

Differences between product stewardship and the municipal collection system

British Columbia also has extensive curbside and drop-off recycling programs operated by local and regional governments. Here are some key differences between the two systems:

Industry Product Stewardship	Local Government Systems
All costs covered by producers and consumers	Net costs covered by local taxpayers
Only consumers and users of specific products pay for the system	All taxpayers contribute equally regardless of actual consumption and use of products
The types of products and materials included are the same province-wide	The types of products and materials accepted vary by municipality or region
Extensive, province-wide consumer awareness programs	Limited consumer awareness – varies by locale
Financial viability and operations unaffected by fluctuating commodity markets	Reductions in commodity value can result in increased taxpayer cost or reduced services
Producers and consumers accept full life-cycle responsibility for products	No agency accepts full life-cycle responsibility for products included in curbside programs

