

Recycle

Less energy is required to manufacture goods from recycled materials than from virgin material

Definition

Recycling: Diverting products from disposal at the end of their useful lives, sorting, transporting and processing them to produce secondary sources of materials that are subsequently used in the production of new goods.

Composting is considered to be a form of recycling and is defined as is a biological process that breaks down kitchen, lawn, and garden wastes into soil-like material called humus.

Why Recycle?

Municipalities throughout the province have longstanding recycling programs and more recently some have begun composting programs in recognition that up to 52 percent of household waste is organic matter which can be composted.

The benefits to recycling are well researched and documented:

- Producing aluminum from scrap instead of bauxite cuts energy use and air pollution by 95 per cent. (City of Edmonton, 2011)
- Making paper from discards instead of trees not only saves forests, it reduces the energy used by up to three quarters and requires less than half as much water. (City of Edmonton, 2011)
- Recycling newspaper emits less than a third of the greenhouse gas emission emitted by using virgin materials, and recycling cardboard uses half. (Recycling Council of Alberta, 2010)
- Recycling 14,000 tonnes of waste creates nine jobs and composting it creates seven jobs, but landfilling it creates just one job. (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2009)
- Composting produces a rich soil supplement which improves plant growth.
- Revenue can be generated from selling compost to the community. (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2009)

However, there are also a great deal of costs associated with running recycling and composting programs including expenditures relating to man-power, facilities, and outreach and promotion. The exact costs depend on the system chosen. For example, do citizens take items to depots or does the municipality provide curb-side pick-up?

Recycled Material Markets and Producer Programs

One of the biggest challenges associated with financing recycling programs is the fluctuations experienced in the market for recycled material. Prices are often well below the rate for cost recovery.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) and product stewardship (PS) programs are perhaps the most promising solution as they shift the burden of managing products at the end-of-life from municipalities to producers and consumers of those products.

The Government of Canada explains, an EPR program specifically identifies end-of-life management as the responsibility of producers (e.g., brand owners, manufacturers or first importers), whereas a “product stewardship” program allocates responsibility to each of the stakeholders involved in the life-cycle of a product (e.g., consumer, provincial and municipal government, industry). (Government of Canada, 2010)

The [Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment \(CCME\)](#), through the [Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR](#), supports the move towards greater producer responsibility. Under the Action Plan, the first priority is to deal with packaging and the CCME is establishing an industry-government working group to develop a Canada-wide approach to minimize packaging. Click [here](#) for more information.

In the meantime, Alberta is ahead of the curve with [five well established regulated stewardship programs](#) dealing with used tires, electronics, beverage containers, used oil and paint. May municipalities provide collection sites and/or organize roundups for these programs. For more details, see information the Alberta Recycling Management Authority, Beverage Container Management Board and the Alberta Used Oil Management Association below.

Examples and Resources

Municipality	Initiative
Provincial	
Bow Valley Waste Management Commission (BVWMC)	<p>In The Landfill And Out In The Community</p> <p>The BVWMC has set a long term goal of Zero Waste for its service area including its member municipalities of the Town of Banff, Town of Canmore and Municipal District of Bighorn. The Commission is achieving over 70% diversion of Class III waste materials from landfill disposal while increasing its capacity to process these materials into useful products.</p> <p>The BVWMC also helps special event managers to plan and execute Toward Zero Waste Special Events. The Commission supplies planning tools and offers to attend events with their own staff, Toward Zero Waste Resource Recovery Stations, Banners, Flags, Zero Waste Ambassador ID vests. Since 2008, 94 special events have sent over 22 tonnes of recyclables to a better place for a 5 year average diversion from landfill rate of 80%. Many events are moving up the ladder beyond recycling toward “Reduce and Reuse” by finding creative ways to avoid unnecessary food ware at their events. Because this program is located in a popular tourism region the program demonstrates best practices to thousands of event-goers from Alberta, across Canada and the world.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
City of Calgary	<p>From Depots to Blue Carts</p> <p>From the early 1990’s to 2009, The City of Calgary operated a network of recycling depots. However, with the expansion of the types of material being accepted for recycling and the overwhelming use of the depot system, The City began collecting</p>

comingled recycling from single family homes in 2009. This system uses 240 litre “Blue Carts” and is collected by an automated collection truck. This change also allowed the city to expand the types of material accepted to include most plastics.

The city’s Blue Cart Promotion Campaign was recognized with the Recycling Council of Alberta’s 2009 [Public Communications/Education Award](#). Its success is also evident in the amount of material being recycled. Between July 2009 when the program started and July 2012, Calgarians recycled 200 million kg total materials, representing a 70% increase in recycling. This presents:

- 178 million kg of paper and cardboard
- 14 million kg of glass jars
- 7 million kg of plastic containers
- 4 million kg of food cans and foil

In the 2012 Citizen Satisfaction survey, 95 per cent of Calgarians said the blue cart was important and 90 per cent said they were satisfied with the service.

Looking forward the City’s goal is that By 2020, per capita waste sent to City of Calgary landfills is reduced from 2007 levels by 80 per cent.

Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Pilot

The City has established a Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Pilot at its Spyhill Landfill to provide a recycling option in the northwest for specific materials such as wood, drywall and cardboard from construction, demolition and renovation activities.

The City has already established a designated materials rate to encourage diversion of specific materials originating from construction, demolition and renovation activities which are recyclable and have established markets. The designated materials rate applies to commercial customers only. If a load contains a designated material, separate or mixed, the rate will apply. Designated materials include concrete, brick and masonry block, asphalt and asphalt shingles and metals.

Green Cart pilot project

The City initiated a green car food and yard waste pilot in March 2012. In the first three months, pilot communities have reduced their garbage by 40 percent compared to other communities without green cart service.

By the end of May 2012, City collectors have picked up 440,000 kg of food and yard material, enough to produce 17,000 bags of compost. All of this material is now at a facility near Strathmore, where it is being processed into compost, a useful product that can help enrich the soil in farms, parks and gardens.

The City has also produced a [video with how to tips](#) on backyard composting

Click [here](#) for more information

**City of
Edmonton**

Maximizing Diversion

The City has been a North American Leader in recycling. It offers a number of different

	<p>recycling programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Bag program for houses, duplexes and fourplexes • The Blue Bin program for apartments, condos and townhouses • Recycling Depots throughout the city for all residents and small businesses <p>Other recycling programs offered by the City of Edmonton include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate recycling • Construction and demolition recycling • Christmas tree recycling • E-waste recycling <p>In addition, Since 2000, the Edmonton Composting Facility at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre (EWMC) uses the city's household waste and biosolids (sewage sludge) as resources to create compost.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>City of Lethbridge</p>	<p>Environmental Deconstruction</p> <p>For the past three to four years, the City of Lethbridge has adopted deconstruction as a responsible means of building disposal. To date Facility Services has successfully diverted 7,178 tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) (or the equivalent volume of 53 average 2000 square foot houses) from entering local landfills, in turn resulting in only 886 tonnes (or the equivalent volume of only 6.5 houses) being landfilled.</p> <p>Deconstruction is the selective dismantlement of building components, specifically for reuse, recycling, and waste management. It differs from demolition where a site is cleared of its building by the fastest way.</p> <p>In Alberta it is estimated that currently only 10% of reusable construction materials are being recycled with the C & D sector making up approximately 22% of the total mass landfilled at Class II and Class III Alberta landfills. Alberta currently realizes a total C & D waste generation rate of 860,000 tonnes per year, which equates to the volume of approximately 6,300 average 2000 square foot homes being sent to Alberta landfills annually.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>City of Red Deer</p>	<p>Composting Pilot Program</p> <p>As of June 23, 2012, 256 Red Deer households have received all the tools and training they need to successfully compost at home. As part of a pilot project, they have committed to composting for one year, to tracking how much waste their households create and to reporting about their experiences.</p> <p>This pilot project is no longer accepting new participants, but the city is rewarding citizens who compost by providing kitchen catchers to those who take a short survey and or put sign on their lawn promoting composting. The city also provides links to resources on how compost on their website.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>City of St. Albert</p>	<p>Exceeding Waste Diversion Targets</p> <p>One of the goals of St. Albert's Environmental Master Plan was to reduce solid waste to</p>

	<p>125 kilograms per person per year and the amount of waste sent to landfills by 65 per cent by 2020. The City of St. Albert has already met and exceeded this target with its residential waste diversion of 65.9 per cent and waste generated per person per year at 114 kilograms. Click here to read Solid Waste Program One Year Review.</p> <p>Much of the credit goes to the introduction of an automated curbside solid waste program in 2011. The City also implemented a number of initiatives and improvements to help reduce waste sent to landfill. Residents can now bring certain household hazardous items such as paint, motor oil, as well as extra garbage and scrap metal to the recycling depot. The first Large Item Drop-off Event was held in October 2011 and helped nearly 450 people get rid of unwanted big household items. Another event is planned for July 2012. A complete A-Z Waste Wise list of proper options for disposing household items was recently developed and distributed to all households and is also available online</p> <p>Click here for more information</p> <p>New Leaf Composting Program Every year during October, the City of St. Albert provides additional service to residents by collecting fall leaves through the curbside waste collection program. However, due to the substantial cost involved, historically the leaves ended up in the landfill. In 2012 the leaves were taken to the Edmonton compost facility at no additional cost to residents. The City recorded a total of 143.4 metric tonnes, or 20 garbage trucks full of leaves diverted to composting over 6 weeks. This amount of material represents approximately 1.7 per cent of St. Albert’s total amount of landfill waste by weight for 2011.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo</p>	<p>Curbside Recycling Pilot Project Wood Buffalo’s curbside recycling pilot project has earned a Bronze Award of Excellence from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and a Gold Quill Award of Merit from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).</p> <p>Since 2005, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) has offered a residential Recycling Depot program. Several years ago, the Municipality established a goal of achieving 50 per cent waste diversion by the end of 2012. To help achieve the waste diversion goal and to support the Municipality’s vision of becoming a northern leader in sustainable communities, the RMWB decided to introduce curbside recycling.</p> <p>The Municipality undertook a three-month-long curbside recycling pilot project to ensure the program worked well before its community-wide implementation. The pilot project involved neighbourhoods with Friday curbside waste collection – two urban neighbourhoods and one community several miles outside the city.</p> <p>The pilot project tested operational matters and all marketing and communication materials to ensure residents had the information they needed to fully participate. Many residents in Wood Buffalo moved to the northern Alberta community from other</p>

	<p>parts of Canada. They bring different recycling experiences and expectations with them so the materials had to cover the basics of curbside recycling as it is designed specifically for Wood Buffalo. The marketing strategy used the well-established and very popular Wood Buffalo recycling mascot to keep continuity with the existing recycling initiatives and to ensure a friendly, customer service-based approach.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Strathcona County</p>	<p>Green Routine</p> <p>In June 2008, Strathcona County introduced a new waste collection service known as the Green Routine. This new service includes curbside pickup of recyclable materials, organics and waste. After one full year, Strathcona County diverted 65% of its residential waste from landfill. In the summer months, diversion increased upwards of 73% due to the increase in organic matter. After nearly one complete year of the program, the new waste collection services diverted 8,930 tonnes of organic materials, 5,550 tonnes of paper recyclables and 2,450 tonnes of container recyclables. From June 16, 2008 to May 31, 2009, only 9,300 tonnes of waste was sent to the landfill. This compares to the previous year when 18,372 tonnes were sent to landfill. In addition, a survey was conducted in May 2009, showing resident support over 95%.</p> <p>Strathcona’s success was honoured with a 2009 Municipal Program Award from the Recycling Council of Alberta</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Town of Beaumont</p>	<p>Recycling Roundup</p> <p>In June 2012, the Town of Beaumont held its first Recycling Roundup in the parking lot of the S&D Aqua-Fit Centre. The event, made possible through a partnership with Alberta Recycling, was a way for residents to recycle e-waste, paint and household hazardous waste.</p> <p>At the four hour event, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Beaumont residents recycled/disposed of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4500 kg of used electronics • 5100 kg of used paint • 450 kg of hazardous solids • 2200 L of hazardous liquids • Over 90 fluorescent and CFL light bulbs <p>Integrated Waste Diversion</p> <p>Since the introduction of the new integrated waste management system including automated waste carts on October 1, 2009 the amount of blue bag material Beaumont residents have diverted from landfill is estimated to have increased by over 39 per cent</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Town of Devon</p>	<p>Triple Stream</p> <p>Devon’s recycling program consists of three streams. Each stream is dealt with differently to keep contamination to a minimum:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Carts are for garbage only. If recyclable items are left in a cart, the cart may not be emptied. Waste is limited to what will fit into the cart with the lid closed. • Blue Bags are for dry recyclables only. If garbage or wet items are mixed in with recyclables, the bag may not be picked up. • Brown Paper Bags (optional service) are for grass clippings, leaves and small branches only. If gravel, rocks, garbage or food wastes are mixed in, the bag may not be picked up. Bags need to be strong bag and designed for yard waste that will stay together when picked up and full. Brown bags for yard waste are available at Devon retailers or at the Recycle Depot. <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Town of Olds</p>	<p>Increasing markets for recycled materials One of the outcomes of the Town’s Strategic Sustainability Plan was the creation of the Environmentally Sustainable Yards (ESY) Project. ESY is a partnership between the town and Olds College, and provides a demonstration site showcasing environmentally sustainable yards and landscaping made from recycled materials including construction waste and recycled tires.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p> <p>Curbside organics collection The Town of Olds collects organics from residential properties in a 240-litre green cart on a biweekly basis during the summer and on a monthly basis in the winter.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p> <p>Garden, grass and leaf depots The town operates 52 three-cubic-yard dumpsters throughout the community from May to October for residents to deposit garden, grass and leaf waste for composting. (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2009)</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Town of Vegreville</p>	<p>Residential Composting Program The Town of Vegreville has found a way to deliver cost-effective, residential composting services to its small community. The program will extend the life of the town's landfill without a costly commitment to developing and operating a municipal composting facility.</p> <p>The town has contracted with local company Growing Power Hairy Hill to generate electricity, distill ethanol, and produce nitrogen-rich soil from waste. The anaerobic digestion process uses a range of materials, including grain and feedlot waste, to create compost. This compost is used to produce green power that is fed into the provincial grid. Diverting compostable material from the town's landfill will extend the site's life and help reduce odours and organic compounds leaching into the soil.</p> <p>This project, along with the town's extensive recycling program, is helping to change</p>

	<p>residents' mindsets and encouraging them to be more conscious of the environment and aware of the impacts of their efforts.</p> <p>In 2012 the town received a FCM Sustainable Communities Award. Click here to watch a video describing the town's project.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
Village of Beiseker	<p>Recycling Society</p> <p>The Beiseker Recycling Society is a non-profit volunteer organization that offers a recycling service to the residents of Beiseker. For a \$10.00 refundable deposit, made at the Village Office, residents will receive a blue box to fill with recycling items. Residents place this box next to their garbage to be picked up on Friday mornings and it is replaced with an empty box. There is a \$2.50 charge per month for the recycling program which appears on each bi-monthly utility bill.</p> <p>The evolution of Beiseker's recycling program over the last 20 years is a featured case study on the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre Website</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
YOUR MUNICIPALITY HERE	<p>WE KNOW MANY MUNICIPALITIES HAVE EXCELLENT RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING PROGRAMS THAT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. IF YOURS IS ONE OF THEM, SEND THE INFORMATION TO RACHEL BOCOCK- rbocock@auma.ca</p>
National	
City of Regina	<p>Waste Plan Regina</p> <p>Waste Plan Regina started in the spring of 2008 to review garbage and recycling services in response to increased public interest to reduce waste and the City's unprecedented rate of growth.</p> <p>The City began a review of industry best practices and consulted stakeholder groups and the community. An extensive list of options was compiled and three service options were developed (Current Plus, Enhanced and Comprehensive). Further consultations on the three options revealed the majority of respondents preferred the enhanced option.</p> <p>The new plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converting shared back alley garbage containers to individual rollout cars in Spring 2013 • Universal curbside recycling for single-family Regina households later in 2013 • In 2015 Universal curbside recycling for multi-family Regina households; Seasonal yard material collection, such as grass, leaves, twigs; Permanent drop-off facility for household hazardous waste or dedicated collection days; Bulky item collection, such as appliances and furniture <p>The City is also increasing its blue bin paper recycling which saw a 10% increase in use in the summer of 2012</p>

	Click here for more information
City of St. John's	<p>Communications Award</p> <p>The City of <i>St. John's Curb It Recycling Program</i> won the 2012 Gold Communication Excellence Award given by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). The communications plan has helped the recycling program achieve the following successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participation rate of more than 70 per cent in its first year, surpassing the targeted 40 per cent goal. • The program has successfully diverted more than eight million pounds of recyclables from the landfill in its first year. • The low contamination rate (i.e. non-recyclables being incorrectly included with recycling in blue bags) of three per cent is well below the industry standard. <p>Click here to view the Curb It website.</p>
City of Yellowknife	<p>Centralized Composting Pilot Project</p> <p>Since the centralized composting pilot project began in September 2009, Yellowknife businesses, institutions and residents have diverted more than 265 tonnes of food and yard waste from the landfill. These organic materials have been mixed with 75 tonnes of shredded paper and boxboard, and are being converted into compost.</p> <p>Twenty local businesses and institutions currently separate organic materials such as food scraps and yard trimmings from the waste stream, and are placing these materials into special organics bins that are collected separately from garbage. These organic materials are delivered to the YK Centralized Compost Facility where they are combined with shredded paper and boxboard collected through recycling, and managed in covered windrows to produce finished compost.</p> <p>The compost will be available for residents and businesses to purchase for use in their gardens and yards, and will be used in City parks.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	<p>Success stories</p> <p>Examples of composting and recycling from across Canada are well documented in Getting to 50% and Beyond: Waste Diversion Success Stories from Canadian Municipalities produced by FCM's Green Municipal Fund.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>

Other Organizations	Resource
Provincial	
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource	<p>Backyard Composting</p> <p>Don't have the resources to start a municipal composting program? Why not encourage your citizens to start backyard composting. Alberta Environment has a webpage dedicated to tips on at-home composting options and has even produced guidebooks on Backyard Composting and a Vermicomposting. Alberta Environment</p>

<p>Development</p>	<p>encourages municipalities to borrow this information for their websites or information inserts on utility bills.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p> <p>Standards for Composting Facilities If you are thinking of establishing a municipal composting program make sure to check out the Composting Facilities webpage which provides information on standards that composting facilities must meet.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Alberta's Recycling Hotline</p>	<p>Questions Answered Operated by the Recycling Council of Alberta in partnership with Alberta Environment, this service answers over 700 calls a month on various recycling and waste minimization topics from municipalities, businesses and the general public. A searchable online database has recently been rolled out to increase access to information.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Alberta Recycling Management Authority</p>	<p>Tires, Paint, Electronics, Household Hazardous Waste The Alberta Recycling Management Authority is a not-for-profit association responsible for managing Alberta's tire, electronics and paint recycling programs. Known simply as "Alberta Recycling," the organization reports to the Minister of Environment and is run by a Board of Directors representing many stakeholder groups including the AUMA.</p> <p>Originally established in 1992 to manage the province's tire recycling program, Alberta Recycling has since evolved to include Tire Recycling Alberta, Electronics Recycling Alberta and Paint Recycling Alberta. These programs operate under separate divisions and are funded by environment fees collected at the time of sale of eligible products such as new passenger car and truck tires, new TVs and computers, or paint.</p> <p>Municipalities are key partners in implementing these programs by providing collection sites. Collection incentives are available for municipalities who register their sites with Alberta Recycling and fulfill all the necessary requirements.</p> <p>Alberta Recycling also administers the Household Hazardous Waste collection program that ensures proper disposal of leftover household products that contain potentially hazardous ingredients. The Household Hazardous Waste program is a voluntary program paid for by participating municipalities and the Government of Alberta.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Alberta Used Oil Management Association</p>	<p>Used Oil AUOMA is a not-for-profit association of wholesale suppliers of lubricating oil materials with partners and stakeholders. These include all first sellers of oil, oil filters and plastic oil containers; collectors and processors of used oil materials; provincial</p>

<p>(AUOMA)</p>	<p>recycling organizations and government.</p> <p>The program is funded by an Environmental Handling Charge (EHC), not a government tax, placed on wholesale suppliers of lubricating oil and filters. In turn, a Return Incentive (RI) is paid to private sector collectors. Collection points are accessible to all Albertans and the collectors are compensated through the Freight Equalized Zone Pricing for RIs.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB)</p>	<p>Beverage Containers</p> <p>The BCMB is responsible for the collection and recycling of beverage containers throughout Alberta. It operates within policy parameters set out by the Minister of Alberta Environment. The BCMB is an alliance of beverage manufacturers, depot operators, environmental organizations, the public and the Alberta Government, and municipalities as represented by the AUMA.</p> <p>Its website contains detailed information for consumers, beverage retailers and bottle depot owners.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence (EWMCE)</p>	<p>One-Stop Shop for Sustainable Waste Management</p> <p>The EWMCE is a not-for-profit partnership between the City of Edmonton, University of Alberta, Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures, AMEC Earth and Environmental Ltd, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and EPCOR Water Services Inc.</p> <p>It is one-stop resource for services in sustainable waste management with state-of-the-art research, demonstration, and education facilities supported by the world-class expertise and waste management infrastructure.</p> <p>EWMCE provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology Development: pilot and commercial-scale facilities, real-time access to waste streams, and close linkages to expert researchers. • Research: Assistance is available in problem definition, preparation of grant applications, project management, report preparation and other areas, as required • Education and Training: Delivers scientific and applied knowledge for individuals, corporations, associations and institutions. Programs are developed in consultation with clients to meet their specific needs. • Advisory Services: Offers technical advice and project management in all areas of waste management available on a per-diem or fixed-fee basis. <p>Click here for more information</p>
<p>Government of Alberta</p>	<p>Leaf and Yard Waste Diversion Strategy Feasibility Study Final Report (August 2010)</p> <p>This report summarizes information prepared for the Leaf and Yard Waste Technical Committee established by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to identify best practices and develop policy recommendations to</p>

divert leaf and yard waste to a beneficial use. The report includes estimates of existing leaf and yard waste quantities and infrastructure in Alberta, collection program options, composting methods, facility design options, compost product quality and end uses.

<http://www.environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/8668.pdf>

Leaf & Yard Waste Diversion Targets in Alberta: A Benefit Cost Analysis (April 2012)

This report evaluates the benefits and costs of composting leaf and yard waste as compared to landfill disposal. Current generation and amount being composted and recommended diversion rates data from the 2010 Leaf and Yard Waste Diversion Strategy Feasibility Study was used for this benefit cost analysis.

<http://www.environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/8667.pdf>

Greening Government

Albertans expect their government to lead the way in reducing the environmental impact of its business practices. This is why the Government of Alberta adopted the Greening Government Strategy, which outlines a coordinated, strategic to environmental action. The Strategy's 2010-11 progress report highlights achievements made in the first year, many of which relate to recycling.

- Alberta Infrastructure operated a battery recycling program in all of its 1,300 owned buildings. News articles were provided to staff in leased buildings with instructions about how to request the battery recycling service through their property manager.
- Since the program was introduced in March 2009, 5,433 kilograms of batteries from owned and leased buildings were collected for recycling.
- All 1,300 owned buildings had access to mercury, lamp and ballast recycling, and since 2006, approximately 214,502 lamps and 3,379 kilograms of ballasts have been collected for recycling.
- 1,267 metric tonnes of paper was securely recycled through the locked-bin program led by Service Alberta. 692 locked bins for transitory record disposal were located at 49 Government of Alberta offices.
- 12,575 end-of-life computers and other electronic items were recycled through Alberta's provincial electronics recycling program. (others were donated to schools- see reuse)

Greening through Procurement

The following green requirements were incorporated into government-wide standing offers:

- All copy paper was required to be Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI®) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certified and contain a minimum of 30 per cent post-consumer content.
- 34 per cent of the total funds used to purchase office supplies by Government of Alberta departments were for green products.
- Pre-printed stationary with 100 per cent postconsumer content was ordered

	<p>for regular letterhead and business cards, and No. 9 and 10 envelopes.</p> <p>Green items are identified in office supply vendor catalogues as items that meet at least one of the following criteria: are certified through a third party eco label; are made from material which is less harmful to the environment; or are made from re-used or water base materials in order to conserve natural resources.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
Recycling Council of Alberta	<p>All things recycling</p> <p>The RCA is dedicated to support municipal recycling programs through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating knowledge exchange and networking at its annual conference and other events. • Recognizing excellence in recycling and waste reduction thoughts its awards program • Providing presentations and reports on recycling including life-cycle analysis of different waste management options. • Meeting face-to-face with municipalities to help work through waste management issues. <p>Click here for more information</p>
National	
Environment Canada	<p>Composting How To</p> <p>Environment Canada provides a webpage with simple tips on how Canadians can recycle at home.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p> <p>Technical Document on Municipal Solid Waste Organics Processing (2013)</p> <p>This Environment Canada document provides science-based, objective and user-friendly information on the various aspects of municipal solid waste organic waste management processing. It draws on lessons learned and knowledge of professionals, practitioners and academics in the field of organics management across North America.</p> <p>http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=6CC55580-0271-46F0-99CC-CADD171C1976</p>
FCM’s Green Municipal Fund	<p>Funding for Recycling Programs or Centres!</p> <p>To be eligible for funding, your project must demonstrate the potential to divert at least 50% of municipal solid waste from landfill. If your municipality has already achieved a total diversion rate of at least 50%, your project must demonstrate the potential to result in an incremental improvement above 50%.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p> <p>Success stories</p> <p>Examples from across Canada are documented in Getting to 50% and Beyond: Waste Diversion Success Stories from Canadian Municipalities.</p>

	Click here for more information
Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN)	<p>Metals and Minerals Recycling</p> <p>NRCAN hosts a website dedicated to providing information about metals and minerals recycling and recycling in general. The focus is on recycling in Canada but this site also includes information on events, publications and information sources outside of Canada.</p> <p>Click here for more information</p>
International	
Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)	<p>Waste Professionals</p> <p>SWANA provides solid waste professionals with conferences, certification, publications and technical training courses.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>

Works Cited

City of Edmonton. (2011). *Why Recycle?* Retrieved September 14th, 2011, from Edmonton.ca: http://www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/garbage_recycling/why-recycle.aspx

Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2009). *Getting to 50% and Beyond: Waste Diversion Success Stories from Canadian Municipalities*. Retrieved from Green Municipal Fund: http://gmf.fcm.ca/files/Capacity_Building_-_Waste/WasteDiversion-EN.pdf

Government of Canada. (2010). *Extended Producer Responsibility*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from Environment Canada: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/default.asp?lang=en&n=FB8E9973-1>

Recycling Council of Alberta. (2011). *Recycling 101*. Presentation to Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, March 3rd, 2011.