

Waste Plan Regina

2023 Update



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Year in Review

2023 Highlights

- The Food and Yard Waste Service began in September 2023. Almost 68,000 green carts were delivered to residents and garbage service transitioned to a bi-weekly schedule year-round.
- The Household Hazardous Materials Depot (HHMD) celebrated its first anniversary in the fall. In its inaugural year, 169 tonnes of hazardous material was collected - over twice the amount collected in 2022 through Household Hazardous Waste Days.
- In November, City Council approved amendments to the Waste Management Bylaw, introducing waste diversion regulations for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector.
- Education and Outreach initiatives engaged with over 4,300 residents and highlighted Circular Economy Month in October, underscoring the City's commitment to sustainability.
- Comprehensive waste audits of City facilities and residential areas were conducted to encourage responsible sorting behaviours.



Waste Management Strategy

The City's solid waste management plan, Waste Plan Regina (WPR), was finalized in 2009 and adopted by Council in 2011. Since that time, WPR has been the guiding document for the development and delivery of Regina's solid waste management policies and services.

In 2011, Council adopted WPR's Enhanced Residential Service Level which identified services that could divert more residential waste from the Fleet Street Landfill (Landfill). At that time Council also set a target to divert 65 per cent of residential waste. ○

Additionally, Council adopted WPR's Extended Service Level for both the Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (IC&I) and Construction, Renovation & Demolition (CR&D) sectors.

Over the years, the City has successfully implemented the services and supporting mechanisms approved in 2011. The recent introduction of user pay for garbage, the Food and Yard Waste Service, and regulations for the IC&I sector mark the completion of the key initiatives outlined in WPR.

As we look ahead, the City is excited to embark on the creation of a new solid waste management plan that ensures continued progress and innovation of the City's waste management strategies.

This objective aligns with the City's Strategic Priorities, specifically the goal to achieve net zero emissions and become 100% renewable by 2050, as diverting waste contributes significantly to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

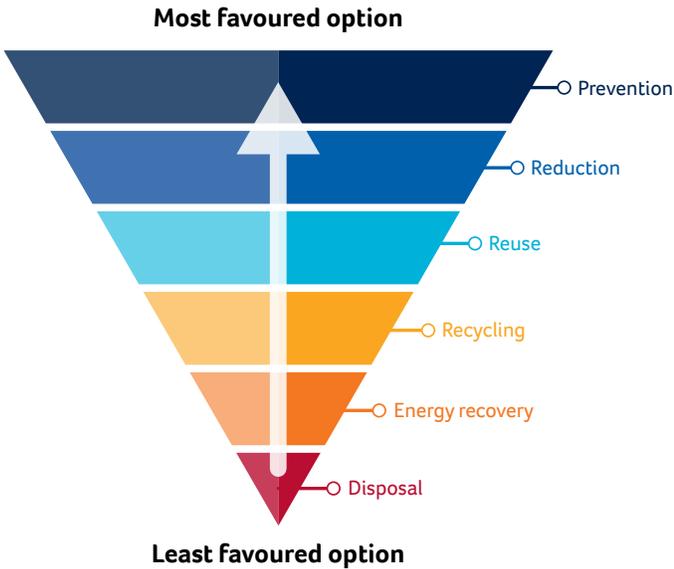
Did you know?



Waste diversion is the process of directing waste away from landfills through recycling, composting, or other sustainable practices.

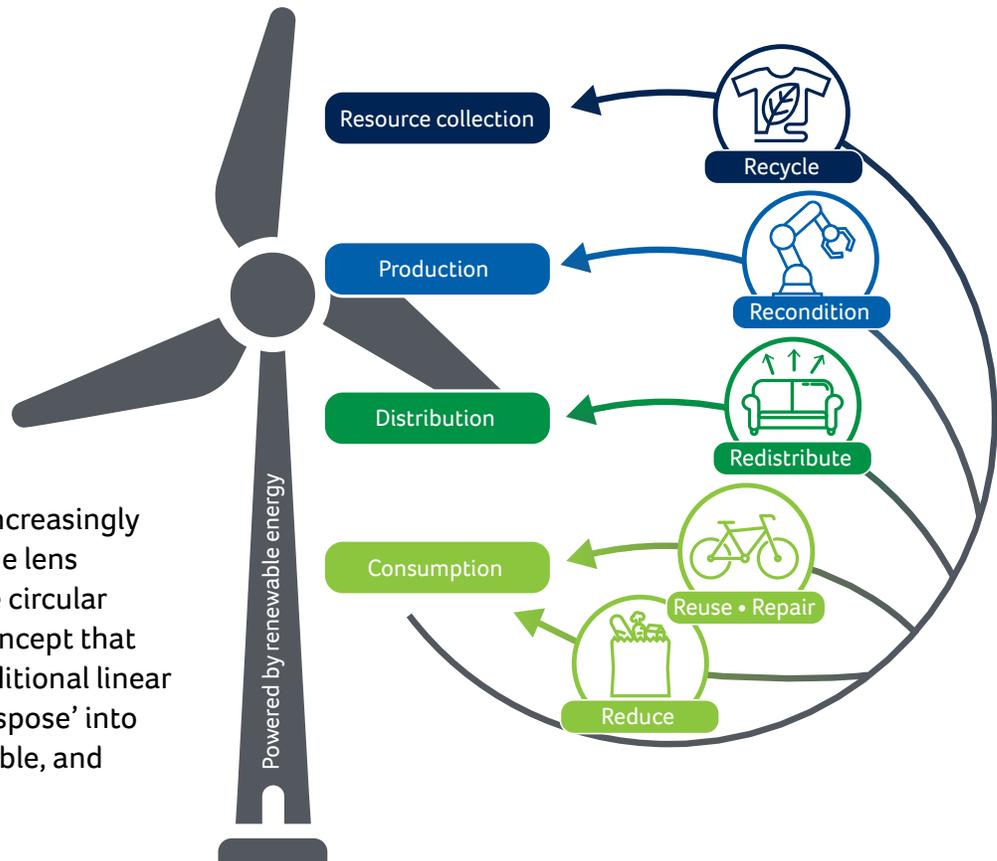
A solid waste management plan is a strategic document outlining how waste will be managed, covering aspects like waste reduction, reuse, reconditioning, recycling, proper disposal, and operational efficiencies. Solid waste management plans set goals and actions to minimize environmental impact and ensure sustainable waste management.

Moving Toward a Circular Economy



The Waste Management Hierarchy has guided the development of Regina’s long-term waste management plans and other municipal plans across the country. It is a prioritization model that ranks waste management strategies according to their environmental impact.

Waste management is increasingly being viewed through the lens of circular economy. The circular economy is a broader concept that aims to redefine the traditional linear model of ‘take-make-dispose’ into a more holistic, sustainable, and regenerative system.



City Waste Services

The City provides waste collection services to almost 68,000 single-family households, complemented by depots for disposal of additional, oversized, or surplus material. Additionally, the City operates the Fleet Street Landfill, regulates waste disposal for multi-family properties and the non-residential sectors, and provides education regarding responsible waste practices.

Residential Waste Changes Over the Years



2023

The Food and Yard Waste Service began in September 2023. Nearly 68,000 green carts were delivered to residents and garbage service transitioned to a bi-weekly schedule year-round. Additionally, the City introduced a user pay for garbage system to encourage waste diversion and reduction and fund the Food and Yard Waste Service. On January 1, 2024, all waste costs were removed from property taxes and added to the utility bill.

Despite permitting challenges experienced by the contracted food and yard waste processor, the City expanded its pilot project processing site, located at the Landfill, into a temporary composting facility ensuring uninterrupted waste collection services.

Waste Collection Services Explained

	Food and Yard Waste Service	Recycling Service	Garbage Service
What size are the carts?	240L, additional cart available for a fee.*	360L, additional cart available for a fee.*	240L or 360L, additional cart available for a fee.*
How often is the waste collected?	Bi-weekly November to March, weekly April to October	Bi-weekly year-round	Bi-weekly year-round
What items are accepted?			
Where does the waste go?	 Food and yard waste goes to the processing site to be transformed into compost.	 Recycling goes to the Material Recovery Facility for sorting.	 Garbage goes to the Landfill to be buried.
What happens to the waste?	 The finished compost is used for gardening and agricultural purposes.	 The sorted recycling goes to facilities that will turn it into new items.	 The garbage remains in the Landfill.

*Residents can request one additional green, blue or brown cart for a fee (maximum four carts total per household).

City Waste Services (cont.)

Waste Depots Explained

	Big Blue Bins	Household Hazardous Materials Depot	Yard Waste Depot	SARCAN Glass Program
Where are the depots located?	11 locations citywide	South of the Landfill entrance on Fleet Street	South of the Landfill entrance on Fleet Street	Available at all Regina SARCAN locations
When are the depots open?	24/7, year-round	Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., year-round	<p><u>Yard Waste</u> Seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (April - November)</p> <p><u>Christmas Trees</u> Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (December 26 – January 31)</p>	SARCAN depot hours vary by location and all depots are closed on Sundays and statutory holidays
What items are accepted?				
Where does the waste go?	 Recycling goes to the Material Recovery Facility for sorting.	 Hazardous waste goes to a treatment and recovery facility.	 Yard waste goes to a processing site to be transformed into compost.	 Glass goes to a recycling facility that turns it into glass pellets.
What happens to the waste?	 The sorted recycling goes to facilities that will turn it into new items.	 The treated waste is safe for disposal and the recovered waste goes to facilities that use it in their products.	 The finished compost is used for gardens and agricultural purposes.	 Glass pellets go to facilities that turn them into new glass, fiberglass insulation, and reflective road paint.
Why are we doing this?	To provide residents with an avenue to recycle oversized or surplus items that cannot be accommodated in their blue carts.	To provide residents with an avenue to responsibly dispose of hazardous waste, preventing it from entering waterways, soil, and landfills.	To provide residents with an avenue to compost oversized or surplus yard waste and Christmas trees that cannot be accommodated in their green carts.	To provide residents with an alternate avenue to recycle their non-refundable glass containers, addressing challenges in the Recycling Service glass recovery process.

Impact of New Services

In only four months, the Food and Yard Waste Service made a substantial impact on the City's waste diversion rate, increasing it by 5 per cent. In 2024, with a full year of diverting food and yard waste and a correlating decrease in tonnes going to the Landfill, the City will be closer than ever to the 65 per cent residential waste diversion target.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Jan-Aug	2023 Sep-Dec	2023	Annual Percent Change
Residential Waste Diversion Rate	19%	20%	20%	19%	17%	39%	24%	+5%
Recycling Service (blue carts)	6,891	6,486	6,344	5,966	3,791	2,007	5,798	-2.8%
Food and Yard Waste Service (green carts)	NA	172	688	607	113	4,774	4,887	+705%
Big Blue Bin	787	792	856	847	543	283	826	-2%
Household Hazardous Materials Depot	122	125	139	59	101	68	169	+186%
Yard Waste Depot	2,660	4,247	3,632	2,707	1,736	940	2,676	-1%
Treecycle	32	31	43	31	47	0	47	+52%
SARCAN Glass	29	38	54	56	44	18	62	+11%
Diversion at the Landfill	3,766	3,898	3,478	3,269	2,155	946	3,101	-5%
Total Waste Diverted	14,287	15,789	15,234	13,542	8,530	9,036	17,566	+30%
Residential Garbage	59,695	64,879	62,555	59,719	40,245	14,200	54,445	-8.8%

Did you know?



% waste diversion

=

$\frac{\text{total tonnes waste diverted}}{\text{Total tonnes generated (diverted plus landfilled)}}$

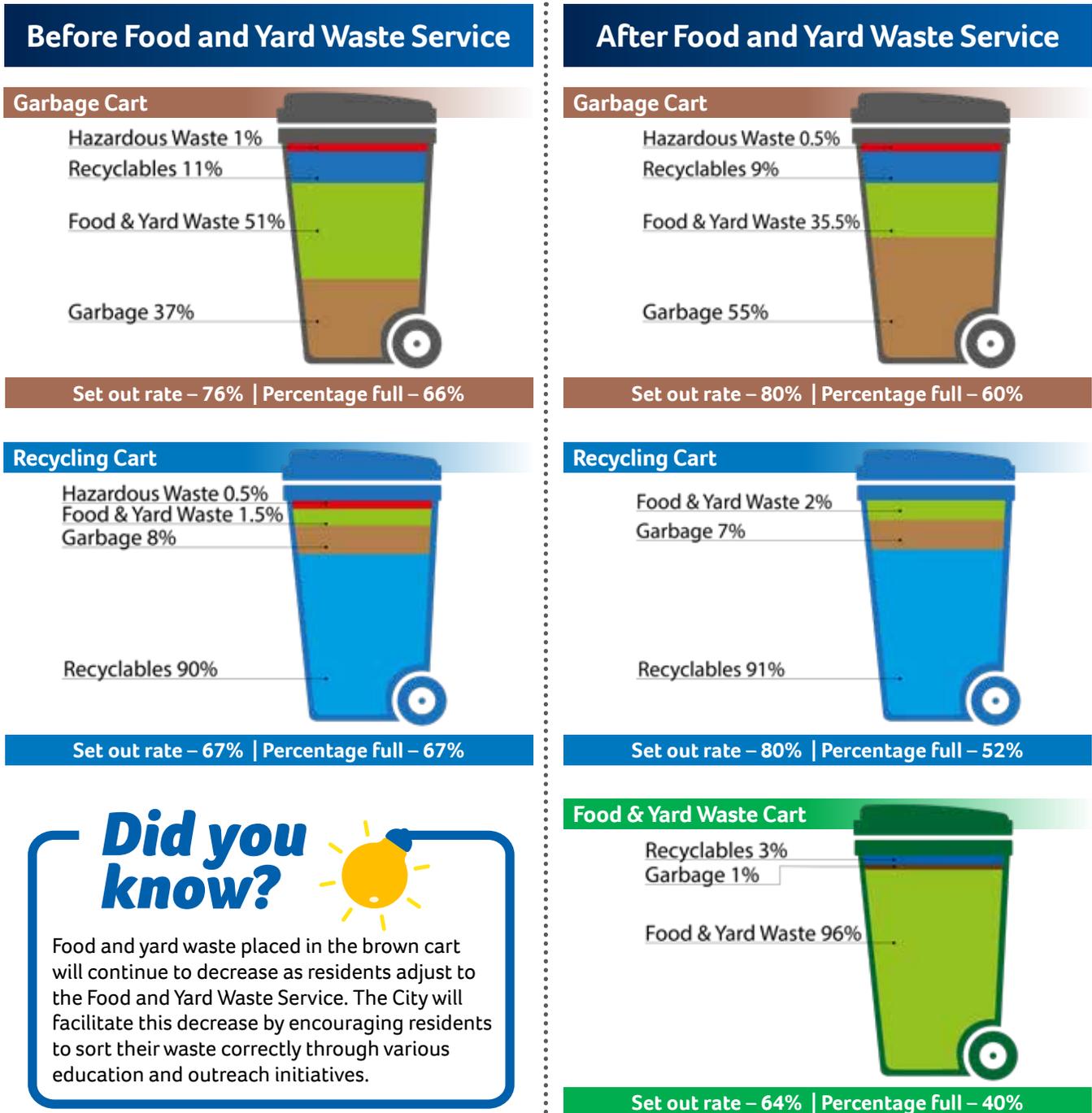
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Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada incorporates an estimate of provincial stewardship and on-property diversion, including bottle return, tire recycling, backyard composting and garburator use, in their waste diversion rate calculation. Using this method, the City's waste diversion rate for 2023 is 28 per cent.

City Waste Services (cont.)

Impact of New Services

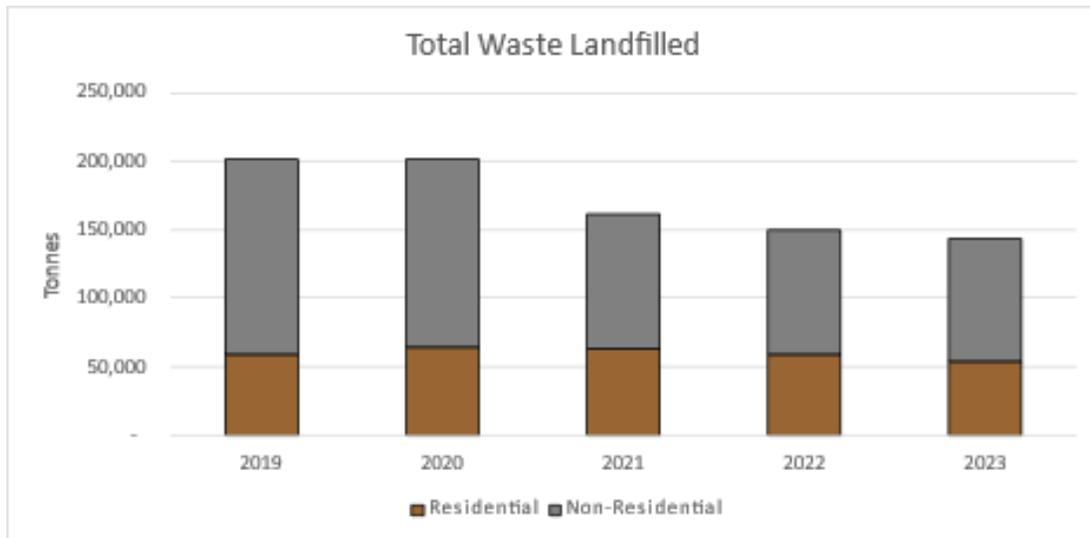
Following the city-wide rollout of the Food and Yard Waste Service, the City conducted waste characterization studies of all three waste collection services to determine how residents are using their carts.



The Fleet Street Landfill

The City owns and operates the Fleet Street Landfill, a crucial waste management hub serving residents, businesses, and neighbouring communities.

Total waste landfilled continues to decrease across all sectors due to waste reduction efforts, waste diversion programs like the Food and Yard Waste Service, and the option for commercial customers to bring waste to other landfills. As incoming landfill waste decreases, the life of the Landfill increases.



The Landfill is the largest source of corporate emissions for the City. The Landfill's Methane Gas Capture System and Landfill Gas to Energy Facility plays an important role in reducing emissions and producing energy. This system captures methane from 53 wells in the Landfill and turns it into energy, reducing emissions by 30,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq) annually. This is equivalent to removing 8,000 cars from the road. Complementing these efforts, the Food and Yard Waste Service is expected to reduce emissions by 10,800 tonnes CO₂ eq annually.



Upcoming Regulatory Changes

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Waste Requirements

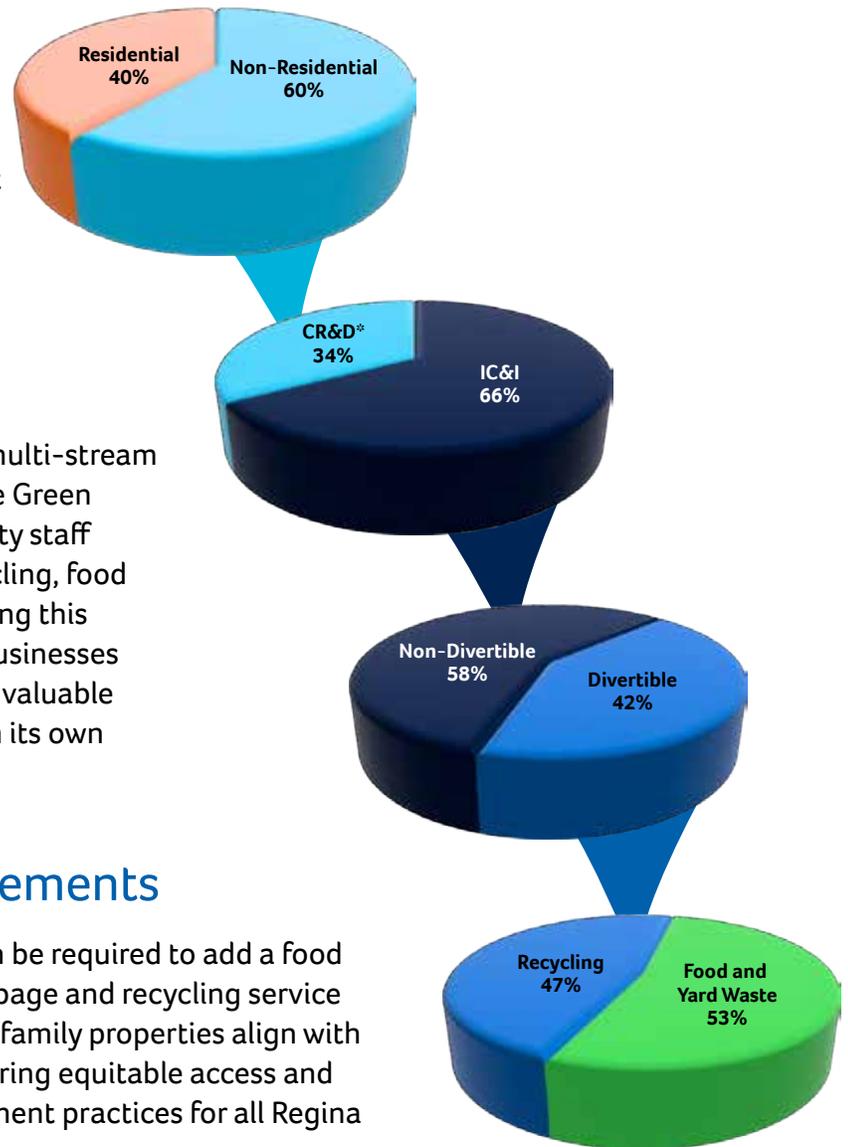
Regina's Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector plays a significant role in waste generation, contributing to 66 per cent of total non-residential waste landfilled. To establish a robust and sustainable waste management framework, the City is aligning IC&I waste practices with residential waste diversion programs by introducing multi-stream (recycling, food and yard waste, and garbage) waste management regulations.

From 2018-2021 the City implemented a multi-stream waste management program, known as the Green Routine, at all City facilities empowering City staff and the public to sort their waste into recycling, food and yard waste, and garbage bins. Leveraging this successful experience, the City will assist businesses in implementing their programs by sharing valuable tools, tips, and processes garnered through its own implementation.

Multi-Family Waste Requirements

Owners of multi-family properties will soon be required to add a food and yard waste service to their existing garbage and recycling service offerings. This addition ensures that multi-family properties align with residential waste diversion programs, fostering equitable access and maintaining consistency in waste management practices for all Regina residents.

Fleet Street Landfill Waste Breakdown



* Construction, Renovation & Demolition

Messaging for Change

Implementing consistent and robust public outreach and education programs is a proven best practice, demonstrating efficacy in reshaping public attitudes towards environmental concerns. In alignment with this approach, the City dedicated its efforts in 2023 to initiatives with a specific focus on the introduction of the Food and Yard Waste Service and composting.

Outreach Initiatives

Information booths strategically placed at events successfully engaged with over 3,300 residents, providing valuable insights and promoting awareness of the Food and Yard Waste Service. The City further reached over 1,000 students and community members through presentations and the City's interactive education room. Additionally, the Waste Reduction Innovation Challenge for grades 5-8 students was launched, fostering creativity and environmental awareness.

Communication Campaigns

In parallel to outreach initiatives, the City executed the first two phases of a comprehensive three-phase communications campaign to introduce green carts to residents.

Billboards, car wraps, bus stop benches, online messaging, and social media were strategically leveraged to announce the upcoming Food and Yard Waste Service, to celebrate its official arrival, and will ultimately conclude with educational content on sorting techniques. This synchronized effort aims to ensure residents are not only aware of the new Food and Yard Waste Service but also equipped with the knowledge needed to make sustainable choices in waste management.



Did you know?



ReCollect, a waste management app, allows residents to see their collection schedules, receive notifications, obtain information about proper waste disposal, and participate in giveaways. Over 40 per cent of single-family households have signed up for collection reminders, and over 400,000 items have been searched on Waste Wizard. Search 'Regina Waste' in your app store to download the app!

Messaging for Change (cont.)

Encouraging Waste Reduction

In January 2024, the City introduced a user pay system for garbage. A monthly fee for waste services was added to the utility bill, removing all waste costs from property taxes, and establishing a direct link between service usage and associated costs. The fee is based on the brown cart size selected - 240L for \$16.12/month or 360L for \$23.73/month. Inclusive of this transition, low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities receive a monthly rebate.

This initiative not only promotes fiscal responsibility but also heightens awareness of waste generation, fostering a culture of waste diversion and reduction which ultimately contributes to a decrease in landfilled waste.

As further incentive, residents that downsized their brown cart were entered to win a mulching lawn mower. The City received over 12,000 requests to downsize brown carts since user pay for garbage was announced!

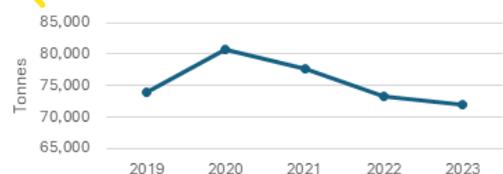


Did you know?

There is a growing awareness among residents regarding their waste generation habits. Overall residential waste generated, including both landfill-bound and diverted waste, shows a consistent decrease.



Residential Waste Generated



What's Next

2024–2025 Solid Waste Management Plan

Waste Plan Regina, the City's solid waste management plan, is now over a decade old. With its recommendations successfully implemented and recent shifts in the waste management landscape and regulatory environment, the City aims to refresh the plan. This update will provide a modern framework, guiding the City's waste management policies and services for the next 20 years and ensuring continued progress and innovation.

2024–2026 Loyalty Programs

Exploring loyalty programs is on the City's agenda as a means to acknowledge resident participation in waste diversion programs. This initiative may involve resident rewards, neighbourhood competitions, and fostering neighbourhood pride.

2024–2027 Construction, Renovation & Demolition (CR&D) Sector Waste Requirements

The City is considering the implementation of waste management policies for construction, renovation and demolition waste. The aim is to divert these materials from the Landfill, possibly through enforced waste diversion mandates or the introduction of landfill bans/surcharges for divertible materials.

2024–2028 Landfill Diversion

The City is exploring additional opportunities for waste diversion by considering the establishment of a diversion station at the Landfill. This station would provide an avenue to divert materials such as construction material (untreated wood and gypsum) and mattresses.

2024–2028 Full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System

In 2023, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment updated the *Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Regulations*, shifting from the current system funded by municipalities, taxpayers, and stewards to a program fully funded and operated by producers (Full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System). This will result in changes to who is responsible for processing, and possibly collecting, residential recycling. This means that the City's current role in funding and managing residential recycling collection and processing may be redefined or relinquished under the new regulations.

