



**2024 Fees for producer responsibility programs and the Hazardous Waste Program
Registry**

Consultation report

December 1, 2024

Table of Contents

2024 Fees for producer responsibility programs and the Hazardous Waste Program Registry	1
Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
About RPRA	4
Principles for public consultation	4
Consultation	5
Process	5
What we heard	5
Webinar evaluations	6
Conclusion	7
Appendix A: Stakeholders that submitted feedback	9
Appendix B: Response to stakeholder comments	10
Appendix C: Questions and answers	15
Producer responsibility program fee model and rates	15
Proposed fees for the Hazardous Waste Program Registry	16

Executive Summary

The Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) is Ontario's regulator for the circular economy with a mission to implement the province's resource recovery programs for used tires; batteries; information technology, telecommunications and audio-visual equipment (ITT/AV); lighting; hazardous and special products (HSP); and Blue Box materials. RPRA also operates registries for Ontario's reporting and tracking programs for excess soil and industrial and liquid hazardous waste.

RPRA's activities are focused on the following strategic priorities:

- Providing registrants with accessible and easy-to-use registry services
- Delivering an effective compliance program to help achieve resource recovery and waste reduction outcomes for the province
- Providing Ontario with reliable and useful resource recovery and waste information
- Building an accountable, transparent and sustainable organization that achieves value for money

This report details RPRA's consultation process, the feedback received, and how RPRA incorporated the feedback into its decision-making on setting fees for:

- (i) Producer responsibility programs under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* (RRCEA), which include fees for producers of Blue Box materials; hazardous and special products (HSP); information technology, telecommunications and audio-visual equipment (ITT/AV) and batteries; lighting; and tires; and
- (ii) fees for users of the Hazardous Waste Program (HWP)

Fees for users of the Excess Soil Registry are being held at 2023 rates for the first quarter of 2024. Fee rates for the remainder of 2024 are being [consulted on separately](#), from November 17, 2023 until January 10, 2024, and a separate consultation report will be prepared detailing the outcome of that consultation.

Questions about this report can be emailed to consultations@rpra.ca.

RPRA's fees are charges that registrants pay to RPRA annually to cover its costs for operating compliance and enforcement programs, which includes building and operating the registries and providing service to users. RPRA's [General Fee-Setting Policy](#) guides how fees are set in accordance with a list of principles and objectives.

Producers obligated under RRCEA regulations are required to report their supply data and pay the associated fees to RPRA in 2023. HWP registrants are required to use HWP Registry and pay fees to RPRA for each manifest registered (invoices are sent monthly).

From October 2, 2023, to November 16, 2023, RPRA consulted on the proposed 2024 fees for producer responsibility programs and the HWP registry.

The subjects of the consultation included the fee models for each RPRA program, the inputs to each model (estimates of the number of producers or registrants, and the quantity of obligated material), and the proposed fee rates.

The fee models for producer responsibility programs were approved as proposed during the consultation. These consist of a fixed flat fee for small producers and a per-kilogram or per-tire fee for other large producers. Final fee rates are also unchanged from those proposed.

The HWP Registry fee model and fee rates – consisting of a flat \$6 per-manifest fee and \$30 per-tonne fee for subject waste – was approved as proposed.

For more information on the final fees, review the [2024 Fee Schedules](#).

RPRA's 2024 Registry Program Fees were approved on November 30, 2023. RPRA posted the final fees to its website on December 1, 2023, and stakeholders were notified the same day.

RPRA received 14 written submissions in response to the fee proposals. The comments are summarized in [What We Heard](#), and RPRA's responses are detailed in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

All questions received during the consultation webinars and responses provided by RPRA are detailed in [Appendix C](#) of this report.

Introduction

About RPRA

RPRA is the regulator created by the Ontario government to enforce the requirements of the RRCEA and the [Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016](#) (WDTA).

RPRA has also been directed by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to build and operate registries for the Hazardous Waste and Excess Soil programs, governed by the [Environmental Protection Act](#) (EPA).

The RRCEA establishes a resource recovery regime where producers are individually accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging through their full life cycle, including recovering resources and reducing waste. The WDTA allows for the continuation of legacy waste diversion programs and sets out provisions to wind up those programs as directed by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

RPRA is a non-profit organization that does not receive any government funding. The WDTA and RRCEA allow RPRA to set and collect fees to recover its costs from regulated parties. RPRA revenues come from two sources:

- Charges to industry funding organizations (IFOs) and industry stewardship organizations (ISOs) for RPRA's oversight and wind-up of current waste diversion programs operating under the WDTA and the IFOs that operate those programs.
- Charges to parties required to register and report to RPRA.

Fees are used to cover the costs of developing and operating registry services, registrant support services for all programs, and compliance and enforcement activities.

Before setting fees, RPRA must engage in public consultation for at least 45 days and post the fees on its website for 30 days.

Principles for public consultation

RPRA's consultations are guided by the following best practice principles developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development:

Inclusiveness and openness: Engage broadly with a wide variety of stakeholders, provide clear and understandable information, and make the consultation process accessible, comprehensible and responsive.

Timeliness: Engage stakeholders early before decisions are made and provide regular opportunities for engagement on key program and policy matters.

Accessibility and cost effectiveness: Consider a variety of tools and methods to gather feedback that promote efficient and cost-effective consultations.

Balance: Provide opportunities for diverse perspectives and opinions to be heard and considered.

Transparency: Record feedback, report back a summary to stakeholders, and synthesize feedback into programs and policies as appropriate.

Evaluation: Demonstrate the impact of public consultations on program delivery and policy development.

Consultation

Process

Consultation on RPRA's proposed 2023 fees for producer responsibility programs and the HWP Registry were consulted on during October and November. A [dedicated web page](#) was created on RPRA's website with background information on the consultation, registration links for the webinars, and presentation materials.

On October 2, 2023, RPRA sent two emails announcing the start of the consultation for 2024 fees for producer responsibility programs and the HWP Registry and providing information on how to participate. The audience for the first email consisted of producers and Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) for producer responsibility programs overseen by RPRA, as well as generators and Authorized Generator Delegates for the Hazardous Waste Program (over 29,000 total subscribers). The audience for the second email was made up of industry associations of affected programs (close to 70 subscribers). Stakeholders were invited to submit feedback on the proposed fees via email or by attending one of several webinars hosted in October.

What we heard

RPRA received 14 written submissions via email, and questions and comments during four webinars held on October 10, 16, 17 and 19, 2023. Webinar presentations and recordings can be found on the consultation webpage.

Webinar attendance:

- HWP Registry fees:
October 10 and 16, 2023 - 188 attendees
- ITT/AV and Batteries, Lighting, and Tires program fees:
October 17, 2023 - 110 attendees
- HSP and Blue Box program fees:
October 19, 2023 - 139 attendees

Key feedback received is summarized below; a more detailed description of feedback received and RPRA's response is in Appendix B.

General fee- and cost- related

- Concern about total cost increases for registry programs over time.
- Concern about increased staffing and how RPRA evaluates the need for additional staff.
- Concern that there is too much unpredictability in fees and volatility in year-over-year fee increases.
- Concern that year-over-year increase to the lighting program fee rate is too high.

- Desire to see HWP fees held at 2023 rates, and/or held constant with the legacy program rates.
- Expectation that HWP Registry fees will be reduced after the initial costs of building the registry have been recovered.
- Concern that producers who have been compliant and registered with RPRA from the first year of a program may be unfairly burdened with more costs than those who were out of compliance for years before registering.
- Desire to confirm that foundational registry costs are shared in such a way that programs that have been operating for longer pay a fair share compared to newer programs.
- Concern that RPRA fees do not take into account the total cost of producer responsibility to obligated businesses.
- Desire to see RPRA work with PROs to communicate important information to producers.
- Support for ensuring RPRA is adequately resourced to enable effective enforcement .
- Support for increasing the Blue Box fee to ensure effective oversight.

Fee model

- Preference for flat fees over weight-based fees
- Preference for a pre-pay system for the HWP Registry

Consultation

- Concern that there was insufficient information available to conduct a fulsome consultation because RPRA's Business Plan was not publicly available until October 19, 2023.
- Appreciation for additional up-front information being provided through the RPRA website and webinars.

Feedback that was not relevant to this consultation has been excluded from the summary.

Comments regarding the payment system and methods for the HWP Registry received via email were forwarded to the registry team for consideration.

For a list of stakeholders that submitted written feedback, see [Appendix A](#) of this report.

[Appendix B](#) outlines RPRA's responses to comments provided during the consultation.

For a list of all questions received during the webinars presented in October, see [Appendix C](#).

Webinar evaluations

To help RPRA improve future consultations and communications, participants were invited to complete a short survey following the consultation webinars. Of the 437 webinar attendees, 162, or 37%, completed the survey.

In response to the question, "Overall, how would you rate today's session?", 88.8% of respondents ranked the session "Excellent", "Good" or "Average" (based on a scale of Excellent, Good, Average, Fair, Poor). 47.5% of respondents said the information provided by

the presenter was “Extremely or Very helpful”, and 51.2% said it was “Somewhat helpful”. 0.01% said it was “Not so helpful” or “Not at all helpful”.

The majority of respondents (92.5%) ranked the presentation slides as “Excellent,” “Good” or “Average”. 92.5% of respondents ranked the question and answer portion as “Excellent,” “Good” or “Average.”

Conclusion

The 2024 fees for producer responsibility programs and the HWP Registry were approved on November 30, 2023. RPRA posted the final fees to its website on December 1, 2023, and stakeholders were notified the same day.

RPRA appreciates the thoughtful feedback provided through the consultation process, and considered each submission in setting the fees.

RPRA recognizes the importance of fee predictability to its registrants. The [2024 business plan](#) shows an overall 4% increase in the 2024 budget over the 2023 budget, in line with what was forecasted when the 2023 business plan was published in fall 2022. As operations stabilize, RPRA expects overall costs to continue to stabilize. As RPRA gains data and experience from programs that have been implemented, the number of unknowns affecting RPRA’s ability to predict resource needs for outyears decreases. RPRA will continue to strive for predictability in fee rates; however, some annual variability is unavoidable. For example, compliance costs cannot always be accurately predicted on a program-by-program basis, and outside factors such as inflation can affect RPRA’s costs due to the amortization of registry builds and RRCEA program start-up expenses.

Three programs are seeing fee rate increases that are substantially higher than the overall budget increase: Blue Box, HWP, and Lighting. For Blue Box and HWP, the increases result from additional resources that are required in order to achieve full program implementation (Blue Box is in the midst of a multi-year transition; HWP is still in the first year of operations). There is a substantial decrease in the overall cost allocation to the Lighting program in 2024 compared to 2023. However, deficits from previous years and lower than forecasted tonnage reported in 2023 resulted in an increase in the per-kilogram fee rate for 2024. During the consultation, RPRA proposed recovering 50% of the Lighting Program deficit in 2024 and 50% in 2025, thereby dampening the fee rate increase for 2024 but increasing the overall deficit due to financing costs. Stakeholders did not support this proposal.

RPRA’s 2024 resource needs and its approach to achieving cost efficiency and value for money are addressed in RPRA’s 2024 Business Plan. During each business planning cycle, RPRA evaluates its ongoing resource needs and consults on those needs with its advisory councils. The 2024 Business Plan outlines in detail why RPRA’s budget needed to increase in 2024. Cost containment is embedded in how RPRA operates, including through good governance, effective procurement and purchasing policies, and transparent business planning. RPRA strives to minimize costs to fee payors while still delivering the services and operations required to support regulatory outcomes.

RPRA is committed to reporting on the outcomes of the programs it delivers by publishing [reports](#) on resource recovery and compliance activities on our website, and by tracking and reporting on a variety of key performance indicators and other performance measures in our [annual report](#).

RPRA's compliance actions ensure that free riders pay fees owed to RPRA for all of the years they were out of compliance. In addition, annual program cost allocations are based in part on the total number of registrants RPRA expects are obligated to report annually to RPRA. As a result, compliant producers should not end up absorbing more than their own share of costs. Fees in arrears paid by former free riders are directed to the program budget and offset program deficits or add to program surpluses in future years.

RPRA continues to consider feedback from stakeholders who would prefer that RPRA charge flat fees rather than weight-based variable fees. RPRA charges fees based on the weight of materials supplied for the following reasons:

- It protects small producers from undue burden.
- It enables fees to be applied consistently to material categories with multiple material types, including materials that do not have a common unit of measure.
- It ensures that producers of the same products face the same costs on a per-kilogram basis, so that the fee has no competitive impact on the consumer markets producers operate in.
- Instituting single flat or tiered flat fees would benefit large producers at the expense of small businesses.
- Assigning variable fees to producers based on the weight of materials supplied is aligned with the objectives of the government's producer responsibility regulatory framework to hold producers individually accountable and financially responsible for the products and packaging they supply to Ontario.

RPRA coordinates the timing of the publication of its annual business plan with the ministry. As a best practice, RPRA will continue to try to post the business plan at or closer to the beginning of the fee consultation period.

This year, in order to continue to improve transparency and communication, RPRA made the following information available to all stakeholders:

- additional detailed budget breakdowns for each program;
- detailed year-over-year changes to budgets for each program; and
- detailed breakdowns of proposed fee rate increases.

Stakeholders with specific questions about fees that are not addressed in this consultation report received direct responses from RPRA.

Appendix A: Stakeholders that submitted feedback

14 written submissions were submitted by the following stakeholders:

- Electronic Products Stewardship Canada
- Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
- Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association
- Electro-Federation Canada
- Bend All Automotive
- ArcelorMittal Dofasco
- Genrep
- Invenergy
- Neo Performance Materials
- Parkdale Pharmacy
- Peninsula Plastics
- Redpath Sugar
- Resolute FP
- TRAC

Appendix B: Response to stakeholder comments

RPRA considered all feedback received during the consultation period. Key comments received and RPRA's responses are included below.

Feedback

General fee- and cost- related

- Concern about total cost increases for registry programs over time, including salaries and benefits, and concern that fee increases are too great when inflation is already resulting in higher costs for businesses
- Concern about increased staffing and how RPRA evaluates the need for additional staff
- Concern that there is too much unpredictability in fees and volatility in year-over-year fee increases, and suggestions to implement a target percent volatility for per kg rates and to set fee rates every three years instead of annually
- Concern that year-over-year increase to the lighting program fee rate is too high and difficult for lighting producers to manage; stakeholders questioned why lighting producers pay higher fee rates compared to producers under the other programs, given the program's relatively small number of registrants.
- Desire to see HWP fees held at 2023 rates, and/or held constant with the legacy program rates
- Expectation that HWP Registry fees will be reduced after the initial costs of building the registry have been recovered
- Concern that producers who have been compliant and registered with RPRA from the first year of a program may be unfairly burdened with more of the foundational registry costs for that program than producers that registered in more recent years
- Desire to confirm that foundational registry costs are shared in such a way that programs that have been operating for longer pay a fair share compared to newer programs
- Concern that RPRA fees do not take into account the total cost of producer responsibility to obligated businesses – for example, the cost of the HSP Supply Data Verification Procedure.
- Desire to see RPRA work with PROs to communicate important information on requirements and procedures to their clients in order to defray RPRA's front-line registry service and support costs.
- Concern that compliant producers are paying more than they should because there are free riders.
- Support for ensuring RPRA is adequately resourced to enable effective enforcement of producer responsibility regulations under the RRCEA.
- Support for increasing the Blue Box fee to ensure effective oversight.

Fee model

- Preference for flat fees rather than weight-based fees
- Preference for a pre-pay system for the HWP Registry similar to the legacy system due to inconvenience of paying multiple invoices for small tonnage amounts

Consultation

- Concern that there was insufficient information available to conduct a fulsome consultation because RPRA's Business Plan was not publicly available until October 19, 2023.
- Appreciation for additional up-front information being provided through the RPRA website and webinars.

RPRA's response

General cost- and fee-related

RPRA recognizes the importance of fee predictability to its registrants.

RPRA has experienced rapid growth and change over the past three years with the implementation of six new programs. RPRA's focus has been on building these new programs, including the necessary registry systems, and developing the necessary human and operational resources. This substantial growth in the number of programs and amount of services being delivered has resulted in substantial budget growth over the same period, including salaries and benefits.

In the 2024-2026 planning period RPRA expects to focus on stabilizing its operations and refining how it delivers its core mandated activities: compliance programs for producer responsibility, support for all registrants in using the registries, and publishing public reports on resource recovery, compliance, and waste-related information. For the first time since 2016, RPRA assumes no new programs will be developed or implemented during the planning period.

The 2024 business plan shows an overall 4% increase in the 2024 budget over the 2023 budget, in line with what was forecasted when the 2023 business plan was published in fall 2022. Fees for three programs that are part of this consultation will increase by a greater percentage than the overall budget increase:

- Blue Box: The Blue Box program budget is increasing substantially for 2024 because additional resources, like program-specific staff, are being allocated to support the program as it fully transitions through 2026. Additionally, the Blue Box program is allocated a higher portion of shared costs, due to a higher proportion of Blue Box registrants in 2024 compared to other producer responsibility programs, and a greater portion of the budget being allocated based on registrants. Additional investments in the Blue Box program may be needed as the program continues toward full implementation.
- Lighting: The overall Lighting program budget for 2024 is decreasing by 28% compared to 2023. Lighting's share of RPRA's total budget has gone down from 6% in 2022 to 3.5% in 2024. However, deficits from previous years and lower than forecasted tonnage reported in 2023 are resulting in an increase in the per-kilogram fee rate for 2024.

Lighting is a stand-alone producer responsibility program with separate regulatory and procedural requirements and a separate Registry portal from other materials covered in the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulation. The costs for the Lighting program are driven in substantial part by Lighting's share of total registrants. Because Lighting has the fewest registrants, its program receives the smallest allocation among all of the producer responsibility programs. However, as a stand-alone program, the Lighting budget must also support direct and fixed program costs, including amortization related to the Lighting Registry portal.

RPRA proposed recovering 50% of the Lighting Program deficit in 2024 and 50% in 2025, thereby dampening the fee rate increase for 2024, but increasing the overall deficit due to interest costs. Stakeholders did not support this proposal.

- HWP: The HWP budget is increasing 12% for 2024 because of additional direct costs for call support and IT, and an increase in the share cost allocation to reflect the resources needed to support the program on an ongoing basis.

2023 is the first year that RPRA has been running the new registry, which includes a new system for reporting facilities and waste, a new electronic manifesting system, a mobile app, and an integrated API for high-volume users. Learning during the first year of operation has shown us that additional resources are needed to provide the level of service registrants expect. To help dampen the resulting budget increase, deficit recovery for operational build costs has been extended over four years, instead of three. Additionally, although the manifest and tonnage fee rates are increasing, unlike under the old HWIN system, there is no annual registration fee for generators.

As operations stabilize, RPRA expects overall costs to continue the stabilizing trend seen in the 2024 budget. As RPRA gains data and multiple years' experience delivering programs, the number of unknowns affecting RPRA's ability to predict resource needs for outyears decreases.

RPRA will continue to strive for predictability in fee rates. However, some annual variability is unavoidable; for example, compliance costs cannot always be accurately predicted on a program-by-program basis, and outside factors such as inflation can affect RPRA's costs due to the amortization of registry builds and RRCEA program start-up expenses. RPRA operates solely on a cost-recovery basis by charging fees to registrants. RPRA must recover sufficient revenues to keep programs running during the year and there are no other options for funding increased costs other than through registrant fees.

RPRA's 2024 resource needs, and its approach to achieving cost efficiency and value for money are addressed in RPRA's 2024 Business Plan. During each business planning cycle, RPRA evaluates its ongoing resource needs and consults on those needs with its advisory councils. The 2024 Business Plan outlines in detail why RPRA's budget needed to increase in 2024. Cost containment is embedded in how RPRA operates, including through good governance, effective procurement and purchasing policies, and transparent business planning to minimize costs to fee payors while still delivering the services and operations required to support regulatory outcomes.

RPRA is committed to reporting on program outcomes by publishing [reports](#) on resource recovery and compliance activities on our website, and by tracking and reporting on a variety of key performance indicators and other performance measures in our [annual report](#). The key performance indicators in the business plan help determine whether RPRA is appropriately resourced. In 2024, as set out in the business plan, RPRA also intends to begin publishing customer service standards and tracking performance against those standards. This will be another tool to help understand whether current resource levels are sufficient.

All of the programs RPRA delivers are allocated a portion of the foundational registry costs, which are amortized over ten years. Once a program's portion has been fully recovered, it is no longer allocated foundational registry costs. New foundational registry costs continue to be added as investments are made to enhance useability and keep the registry functioning as

registrants expect. New foundational costs are allocated and recovered using the same methodology as the original foundational costs.

As discussed in previous fee consultation reports, RPRA seeks to align registry and compliance-related activities with the business practices of PROs and other registrants where possible to make procedures easier and more efficient (e.g., with respect to audit procedures). RPRA also seeks to work closely with PROs to help efficiently achieve compliance for their producer clients. However, PROs and RPRA have fundamentally different mandates and therefore different system requirements. RPRA regulates producers and service providers to ensure compliance. PROs are businesses operating in a competitive market that provide services to producers to help them meet their performance obligations. It is not practical or appropriate for RPRA to rely solely on PROs to deliver important communications regarding requirements and procedures, or to rely solely on PRO procedures when developing its own.

RPRA's compliance actions ensure that free riders pay fees owed to RPRA for the years they were out of compliance. In addition, annual program cost allocations are based in part on the total number of registrants RPRA expects are obligated to report annually. As a result, compliant producers should not end up absorbing more than their own share of costs. Fees in arrears paid by former free riders directed to the program budget and offset program deficits or add to program surpluses in future years.

RPRA is empowered under the RRCEA to issue administrative penalties. The penalty amount has two components: the base penalty amount according to the [regulation](#), and an economic benefit penalty amount. The economic benefit penalty amount is intended to help level the playing field by removing the economic benefit gained from breaking the law..

Fee model

RPRA acknowledges that the weight of obligated material a producer supplies into Ontario does not determine the degree of regulatory effort required to oversee a producer's compliance or deliver registry and regulatory support services to them. RPRA also acknowledges that weight-based fee rates place relatively more burden on producers supplying heavier materials in a program that includes producers of materials of different densities. However, weight-based variable fees support RPRA's fee-setting principles of simplicity and equity.

Weight-based fees protect small producers from undue burden. They can be applied consistently to material categories with multiple material types, including materials that do not have a common unit of measure (the diverse materials in the HSP and Blue Box programs, for example). Weight-based variable fees also align with all regulations that require supply to be reported in weight (except the Tires Regulation, which requires reporting in units and weight). Weight-based fees ensure that producers of the same products face the same costs per kilogram of material supplied, so that the fee has no competitive impact on the consumer markets producers operate in.

Instituting single flat or tiered flat fees would benefit large producers at the expense of small businesses. Assigning variable fees to producers based on weight of supply is aligned with the objectives of the government's producer responsibility regulatory framework to hold producers individually accountable and financially responsible for the products and packaging they supply into the market. A flat fee below a certain supply volume or annual revenue ensures all producers pay a minimum amount. Tiered flat fees could introduce competitive effects and potentially lead to inequitable results, as costs per kilogram would be different for each producer. In other words, per-product costs for larger producers would be smaller than per-product costs for smaller producers.

As all current producer responsibility programs stabilize over the 2024-2026 planning period, RPRA plans to again review the cost allocation methodology and fee model and investigate whether alternative approaches could result in more efficient or predictable fees, or better align with RPRA's fee-setting principles.

Comments on the HWP payment system were provided to the HWP Registry team for consideration.

Consultation:

RPRA is committed to transparent and open communication about our business plan and budget development process, our Cost Allocation Methodology, and our fee-setting process. We aim to provide detailed information to all interested parties to enable them to participate in our fee consultations. We also aim to provide sufficient information to our advisory councils to enable them to participate in our business planning process.

RPRA consulted on its 2024 Business Plan throughout the summer with the advisory councils, which included showing a detailed and close-to-final draft of the 2024 budget with the councils in August, along with preliminary fee information. Our 2024 fee proposal, posted on September 26 to our website and sent to producers and other stakeholders via email communications, contained final budget and allocation information, along with an overview of the Cost Allocation Methodology and RPRA's fee model, and proposed fee rates. Our October newsletter included a call out for participation in the fee consultation, with directions to check our website for information. The full business plan was published on October 19.

RPRA coordinates the timing of the publication of its annual business plan with the ministry. As a best practice, RPRA will continue to try to post the business plan at or closer to the beginning of the fee consultation period.

This year, in order to continue to improve transparency and communication, RPRA made the following information available to all stakeholders:

- additional detailed budget breakdowns for each program
- detailed year-over-year changes to budgets for each program
- detailed breakdowns of proposed fee rate increases

Stakeholders who reached out to RPRA during the consultation with specific questions about the fee proposal have all been responded to.

Appendix C: Questions and answers

Below are the questions received during the consultation webinars and RPRA's responses. Questions have been organized by topic, and questions not relevant to this consultation have been excluded. Some questions were edited for length and clarity.

- [Producer responsibility program fee model and rates](#)
- [Proposed fees for the Hazardous Waste Program Registry](#)

Producer responsibility program fee model and rates

Question	Response
How are free riders addressed with fee-setting?	Free riders (non-compliant producers) that are brought into compliance by RPRA are required to pay their outstanding fees. RPRA's annual fee rates are set based in part on the number of producers expected to report and the amount of obligated material expected to be reported through the registry. This estimate corresponds to the total material estimated to be obligated under the regulation.
Can you please provide more information on the decrease in registrants?	The decrease in predicted registrants in the Lighting Program is due to a better understanding of the size of the regulated producer community. There was no legacy producer responsibility program for lighting in Ontario prior to the EEE Regulation passing, and as a result RPRA had little information to help predict the number of registrants and weight of obligated material that would be reported in the first year of the program's operation. RPRA's estimate for 2023 was higher than what was reported, and it has been revised down for 2024. The resources allocated to the lighting program have been reduced compared to the 2023 budget as a result of the lower number of registrants. RPRA has also revised its estimate of the number of obligated registrants in the ITT/AV and Batteries programs based on the number of registrants over the past three years.
Will RPRA be providing information about the amendment to the Tires regulation and its effect on producers?	RPRA sent an email to all Tires registrants regarding potential effects of the amendment on their obligations under the Tires regulation. Information can also be found on RPRA's website .
Are the batteries fees in addition to what a producer responsibility organization (PRO) receives for each battery sale? Or are the PRO fees inclusive of RPRA's fees?	For information about how a PRO determines its fees to producers of batteries, and what is covered by that fee, please contact the PRO.
What oversight is there on fees charged by RPRA?	RPRA's proposed fees are determined by RPRA's annual business plan and budget , which is approved each year by RPRA's Board of Directors . Five directors are appointed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and six directors are elected. The board must also approve both the fee proposal and the final fee models and rates. RPRA management reports to the board on what

	<p>was heard during the consultation on fee models and rates, and how it was considered.</p> <p>RPRAs annual report includes audited financial statements and a summary of how the organization performed relative to our performance measures and indicators.</p> <p>RPRAs also reports on resource recovery performance by program, including supply and recovery metrics, and publishes information about its compliance activities on its website.</p>
<p>What strategies is RPRAs executing to increase the number of registrants in a program? For example, will penalties be considered for producers that have not registered?</p>	<p>RPRAs compliance team employs a number of strategies to help ensure that producers who are required to report to RPRAs and pay fees are fulfilling their obligations. RPRAs can issue compliance orders and administrative penalties to non-compliant entities.</p> <p>RPRAs publishes information about our compliance activities on our website, and updates this information annually. All compliance orders and administrative penalties that RPRAs issues are also published on our website.</p> <p>Non-compliant producers that are brought into compliance by RPRAs are required to pay their outstanding fees.</p>
<p>What is an example of a non-registry amortization cost?</p>	<p>Some equipment, such as laptops, are amortized, but the majority of amortized costs are for the development and construction of the registry systems.</p>
<p>With improved efficiency, will RPRAs overall costs be reduced in 2024?</p>	<p>RPRAs budget has grown annually while RPRAs has built the registry system and implemented new programs. Our budget for 2024 grew 4% compared to our budget in 2023, primarily to finance front line staff and IT support to ensure we provide effective compliance and registry services. If the government does not direct RPRAs to implement any new programs over the next three years, RPRAs expects budget increases to remain relatively stable in 2025 and 2026. More information can be found in RPRAs business plan.</p>
<p>Is the operating reserve replenished during the year if funds are removed to manage cash flow?</p>	<p>Yes. The reserve is replenished during the year if funds are removed. More information can be found in RPRAs business plan.</p>
<p>Is RPRAs considering any changes to the 2024 fee models (as was done in 2023 for HSP)?</p>	<p>No. RPRAs is not proposing to change the fee models for any of our programs in 2024.</p>
<p>Does RPRAs have variable or fixed-rate loans?</p>	<p>RPRAs has a mix of variable and fixed interest rates applicable to RPRAs lines of credit and loans. The business plan contains the status and details of RPRAs debt financing in 2024.</p>

Proposed fees for the Hazardous Waste Program Registry

Question	Response
<p>Inflation is at 4% and RPRAs is increasing fees by 19%. Is this</p>	<p>The fee increase for the HWP Registry Program is required to support effective program delivery. RPRAs</p>

<p>because there are too many customers to the registry?</p>	<p>recognizes that inflation is driving costs higher for everyone. Over the first year of HWP Registry operation (during which the registry received over 300,000 manifests), RPRA learned what resources are required to ensure effective service delivery to registrants.</p>
<p>Is there a plan to drop the rates after 4 years of recovering the costs to build the system?</p>	<p>RPRA hopes to stabilize fees as it gains experience in delivering the HWP Registry Program at the standard required.</p>
<p>Can you be more transparent about some of your costs, like the number of employees you are paying? How do the registry development costs break down?</p>	<p>The business plan contains detailed information about RPRA's costs and where the money in the 2024 budget is allocated, including for salaries and benefits, and the amortization of registry build costs.</p>