



Recycling in the Yukon

2019 – 2021





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 between 2019 and 2021. 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 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 future 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](#)¹ 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. In 2020, Yukoners generated 0.92 tonnes of waste on average and diverted 25 per cent of that waste from landfills². In 2021, these amounts increased to 1.01 tonnes of waste generated per person and diversion rate of 25.6 per cent.

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 (EPR) by 2025 (action I14).

The plastic single-use check-out bags were banned January 1, 2022, and the single-use paper bag ban will take effect on January 1, 2023. To learn more, please visit Yukon.ca/bagban.

EPR is an environmental and economic policy approach that makes producers of products and packaging be responsible for managing their products and packaging throughout their entire lifecycle, including the waste management stage. The Government of Yukon is currently preparing a proposal for this new regulation. To learn more, please visit Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility.

¹ The Government of Yukon, *Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy* (September 14, 2020), Yukon.ca/en/our-clean-future-yukon-strategy-climate-change-energy-and-green-economy

² The Government of Yukon, *Our Clean Future, 2020 annual report* (August 2021), Yukon.ca/en/our-clean-future-2020-annual-report



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 a 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.

Operation

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 is available for the curbside collection of blue bin materials, including beverage containers and non-refundable materials. 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.

Table 1 - List of depots

Yukon community	Beverage containers (with refunds)	Non-refundables*
Whitehorse - P&M Recycling	Y	Y
Whitehorse - Raven Recycling	Y	Y
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
Ross River (closed 2021)	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 Since 2020: Cardboard only	Y	-	-	-	HHW Days
Beaver Creek	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Braeburn	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Carcross	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Carmacks	-	-	Y	-	-	-	HHW Day
Champagne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Deep Creek	Y	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	-	-	-	-	-
Keno	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Haines Junction	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	HHW Day
Marsh Lake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mayo	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	HHW Day
Mount Lorne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Old Crow	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Pelly Crossing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Ross River	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Silver City	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Stewart Crossing	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Tagish	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Teslin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (new in 2022)	Y
Watson Lake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (not clothing)	Y	HHW Day

Note:

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

** HHW – household hazardous waste



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 price³. 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		
			2019	2020	2021
Milk and Milk substitutes	10¢	5¢	61%	55%	64%
Small Beverage Containers (≥30mL and <750mL)	10¢	5¢	80%	68%	71%
Large Beverage Containers (≥750mL)	35¢	25¢	87%	72%	88%
Total containers sold:			27.3 million	27.3 million	28.9 million
Total containers collected:			21.6 million	18.3 million	20.7 million
Overall recovery rate:			79%	67%	72%

Amounts of Beverage Container Regulation materials shipped out, reused and landfilled between 2019 and 2021 are shown in the table below. Collection was negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, due to temporary closure of the depots.

Product category	Tonnes shipped out		
	2019	2020	2021
PET	100.9	78.4	95.1
HDPE	38	30	31.6
TetraPaks/Milk cartons	43.0	32.0	41.1
Aluminum	128	139	171
Total recycled:	309.9	279.4	338.8
Glass (reused)	no data	202	187
Glass (landfilled)	no data	638	458

³ [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 printed paper and packaging 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 Recycling and P&M Recycling). 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 born 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. Printed paper and packaging materials received from residents and commercial clients are processed together.

Material	Tonnes shipped out		
	2019	2020	2021
Cardboard	2209	2324	2348
Paper	625	422	603
PET	17	13	15
HDPE	20	15	19
TetraPaks	7	7	9
Mixed plastic	81	295	322
Plastic film	75	53	10
Styrofoam	7	6	0
Tin	36	23	9
Total	3077	3158	3335



Designated materials

What: Tires, e-waste and small electrical appliances

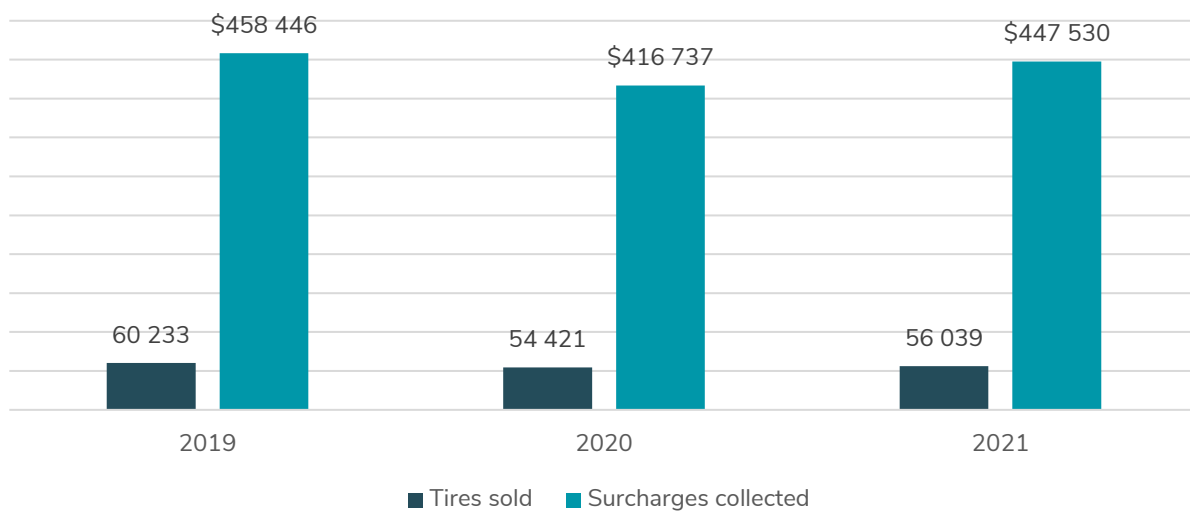
Regulation: [Designated Materials Regulation](#)

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.⁴

Number of tires sold and surcharges collected

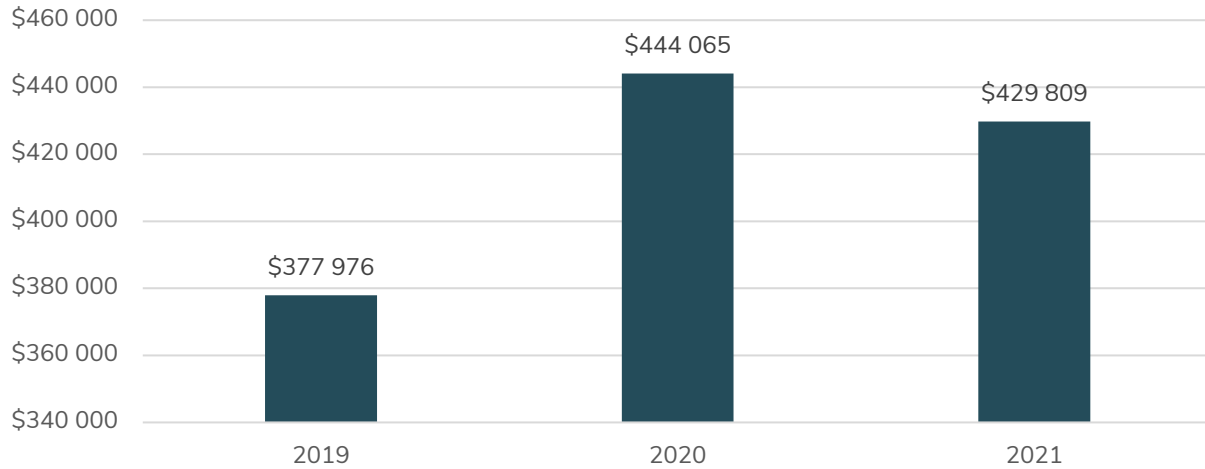


⁴ [Yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges](https://www.yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges)



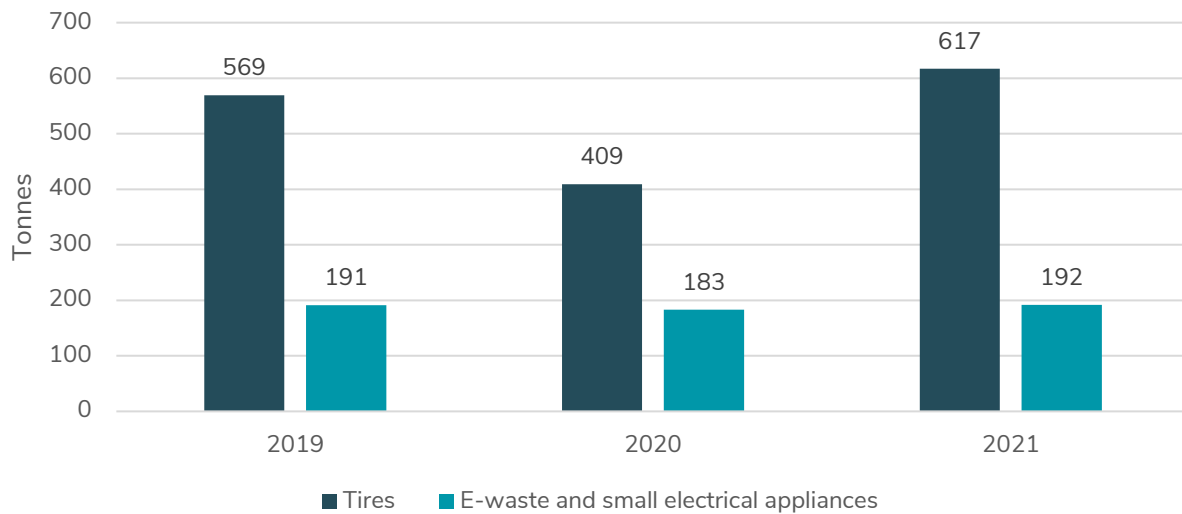
The surcharges for electronics and small electrical appliances range from \$0.14 to \$56⁵.

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 the Yukon



⁵ [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 (HHW) 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 include use oil from vehicles, fluorescent light bulbs, solvents, expired bear spray, cleaning products and oil paints.

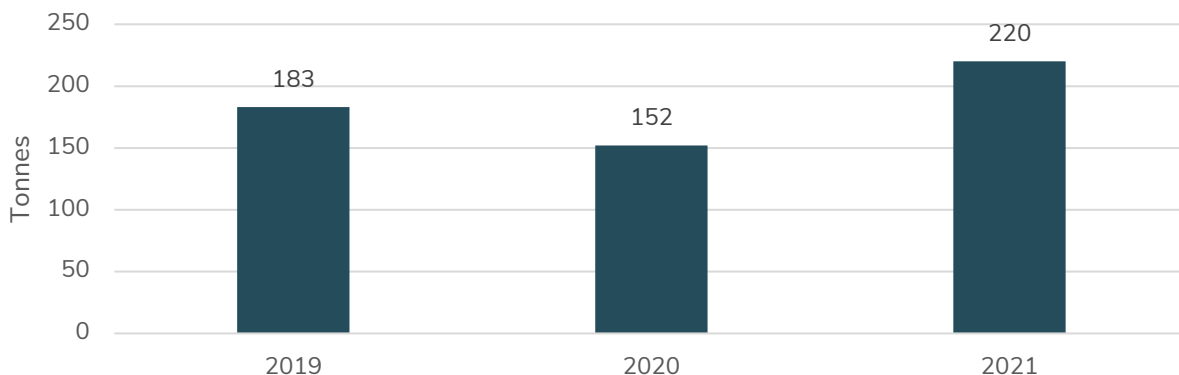
Yukon municipalities and most communities host HHW collection events once or twice a year, allowing residents to drop off HHW at no cost. Eleven communities collect HHW year-round at their local solid waste disposal facility (SWDF).





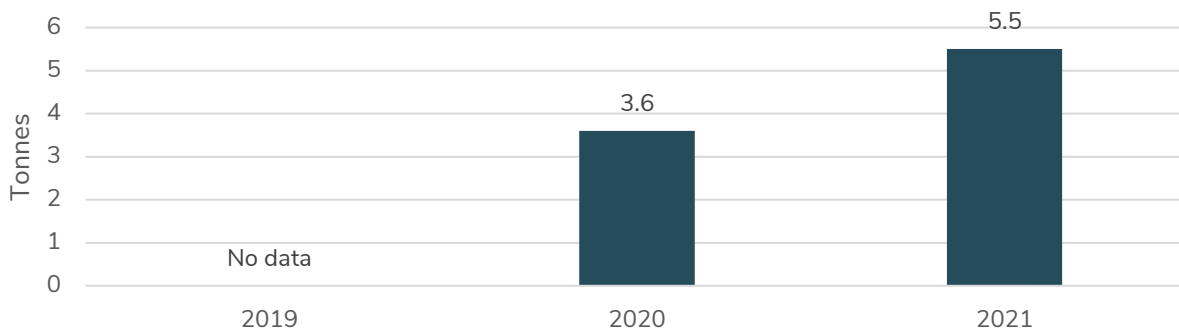
Old vehicle lead-acid batteries are accepted at Raven Recycling year-round.

Lead-acid batteries shipped out of the Yukon



Non lead-acid batteries are also collected year-round through the voluntary Call2Recycle collection program. There are five public drop off locations in Whitehorse including Raven Recycling, Staples, the Department of Environment, and two bicycle shops.

Rechargeable and single-use batteries shipped out of the Yukon





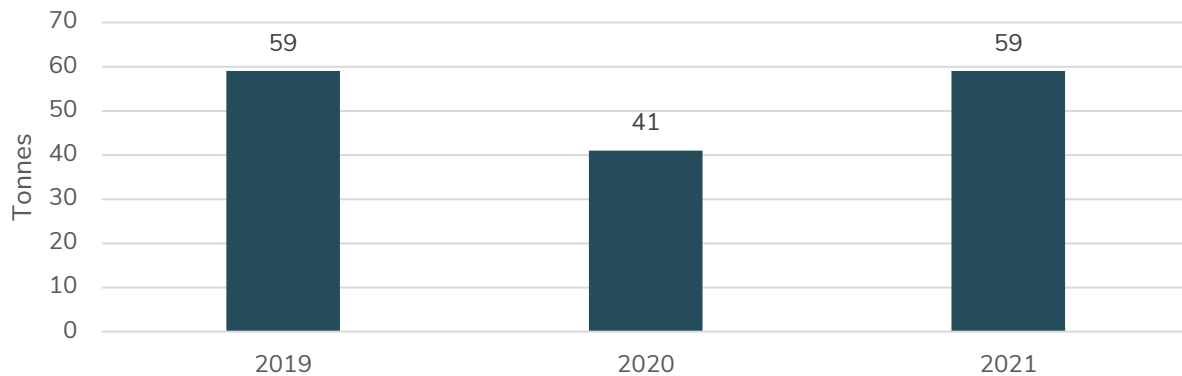
Textiles

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

Raven Recycling 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 Marsh Lake, Mount Lorne, Deep Creek, Carcross and Tagish. Municipalities of Haines Junction, Teslin and Watson Lake also collect textiles. Raven Recycling processes all textiles.

Textiles shipped out of the Yukon





What is next?

The Government of Yukon is working to establish a legal framework for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and establish EPR programs for the priority materials by 2025. EPR 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 three priority categories of materials to be managed under EPR in the Yukon are:

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

To learn more about EPR in the Yukon, please visit Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility.