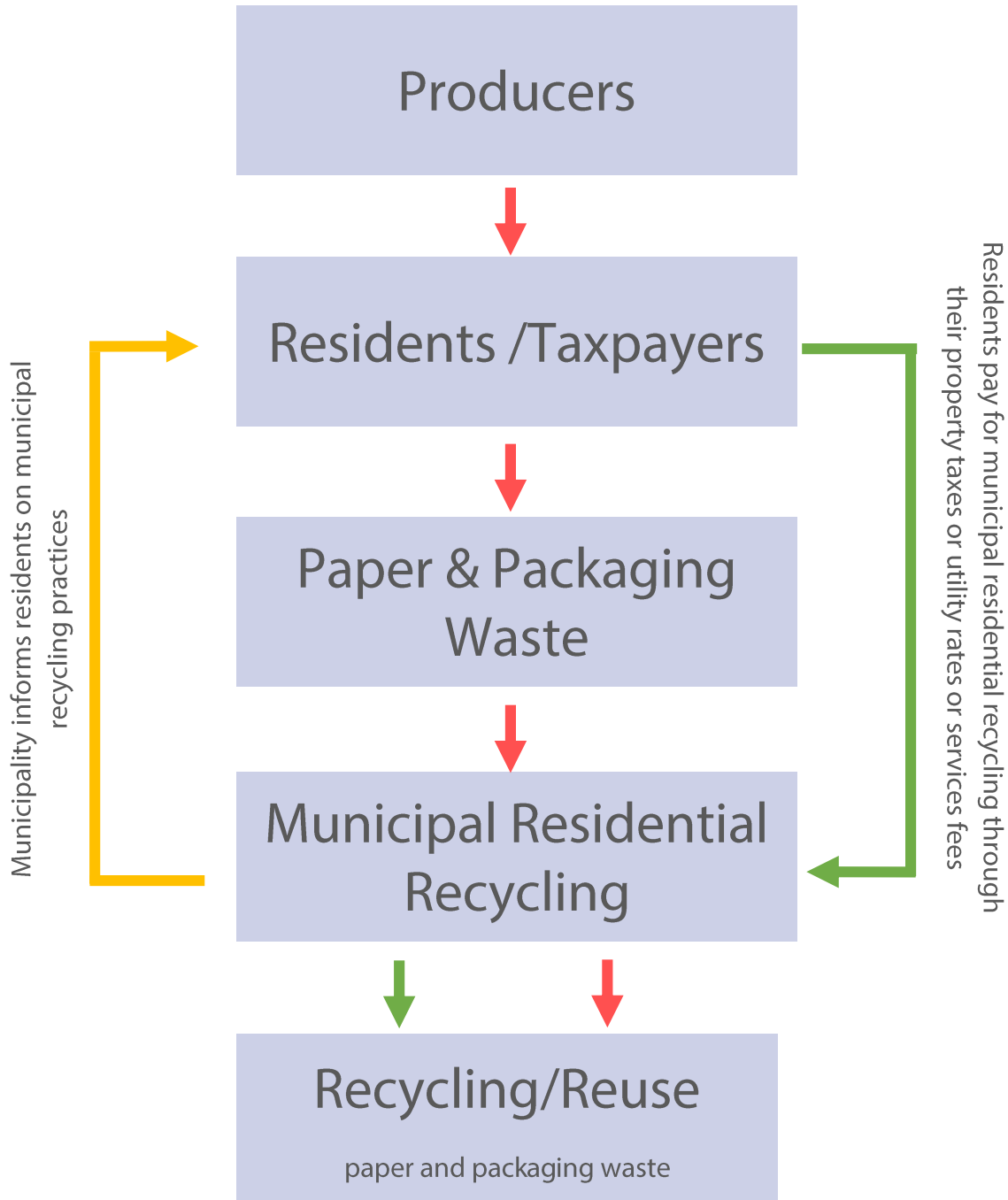


# STATUS QUO

## Current Alberta Paper & Packaging Recycling Model



Funding Flow



Information Flow



Material Flow



# Status Quo for Paper & Packaging

## Current Alberta Paper & Packaging Recycling Model

In 2009, the Alberta government made a commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) to work toward implementing EPR for a wide variety of products, including paper and packaging as a priority target. To date, Alberta has not implemented a legislated **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** program for packaging and paper, while all other provinces have implemented, or are in the process of implementing a form of EPR regulation. Despite a province-wide consultation on EPR in 2013 by Alberta Environment and Parks that showed support from municipalities, and other stakeholders, no further action has since been taken.

Under the current system in Alberta, producers of packaging and paper are not responsible for their products at end-of-life. Products sold to consumers are managed through local municipal waste management programs.

Recycling programs and the associated costs and risks of collecting, processing, and marketing these materials is currently the responsibility of Alberta municipalities. Although municipalities sell collected commodities and recoup limited funds, the collection and operation of recycling programs are entirely funded by municipal taxpayer dollars.

Risks and liabilities associated with the volatile recycling commodity market (for example the current restrictions due to policy changes overseas) are entirely carried by municipalities and the taxpayer. The lack of a province-wide EPR framework and regulation requiring producers to take responsibility for managing paper and packaging at end-of-life prevents Alberta municipalities from enjoying the benefits of EPR, including opportunities for financial savings and reducing the burden on the environment.

EPR offers the opportunity to shift both the financial and operational responsibility for managing paper and packaging materials at end-of-life upstream to producers. This incentivizes producers to reduce waste associated with their products and packaging, and to create products that are readily reusable or recyclable. Provincial EPR programs could offer many benefits to Alberta's environment and economy, and can significantly reduce waste management and recycling costs of municipalities. Under EPR, producer responsibility organizations are responsible to the provincial government to meet recycling targets across the province, increasing the recovery of valuable resources.