

# INFRASTRUCTURE



## EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY: A Saskatchewan Recycling Success Story

Recycle Saskatchewan

In Saskatchewan, the diversion from landfill and recycling of several hard-to-manage wastes is based on the extended producer responsibility (EPR) model. EPR requires the manufacturer or producer to provide a program for the proper disposal of the products it puts into the market at the end of their useful life.

Saskatchewan has a number of successful EPR programs to recycle agricultural plastics, electronics, household packaging and printed paper, paint, oil and antifreeze materials, and scrap 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 is best known for its recycling of empty commercial pesticide and fertilizer containers, which has been available since 1989. Starting in 2018, Cleanfarms began managing Saskatchewan's grain bag recycling program. Visit [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca).

**Beverage Containers:** Non-refillable, ready-to-serve beverage containers can be taken to any SARCAN Recycling depot for a deposit refund.

These containers include aluminum/tin cans, plastic bottles/jugs, glass bottles, cartons, and juice boxes. Visit [www.sarcan.ca](http://www.sarcan.ca).

**Electronics:** Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) ensures end-of-life electronics are responsibly recycled. Old electronics, such as home theatre systems, computers, or televisions, 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](http://www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk).



**Household Paper and Packaging:** Multi-Material Stewardship Western, Inc. (MMSW) partners with Saskatchewan municipalities to operate the printed paper and packaging stewardship program, commonly known as blue box programs. MMSW provides payment to local governments and regional waste authorities to use towards funding recycling programs. Visit [www.mmsw.ca](http://www.mmsw.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



*Now Offering  
Transportation Services*

**CATTERALL & WRIGHT  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Asset Management | Landfill & Solid Waste | Infrastructure Studies  
Field Services & UAV Surveying | Land Development | Transportation  
Water & Wastewater Systems | Drainage & Storm Water Management

Tel: (306) 343-7280 | Saskatoon, SK | [www.cwce.ca](http://www.cwce.ca)



# INFRASTRUCTURE

## RECYCLE SASKATCHEWAN

Recycle Saskatchewan is a coalition of these organizations who work with all levels of government to support extended producer responsibility and product stewardship in Saskatchewan.

Recycle Saskatchewan members undertake joint initiatives and provide input and guidance regarding waste diversion opportunities.

For more information visit [www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca](http://www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca).

## EPR SUCCESSES

EPR is a very effective environmental and waste management approach in 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.



Recycling depot in the province, as well as select paint retailers across Saskatchewan. Visit [www.productcare.org/products/paint/saskatchewan](http://www.productcare.org/products/paint/saskatchewan).

### Oil and Antifreeze Materials:

Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (SARRC) manages the recycling of used oil, oil filters, antifreeze, and plastic containers for oil/antifreeze/diesel exhaust fluids (DEF). Visit [www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com](http://www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com).

**Scrap Tires:** Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan delivers the province-wide tire recycling program. The program diverts millions of used tires from the waste stream, recycling them into useful items such as speed bumps, vehicle ramps, tree rings, mulch mats, and running tracks. Visit [www.tssk.ca](http://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 the programs.

The EPR model continues to expand in our province. Some achievements over the past five years include:

**2014:** SARRC added antifreeze, antifreeze containers, and DEF containers.

**2016:** Saskatchewan's Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) was launched. Materials include printed paper, newsprint, cardboard, plastic, metal, and glass packaging.

**2017:** Milk containers were added to the SARCAN program.

**2018:** Saskatchewan became the first Canadian province to use EPR to regulate agricultural plastics, with an initial focus on grain bags through the new Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program (APRP). The program is managed by Cleanfarms.

**2018:** The list of electronics accepted for recycling was expanded.

### Challenges

EPR is a model that is working for Saskatchewan, but there are challenges. Recycling programs share a common challenge in making sure the public is aware and has access to their programs. To address this challenge, Recycle Saskatchewan members are open to working with municipalities to increase access, which, in turn, increases awareness.

### Materials Diverted from Saskatchewan Landfills from 2013-17

(Source: Recycle Saskatchewan)

<b>Agricultural Packaging:</b>	More than 4 million kilograms of pesticides, livestock/equine medications, and containers.
<b>Beverage Containers:</b>	More than 2 billion containers.
<b>Electronics:</b>	More than 14,000 tonnes.
<b>Household Packaging and Paper:</b>	More than 77,000 tonnes (from program operation start in 2016).
<b>Paint:</b>	More than 1.6 million litres of household paint and over 512 tonnes of paint cans and pails.
<b>Oil and Antifreeze Materials:</b>	More than 93 million litres of used oil, over 870,000 litres of used antifreeze, and over 9,000 tonnes of oil filters and plastic containers for oil/antifreeze.
<b>Tires:</b>	Over 99,000 tonnes of scrap tires.

Another challenge for all residents of Saskatchewan is changing world market conditions, such as China's ban on importing plastic waste. Prior to 2018, a great deal of plastic materials collected in blue bins was shipped to China to be processed, recycled, and remanufactured into new products. China officially no longer allows the import of 24 types of solid waste, including scrap plastics. We now have to find new partners and build new supply chains to preserve the value of these materials. Recycle Saskatchewan's member programs are set up to ensure that collection occurs in various market conditions and most programs can change environmental handling charges/fees or return incentives to react to world conditions.

Recycling programs are also faced with changing products and consumer patterns such as new packaging for existing regulated products, new products coming to market, or a shift to mail order delivery for products. This is another area where members of Recycle Saskatchewan have the capability to respond to changes in regulation which expand the number of products that are accepted for recycling. Through Recycle Saskatchewan members and its associated global network, we monitor ongoing trends and have the ability to react to changes through industry consultation and are able to advise governments accordingly.

### EPR: The Benefit and Opportunities for Municipalities

The goal is to make sure that products get recycled and stay out of landfills. In addition to the environmental benefits, there are also direct benefits for local governments. EPR helps local governments reduce landfill costs by diverting waste from landfills and potentially providing sustainable jobs.

Municipalities can partner (and many already do) with any or all of the Recycle Saskatchewan members to provide diversion options for their residents. In fact, we welcome the opportunity to hear from you about how we can support your diversion initiatives. As the province implements new programs or expands existing ones, we can help guide you on the implementation in your community.

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](mailto:info@recyclesaskatchewan.ca) or visit [www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca](http://www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca) for more information. ■



**The goal is to make sure that products get recycled and stay out of landfills.**

**Ketek is a leading provider of rental equipment and water management services in Western Canada. We're proud to introduce BBA Pumps to Saskatchewan**



Toll Free: 1-855-447-5050  
Tel: 306-242-3500  
[info@ketek.ca](mailto:info@ketek.ca)  
[ketek.ca](http://ketek.ca)

Water transfers and groundwater control

Pump supply and maintenance

Well testing and monitoring

Rental of generators, pumps, light towers & more

**Municipal Services:**

- Mechanical upgrades
- Maintenance
- Electrical SCADA systems

Edmonton • Calgary • Saskatoon • Fort McMurray • Grande Prairie • Fort Nelson • Fort St. John