



Recycling in the Yukon 2024

May 2025





This report

This report summarizes current regulated and some non-regulated recycling programs in the Yukon and details the amount of waste diverted from landfill in 2024. The previous two years of data are provided for context, and the data reported is by calendar year. The goals of this report are:

- to provide a baseline for comparison for future years as part of our commitment to reporting and transparency under the [Our Clean Future](#)¹ strategy;
- to meet a commitment to report on activities of the Recycling Fund as per section 3 of the *Recycling Fund Regulations*; and
- to allow comparison after upcoming regulatory and program changes are complete.

Waste reduction and diversion in the Yukon

The Yukon is committed to reducing waste generation and increasing waste diversions across the territory. [Our Clean Future](#) sets out targets to reduce the amount of waste generated per person by 10 per cent by 2030, compared to 2020, and to increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill per person to 40 per cent by 2025. The progress towards these targets is summarized below.

Year	Waste Diversion	Waste generated (tonnes/person)
2021 ²	26%	1.01
2022 ³	30%	0.90
2023 ⁴	28%	0.93
2024	23%	0.91

Two specific Department of Environment action items in [Our Clean Future](#) commit to banning single-use bags by 2021 (action I13) and implementing extended producer responsibility by 2025 (action I14). Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is an environmental and economic policy approach that makes producers of products and packaging be responsible for managing

¹ The Government of Yukon, *Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy* (September 14, 2020), [Our clean future | Government Of Yukon - Our Clean Future](#)

² The Government of Yukon, *Recycling in the Yukon, 2019-2021*, (2022), <https://open.yukon.ca/sites/default/files/recycling-yukon-2019-2021.pdf>

³ The Government of Yukon, *Recycling in the Yukon, 2022* (May 2023), <https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-recycling-report-2022.pdf>

⁴The Government of Yukon, *Recycling in the Yukon, 2023* (July 2024), [Yukon Recycling Report 2022](#)



their products and packaging throughout their entire lifecycle, including the waste management stage.

Waste is diverted from landfills in the Yukon through regulated and non-regulated (voluntary) programs. All current regulated programs in the Yukon are stewardship programs. They are structured to collect fees from the consumer at the point of purchase. The fees are placed in the territorial government Recycling Fund that is used to finance recycling of these regulated products. There are stewardship programs for beverage containers, tires, electronics and small electrical appliances.

This report does not include information on the ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal collection and recycling that is conducted at most solid waste management facilities and through non-governmental businesses and organizations.

What's new since the last report⁵

The Government of Yukon finalized the *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulation*, and it came into effect on January 25, 2024. Three stewardship plans have been approved under the EPR Regulation:

- Call2Recycle Battery Plan – start date June 24, 2025,
- Interchange Recycling Automotive Waste (Oil, DEF, antifreeze, etc.) Plan – start date August 1, 2025, and
- Circular Materials Packaging and Paper Products (PPP) Plan – start date November 1, 2025.

To learn more, please visit [Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility](https://yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility). An additional stewardship plan for hazardous and special products is anticipated to be submitted by the end of summer 2025.

On September 15, 2024, Raven Re-Centre closed their free public drop-off of non-refundable materials in Whitehorse with the hopes of encouraging curbside collection of recycling for Whitehorse residents. A city-wide curbside collection system begun in December 2024. It is anticipated that the curbside collection will continue when the PPP EPR program is launched in November 2025.

A gap in non-refundable recycling services is currently occurring between Raven Re-Centre closing the non-refundable drop off in September 2024 and EPR program becoming operational in November 2025. To address the gap in services, the City of Whitehorse initiated a temporary drop-off with tipping fees at the City of Whitehorse Landfill starting September 2024.

⁵Government of Yukon, Recycling in the Yukon 2020-2022 (2023), access from <https://yukon.ca/en/waste-and-recycling/recycling/what-can-i-recycle-and-where>



The City of Whitehorse increased the frequency of household hazardous waste collection at the landfill from twice a year to weekly in February 2024.

Operations

Products and packaging are accepted for recycling through a system of depots (Table 1) and collection infrastructure at the solid waste management facilities (Table 2) across the Yukon.

In Whitehorse, a subscription-based service was available for the curbside collection of blue bin materials, including beverage containers and non-refundable materials until November 2024. In December 2024, the curbside recycling program in Whitehorse became city-wide. Curbside recycling collection services are offered to residents in Haines Junction and Teslin by their respective local governments. Municipalities of Faro and Haines Junction also offer cardboard collection services to some non-residential properties. City of Dawson collects cardboard from some residential and commercial properties.

Table 1 - List of depots

Yukon community	Beverage containers (with refunds)	Non-refundables*
Whitehorse - P&M Recycling	Y	Y
Whitehorse - Raven Re-Centre	Y	Y until Sept. 15 2024
Burwash Landing	Y	Y
Carmacks	Y	Y
Dawson	Y	Y
Faro	Y	Y
Haines Junction	Y	Y
Marsh Lake	Y	Y
Mayo	Y	Y
Mendenhall	Y	Y
Mount Lorne	Y	Y
Tagish	Y	Y
Teslin	Y	Y
Watson Lake	Y	Y

Note:

*Non-refundables include printed paper and packaging materials other than beverage containers (e.g., paper, cardboard, cans, plastic packaging, etc.)



Table 2 - List of Solid Waste Management Facilities

Yukon community	Beverage containers (no refund)	Non-refundables *	Tires	E-waste and electrical appliances	Free store	Textiles	HHW***
Whitehorse	Y**	Y**	Y	-	-	-	HHW Days****
Beaver Creek	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Braeburn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcross	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Carmacks	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	HHW Day
Champagne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Deep Creek	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Dawson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	HHW Day
Destruction Bay	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Faro	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	HHW Day
Johnson's Crossing	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Haines Junction	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	HHW Day
Marsh Lake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Mayo	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	HHW Day
Mount Lorne	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y
Old Crow	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Pelly Crossing	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y
Ross River	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Silver City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stewart Crossing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tagish	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Teslin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*****
Watson Lake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (not clothing)	Y	HHW Day

Notes:

*Non-refundables include printed paper and packaging materials other than beverage containers (e.g., paper, cardboard, cans, plastic packaging, etc.)

** A temporary drop off for beverage containers and non-refundables was initiated in September 2024.

*** HHW – household hazardous waste.

**** Frequency of HHW Days switched from twice yearly to once a week in February 2024.

***** In Teslin, HHW is collected at the Municipal Yard, rather than at the solid waste disposal facility.



Beverage containers

What:	Ready-to-serve beverage containers, including milk products
Regulation:	Beverage Container Regulation
How:	Deposit and refund

When you purchase a ready-to-serve beverage container in the Yukon, a surcharge is added onto the price⁶. The surcharges are directed into the Recycling Fund. Once a container is returned to a recycling depot, a portion of the surcharge amount is refunded. The remaining portion is used to support recycling in the territory.

Product category	Surcharge at point-of-Sale	Refund	Return rate		
			2022	2023	2024
Milk and Milk substitutes	10¢	5¢	67%	63%	51%
Small Beverage Containers (≥30mL and <750mL)	10¢	5¢	69%	76%	67%
Large Beverage Containers (≥750mL)	35¢	25¢	79%	90%	80%
Total containers sold:			29.0 million	27.4 million	30.8 million
Total containers collected:			20.1 million	20.9 million	20.2 million
Overall recovery rate:			69%	76%	66%

Amounts of Beverage Container Regulation materials shipped out, reused and landfilled in 2024 are shown in the table below.

Product category	Tonnes shipped out		
	2022	2023	2024
PET	91.3	234	278
HDPE	16.2	0.7	1.3
TetraPaks/Milk cartons	36.7	30.6	31.9
Aluminum	150.3	139	113*
Total recycled:	294.5	404.3	679.2
Glass (reused)	134	66	no data
Glass (landfilled)	320	374	no data

*based on one processor data only, actual number is likely higher

⁶ [Yukon.ca/en/beverage-container-recycling-information](https://www.yukon.ca/en/beverage-container-recycling-information)



Non-refundable recycling

What:	Printed paper and packaging materials other than beverage containers, including paper, cardboard, cans, plastic packaging, etc.
Regulation:	Not regulated
How:	Supported by territorial and municipal diversion credit funding

Collection and recycling of paper products and packaging (PPP) materials that are not beverage containers are not regulated in the Yukon. These materials are collected at the community recycling depots and two Whitehorse processors (Raven Re-Centre and P&M Recycling). Note, Raven Re-Centre stopped accepting this material on September 15, 2024. The materials from the community depots are processed in Whitehorse for sale to the national and global recycling markets.

Territorial and municipal governments (City of Whitehorse and Dawson City) financially support recycling of these materials via the diversion credits paid to the processors. Diversion credit amounts are not directly tied to the costs borne by the processors and the government does not have control of how these credits are spent.

Collection of non-refundable glass containers ended in the fall of 2019, and glass is landfilled. Expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) is also no longer collected for recycling in the territory. Raven Re-Center has stopped collecting and processing soft plastics in 2023. PPP materials received from residents and commercial clients are processed together.

Material	Tonnes shipped out		
	2022	2023	2024
Cardboard	2353	2267	2571
Paper	689	599	452
PET	10	26	31
HDPE	8	6.5	23
Tetra Paks	9.2	0.9	8
Mixed plastic	248	260	308
Plastic film	44	0	0
Styrofoam	1.6	0	0
Tin	44	55	23
Total	3364	3214	3416



Designated materials

What: Tires, e-waste and small electrical appliances

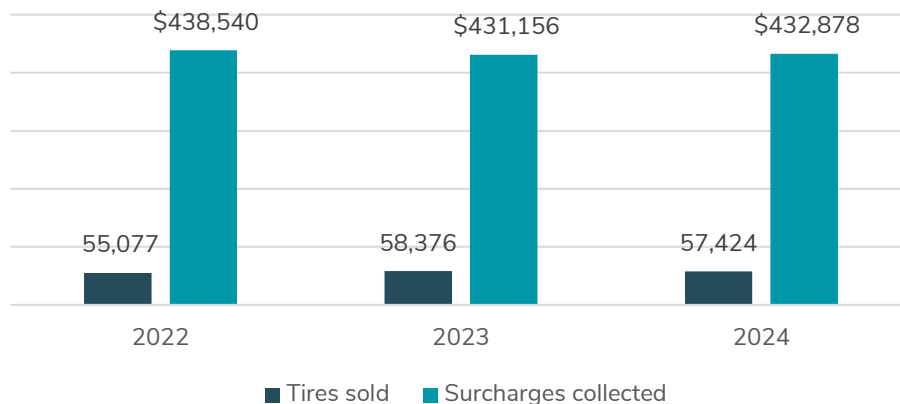
Regulation: [Designated Materials Regulation](#)

How: Funded by surcharges collected at point of sale

The Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) currently fulfills the administrative requirements of the tire stewardship program under contract with the Government of Yukon. Similarly, the Electronics Products Recycling Association (EPRA) runs the electronics and electrical products program. These organizations register producers, collect the established surcharges from retailers, and work towards compliance with unregistered producers.

The surcharges for tires range from \$5 to \$200 depending on the rim size of the tires and the vehicle type.⁷

Number of tires sold and surcharges collected

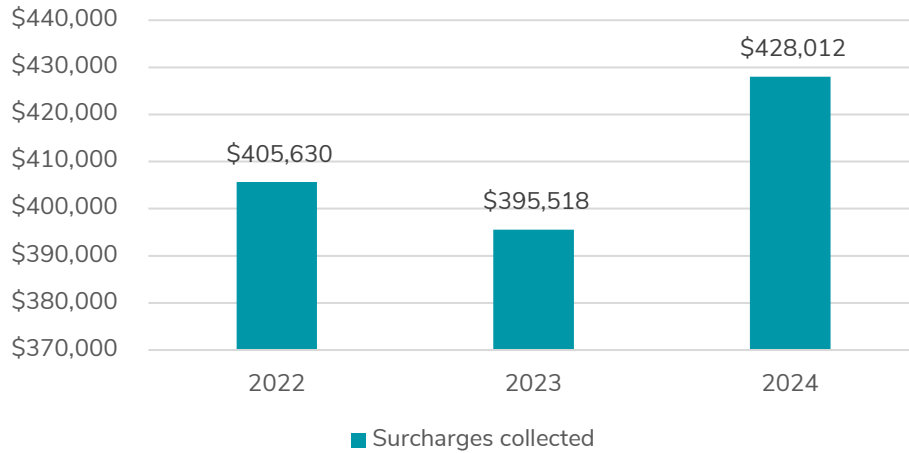


⁷ [Yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges](https://www.yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges)



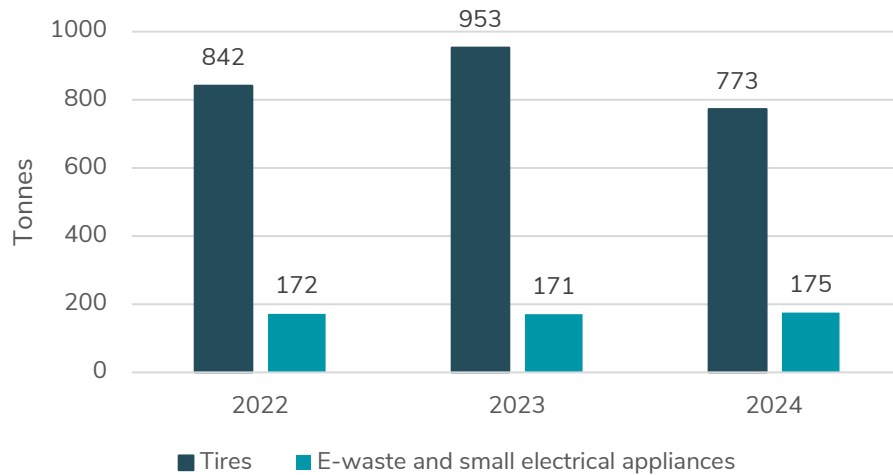
The surcharges for electronics and small electrical appliances range from \$0.14 to \$56⁸.

Surcharges collected on electronics and small electrical appliances



The actual collection and recycling activities under the *Designated Materials Regulation* are contracted separately using the funds from the collected surcharges.

Recycling shipped out of Yukon



⁸ [Yukon.ca/en/electronics-and-electrical-products-recycling-surcharges](https://www.yukon.ca/en/electronics-and-electrical-products-recycling-surcharges)



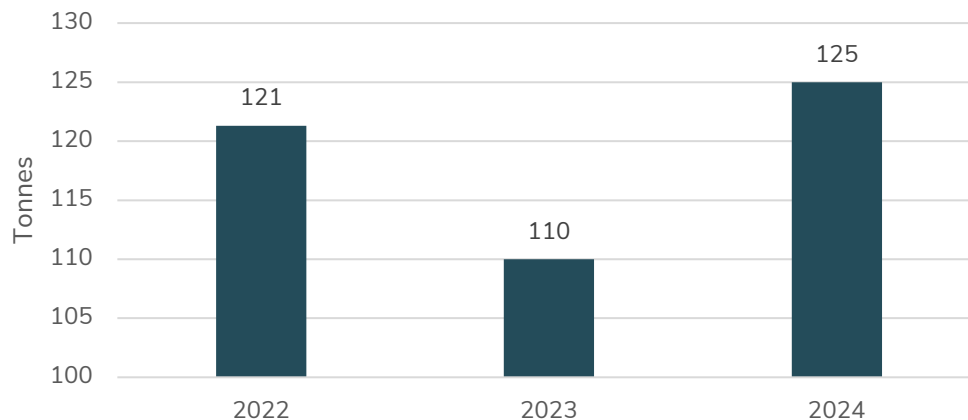
Household hazardous waste

What:	Household hazardous waste including batteries, solvents, paints, fuels, waste oil, waste antifreeze, bear sprays, pesticides, etc.
Regulation:	Not regulated (collection, storage and transportation regulated under Special Waste Regulation)
How:	Collection events funded by territorial and municipal governments Household batteries also collected by Call2Recycle

Household hazardous wastes are waste products that can be harmful to the environment and to human health. Hazardous wastes are common in most homes. Common types of household hazardous waste (HHW) include use oil from vehicles, fluorescent light bulbs, solvents, expired bear spray, cleaning products and oil paints.

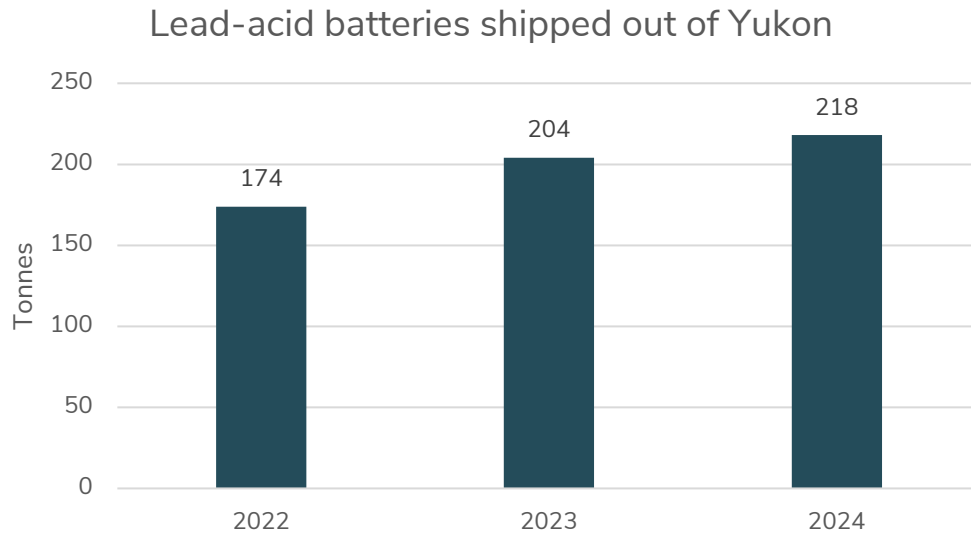
Yukon municipalities and most communities host HHW collection events once or twice a year, allowing residents to drop off HHW at no cost. Eleven communities collect HHW year-round at their local solid waste disposal facility (SWDF).

Household hazardous waste shipped out of Yukon

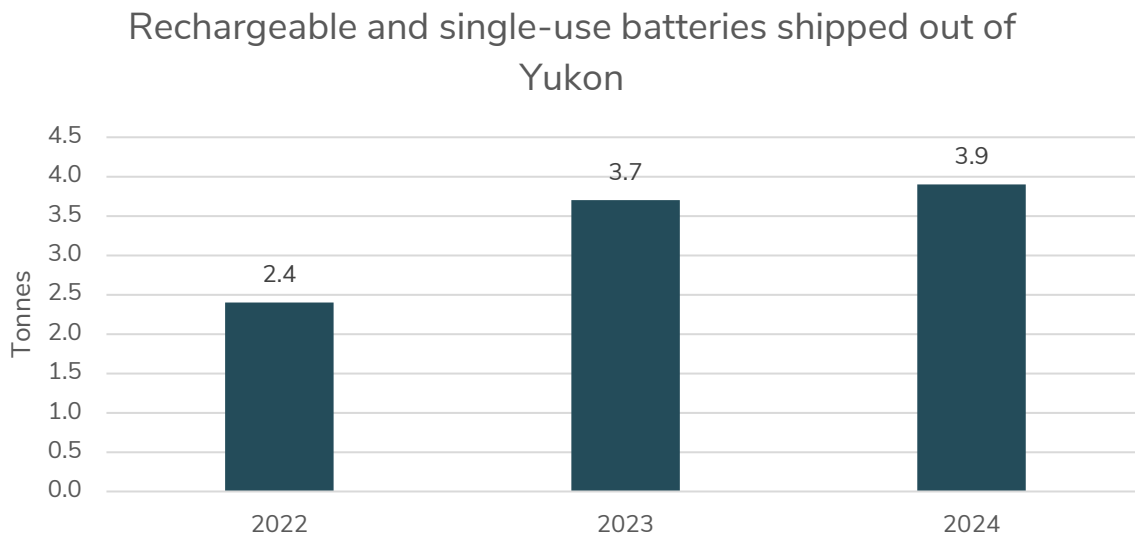




Old vehicle lead-acid batteries are accepted at Raven Re-Center year-round.



Non lead-acid batteries are also collected year-round through the voluntary Call2Recycle⁹ collection program. There are three public drop off locations in Whitehorse including Raven Re-Centre, Staples and Department of Environment. There is also a public drop off located at the Department of Environment in Carmacks.



⁹ <https://www.call2recycle.ca/>

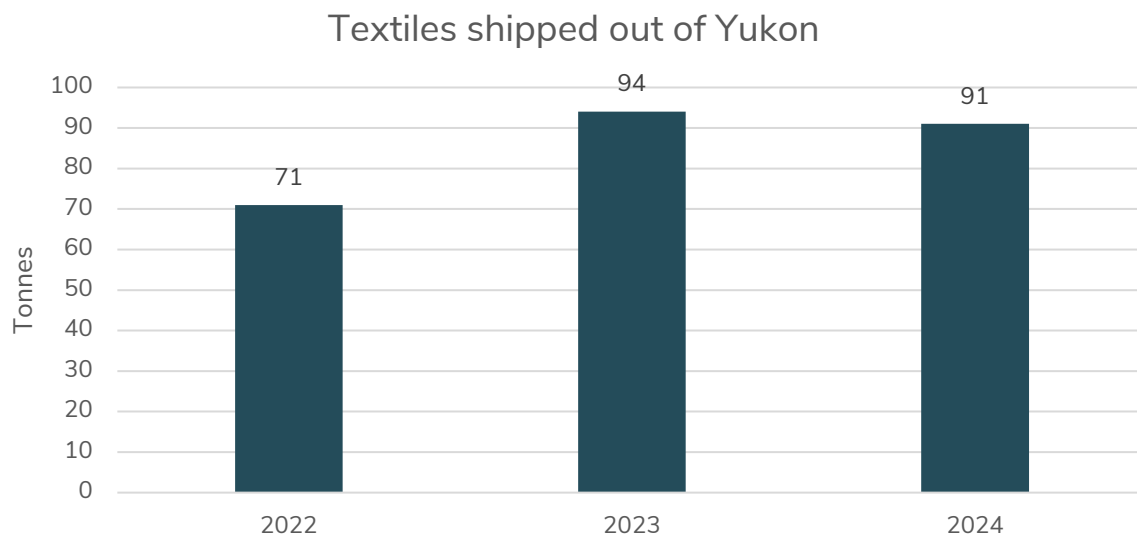


Textiles

What: Clothing and non-clothing textiles such as sheets, curtains, towels, etc.
Regulation: Not regulated
How: Operated by Raven Re-Centre
Collection outside of Whitehorse is funded by territorial and municipal governments

Raven Re-Centre in Whitehorse collects clothing, sheets, curtains, towels and other fabric textiles for re-use and recycling. The materials are sent to a recycler in British Columbia. The proceeds of the program are shared with the Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society.

In 2020, the Department of Community Services recently expanded textile collection to Mount Lorne and Tagish. Municipalities of Haines Junction, Teslin and Watson Lake also collect textiles. Raven Re-Centre processes all textiles.





What is next?

Extended producer responsibility is a system where producers of products and packaging become financially and operationally responsible for collection and end-of-life management of their products and packaging. The Government of Yukon released a legal framework for extended producer responsibility (EPR) in January 2024. EPR programs for the below priority materials will become operational in 2025.

The two priority categories of materials to be managed under EPR in the Yukon are:

- paper products and packaging products, such as blue box type items (but not including beverage containers);
- hazardous and special products, including waste paints, fuels and solvents;
- automotive wastes, such as waste oil, diesel exhaust fluid, waste antifreeze and their containers; and
- batteries.

Three producer responsibility organizations (PROs) have approved stewardship plans that will be operational before the end of 2025. One more plan is anticipated to be submitted in 2025 for potential start before the end of 2025. To learn more about EPR in the Yukon, please visit Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility.