



BC First Nations Recycling Initiative

# First Nations Recycling Initiative Resource Guide



## About the First Nations Recycling Initiative



Many communities, including First Nations, have expressed a sense of feeling overwhelmed by the number of product stewardship organizations involved in recycling special items and the amount of information available about 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. Nine 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, Electro Recycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Health Products Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, Return-It, and Tire Stewardship BC.

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

Visit our website to learn more about the FNRI, read our annual reports, and access other resources:

[RecycleBC.ca/First-Nations-Recycling-Initiative](https://RecycleBC.ca/First-Nations-Recycling-Initiative)

Contact us by email at [info@fnri.ca](mailto:info@fnri.ca).



## About this Resource Guide

This guide provides you an overview of the stewardship programs that are involved with the First Nations Recycling initiative: Call2Recycle, ElectroRecycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Health Products Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, Return-It, and Tire Stewardship BC.



Outdoor Power  
Equipment Institute  
Canada



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# About Recycling

## 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 (FNRI) can be found in this guide.

For general information on all stewardship organizations, visit The Stewardship Agencies of BC (SABC) website at [BCRecycles.ca](http://BCRecycles.ca).

## 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 and rechargeable batteries);
- Small appliances and power tools (like toasters, irons, hairdryers, drills, and clocks);
- Electronics (like televisions, computers, cellular devices, 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)
- Packaging and paper product (like printed paper, plastic containers, metal containers, paper packaging, glass, soft plastics and foam packaging);
- Beverage containers; and
- Tires (like car tires, medium truck tires, agricultural tires, logger skidder tires and bicycle tires and tubes).



## About Household Battery Recycling



### DID YOU KNOW?

Recycling your batteries with Call2Recycle not only protects the environment by preventing hazardous materials from contaminating soil and water but it also allows reusable materials to be reclaimed to manufacture new products like new batteries, bicycles, watches, golf clubs and small appliances.

### 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 YOU CAN RECYCLE

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 CONSIDER

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 on February 18 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 Small Appliance Recycling



### DID YOU KNOW?

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

### ABOUT ELECTRORECYCLE

It's never been easier to get rid of broken and unwanted small appliances, power tools and even larger items like treadmills...and feel good about it. 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.

### WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE

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;
- 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 CONSIDER

- ElectroRecycle accepts small appliances (e.g., countertop microwaves, vacuum cleaners, hair dryers), electric exercise equipment, and 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 community collection event to encourage the recycling of broken, old, or unwanted small electrical appliances & power tools.

### CONTACT

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

[info@cesarecycling.ca](mailto: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; and
- 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 YOU CAN 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 CONSIDER

- 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](http://www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/bc)

1-604-291-1002

[craig.wisheart@epra.ca](mailto:craig.wisheart@epra.ca)



## About Medication Collection



### HEALTH PRODUCTS

STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

#### DID YOU KNOW?

If you look in your medicine cabinet, chances are you will find medications that are expired or that you no longer need. Did you know that 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 the “British Columbia Medication Return Program” or BCMRP.

#### ABOUT THE BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM

The Health Products Stewardship Association is a national not-for-profit organization that represents over 145 pharmaceutical brand owners and manufacturers and is responsible for the effective and safe collection and disposal of unwanted health products. On behalf of producers and since 2007, HPSA has been administering the BCMRP with the support of more than 1,200 community pharmacies acting as collection sites in the province of British Columbia (92.15 % of all registered retail community pharmacies in the province). Since its inception, HPSA has collected more than 1,000,000 kg of unwanted medications in the province.

#### WHAT YOU CAN RETURN

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 CONSIDER

- Is there a pharmacy close by or that works with your Health Centre that will accept medication? A [drop-off location map](#) on HPSA’s webpage lists all participating pharmacies where you can return unwanted medications.
- 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](http://www.healthsteward.ca)

[info@healthsteward.ca](mailto: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 YOU CAN RECYCLE

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](mailto:info@marrbc.ca) to discuss how to recycle major appliances in your community.

### CONTACT

[www.marrbc.ca](http://www.marrbc.ca)

1-888-252-4621



## About Outdoor Power Equipment Recycling

# Outdoor Power Equipment Institute Canada

### DID YOU KNOW?

OPEIC provides over 240 locations across the province where you can recycle your old, broken, or unwanted electric outdoor power equipment? It's free, easy to use and helps protect the environment by diverting products from landfill and recycling old products into new materials.

### 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. It is a non-profit organization representing the electric outdoor power equipment industry in Canada. OPEIC offers over 240 drop-off locations across the province and is happy to work with rural and remote communities to find solutions to manage stockpiles of electric outdoor power equipment, including one-time collection events.

The OPEIC program does not manage fuel-powered outdoor power equipment. These products should be recycled through the existing scrap metal recycling system.

### WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE

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. If the products are electric powered (corded or battery) and included in the list below or on our website, it will be accepted. Please do not remove embedded batteries before recycling.

The four categories and examples of electric products in each category are provided below.

Handheld	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, woodchipper/shredder, wood splitter.
Lawn tractors	Electric: Ride on lawn tractor.

For a complete list of all EOPE accepted by the program, visit <https://www.opec.ca/recycle-outdoor-power-equipment/>



## WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Outdoor power equipment that relies on a fuel-powered engine is not included in the program.
- 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 recycling location?

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



## About Packaging and Paper Recycling



### DID YOU KNOW

Recycle BC collects approximately 200,000 tonnes of packaging and paper annually from communities across BC.

### 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 99% of BC. The Recycle BC program is funded by over 1,200 businesses, like retailers, manufacturers and restaurants that supply packaging and 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 managed and 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 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
- Other flexible plastic packaging

### WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Recycle BC provides financial incentives to local governments, First Nations, private companies and not-for-profits to collect residential waste packaging and paper under contract with Recycle BC.
- All collectors are required to meet Recycle BC's [Collector Qualification Standards](#).
- The Recycle BC program is not responsible for industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) waste packaging and paper and does not collect or manage ICI material.

### CONTACT

[RecycleBC.ca](https://www.recyclebc.ca)

1-855-875-3596

[info@recyclebc.ca](mailto:info@recyclebc.ca)



## About Beverage Containers



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Encorp Stewardship Plan includes all ready-to-drink beverage containers sold in British Columbia as identified under Schedule 1 of the Recycling Regulation such as aluminum cans, plastic, glass, bi-metal, drink boxes, gable tops, bag-in-a-box, stand-up pouches as well as refillable bottles on behalf of appointed producers.

### ABOUT ENCORP PACIFIC

Encorp Pacific (Canada) is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit, product Stewardship Corporation with beverage container management as its core business. Its 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. As EPR programs and the need for recycling solutions for material streams continue to grow at a rapid pace, Encorp has been at the forefront of providing innovative solutions. Its systems include the development and implementation of methods that provide practical and effective solutions to reduce waste. Encorp also, under contract, manages the programs for end-of-life electronics for EPRA and large appliances for the MARR program.

### WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE

- 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. Depots may 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/>

### WHAT TO CONSIDER

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](mailto:srutherford@returnit.ca))  
[www.returnit.ca](http://www.returnit.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.

A detailed listing can be found [here](#). 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, please click [here](#).

### WHAT TO CONSIDER

- 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, please visit our website for [pick up information](#). Or if you need to register, please [download](#) a registration form.

### CONTACT

[www.tsbc.ca](http://www.tsbc.ca)

1-866-759-0488



## Contact Us

Visit our website to learn more about the FNRI, read our annual reports, and access other resources:  
[RecycleBC.ca/First-Nations-Recycling-Initiative](http://RecycleBC.ca/First-Nations-Recycling-Initiative)

Contact us by email at info at: [info@fnri.ca](mailto:info@fnri.ca)

Tim Jones  
[tjones@recyclebc.ca](mailto:tjones@recyclebc.ca)  
604-202-9873



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