

Key Messages and Questions and Answers New Waste Diversion Program

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement is launching a new waste diversion program throughout ministry buildings across Saskatchewan.
- Recycling programs at the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement buildings are being expanded to include mixed recycling and composting, which will accept a wider variety of materials, including cardboard, plastics, tin, aluminum, and organic materials.
- This follows a pilot project in 2022 by the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment at the Lloyd Place building in Regina.
- This pilot project was a success, with waste diversion rates increasing 37 per cent (from 25 to 62 per cent).
- The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement is undertaking this project as a commitment in the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy. It will also help our government align with the City of Regina and Saskatoon waste bylaws.
- As part of this project, you will see new signage throughout ministry buildings across Saskatchewan. This is to clearly mark which materials are acceptable for each category of recycling.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q1: Why is this project happening?

A: The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement (SBP) is undertaking this project as a commitment to the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy. It will also help our government align with the City of Regina and Saskatoon waste bylaws.

Q2: What's new?

A:

- Mixed recycling collection will begin. This will include recycling things such as clean tin, aluminum, and clear/white plastic containers (#1-7), as well as paper and cardboard.
- Organic compost bins will be added at buildings that serve food. This will allow for the composting of organic materials such as produce, grains, dairy, meat, and paper towels.
- "Paper Towel Only" composting bins will be added in some bathrooms.

Q3: What were the results of the Lloyd Place Waste Pilot Project?

A: Composting and mixed recycling initiatives at the Lloyd Place building increased waste diversion from 25 per cent to 62 per cent — a total increase of 37 per cent. The pilot project's results were outstanding.

Q4: When will the New Waste Management project be implemented?

A: The project began in January 2024.

Q5: How much will the project cost?

A: Project costs are expected to be approximately \$2,500 per building where composting services are required. Currently, these buildings include Kilburn Hall, Saskatoon Provincial Correctional Centre, Sturdy Stone, Saskatoon Polytechnic Main Campus and McCallum Group Home, all in Saskatoon.

Q6: Are these changes permanent?

A: Yes, these changes are permanent and will be implemented throughout SBP-owned buildings across Saskatchewan.

Q7: What is the biggest threat to the new waste program?

A: Contamination. This is when waste is deposited into the incorrect bin, causing contamination to the current waste/recycling/compost bins. It is important to pay attention to what goes into each collection bin.

Q8: What items can go in a compost bin?

A: Dairy products, soiled cardboard, paper towels, plant material, eggshells, bones, grain products, coffee grounds, coffee filters, cut flowers, fruits, vegetables, meat, and plate scrapings.

Q9: What items cannot be composted?

A: Non-paper packaging, fat, grease, any liquids, rocks, plastic bags, coffee pods, styrofoam, wax lined food or drink containers, biodegradable, and compostable plastics.

Q10: How can I reduce odours in the compost bins?

A: Containers will be lined with compostable bags for easier handling. Make sure you place your items inside the bag and that the bag stays in place. Freeze or place foul-smelling foods in an air-tight container until just before pickup on your floor.

Q11: What items go in a mixed-recycling bin?

A: Cardboard, paper, newsprint, plastic cups and containers with #1-7 recycling labels, milk and juice cartons, tin and aluminum.

Q12: What Items cannot be mix-recycled?

A: Lightbulbs, batteries, wood or metal scraps, plastic bags, styrofoam, plastic utensils, straws, biodegradable or compostable plastics, black plastics, glass, coffee pods and food. **Be sure to dump liquids and ice into the sink and rinse any large food debris out of containers prior to recycling.**

Q13: What is the plan for refundable containers?

A: SARCAN recycling will still be available for refundable containers, including glass, and these current collection set-ups will remain the same.

Q14: How do I recycle non-refundable glass containers?

A: Household glass can now be recycled at SARCAN, and the metal lids can be recycled as a part of the mixed recycling program. While some cities allow for household glass as a part of the blue bin curbside recycling, it is still preferred that this glass be taken to SARCAN. The co-mingled recycling process results in a lot of breakage, making the material very difficult to recover and recycle. To provide people with a better understanding of what can and cannot be recycled, it is intended to be identical to our household waste and recycling bins.

Q15: Who do I contact with any questions regarding my waste diversion?

A: Any questions or concerns regarding waste diversion can be directed to Curtis Dorosh, Engineering and Sustainability, Director (Curtis.dorosh@gov.sk.ca) and Elena Diebel, Environmental Services, Manager (elena.diebel@gov.sk.ca).