



BC First Nations Recycling Initiative

Starting a Recycling Program

Resource Guide



About First Nations Recycling Initiative



Starting or enhancing a recycling program can be daunting. Many communities, including First Nations, have expressed a sense of feeling overwhelmed by the number of organizations involved and the amount of information available on recycling programs. However, there are clear benefits to communities interested in starting a program.

This recognition led to the idea of the First Nations Recycling Initiative. In British Columbia recycling programs are managed by a number of stewardship agencies who offer cost-neutral solutions for recycling. Ten of these agencies have come together to create a project specifically relevant to First Nations who are interested in starting recycling programs in their communities.

The following stewardship programs are partners in the First Nations Recycling Initiative: Call2Recycle, Canadian Battery Association, Electro Recycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Encorp Pacific (Canada), Health Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycle Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, and Tire Stewardship of BC.

This Resource Guide was developed with the support of the above organizations as part of the First Nations Recycling Initiative.

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About this Resource Guide

This guide is designed to answer questions communities have about recycling. It provides information for First Nations on how to connect with available resources to learn more about setting up a recycling program in their community. Resources include funding options that are available to start a recycling program.

The guide also provides you an overview of the stewardship programs that are involved with the First Nations Recycling initiative. Which include: Call2Recycle, Canadian Battery Association, Electro Recycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Encorp Pacific (Canada), Health Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycle Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, and Tire Stewardship of BC.

This resource guide was developed based on “Starting a Recycling Program: [A Toolkit for Manitoba First Nations and Northern Communities report, developed by the Manitoba Green Action Centre](#)”. The material used from Manitoba’s report is used on the Creative Commons Licence. The images have been sourced by Indigenous Tourism BC.



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How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended for use by First Nation communities who are developing a recycling program or amending an existing program.

It will guide you through a planning process and help you consider and learn more about:

- Who to contact for more resources and information
- How to get started
- What you need to consider first
- What materials can be included in your recycling program
- What is involved with collecting, storing and transporting each type of recyclable material
- The stewardship organizations that deal with each type of material and how they can help you
- What resources and funding are available

Next Steps and Other Resources

Once you have had a chance to review this information guide and consider the steps involved in beginning a recycling program in your community, you will likely want to reach out to the First Nations Recycling Initiative's First Nations Field Services Specialist for more information.

This individual is an important resource for First Nations communities looking to better understand the recycling management system in BC. They are here to answer questions about how communities can begin establishing their own recycling programs. Here's how they may be able to help you:

- Call or visit your community to learn more about your situation and help you get started.
- Connect you with other First Nations communities who have had success with their recycling programs.
- Connect you with stewardship agencies to help you set up your recycling program.
- Answer any other questions and provide further information to get you set up for success.
- Speak with you at council meetings.

Please contact info@fnri.ca to reach the First Nations Recycling Initiative.



Tips on Starting a Successful Recycling Program

If you're not ready to start a full recycling program, there are many other things your community can do. Education, workshops, awareness and annual round-ups can be developed. The key is to help your community find ways to reduce its waste, re-use what can be re-used, and feel good about reducing waste in your community.

If you need some help to start a recycling program, when you are ready you may wish to contact the First Nations Recycling Initiative Field Services Specialist who can work with you to answer questions, and if you want, they can help you to develop and design a program that suits your community's specific needs and situation. This assistance is there to help your community start recycling.

In this guide you will also find examples of what other communities are doing. The Field Services Specialist can help you learn about what other First Nations have done to support recycling in their community. She can also connect you with other First Nations communities that have developed programs and are a great resource for your learning experience. You can learn: how they did it and what made the planning process work? Where did they get funding? How is the program doing now? How has the program benefited them?

Working Together

This resource guide has been designed with the needs and interests of First Nations communities in mind. The nine participating stewardship agencies have come together in an effort to create an introduction to recycling that helps First Nations create programs that benefit their communities, and to learn about the resources available to them.



About Recycling

Benefits of Recycling

In addition to being an important environmental protection mechanism, recycling programs may be beneficial for your community for the following reasons:

- Employment and training opportunities
- Protecting your drinking water
- Protecting your community's children from toxic and hazardous materials
- Youth and community engagement
- Economic development opportunities
- Conserving energy and landfill capacity for materials that cannot be recycled, and conserving resources

What Can Be Recycled or Properly Disposed?

There are many materials that can be recycled and are part of province-wide recycling programs in British Columbia. Through this initiative the following materials can be recycled:

- Batteries (like single-use batteries, rechargeable batteries, and lead-acid batteries)
- Small appliances and power tools (like toasters, irons, hairdryers, drills, and clocks)
- Electronics (like televisions, computers, cell phones, and video game systems)
- Health products (like prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, Natural health products, and traditional medicine)
- Major appliances (like refrigerators, dishwashers, clothes washers, and dryers)
- Electric outdoor power equipment (like corded lawn mowers, battery chain saws, and battery/corded lawn blowers)
- Outdoor power equipment (like lawn mowers, chain saws, and lawn blowers)
- Packaging and printed paper (like printed paper, plastic containers, metal containers, paper packaging, glass, film and foam)
- Tires (like Car tires, medium truck tires, agricultural tires, logger skidder tires and bicycle tires and tubes)

Recycling in British Columbia

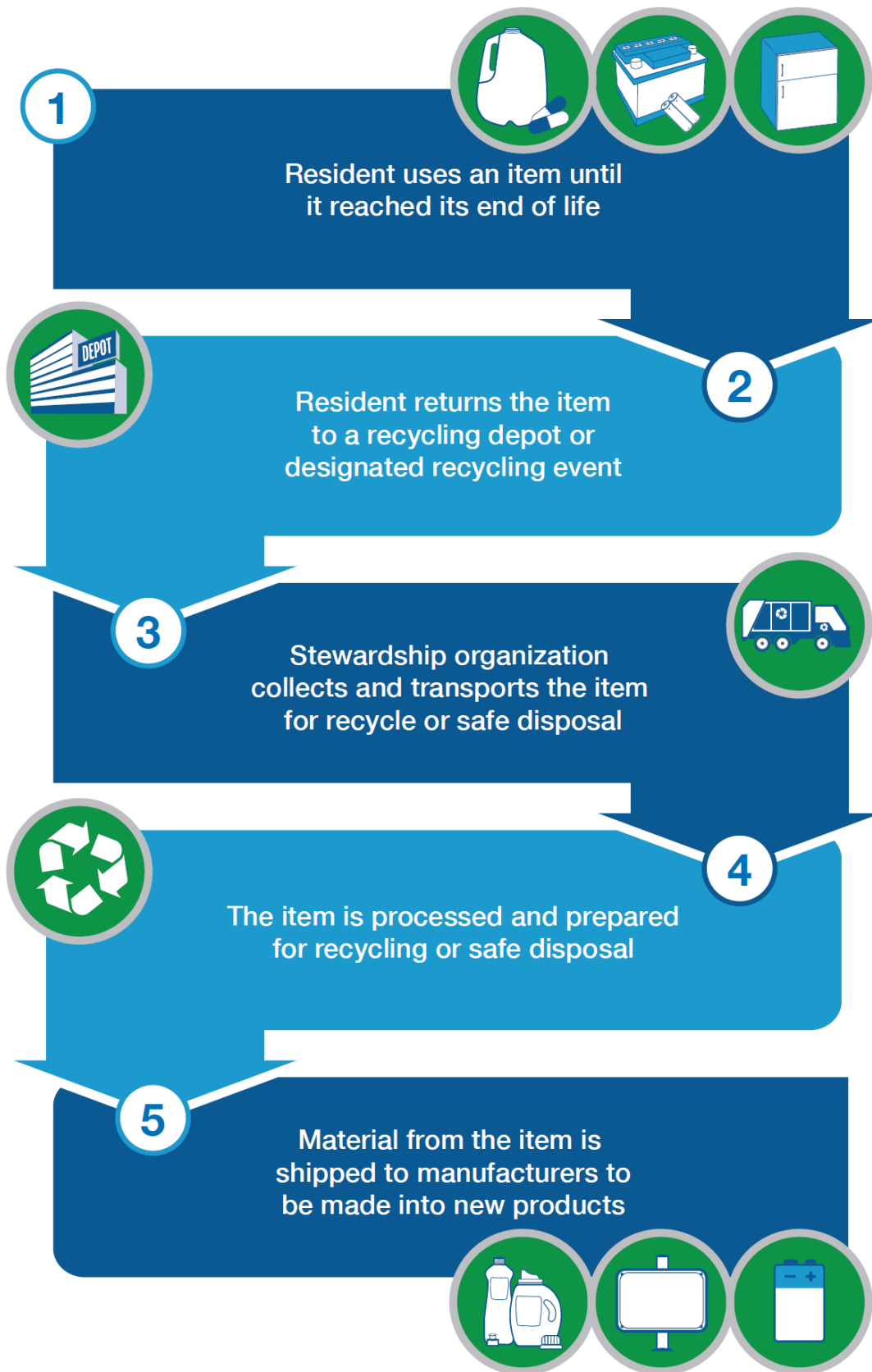
The Government of British Columbia has developed an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach to recycling management that requires those who supply designated materials to BC consumers properly manage and recycle these designated products and their packaging at the end of their useful life.

Information about each stewardship organization participating in the First Nations Recycling Initiative can be found in this guide.

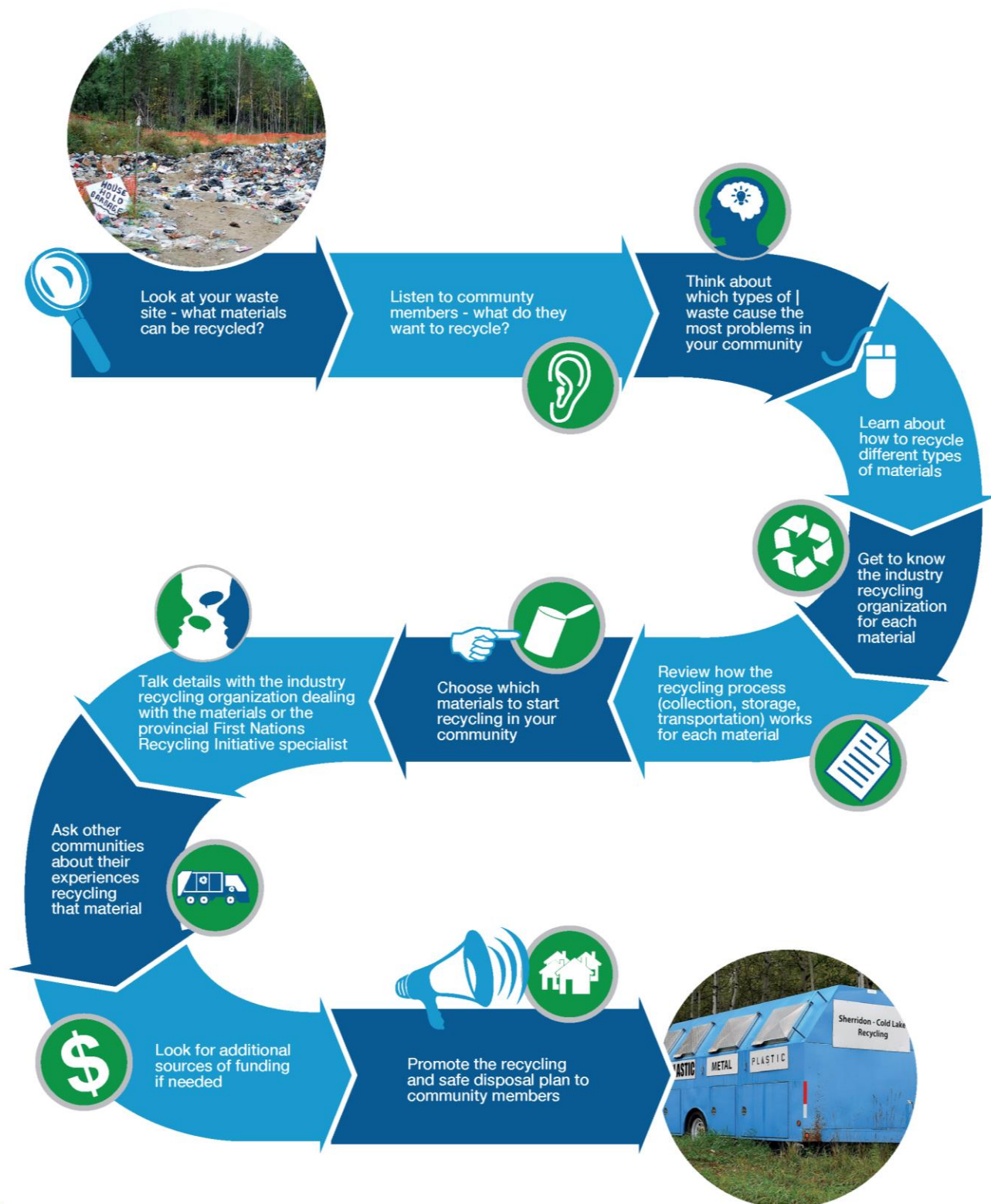
For general information on all stewardship organizations, visit The Steward Agencies of BC (SABC) website at BCRecycles.ca.



An Overview of the Recycling Process



THE PATH TO RECYCLING



Step 1- Initiate The Planning Process

Initiating the Planning Process is the first step to ensuring success in the development of your program. This involves preparing initial plans, designing a community consultation process, developing a budget, and building a team.

Plan Scope – determine the community needs that you will include in your plan, for example: residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional (school, daycare, health and the band office or any other band owned building) – so that you can determine how best to meet these needs either through the nine participating stewardship agencies or through other means.

Establish a planning team and working groups – Starting a recycling program is easier to do with a team of people. It's also more likely to be successful and sustainable. A program that relies on one or two people can be at risk of not being successful long term because individuals shift priorities, move out of the community, or change roles, such as elected officials who may change every two years.



Step 2- Set the Plan Direction

The second step is to set the direction for the plan. What are the principles, goals and targets that will drive decisions? Are there challenges that will need to be addressed or opportunities that should be considered? What are the different materials that can be recycled through BC's stewardship organizations?

Choose What to Recycle

You will need to determine what materials you are going to include in your plan. The following section outlines which materials are included in which of the participating stewardship programs. It is important that the planning team understands what types of materials can be included in the program.

The participating stewardship organizations have different materials that they manage; with very distinct guidelines that need to be adhered to if you choose to participate in their program. The clear guidelines are to ensure that the materials collected are not contaminated – the goal is to recycle the collected material, not send it to landfill.

When deciding which materials to start recycling in your community:

- Look around your community and its waste site to see what types of items are being thrown away and how much of each. It can help you decide where to focus your recycling and education efforts. What types of recyclable materials do you see most of?
- Listen to community members. What types of waste are they most concerned about?
- Think about which types of waste are causing the most problems in your community.



About Household Battery Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

When you register with *Call2Recycle* and become a collection site the shipping is free!

ABOUT CALL2RECYCLE

Call2Recycle has successfully operated a national, simple and highly efficient program since 1997. Their singular focus is to responsibly collect and recycle household batteries across Canada, ensuring they are diverted from landfill.

Call2Recycle has met stringent R2 standards relating to environmental and public health, worker health and safety, security aspects of electronics recycling, and the management of the collection and distribution of batteries to downstream processors for recycling.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

This program accepts dry-cell consumer batteries each weighing 5 kg or less including*:

Alkaline (AA, AAA, etc.)
Lithium Primary
Nickel Metal Hydride
Lithium Ion

Lithium Ion
Nickel Cadmium
Nickel Zinc
Small Sealed Lead Acid

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

1. Call2Recycle provides free collection boxes to display in monitored and easy to see locations. This can be a store, Band Office, school or a recreational facility. Where can you place them in your community?
2. Can you partner with another community to reach more people and increase the amount collected? Who?
3. To help increase awareness, can you also hold an annual collection event or participate in National Battery Day and lead the charge.

REGISTRATION

If your nation is interested in becoming a member of the Call2Recycle collection program, the first step is complete the on-line registration. Visit the website to submit your application:

<https://www.call2recycle.ca/become-a-collection-partner//>

The collection program is only available to organizations. If you are interested in consumer collection events, visit our [consumer resources](#) page.

*Call2Recycle accepts stand-alone/replacement batteries only. If your battery is contained within a device, please do not remove it and send the device, battery included, to the program that manages that device.



About Lead-Acid Battery Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

There are 3 major components to lead-acid batteries and all are 100% recyclable.

ABOUT THE CANADIAN BATTERY ASSOCIATION

The CBA is the national voice for the lead-acid battery industry and its mission is to provide information and programs that support the safe storage, transportation and recycling of new, used and waste lead-acid batteries from coast to coast to coast.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

All lead-acid batteries fall under one of following five categories:

- Sealed Lead Acid (i.e. emergency lighting)
- Passenger & Light Truck Vehicle
- Commercial Truck Vehicle
- Motive (i.e. electric forklifts)
- Stationary (i.e. large power supply and emergency back-up)

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

Batteries contain a number of heavy metals and toxic chemicals. By recycling batteries, you divert waste from your local landfills, help reduce the risk of soil contamination and water pollution, expose corrosive acids, and reduce the need for raw materials to manufacture new products.

1. The Canadian Battery Association can provide shrink wrap and labels. The community will need to provide wooden pallets and cardboard, and a heated building to store the lead acid batteries. Can your community provide this?
2. The person responsible for handling and storing the lead-acid batteries will need special training.
3. Who will be responsible for training and handling lead-acid batteries?

REGISTRATION

<http://www.recyclemybattery.ca>

CONTACT

250-216-3664

colin@canadianbatteryassociation.ca

www.canadianbatteryassociation.ca



About Small Appliance Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

Your community's recycling program can begin collecting small appliances which are currently collected across the province at bottle depots, recycling centers, select thrift stores and retailers and even at community round-ups.

ABOUT ELECTRORECYCLE

It's never been easier to get rid of broken and unwanted small appliances, power tools and even bigger items like treadmills...and feel good about it. A recent survey revealed that more than two thirds of British Columbians currently have a small appliance that is either obsolete or no longer works. ElectroRecycle goes beyond the blue box to your local depot where you can drop off more than 400 small appliance, power tool and exercise products, and bid a fond farewell knowing that they are going on to a second life. And with more than 200 drop-off locations province-wide, there's one near you.

Here's the short story on the long list of products you can drop off at the depot:

- Small appliances, power tools and home exercise equipment and,
- They're electrical – they plug in or run on batteries and,
- They're intended for residential use (not commercial)

[You can find out exactly what you can drop off here.](#)

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- ElectroRecycle accepts electric exercise equipment, small appliances & power tools. Consider how to educate community members about the need to begin recycling these.
- If the batteries are integrated or difficult to remove, we'll happily accept your product as-is. That goes for any accessories relating to the product.
- Organize a one day event or a "RecycleFest" to encourage the recycling of broken, old or unwanted small electrical appliances & power tools.

CONTACT

<http://www.electrorecycle.ca/>

info@cesarecycling.ca

1-877-670-CESA (2372)



About Electronics Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

End-of-life electronics are filled with resources that need to be recovered and recycled. They contain everything from plastic and glass to gold, silver, copper and palladium, and it just makes sense to recover and reuse these natural resources so they go back into the manufacturing supply chain.

By recycling your electronics through EPRA, you are helping to:

- Keep old electronics out of landfills.
- Recover and recycle resources that can be put back into the manufacturing supply chain.

ABOUT EPRA

EPRA British Columbia is a not-for-profit industry-led organization that oversees a government-approved end-of-life electronics recycling program throughout the province. Residents and businesses can drop off their unwanted electronics free of charge for responsible recycling at an EPRA British Columbia drop-off location.

EPRA British Columbia is funded through Environmental Handling Fees (EHF) that are applied on the sale of all new electronic products. The EHF on each item in the program is based on the cost to recycle the regulated electronic products. All program revenue is used for the collection, transportation and responsible recycling of end-of-life electronics as well as program administration.

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

Electronics accepted at our drop-off locations include:

- Display Devices
- Non-Cellular Telephones
- Home Audio/Video Systems
- Desktop Computers
- Portable Computers
- Desktop Printers
- Personal/Portable Audio/Video Systems
- Vehicle Audio/Video Systems (aftermarket)
- IT and Telecom Equipment
- Musical Instruments
- Medical and Monitoring Equipment
- Video Gaming Systems and Accessories
- Small/Large Battery-Powered Ride-On-Toys/Micro Toys Electronic
- Cellular Devices



WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- How can you keep old electronics out of landfill in your community?
- How can EPRA work with your community on options for recycling electronics?

CONTACT

www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/bc

1-604-291-1002

craig.wiseshart@epra.ca



About Beverage Containers



DID YOU KNOW

The Encorp Stewardship Plan covers all ready-to-drink beverage containers for soft drinks, juice, water, wine, coolers and spirits, plus non-refillable beer bottles sold in British Columbia.

ABOUT ENCORP PACIFIC

Encorp Pacific (Canada) is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit, product Stewardship Corporation with beverage container management as our core business. Our mandate is to develop, manage and improve systems to recover used packaging and end-of-life products from consumers and ensure that they are properly recycled and not land-filled or incinerated. Encorp also, under contract manages the programs for end-of-life electronics for EPRA and large appliances for the MARR program.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All ready-to-drink beverage containers:
 - Aluminum cans
 - Plastic bottles
 - Drink boxes
 - Gable Top
 - Glass bottles
 - Bi-Metal
 - Pouches
 - Polystyrene cups
 - Bag-in-a-Box

EXCEPT Beer cans and refillable beer bottles are not managed through the Return-It system. BC Brewers Recycled Container Collection Council (BRCCC) are directly responsible for these containers under their stewardship program. This depot will accept and recycle these containers, however they may discount the deposit refund.

- For a detailed list of which containers can be returned and recycling fees visit:
 - <https://www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/>
 - <https://www.return-it.ca/electronics/products/>
 - <https://www.marrbc.ca/consumers/products>

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

Encorp has program coordinators that can assist with information, arrangements and some supplies for collection events for three programs – Beverages under the Return-It program, electronics under the EPRA program and large appliances under the MARR program.

CONTACT

Steve Rutherford

604-473-2405

srutherford@returnit.ca

www.returnit.ca



About Health Products Recycling



HEALTH PRODUCTS STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

DID YOU KNOW?

The Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA) knows all too well: Out of sight is hardly out of mind. Or, at least, it shouldn't be a given that fifty-nine per cent of teens who abuse prescription painkillers say they got them from home. HPSA offers an industry funded program that allows the public to dispose of their expired and unused medication at no charge to keep them out of the wrong hands.

ABOUT THE BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM

If you look in your medicine cabinet, chances are you will find medications that are expired or that you no longer need. You can now return these medications to a participating pharmacy in your community or through a program offered in your community by the health products industries called "British Columbia Medication Return Program."

When you drop off your medication, you'll not only ensure they're disposed of properly – you'll also keep them out of the wrong hands, preventing abuse or accidental ingestions – and protecting our environment in the process. Most pharmacies are already collecting expired or unused medications. It's an easy step to help your community do the right thing.

What's included: BCMRP covers all prescription drugs, inhalers, medications such as over-the-counter medications, including topical antibiotic and antifungal creams and natural health products that orally ingested, such as vitamins and minerals, traditional Chinese medicines, herbal products, probiotics, amino acids and homeopathic medicines.

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- Does your community know how to dispose of medication?
- Can your Health Centre/Medical Clinic organize a "Take Back Medication" day – on an annual basis?
- Is there a pharmacy close by or that works with your Health Centre that will accept medication?
- HPSA has free promotional material that can be made available for your elder's luncheon, community meeting or newsletter.
- Improperly disposing of unused or expired meds can lead them to the hands of children and pets for accidental ingestion.

CONTACT

www.healthsteward.ca

1-844-535-8889

info@healthsteward.ca



About Major Appliance Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

Many major appliances used for cooling or freezing purposes (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners) include refrigerants, which can be harmful to the environment and human health if they are not properly handled and disposed of. Individuals should NEVER attempt to extract refrigerant from major appliances, which should only be handled by licensed professionals.

ABOUT THE MAJOR APPLIANCE RECYCLING ROUNDTABLE

MARR (Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable) is the only approved stewardship plan for major appliances in the province. The MARR plan is focused on enhancing the performance and transparency of the existing market-based system of collecting and recycling major household appliances in BC.

What's included: Major appliances that have been designated for residential use, including dual fuel natural gas or propane products provided the other power source is electricity. Appliances used in or sold for industrial, commercial and/or institutional applications that have the same essential design characteristics as major household appliances are also included. All program products that are used for the purpose of refrigeration or freezing must contain a compressor and/or refrigerant gases.

Major product types include:

- Refrigerators, wine coolers and beverage centers
- Freezers
- Portable, room and window air conditioners
- Portable Dehumidifiers
- Clothes washers and dryers
- Ranges, built-in ovens and surface cooking units
- Built-in and over the range microwave ovens
- Dishwashers
- Food waste disposers and trash compactors
- Electric water dispensers

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Do you have an area in your community to stockpile these appliances for a recycling collection program?
- How many major appliances are abandoned in your community?

REGISTRATION

Contact info@marrbc.ca to discuss how to recycle major appliances in your community.

CONTACT

www.marrbc.ca

1-888-252-4621



About Outdoor Power Equipment Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

OPEIC drop-off locations are accessible and convenient, ensuring most British Columbians can recycle their electrical outdoor power equipment in their communities.

ABOUT THE OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT INSTITUTE OF CANADA

The stewardship program for electric outdoor power equipment (EOPE) is managed by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada (OPEIC) and operated on their behalf by Product Care Association (PCA). It is a non-profit organization representing the electric outdoor power equipment industry in Canada. OPEIC has developed a stewardship program for recycling old or broken electric outdoor power equipment. Unlike other stewardship programs, the program relies on the existing private scrap metal collection system in the province to recycle electric outdoor power equipment. OPEIC does not establish its own collection sites in communities, but rather works with communities to find solutions to manage stockpiles of electric outdoor power equipment, including one-time collection events and building relations with local scrap metal recycling facilities.

While the OPEIC program does not manage fuel-powered outdoor power equipment, many private scrap metal facilities do accept fuel-powered products.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

OPEIC currently manages four categories of electric outdoor power equipment, ranging in size from hand-held brush cutters and chain saws to pressure washers and lawn mowers. The four categories and examples of electric products in each category are provided below.

Hand held	Electric: Chain saws, garden shears, loppers, trimmers, ice drills, post hole digger, garden sprayer, insect fogger, lawn blowers, lawn vacuums, split boom
Walk behind	Electric: Lawn mower, blower, tiller/cultivator, walk behind sprayer, de-thatcher, edge trimmer, aerator
Free-standing	Electric: Pressure washer, mulcher, wood chipper/shredder, wood splitter
Lawn tractors	Electric: ride on lawn tractor

For a complete list of all EOPE accepted by the program, visit www.opec.ca/consumers.html#products.



WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- Outdoor power equipment that relies on a fuel-powered engine is not included in the program, however many collection sites may accept them, at their discretion.
- What is the community currently doing to manage these product categories at end of life?
- What is the best approach for your community to get community members to recycle their unwanted EOPE?
- Does your community have a place to collect and stockpile EOPE?
- Does the community have the means to transport the EOPE to the closest private scrap metal collector?

For more information about the program and to explore solutions for unwanted electric outdoor power equipment in your community, contact info@opeic.ca.

CONTACT

www.opeic.ca

info@opeic.ca

1-877-592-2972



About Packaging and Printed Paper Recycling



DID YOU KNOW

Recycle BC collects over 186,000 tonnes of packaging and printed paper annually from communities across BC to be recycled.

ABOUT RECYCLE BC

Recycle BC is a not-for-profit organization responsible for residential packaging and paper recycling throughout British Columbia, servicing over 1.8 million households or over 98% of BC. The Recycle BC program is funded by over 1,200 businesses, like retailers, manufacturers and restaurants that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents, shifting costs away from homeowners.

Recycle BC ensures packaging and paper is collected from households and recycling depots, sorted and responsibly recycled. Recycle BC provides recycling services either directly to communities or by working in partnership with local governments, First Nations, private companies, and other not-for-profit organizations.

In addition to curbside and multi-family recycling programs, Recycle BC has a network of depots across BC where residents can drop off packaging and printed paper free of charge. Depot materials for collection generally include:

- Paper
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Plastic Containers
- Cartons and Paper Cups
- Metal Containers
- Glass Containers
- Plastic Bags and Overwrap
- Foam Packaging

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- Recycle BC provides financial incentives to local governments, First Nations, private companies and not-for-profits to collect packaging and paper under contract with Recycle BC.
- All collectors are required to meet Recycle BC's [Collector Qualification Standards](#).

CONTACT

www.recyclebc.ca

1-855-875-3596

info@recyclebc.ca



About Tire Recycling



DID YOU KNOW?

Scrap tires are recycled into crumb rubber, which are granules of rubber with the steel and fibre removed, which are then used to create a variety of products including athletic tracks, playground surfacing; colourful, resilient flooring in recreational facilities; flooring and mats for agricultural and industrial use; and coloured landscaping mulch.

ABOUT TIRE STEWARDSHIP BC

Tire Stewardship BC is a not-for-profit society formed to manage BC's tire recycling program. The program collects an Advance Disposal Fee, commonly referred to as an eco-fee, on the sale of every new tire. The fees are used to pay for transporting and recycling generated scrap tires ensuring that the tires are disposed of in environmentally responsible ways instead of ending up in our landfills. The following tires are included in the program: car tires, medium truck tires, agricultural tires, logger skidder tires and on a voluntary basis bicycle tires and tubes.

Consumers leave their scrap tires for free at the retailer when they purchase new ones. Unlike some of the other programs TSBC does not pay a landfill or recycling depot to accept tires but the public can drop off up to four car tires, clean and off rim at retailers that participate in TSBC's Return to Retailer program.

TIRE STEWARDSHIP BC'S COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Communities invest considerable resources to support recycling as a way to protect our environment and enhance the quality of life of BC's citizens. The TSBC Community Grant Program provides financial support to communities who have decided to use and benefit from a wide range of BC recycled tire products in their projects.

To find out more about the Grant Program and to fill out an application, please go to:

<http://www.tsbc.ca/grant.php>

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- Look around your community, how many tires are being stockpiled?
- Are they clean, off rim and easily accessible to qualify for free pick up?
- Did you know that the tire stewardship also will accept bicycle tires?

REGISTRATION

For sites that generate scrap tires and wish to work with TSBC on scrap tire pick up, a registration form is available for downloading at <http://www.tsbc.ca/pdf/RegistrationForm.pdf>

CONTACT

www.tsbc.ca

1-866-759-0488



Step 3: Developing a Local Recycling Program

This step involves evaluating collection management options, continuing to consult with interested parties, band members, stewardship organizations, regional districts, and learning from other recycling programs in other First Nations communities. This step also involves determining proposed approaches to your plan.

Whether your community wants to organize an annual cleanup, a recycling roundup or take a leap and develop a depot, the objective is to design a program that works for your community.

Learning from Other Communities

Consider working with your municipality or collaborate with other nations that have taken the necessary steps to develop successful programs. Here are some examples of other nations across BC that have developed their own recycling collection solutions:

Bella Bella has a full-scale, staffed recycling depot and transfer station owned and operated by the Heiltsuk Nation. The recycling depot is a collector of many EPR products, including residential packaging and paper, small appliances, electronics, paints, pesticides, fuels and tires. Garbage, recycling and EPR products are barged out of the community to the Regional District of Mount Waddington's 7 Mile Landfill near Port Hardy for further distribution to recyclers.

Salish Soils Inc. was established in 2010 by CEO Aaron Joe and team, with community support and strategic partners: Coastland, Lehigh and **Sechelt Indian Band**. Salish Soils operates the Sechelt Depot for Recycle BC on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Regional District. Salish Soils also manages a compost program and accepts residential organics at no charge.

Choose Your Collection Method

Next, you will begin to learn about the different ways to collect recyclables in your community:

1. Central Depot
2. Collection Event
3. Stockpile Clean-up

Here are some benefits and challenges to keep in mind when deciding how to collect recycling. What works best for your community and which method aligns with the funding options from the stewardship agencies you wish to work with?



Collection Options

	Option 1 Central Depot	Option 2 Collection Event	Option 3 Stockpile Clean-up
How it works	Residents drop off their recycling at an easy to access central depot.	Residents save up recycling and drop it off at a one-day collection event.	The community decides to clean –up sites that have been used to store used items like tires and large appliances.
Benefit	Can collect a wide variety of recyclable material.	Collection can be held once a year or more as the community needs.	Clean-up can be timed when convenient for the community.
	Can choose the size of containers that matches how much is dropped off. Can increase the size of containers as more residents participate.	Doesn't require permanent building or structure, vehicles or equipment.	Clears the community of old used items that individual residents cannot manage on their own.
	Financial incentives available from some stewardship organizations.	Can combine the collection even with a community garage sale or swap meet for gently used items.	Can combine several stewardship materials together for transportation on the same truck or barge.
Where to locate collection site	Can house the containers at an existing building, store, school, recreation space.	Can be low cost, look for donated space at school, band hall, and ask volunteer groups to help organize an event.	Existing site may already be in use by the community.
	Convenient, one-stop for residents to drop off their recycling.	Assistance for collection events is available from some industry recycling organizations.	Community can choose a central location for stock-piling items until transportation is arranged.
Challenges	Education required informing and encouraging residents to drop off accepted material at depots.	Requires a lot of volunteers and must have an organizer in charge.	Will likely require equipment to move the large appliances for shipment.
	Requires someone to staff the depot - either an employee of the nation or a volunteer.	Residents have to store the recycling material like batteries, small appliances & electronics until the collection event.	Requires a lot of volunteers and must have an organizer in charge.
Works well for	Small materials that can be sorted and stored in bins for shipment to the participating recycling programs.	All sizes of items that can be brought by the resident to the event.	Large household appliances, power equipment and tires.



Collection Events

If you decide to hold a collection event, the First Nations Recycling Initiative (FNRI) can help with transportation of collected recyclable material, and provide other resources to support the event. Information on materials accepted for recycling through the initiative is found in the Recycling Programs Overview table below.

If you would like us to be involved in your community clean up initiative, please view the guidelines below:

- Give at least 6 - 8 weeks' notice for stewardship agencies to arrange transportation
- Contact the First Nations Field Services Specialist to confirm what stewardship materials you will be collecting
 - Note: you can choose what materials you would like to collect based on community needs
- Have a dry and secure area that is easily accessible for trucks to pick up collected materials (with the exception of major appliances; they do not need to be in a covered area)
- Provide an inventory of stockpiled material in the community that can be recycled
 - Note: If you decide not to have a collection event but have a stockpile of material (tires, batteries, major appliances etc.) please contact the First Nations Field Services Specialist to arrange transportation of stockpiled material
- Make arrangements if needed to store materials for a few extra days in the community if transportation cannot be arranged right away by the participating stewardship agencies

Please note that the First Nations Field Services Specialist may not be able to attend all collection events across the province but will be able to provide assistance leading up to the event and help with transportation arrangements afterwards.

Leading up to the Collection Event

- Advertise collection event – poster template available
- Go through the accepted materials list so you are aware of what items are accepted in each program
- Prepare to receive a delivery of materials prior to the collection event – this would include mega bags, pallets, boxes and large roll-off bin (if you are expecting a large number of major appliances)
- Reach out to the First Nations Field Services Specialist if you have any questions or concerns

Day of Collection Event

- As there are a lot of different materials accepted in each of the stewardship programs, make sure to have a copy of each of the accepted materials guide printed out and with you at the collection event
- Some materials that are dropped off at the collection event may not be accepted by the participating FNRI stewardship agencies. This material will need to be disposed of by the community, such as mattresses, furniture, plastic lawn furniture and toys.
- Take pictures of the items being dropped off for recycling and the event itself.
- If you receive materials that you are unsure of how to dispose, you can call the Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) for information on the closest recycling drop off location. They are available toll free at 1-800-667-4321.



Recycling Programs Overview

Program	Materials	Collection methods	Transportation	Hazards	Storage Requirements
Call2 Recycle	Small rechargeable, non-chargeable batteries	Depot or Event	Covers cost of transportation		No public access and in covered area
Canadian Battery Association	Lead-acid batteries	Depot, Dropped off at tire dealer or Event	Covers cost of transportation	Training required	No public access, in covered area
Electro Recycle	Small appliances, power tools, exercise equipment	Depot or Event	Covers cost of transportation		No public access and in covered area
Electronic Products Recycling Association	Electronics & computers	Depot, Event or collector in community	Covers cost of transportation or items can be dropped off at Encorp facility		No public access and in covered area
Encorp Pacific (Canada)	Ready-to-drink beverage containers	Drop off at Bottle Depot	Covers cost of transportation or items can be dropped off at Encorp facility		
Health Products Stewardship Association	Prescription & non-prescription drugs, vitamins, creams	Drop-off at collection site	Containers need to be dropped off at Pharmacy		Secured and no public access
Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable	Large appliances, fridges, stoves, washers, dryers	Depot, Some businesses or Event	Collected by Scrap Metal Contractor – would need to find a contractor	Training for handling ozone depleting substances (ODS) required. ODS must be removed before items are collected.	Central location
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada	Corded or battery powered outdoor equipment	Event	Collected by pre-existing network of scrap metal contractor		No public access and in covered area
Recycle BC	Packaging & Printed Paper	Depot or Event	Covers cost of transportation	No	No public access and in covered area
Tire Stewardship BC	Car tires, medium truck tires, agricultural tires, logger skidder tires and bicycle tires and tubes	Depot or Event	Covers cost of transportation		Central location.

* All programs require supervised or monitored collection sites that are easily accessible by trucks



Step 4- Prepare and Adopt the Plan

The fourth step is to finalize the draft recycling program plan. In addition to operational factors considered in Step 2 and Step 3, this step also involves thinking about ways to educate the community on the recycling program as well as achieving active community participation.

Training is also an important aspect of a successful recycling program. The employees who will be operating the recycling program should be trained to ensure they know all the details of the program and can answer any questions they may receive from community members. These operators are also educators, as they are the people on the front-lines who are educating the community members of the specifics of every program. Education and training are crucial as some of the materials may be hazardous or can cause damage to the environment if not handled properly.

Education

Education can be as simple as an elder taking the time to talk to his or her grandchildren, creating a display about materials, or a more formal process of learning. You know your community best. Think about what can inspire them to recycle.

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- Who is being educated? Youth, elders, all ages?
- What would be of interest to them?
- What are the key messages we need to convey?
- What is the most effective way to communicate to them?
- How can we get the community involved?
- What projects can we get the community interested in?
- Should the education be formal or informal?
- What strategies would be ideal for promoting recycling?
- Can we set goals as a community to promote recycling?
- What resources and communications tools are available?
- What resources do you still need?

Some examples of education opportunities can include:

- Recycling guides/brochures
- Signage at the drop-off location
- Community events (can include info booths, interactive displays, material examples, etc.)
- Partnerships (with influential individuals or events)
- Media, newsletters or presentations



Steps towards Building Community Support

A successful recycling program needs community support. Here are some useful tips to gain and keep support going:

- Align with community leaders who will champion your program
- Ask Chief and Council to endorse the recycling program
- Educate community members on what items can be recycled and why it's important to participate
- Make it simple and easy for people to take part in the recycling program, so that it gets off to a positive start. Then everyone can be proud of and share in the success.
- Let residents know how many recyclables have been collected and how they have helped to keep these out of your waste site and community. Has your community already organized a Spring Clean Up?
 - This event can be organized by volunteers and is a good start to seeing how much participation and interest in recycling and removing waste from your community.
- Get Kids involved
 - Many kids are keen to recycle and will influence their parents as well. Organize a kid's event at the school; develop a recycling program at the local school, daycare or health unit. How about becoming "Earth Rangers" or "Recycling Heroes"?



Consider other ways to Reduce Waste in Your Community

Transporting materials to remote communities can be very costly. By reducing and re-using materials, it reduces the recyclable materials that have to be collected and transported from your community. Here are a few ideas to reduce waste through re-using:

1. Hold a Community Swap Event
 - This is an event for community members to share and swap gently used goods they no longer use. Like books, CDs and DVDs, clean clothes, toys, household items (like lamps, dishes, tools) and sports equipment. What community resources do we have?
2. Promote Re-useable Items
 - Promote re-useable coffee travel mugs and re-useable shopping bags. What else can be re-used? Can materials be repurposed? How can we create the inspiration for re-using?
3. Set up a Share-shed
 - Provide a covered location for community members to leave items that still work, including building supplies, clothes, books and electronics. How can we let people know what is available?
4. Host repair cafes and skill training events
 - Do you have community members who can repair items and teach others those skills? What isn't repaired that could be?



Annex A- References and Resources

Below are some resources for finding out more about different approaches towards recycling and community development.

British Columbia Ministry of Environment

A Guide To Solid Waste Management Planning (September, 2016)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/garbage/swmp.pdf>

Centre for First Nations Governance

The Centre for First Nations Governance is a non-profit organization that supports First Nations as they develop effective self- governance. We are a leader in this field and the only organization in Canada dedicated strictly to First Nations governance. We are guided by the traditional values of respect, trust, honesty and recognition. Our facilitators are trained, experienced Aboriginal professionals. <http://www.fngovernance.org>

Community Comprehensive Plan Handbook

The *CCP Handbook: Comprehensive Community Planning for First Nations in British Columbia* is a reference tool developed by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in partnership with First Nations to support First Nations in developing and implementing their own community plans. The Handbook breaks down comprehensive community planning into manageable stages for BC communities ready to tackle the planning process.

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100021966/1100100021970>

Community Toolbox

Millions of people use the Community Tool Box each year to get help taking action, teaching, and training others in organizing for community development. Dive in to find help assessing community needs and resources, addressing social determinants of health, engaging stakeholders, action planning, building leadership, improving cultural competency, planning an evaluation, and sustaining your efforts over time. <http://ctb.ku.edu/en>

First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP)

The First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP) helps Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) assess infrastructure needs and strategically plan infrastructure investments in First Nation communities across Canada. It supports healthy and safe First Nation communities, and the economic success of First Nations.

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1440084290678/1440085334473>

Indigenous Guardians Toolkit

The Indigenous Guardians Toolkit offers an extensive online resource for everything related to Indigenous Guardian programs, and a platform for sharing and connecting with others.

<http://coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/news/introducing-indigenous-guardians-toolkit>

Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP) toolkit

An Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is any existing or new long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members, to help the community realize sustainability objectives within environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity. <https://www.toolkit.bc.ca/icsp>

Recycling Council of British Columbia

Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) has a searchable database of items that can be recycled and depot locations around BC to recycle the items as well as recycling hotline (1-800-667-4321). <http://rcbc.ca/>



Annex B- Funding Sources

There are many funding sources available for recycling programs in British Columbia. Many of the listed organizations will provide information and details about how to access this funding in conjunction with your community planning.

Source	Description	More Information
Automotive Recyclers of Canada: Grants in Gear	Developing environmental best practices for automotive recycling.	http://autorecyclers.ca/grants-in-gear-funding/
Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund	They provide funding for feasibility studies; pilot projects and capital projects related to initiatives that divert waste from municipal landfills and that address specific waste stream challenges.	https://fcm.ca/home/programs/green-municipal-fund.htm
First Nations Waste Management Initiative	This initiative supports First Nations in developing sustainable waste management systems through modern infrastructure, operations, training and partnerships. It is a complementary source of funding to the First Nation Infrastructure Fund.	https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1491490781609/1533647730166
Government of British Columbia	The Province supports Aboriginal entrepreneurs through programs, training and funding that help businesses to thrive and compete in B.C.'s economic climate. Strong Aboriginal businesses contribute to a strong B.C. economy.	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/aboriginal-people/economic-development
Government of Canada Eco Action Community Funding Program	Protect, rehabilitate and sustain the natural environment.	http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/
Government of Canada Support for First Nations infrastructure	The First Nations Infrastructure Fund focuses on five priority areas: improving First Nations energy systems (linking to power grids, sustainable energy systems), broadband connectivity, solid waste management (including landfills and recycling), road and bridge projects, and community planning and/or skills development projects that will support long-term sustainable community development of First Nation communities.	http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/fn-pn-eng.html
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)	INAC can support projects related to waste management and reduction, and proposals through the CCP. Contact the local region for more information	http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100021901/1100100021902
TD Bank: Friends of the Environment Foundation	The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs.	https://fef.td.com/funding/
Various BC stewardship agencies	Several stewardship agencies have funding assistance for recycling programs. Check individual stewardship agencies or RCBC website.	http://www.bcrecycles.ca/
Western Economic Diversification Canada	The Western Diversification Program (WDP) is targeted at not-for-profit organizations that are eligible for funding, including First Nations, Tribal Councils, Métis and Inuit organizations.	http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/16.asp

