

## Environment

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### EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

#### *Taking Back Our Jobs - Taking Back Our Environment*

##### **What Is It?**

Extended Producer Responsibility, or EPR for short, is the principle that producers of products are responsible for the environmental impacts of their products throughout the product's life cycle. This cradle to cradle responsibility includes upstream environmental impact inherent in the selection of materials for the products, impacts during the production process itself, and downstream impacts during use and disposal of the products.

The focus is on producers because in most cases they have the greatest ability to reduce the product's environmental impacts. Producers are in the best position to design products to minimize upstream environmental impacts ('clean production') and to provide for the environmentally sound management of their products at the end of the product's life ('take-back').

Environmental responsibility is linked to the social responsibility of producers to ensure worker safety in all the workplaces throughout the product's life cycle. Producers can be required to ensure that they source their raw materials from responsible companies and hold their suppliers to a high standard of environmental performance and worker safety.

- EPR requires a producer to take back a product at the end of its useful life either directly or through a third party;
- EPR encourages companies to design products that are non-toxic and highly reusable and recyclable. EPR would reduce the production of single use disposable goods;
- It encourages a producer to "close the loop" by reusing components and recycling material to be used in new products;
- This creates a market for reusable and recyclable material.

##### **Why do we need it for the Auto Industry?**

- EPR will make an environmentally sustainable future possible for our children;
- EPR will conserve raw material and energy;
- EPR will reduce or eliminate toxic shredder fluff from shredded automobiles in our landfills;

The future job creation potential is enormous. The motor vehicle industry is one of the best examples of EPR job creation;

EPR legislation can create jobs in Canada. CAW jobs that are lost for economic reasons or technical change could be replaced by jobs disassembling vehicles. We could establish disassembly plants alongside assembly plants.

##### **Environment Canada says:**

"A properly designed EPR policy can be a driving force for waste avoidance and associated pollution reduction throughout many sectors of the economy. Further benefits could include:

- reducing the number of landfills and incinerators and their accompanying environmental impacts;
- reducing the burden on municipalities of the physical and or financial requirements of waste management;

- fostering recycling and reuse of products or parts thereof;
- improving the ease and timeliness of disassembling products for recycling or reuse;
- reducing or eliminating potentially hazardous chemicals in products;
- promoting cleaner production and products;
- promoting more efficient use of natural resources;
- improving relations between communities and firms;
- encouraging more efficient and competitive manufacturing;
- promoting more integrated management of the environment by placing an emphasis on the product's life cycle;
- improving materials management.

**Want more Information?**

**Check out the Internet:**

[www.ec.gc.ca/epr/en/index.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/epr/en/index.cfm)

[www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org)

[www.oen.ca/caucuses/labour/shtml](http://www.oen.ca/caucuses/labour/shtml)

[www.grrn.org/resources/producerresponsibility.html](http://www.grrn.org/resources/producerresponsibility.html)

[www.uneptie.org](http://www.uneptie.org)

[www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org)

[www.anped.org](http://www.anped.org)

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