

Waste Plan Regina

2019 Update



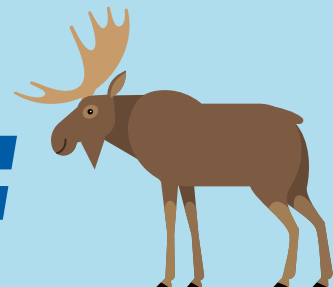
Year in Review

2019 Highlights

- Reduced the amount of residential garbage and recycling generated by three per cent.
- Opened the permanent Yard Waste Depot on April 29, 2019
 - Tripled the amount of residential leaf and yard waste diverted from the Landfill, collecting over 2,660 tonnes
- Offered two additional Household Hazardous Waste Days
 - Increased hazardous waste collection by 58 per cent, diverting 122 tonnes
- Held the inaugural Pumpkin Smash event, diverting 1.3 tonnes of pumpkins from the Landfill
- Introduced the curbside education CartSmart Program
 - Visited 2,657 households to educate residents on proper recycling practices
- Saved approximately 100,000 cubic meters of landfill space through improved landfilling practices
- Increased the diversion rate from 10 to 47 per cent at 12 City-owned facilities through the City Facilities Recycling Pilot Project

Fun Fact

One tonne is equivalent to the weight of an average sized moose.

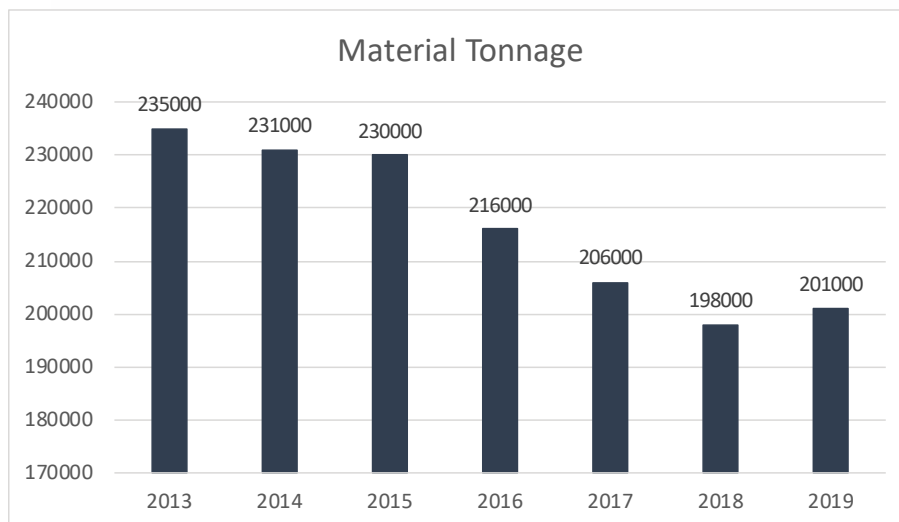


Regina's Waste Trends

In January 2011, City Council adopted Waste Plan Regina's (WPR) Enhanced Residential Service Option and set a target to divert 65 per cent of residential waste by 2020. This update summarizes accomplishments in 2019 and provides the priorities and work plan for 2020-2024.

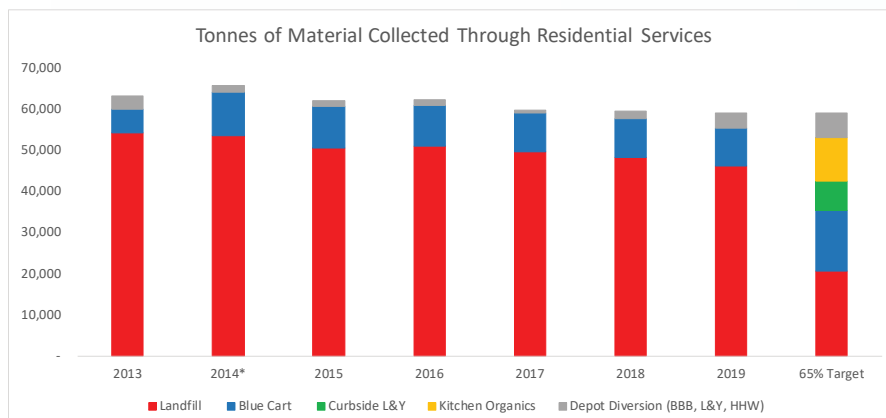
Landfill Tonnage

Overall the amount of garbage being disposed of at the Landfill has decreased since 2013. This is due to several factors including the economy and increased waste diversion overall. In 2019, the amount of garbage disposed of increased slightly due to non-residential sectors that are not regulated by the City.



Residential Services

The amount of garbage disposed of through curbside garbage collection has decreased by 15 per cent since 2013.



*Recycling experienced an increase in 2014 as a result of the Blue Cart Recycling Program.

Residential Waste Diverted from the Landfill

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City Program Diversion	18%	20%	18%	19%	19%***
(Reported in tonnes)					
Blue Cart	7,914	8,074	7,796	7,272**	6,891
SARCAN Glass	-	-	-	-	29
Big Blue Bin	1,069	868	806	801	787
Yard Waste	312	411	N/A*	839	2,660
Household Hazardous Waste	54	91	N/A*	77	122
Treecycle	76	44	27	28	32
Diversion at the Landfill	4,422	6,293	4,994	5,800	3,766
Total Diversion	13,847	15,781	13,623	14,817	14,287
Garbage	64,601	63,439	62,149	61,377	59,695

* Related to the cancellation of Leaf & Yard and Household Hazardous Waste Depots in 2017.

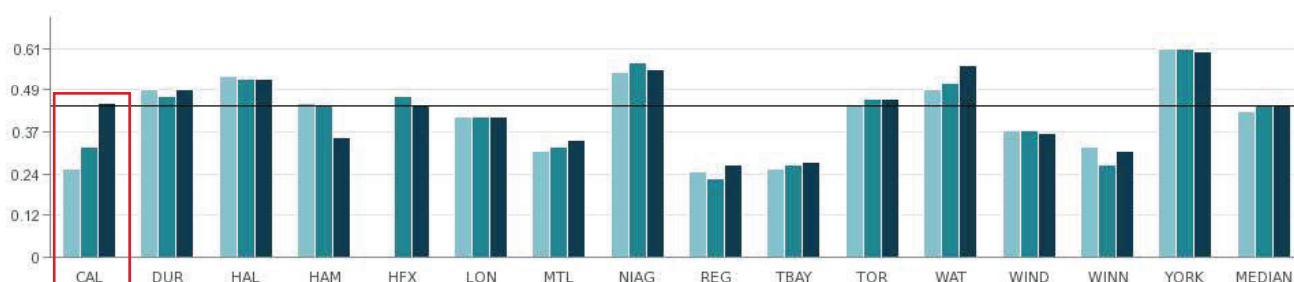
** Tonnage for Blue Cart was reported incorrectly in the 2018 Waste Plan Regina Update. Values have been updated.

*** % waste diversion = (total tonnes of waste diverted / total tonnes garbage + total tonnes waste diverted) x 100.

Municipal Waste Diversion Across Canada

The Municipal Benchmarking Network (MBN) of Canada provides a framework for measuring municipal efficiency and effectiveness on a wide range of services. In comparison to other MBN municipalities, Regina continues to have one of the lowest diversion rates. The gap between Regina and other municipalities can be attributed to the absence of a curbside collection program for organic material. Other municipalities also have more stewardship programs like the Province's, Multi-Material Stewardship Western program, and provincial regulations which are significant contributing factors to higher waste diversion rates.

This measure demonstrates the tonnes of residential waste diverted away from landfills and incineration through programs such as organics, blue box, leaf and yard, municipal hazardous or special waste and other recyclable materials.



Source: MBN Canada, Waste Management Performance Measure Report, Figure 34.3

*The City of Calgary began a phased roll-out of curbside collection for organics in July 2017; their diversion rate is beginning to increase.

Increasing Residential Waste Diversion

The development of a city-wide curbside food and yard waste collection program has the potential to increase the City's diversion by 20 to 34 per cent annually. City Council approved a city-wide service for implementation by 2023.

Food and Yard Waste Pilot

The City will be launching a one-year curbside Food and Yard Waste Pilot to approximately 2,800 households in 2020. The Pilot will be used to seek feedback from residents on collection schedules, education materials, waste sorting practices and identify processing challenges prior to a city-wide implementation in 2023.

To ensure a representative sample, the Pilot includes participants from all ten wards, a mix of front street and back alley collection, a mix of collection cart sizes and neighbourhoods with different volumes of yard waste. The service is 'scrape the plate' meaning that all food scraps, including meat, bones, dairy and greases will be accepted. Yard waste and soiled paper (paper towel, cardboard and tissues) will also be accepted. Depending on the quantity and quality of the finished compost, the City intends to make the compost available to the public or use it in City parks.

Did you know?

Food and yard waste makes up about 50 per cent of residential waste sent to the Landfill.



Why is it important to divert food and yard waste from the Landfill?

- Food and yard waste is not garbage. It's a valuable resource that can be turned into compost.
- Landfill space is valuable and should only be used for materials that cannot be reused or recycled.
- Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Curbside Collection Services

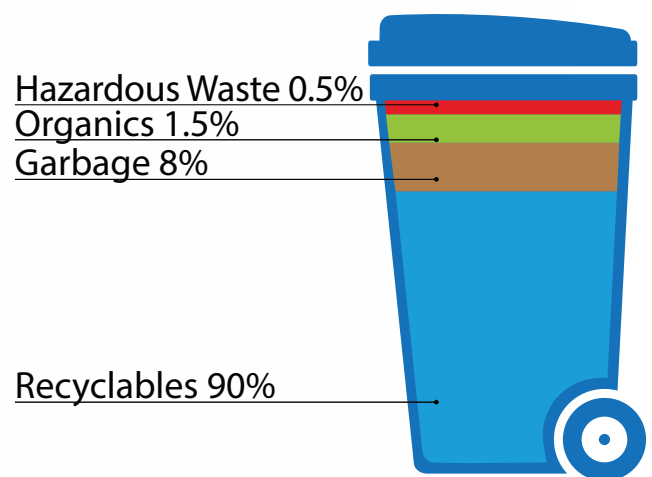
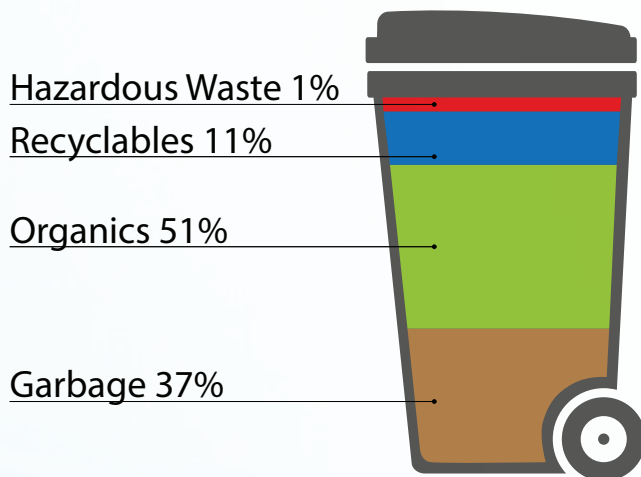
The City of Regina provides curbside collection services to approximately 67,000 single-family households. At each property, a 360-litre or 240-litre brown cart is used for garbage collection and a 360-litre blue cart for recycling collection. Approximately 6,200 households use the smaller 240-litre brown cart.

The City provides biweekly recycling collection to residents throughout the year. Garbage is collected biweekly in the winter months and weekly in the summer months. Residents that cannot manage their garbage within the biweekly garbage collection schedule can add a supplementary brown cart for a fee.

In 2019, the City performed quarterly checks to determine fullness and set out rate of brown and blue carts on collection days.

- Brown carts are **66%** full on collection day
- Garbage cart set out rate is **76%**

- Blue carts are **67%** full on collection day
- Blue cart set out rate is **67%**



Did you know?

Residents that receive curbside collection services can see their collection schedule and sign up for reminders on Regina.ca. As of December 2019, 30 per cent of single-family households were signed up to receive waste reminders. Out of all North American cities that provide the same waste reminder service, Regina has the highest percentage of households signed up for reminders.

Drop-off Depots

In 2019, the City focused on increasing availability of residential drop-off programs, which resulted in increased diversion and operational efficiencies.

Yard Waste Depot

In spring 2019, the permanent Yard Waste Depot opened. The Yard Waste Depot is located south of the Landfill and is open seven days a week from April to November. Residents dropped off more than 2,660 tonnes of yard waste this season – over triple the amount dropped off at the 2018 community depots! The yard waste is transported to an off-site facility and turned into compost.



Household Hazardous Waste Days

The City operated five Household Hazardous Waste events in 2019. This is an increase from three events in previous years. Residents dropped off 122 tonnes of hazardous waste – a 58 per cent increase from 2018.



Treecycle Depots

After the holidays, residents are encouraged to recycle their real Christmas tree through the Treecycle Program. In 2019, over 32 tonnes of trees were turned into compost. In 2020, the Treecycle Program began operating out of the Yard Waste Depot and the community depots were discontinued.



Big Blue Bins

There are eight Big Blue Bin locations throughout the city where residents are encouraged to bring excess paper and cardboard for recycling. In 2019, 787 tonnes of material was diverted from the Landfill.



New Developments

Glass Containers

Residents now have two options to recycle glass – put it in their blue cart or take it to SARCAN. Glass has historically been a challenging material to recover from the curbside recycling process. Glass is fragile and sometimes breaks during transport or sorting at the recycling processing facility. The glass taken to SARCAN has a 100 per cent recovery rate. To date, approximately 29 tonnes of glass has been recycled through the SARCAN partnership.



Expanded Accepted Products

The curbside recycling program now accepts spiral wound containers, which are containers made from both tin and fibre. In 2019, the City worked with the recycling processor to add spiral wound containers to the acceptable recyclable items list. Common spiral wound containers include frozen juice, coffee and potato chip containers. Approximately 21 tonnes of spiral wound containers are placed in the blue carts annually.



Pumpkin Smash

The first ever Pumpkin Smash event took place this fall. About 300 residents watched their pumpkins drop from a height of 70 feet. The event promoted composting as an effective way to divert waste from the Landfill. Over 1.3 tonnes of pumpkins were turned into compost. The event was a smashing success!

Public Outreach and Education

The City continued to educate residents on proper waste and recycling practices, in person and online. City staff had 8,249 face-to-face interactions with residents at public education and outreach events, including information booths, corporate, community and school presentations, and through the CartSmart Program.

CartSmart Program



In fall 2019, the City launched the CartSmart Program to educate households on proper waste sorting practices and to recognize residents who are sorting their waste correctly.

Over a six week period, blue carts at 2,657 households were visually assessed to determine if there were any unacceptable or bagged items. Carts that were compliant received a 'Good Job' sticker, while those that had errors received an 'Oops' tag identifying the mistakes. Carts that received an 'Oops' tag were reassessed on the following collection day. If there were improvements, the carts received a 'Good Job' sticker.

The CartSmart team talked to nearly 150 residents about the contents of their blue carts, which proved to be an effective education tactic. These residents received the feedback with overwhelming positivity. The City will use the information gathered to develop educational messaging going forward.

28% of blue carts were initially compliant with the program and received 'Good job' stickers

72% of blue carts received an 'Oops' tag

36% of blue carts that received an 'Oops' tag improved following a second visit

Top 3 Social Media Posts

- **Never Forget Your Collection Day:** 71K reach, 2.5K clicks, 295 engagements
- **CartSmart Team:** 26.4K reach, 4.6K clicks, 502 engagements
- **Yard Waste Depot:** 33.2K reach, 1.1K clicks, 225 engagements

Top 5 contaminants in blue carts:

1. Stretchy plastic (i.e. shopping bags)
2. Crinkly plastic (i.e. chip bags)
3. Miscellaneous plastic (i.e. Tupperware containers)
4. All types of Styrofoam
5. Tissues (i.e. paper towel)

Waste Reduction Week

Repair Café

In 2019, the City partnered with the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council to offer a Repair Café. This was a free event where skilled volunteers helped residents fix broken items that would otherwise be thrown away. Other partners of the event were the Affinity Credit Union and local organizations. Over 50 items were repaired and diverted from the Landfill.

Did you know?

In 2019, a total of 75,609 items were searched on the online Waste Wizard tool. The most commonly searched items were yard waste, Styrofoam, motor oil, glass bottles/jars and plastic bags.

Reach for Reusables

The City encouraged the public to “Reach for Reusables” during Waste Reduction Week to encourage the reduction of single-use items such as disposable coffee cups and plastic shopping bags. Choosing reusables over disposables is key to reducing single-use plastics.



Partnering with the Community

In 2019, the City helped local organizations and community groups put on Zero-Waste events. The City provided tips on green procurement, waste sorting and waste reduction.

In October, the City helped the Sunrise Library Fall Fair go green. The Fall Fair, which served food, drink, and educational fun to hundreds of members of the public, sent a mere 2.34 pounds of waste to Landfill and achieved an unbelievably high waste diversion rate of 86.3 per cent. With some help and advice from the City, the Sunrise Library chose to prioritize environmental stewardship by serving compostable food items, purchasing compostable cups and paper bags, eliminating waste in decorations and planning, and encouraging the public to bring reusable mugs.

Top 3 Recycling Tips Social Media Posts

- **Stretch Test:** 17.6K reach, 2K clicks, 242 engagements
- **Pet Food Bags:** 17.2K reach, 1.6K clicks, 849 engagements
- **Crinkle Test:** 14.3K reach, 1.6K clicks, 167 engagements

Moving Beyond Residential Waste

Approximately 70 per cent of what goes to the Landfill does not come from homes, but from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) and Construction and Demolition (C&D) activities. In 2019, the City continued to investigate diversion opportunities within the non-residential sectors. Moving beyond residential recycling to the other sectors aligns with goals outlined in Waste Plan Regina and aligns with *Design Regina: The Official Community Plan* to promote conservation, environmental stewardship and sustainability through the adoption of leading practices in waste management.

City-Owned Facilities Recycling Pilot Project

In June 2019, the City launched the Green Routine – a whole new way for City employees and the public to compost, recycle and keep most waste out of the Landfill at 12 City-owned facilities.

The Green Routine is a pilot project that will help form a recommendation to Council on the development of future waste management policies for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector. Future IC&I waste management policies could include green procurement, mandated recycling and composting, and landfill bans on materials such as paper and cardboard.

Upon completion of the pilot, the City will look at the possibility of expanding the Green Routine to all City-owned and operated facilities.

Did you know?

Within the first six months of the pilot, the waste diversion rate at the 12 pilot facilities increased from 10 to 47 per cent!

Bottle Baskets



In 2019, 45 bottle baskets were installed on waste bins in public outdoor spaces, including 18 transit stops. Since 2017, 110 bottle baskets have been installed throughout the city. Bottle baskets provide a convenient way for residents to recycle beverage containers outside their home or workplace.

The City will continue to add bottle baskets in outdoor spaces annually pending the SARCAN Public Space Recycling Grant.



What's Going on at the Landfill?

The City owns and operates one landfill. The Landfill services residential properties, the Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (IC&I) sector, the Construction & Demolition sector (C&D) and regional customers in southern Saskatchewan.

Extending the Life of the Landfill

Operational efficiencies implemented in 2019 such as soil usage tracking, new equipment, GPS implementation, and waste diversion saved approximately 100,000 cubic meters of space. This is a 46 per cent reduction compared to the space used in 2018.



Did you know?

The estimated life remaining in the Landfill is 26 years with current programming.

Waste Management Centre

In 2019, construction began on the Waste Management Centre, located east of the Landfill. The Waste Management Centre will centralize waste operations and associated programs at the Landfill in a new facility that meets current and future program needs. The Waste Management Centre will provide efficient operational facilities giving employees access to space and equipment that allows them to provide the best possible service to the community. The new facility has been designed and constructed to minimize environmental impact and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City's operations.

The Waste Management Centre will also house an 800 square foot Waste Education Room that will offer interactive learning for classrooms, community and corporate groups. Groups will learn about the Landfill, waste diversion, waste reduction and more.



Waste Industry Changes

The City of Regina continually monitors changes to the waste industry. These changes will have an impact on the City's future waste management programs.

Provincial Household Hazardous Waste Stewardship Program

The Government of Saskatchewan is developing a province-wide household hazardous waste management program. Industry had until the end of 2019 to submit a plan to the Province on how they propose to handle household hazardous waste going forward. The City's current Household Hazardous Waste Days will continue for 2020 and possibly 2021 until the new program is implemented. The City has expressed interest in participating in the new program as a collection point.

Changes to the Recycling Market

China's strict purity standard (The National Sword) on imported recyclable materials was imposed in 2018. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult for recycling processors to find markets for their recyclable materials. Some municipal programs have stopped accepting certain materials, such as #1 plastics and plastic bags because their contracted recycling processors cannot find buyers for these materials. The City is fortunate that their contracted recycling processor has reliable markets in North America. The City's list of acceptable items has expanded in 2019 and all materials in the curbside recycling program are still going to market.

Federal Waste Reduction Goals

In June 2019, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) approved the first phase of the Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Waste. Six priority action areas were identified for phase one:

- 1) Extend producer responsibility
- 2) Single-use and disposable products
- 3) National performance requirements and standards
- 4) Incentives for a circular economy
- 5) Infrastructure and innovation investments
- 6) Public procurement and green operations

CCME will work with stakeholders and other interested parties in the development of these action areas. Completion of phase one is expected between December 2020 and December 2021. Some action areas are ongoing.

Moving Forward

Over the next few years, the City of Regina will focus on completing the roll out of residential services and develop diversion initiatives for non-residential sectors. The City will continue to provide waste management programming and initiatives.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UPCOMING INITIATIVES	Curbside Food and Yard Waste Pilot - Development and Implementation				
	Waste Education Room at the Waste Management Centre – Development and Implementation				
	Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Service – Development and Implementation *Pending new Provincial Stewardship Program				
	Waste Diversion Opportunities at Landfill				
		City wide Curbside Food and Yard Waste Program – Development and Implementation			
		Curbside Waste Services Funding Policy - Development & Implementation			
	City-Owned Facilities Recycling Project – Pilot				
	City-Owned Facilities Recycling Project – City-wide Implementation				
	Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector– Waste Diversion Policy Development				
		Construction and Demolition Sector – Waste Diversion Policy Development			
CONTINUED INITIATIVES	Operate Household Hazardous Waste Days				
	Operate Yard Waste Depot				
	CartSmart Program, and review options for expansion				
	Public Education and Outreach Diversion Programming				
	Monitoring and Evaluation of Diversion Programming				

■ Residential Services ■ Non-Residential Services

City of Regina

