

Waste Recycling

Why it matters

One way to reduce pressure on the environment and sustain scarce resources is to divert waste before it gets to landfills. Much of what we describe as trash or waste is a valuable resource. Less waste means better landfill management and less pressure on natural resources. It also means lower carbon emissions. Recycling is an indicator of public commitment to share in the responsibility for environmental stewardship.



Wondering where to recycle or safely dispose of waste in Saskatchewan? Visit the Sask Waste Reduction Council online

What is happening

In 2015 - 2016, Saskatchewan people [recycled](#) 86 per cent of all deposit-paid, ready-to-serve beverage containers sold in the province. This makes Saskatchewan the province with the highest return rate of all beverage container programs in Canada.

In 2015, the [Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program](#) collected 422,941 litres of waste paint. This includes more than 80,000 litres of paint collected and reused through the program's paint exchange initiative. Saskatchewan is the leader in paint exchange across Canada.

Saskatchewan had the first industry-led [electronics recycling](#) stewardship program in North America. In 2015, more than 2,700 metric tonnes of end-of-life electronics were collected. The program also surpassed the milestone of diverting 25,000 metric tonnes of end-of-life-electronics from landfills since the program's inception in 2007.

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In January 2016, Saskatchewan launched the [Multi-Material Recycling Program](#) (MMRP) in accordance with *The Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Regulations*. MMRP is a cost-sharing program between businesses and municipalities to help pay for the collection and recycling of household packaging and paper materials. Saskatchewan's MMRP has been operational for just over one year, and now includes 487 municipalities, representing 86 per cent of the population.

In 2015, more than 860,000 tires were collected through the province-wide [tire recycling program](#). Since the program began in 1998, more than 20 million tires have been diverted from landfill disposal, and more than 300 landfill tire stockpile sites have been cleaned up.

In 2015, the [used oil recycling program](#) collected and recycled over 19 million litres of used oil, for an annual recycling rate of 69 per cent. Over two million filters were collected, for a 78 per cent recycling rate.

What we are doing

In July 2016, the Saskatchewan government proclaimed *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations*, setting the backdrop for the development of a new grain bag recycling program. Until then the successful grain bag pilot program, operated through [Simply Agricultural Solutions Inc.](#) and funded through the Ministry of Agriculture, will continue. The pilot program recycled 4,923 bags in 2015.

As the economy grows, [reducing the amount of waste](#) going to local landfills will improve our environment and maintain our quality of life. In 2015, 19,120,254 litres of waste liquid and 44,817 tonnes of solid waste were diverted from landfills. Some of this material can be turned into recycled products, which will create new business and employment opportunities.

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