

Extended producer responsibility: a Saskatchewan recycling success

Recycle Saskatchewan is a group of stewardship organizations working with all levels of government and other stakeholders to support and enhance product stewardship and extended producer responsibility in Saskatchewan. Recycle Saskatchewan members undertake joint initiatives and provide input and guidance regarding waste diversion opportunities.

IN SASKATCHEWAN, the diversion from landfill and recycling of many end-of-life products is based on a legislated extended producer responsibility (EPR) model. EPR requires the manufacturer or producer to provide a program to support the proper disposal of the products they put into the market at the end of their useful life.

The province has a number of successful EPR programs to manage agricultural plastics, electronics, household packaging and printed paper, paint, oil and antifreeze materials, and tires. The Ministry of Environment also maintains a contract with SARCAN to operate the beverage container recycling program.

Current Regulated Products in Saskatchewan

Agricultural Packaging – Cleanfarms has operated a voluntary empty pesticide and fertilizer container program since 1989. In 2018, they began operating Saskatchewan's regulated grain bag recycling program. Visit www.cleanfarms.ca.

Beverage Containers – All beverage containers can be taken to any SARCAN Recycling depot for a deposit refund. Visit www.sarcana.ca.

Electronics – Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) ensures end-of-life electronics are responsibly recycled. Select electronics can be dropped off at any Recycle My Electronics locations (including SARCAN Recycling depots) or special community events throughout the province. Visit www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk/.

Household Paper and Packaging – Multi-Material Stewardship Western Inc. (MMSW) provides payment to local governments and regional waste authorities to use towards funding curbside or depot recycling programs. The MMSW program is funded entirely by businesses that put waste paper and packaging into the marketplace and does not have any associated consumer fees or deposits. Visit www.mmsk.ca.

Paint – Product Care Association of Canada manages the province's paint recycling program. Unwanted household paint, stain, varnish and empty paint cans can be dropped off at any SARCAN Recycling depot in the province as well as select paint retailers across Saskatchewan. Visit www.productcare.org/products/paint/saskatchewan/.

Oil and Antifreeze Materials – SARRC manages the recycling of oil, oil filters, antifreeze, diesel exhaust fluids (DEF) and the containers they are sold in. Visit www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com.

Tires – Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan delivers the province-wide tire recycling program. The program has a network of return to retail locations. Visit www.tssk.ca.

None of these programs are funded through government or supported by taxes. Money collected through environment

handling charges or fees (EHC/EHF) typically at point of purchase, whether visible to the consumer or not, is used to deliver most of the programs. The MMSW program is funded entirely by businesses, not EHC/EHF monies.

Materials Diverted from Saskatchewan Landfills (2015-2019)

- **Agricultural Packaging** – approximately **3.5 million kilograms** of pesticide and fertilizer containers; over **3,500 tonnes** of grain bags (grain bag program began in 2018)
- **Beverage Containers** – over **2.1 billion** containers
- **Electronics** – over **12,000 tonnes**
- **Household Packaging and Paper** – over **162,000 tonnes** (program began in 2016)
- **Paint** – over **2.5 million litres** of household paint and **462 tonnes** of paint cans and pails
- **Oil and Antifreeze Materials** – over **92 million litres** of oil, over **1.2 million litres** of antifreeze, and over **8,600 tonnes** of oil filters and plastic containers for oil/antifreeze
- **Tires** – over **104,000 tonnes** of tires

EPR Successes

EPR is an effective environmental and waste management approach in many jurisdictions, including Saskatchewan. A significant volume of products and materials that formerly would have been disposed of in landfills are now recovered and recycled through the seven province-wide programs.

EPR: The Benefits and Opportunities for Municipalities

The goal of EPR is to make sure that products are responsibly managed. In addition to the environmental benefits, there are also direct benefits for local governments. Municipalities can partner with Recycle Saskatchewan members to provide diversion options for their residents. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you about how we can support your diversion initiatives.

By working together, we can continue to divert and re-use the valuable resources contained in many of the products covered under EPR programs. Connect with Recycle Saskatchewan by email at info@recyclesaskatchewan.ca or visit our website at www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca for more details.