2002.



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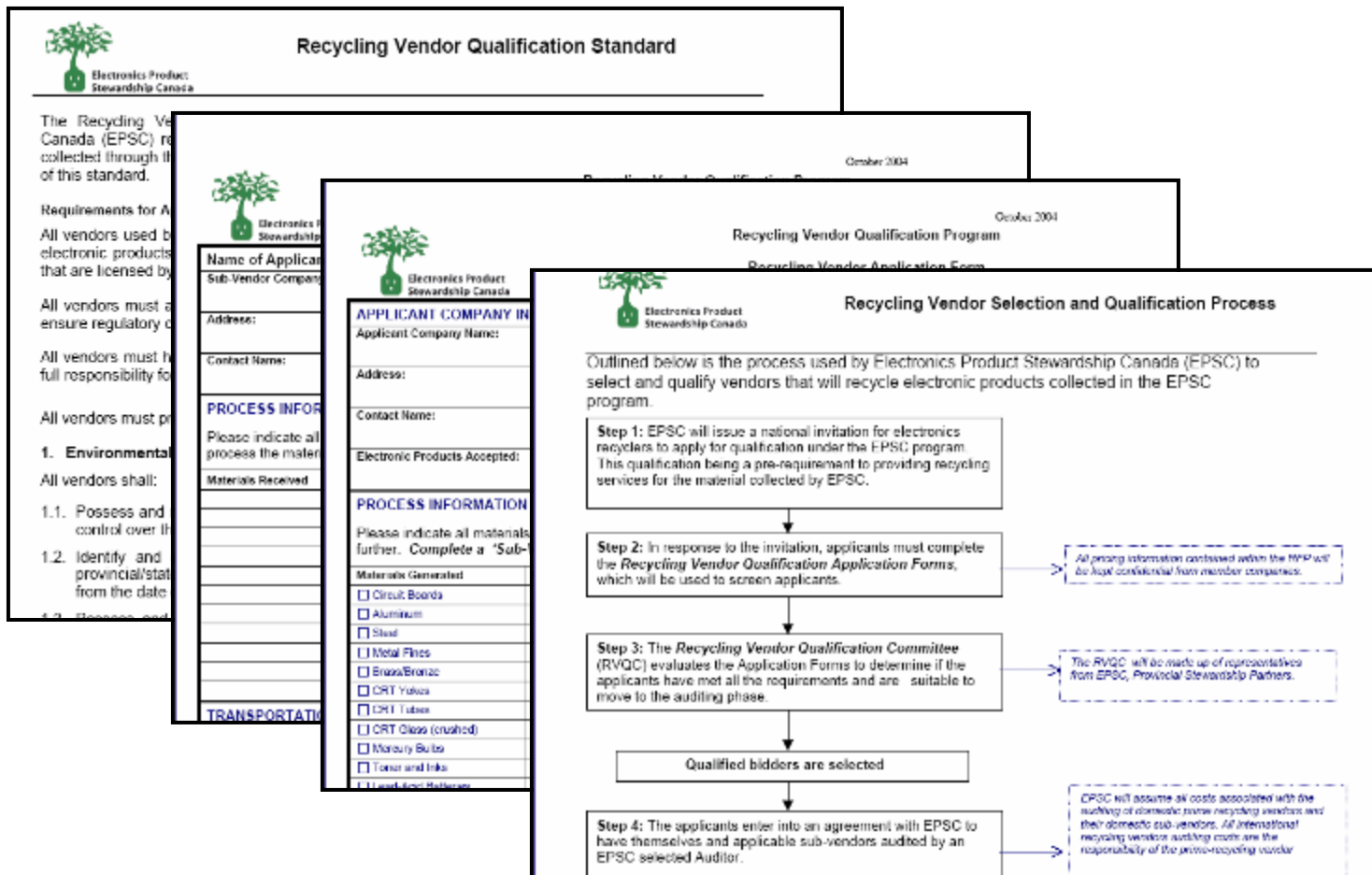
Canadian Electronics Industry

The RVQ Standard

- Establishes criteria for recyclers to meet
- Incorporates concerns from electronics manufacturers, environmental groups, and electronics recyclers
- Goes beyond provisions of ISO 14001 and addresses specific issues resulting from recycling electronics
 - Enhanced requirements for Environment, Health & safety
 - Prohibits use of prison labour
 - Prohibits shipping material to developing/non-OECD countries
 - Reinforces downstream accountability of waste



EPSC's Recycling Vendor Qualification Program



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Evaluating recyclers: the two step process

- Application and screening process
 - Gather information about their process and all downstream sub-vendors used to process materials
 - Confirm permits and insurance are in place, material destination is as indicated
- Auditing phase
 - A Certified Environmental Auditor is used to evaluate the applicant and confirm compliance to the RVQ Standard
 - Once compliance is confirmed, the recycler is then able to accept material collected in the EPSC program



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The program in action

- An original draft of the program was tested during a project between EPSC and Computers for Schools
 - The project resulted in some revisions to the program (increased focus on sub-vendors and transportation)
 - Revised version approved by EPSC board in Sep/04
- Version of the standard was adopted by *Electronics Recycling Alberta* (ERA)
 - The ERA version of the standard was included in a package sent out to recyclers.



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To conclude...

- Industry recognized the importance of proper management of electronics at the recycling stage
- A common standard was required to ensure an equal level of service from all recyclers used
- A standard was developed that incorporated the concerns of industry, NGOs, and recyclers
- The program has been tested through a Computer for Schools and EPSC pilot project
- Version of the standard adopted by Alberta – the only Canadian province with an e-waste program



Electronics Product Stewardship Canada: Recyclage des produits électroniques Canada - Microsoft Internet Explorer


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Electronics Product Stewardship Canada

EPSC Canada is a not-for-profit organization working to design, promote and implement sustainable solutions for Canada's electronic waste problem.

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In 1999, personal computer products discarded in Canada were estimated to contain:
1,356 tonnes of lead
2.0 tonnes of cadmium
0.5 tonnes of mercury*

**Environment Canada, 2000*

When you move on to something newer, what happens to what you leave behind?

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ EPSC releases their [Recycling Vendor Qualification Program](#). The program aims to achieve a common standard of performance acceptable to industry and to ensure a high standard of environmental responsibility.
- ▶ Solid Waste & Recycling Magazine [endorses](#) EPSC's industry-based approach to stewardship.
- ▶ [Design for Environment Student Competition 2004](#) - EPSC encourages all eligible students to participate in a Design for Environment competition being co-sponsored by The Greater Vancouver Regional District and Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. Students are encouraged to use DfE strategies to reduce the environmental impact plastic film and/or electronics have on the solid waste stream.

www.epsc.ca/ www.rpec.ca

