

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY:

A Saskatchewan Recycling Success Story

Recycle Saskatchewan

n 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.

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.

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 SARCAI

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)
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.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





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.

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.

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.

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.

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 <u>Diverted</u> from Saskatchewan Landfills from 2013-17 (Source: <i>Recycle Saskatchewan</i>)	
Agricultural Packaging:	More than 4 million kilograms of pesticides, livestock/equine medications, and containers.
Beverage Containers:	More than 2 billion containers.
Electronics:	More than 14,000 tonnes.
Household Packaging and Paper:	More than 77,000 tonnes (from program operation start in 2016).
Paint:	More than 1.6 million litres of household paint and over 512 tonnes of paint cans and pails.
Oil and Antifreeze Materials:	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.
Tires:	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.

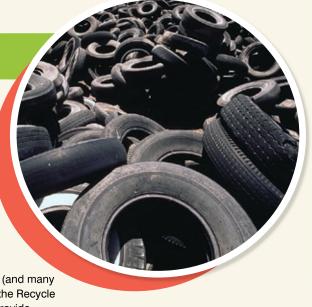
Recycling programs are also faced with changing products and consumer patterns such as new packaging for existing regulated products, new products coming to market, or a shift to mail order delivery for products. This is another area where members of Recycle Saskatchewan have the capability to respond 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 or visit www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca for more information.



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