

Starting a Recycling Program

A Toolkit for Manitoba First Nations and Northern Communities



Reduce ⇨ Reuse ⇨ Recycle ⇨ Recover

How the Toolkit Came About

Starting or enhancing a waste management program can be daunting. Many communities express a sense of feeling overwhelmed by the number of organizations involved, amount of information, and disjointed resources.

That recognition led to the idea of a toolkit to help communities assess their needs, guide them through the planning process, and provide an overview of how to implement a waste management program specific to their community and location.

The main focus of this toolkit is to help communities decide where to start and how to get started. It is intended to serve as a step-by-step guide that answers the same questions every community has about recycling but specific to their context.

Committee members helping to guide the toolkit's development include: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Manitoba Sustainable Development, Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA), and Green Action Centre.

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A. HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit will help you get started recycling in your community.

It will help you decide:

- ☞ what you want to recycle
- ☞ what you need to think about first
- ☞ how to get started
- ☞ what resources and funding are available
- ☞ who to contact

Take your time and go at the pace that your community is ready for.

If you're not ready to start a full recycling program, there are many other things your community can do. Look for the Action boxes throughout this booklet.

By working through the toolkit, you will become familiar with the different types of waste materials that can be recycled. You will find out what is involved with collecting, storing and transporting each type of recyclable material. You will also learn about the industry recycling organizations that deal with each type of material and how they can help you.

When you are ready, Section E provides even more detail on each type of recyclable material. Contact the industry organization that deals with that material to talk about your community's specific needs and situation. They are there to help your community start recycling.

The best piece of advice? Pick up the phone and talk to people.

In the toolkit you will find examples of what other communities are doing. Ask them how they did it and how you can do it too.

B. OVERVIEW OF RECYCLING

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

