

SASKATCHEWAN

Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (SARRC) and Cleanfarms join forces

THERE was a time when used oil was spread on gravel roads to keep down dust and garbage was burnt or dumped in the “back-forty”.

While those days are almost non-existent, Canadians still produce more garbage per capita than any other country. Saskatchewan has the second highest waste disposal rate in Canada at 897 kilograms per person and the lowest rate of waste diversion from landfills at 13 percent. Much of this waste can be

diverted reducing potential environmental contamination and the accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in our atmosphere.

With landfill costs escalating across the province, especially in rural areas with low population and large haul distances, effective waste diversion through reduction, reuse and recycling becomes an important piece of community waste management. In some cases, manufacturers or producers provide programs for

the proper disposal of the products they put into the market at the end of their useful life. This model, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), forms the foundation of many product stewardship organizations in the province. The EPR model is strongly tied to the circular economy, where products are reused and remanufactured into new products.

Two organizations that work closely with RMs and the farming community are the Saskatchewan Association for

“ This purpose-built EcoCentre contains a 4500 litre tank for used oil and storage space for used filters, plastic containers (oil/antifreeze/DEF and antifreeze) ”



“ Grain bags destined for recycling markets. ”



Resource Recovery Corp (SARRC), who manages recycling of used oil, filters, antifreeze and plastic oil, antifreeze and diesel exhaust fluid containers, and Cleanfarms, who manages agricultural plastics and products including grain bags, empty pesticide and fertilizer containers and unwanted pesticides and old animal health medications.

Proper disposal of these products can be challenging. This is where SARRC and Cleanfarms can help. Both organizations share common goals: to protect the environment and farmland, promote proper end of life management for their products, and contribute to the circular economy. Each has a different approach and a unique collection system.

SARRC has established a network of 36 purpose-built EcoCentres in major

communities plus an additional 150 volunteer drop-off points province-wide providing free public drop off of small quantities of materials. For larger volumes, registered collectors will come to your business or farm for pick-up.

All materials recovered are reused and contribute to the circular economy. Used oil is reprocessed into re-refined lubricating oil, industrial burner fuel and other products. Used oil filters are crushed to retrieve the oil and then processed into structural metal shapes for the manufacturing of industrial and agricultural products. Used antifreeze is reprocessed back into reusable antifreeze.

Used plastic oil/antifreeze/DEF containers are almost entirely made of high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic which, once washed and pelleted is re-

sold and used to manufacture industrial posts, railroad ties, plastic pipe and new containers. All SARRC program plastics are recycled in Canada. Plastic 20-litre pails can also be cleaned and re-used by farmers for a variety of applications.

Since 1996, over 361 million litres of used oil, 38 million used oil filters, 6.6 million kilograms of plastic (oil/antifreeze/DEF) and 1.1 million litres of antifreeze have been recovered, recycled and reused. None has gone to landfills.

Cleanfarms has recently started partnering with municipalities, and other interested parties, to make grain bag recycling accessible to farmers. With more than 30 collection sites available across the province, and strong support from farmers, this program is making tangible progress. In 2018 alone, approximately 1,200 tonnes of these single-use bags (approximately 9,000) were recycled into items like garbage bags, primarily in North America.

Cleanfarms also works with the Saskatchewan's ag-retailers (about 400) to help farmers manage their empty pesticide and fertilizer containers. After drop off, Cleanfarms arranges for the transportation and processing of all single use empty pesticide containers (all sizes) and small (23 L and under) fertilizer containers. The plastic from these containers is used in the production of new products such as drainage tile, all within North America.

Cleanfarms' goal is to ensure that all of the plastic collected is recycled. This requires careful preparation on the farm. Containers need to be fully drained and triple rinsed. Grain bags must be free from water and debris, tightly rolled and secured with twine.

Many other opportunities exist in Saskatchewan to help divert waste, including stewardship and recycling programs for electronics, tires, paint, beverage containers.

Our province is a beautiful place in which to live. SARM and its members are one key to the success of the SARRC and Cleanfarms programs. Working together, we can strengthen the provincial recycling networks in practical and innovative ways to keep Saskatchewan's environment healthy.

Please visit www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com, and www.cleanfarms.ca for more information.