

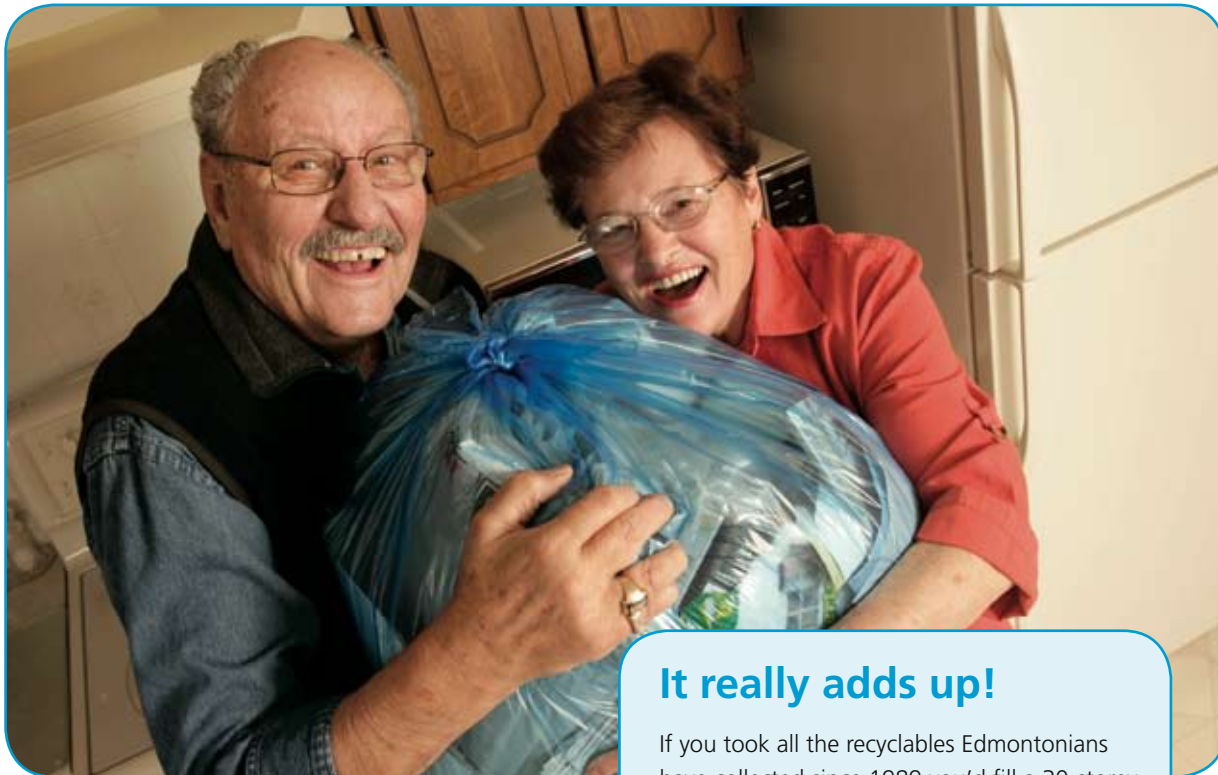


the urban recycler

information Edmontonians can't afford to trash

2007 edition

We love recycling



Herb and Sabina Lange are all smiles over Blue Bag recycling. It's totally user-friendly. No sorting required!

It really adds up!

If you took all the recyclables Edmontonians have collected since 1989 you'd fill a 30-storey office tower the size of Churchill Square.

When Edmontonians love an idea, they run with it. And when it comes to using blue bags, residents just can't get enough! In 2006, the number of blue bag recyclers rose to 88 per cent, up from an already impressive 84 per cent in 2002, making this city a global leader in recycling.

It's easy to see why. Edmonton's recycling program is so simple to follow, says long-time resident **Sabina Lange**, who loves the fact that no sorting is required.

"It's not difficult at all. You just put the stuff in the bag and that's it," she says. Adds her husband, Herb: "You can put more into the bags and I just leave it out there. You don't have to go back and get it, like the (old blue) box."

There's something for everyone in the program. While single-family residences use blue bags to recycle, apartments and condominiums share a convenient blue bin on the property. (No blue bin at your multi-family residence? Ask your property manager or condo board to call 496-5678 for the free service.) Recycling depots at 22 locations around the city are available

for any individual or small business looking to make a green contribution.

What can be recycled? In a word, lots! Magazines, junk mail (including envelopes with address windows), plastic bags and tin cans, just to name a few. (See list on back page.) It's important to rinse out food containers, but you don't need to pry off labels from jars and cans.

"We recycle mostly because of the environment," says Sabina. "But you have to think about the young people too. You have to think about the future."

Use Blue Bags to recycle – no litter!

Blue Bags prevent litter. Contents stay in the bag; they don't get blown around by the wind.



Grasscycling's catching on

40% now practice easy lawn care

It's official—14 per cent of city residents are having an easier time mowing their lawns than two years ago, and Edmonton waste management officials are thrilled.

A 2006 City of Edmonton survey shows that the number of locals who grasscycle – leave their grass clippings on the lawn – most or all of the time has reached 40 per cent, up from 26 per cent in 2004.

"It saves you bagging and the cost of the bags and it takes less time cutting the lawn," says Edmontonian **John Chang**, who has been grasscycling for years. "I also feel that it helps retain moisture in the ground a little better and I don't have to water as much."

He's right, says **Gail Rankin**, of Rankin Horticulture Consulting. The finely cut grass prevents the sun's rays from zeroing in on tender new shoots. But the biggest advantage to grasscycling, she says, is the free fertilizer for your lawn.

"You're making use of the organic matter you've just cut off so that the nitrogen and other nutrients are recycled back into the soil. This cuts back on the amount of synthetic fertilizers you have to use."

Smart grasscyclers know they should cut more frequently when the grass is growing quickly, because smaller pieces decompose faster. If you do find you're leaving mounds of grass on your lawn, run over it again with your mower. Or let your kids run through it to scatter it, while you find a deckchair and a nice cold drink.



grasscycling.
like vitamins for your lawn.
use any mower. just leave clippings on the lawn.

For more info: 496-5678
edmonton.ca/grasscycling

More inside:

- Recycle computers at Eco Stations
- Reuse Centre opening in summer
- Waste management centre tours
- Oversize cans threaten safety

For more information:

- Find the **Waste and Recycling** pages near the front of your 2007 white pages phone book
- Go online at www.edmonton.ca/waste
- Call the **Waste Hotline** at 496-5678

Recycle computers at Eco Stations



Percy Olson is one of thousands of residents who have recycled computers, electronics and small appliances at Eco Stations.

Picture a couple of baby grand pianos, stacked on top of each other. Then toss a full freezer on top. Got it? That's the weight—about 405 kg (892 lb.)—of just the cell phones dropped at Edmonton's south side Eco Station last year.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Our city's booming economy means we're quick to update our electronic gadgets and toss out the old ones. Good thing Edmonton's two Eco Stations are open year-round to take our e-waste—computers, TVs and electronics—and recycle them safely.

"We're already getting flat-screen monitors," says **Steve Simon**, an Eco Station recycling supervisor. "Electronics are a lot more disposable these days. It's actually becoming so cheap to purchase brand new items that people don't fix things."

Dropping your old monitor, fax machine or hairdryer at the Eco Station helps keep hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and cadmium from threatening the environment. And except for a small fee for appliances with refrigerants (freezers or air conditioners, for example), Eco Stations will take your e-waste at no charge.

Watch for a third Eco Station in southwest Edmonton in 2008.

And as for that mountain of cell phones? All refurbished, with the money going to Edmonton's Food Bank.

Eco Station Rates

(subject to change)

Located at 5150 - 99 St. and 11440 - 143 St.

Clean Recyclables (newspaper, metal cans etc.)	No Charge
Household Hazardous Waste (paint, motor oil etc.)	No Charge
Computer Monitors & Televisions (maximum 20 monitors per visit)	No Charge
Electrical Appliances & Scrap Metal	No Charge
Tires (maximum 5 per load)	\$3 each
Mattresses or Box Springs	\$4 each
Small Items (chairs or comparable volume)	\$4 each
Large Items (sofa or comparable volume)	\$8 each
Items requiring CFC removal (fridge, freezer etc.)	\$8 each

Loose Waste or Mixed Loads:

(e.g., brush and tree trimmings, garden waste, soil/gravel, fencing, lumber, concrete pieces, wood/vinyl siding, shingles, windows, fencing)

Partial Half-ton Truck Load	\$23/load
Level Half-ton Truck Load	\$29/load
Heaping Half-ton Truck Load	\$40/load
Cube Van or Utility Trailer Load	subject to viewing

Commercial hazardous waste is not acceptable.

Return used needles to pharmacies!

Needles, syringes and similar medical "sharps" should be returned to a pharmacy or an Eco Station. Call the Waste Hotline at 496-5678 to find out which pharmacies accept needles, or take them to an Eco Station in a plastic bottle with a screw-top lid.

Take light bulbs and tubes to an Eco Station!

All light bulbs and fluorescent tubes, along with other household hazardous waste, should be taken to an Eco Station.



Last year, from just the south side Eco Station, 42,039 feet of fluorescent tubes, or 7.96 miles, were collected for recycling.

Reuse Centre opening in summer

Teachers, daycare workers, crafters and non-profit organizers will soon be making frequent visits to the City of Edmonton's latest recycling innovation: a permanent Reuse Centre.

Organized along the lines of the City's successful Reuse Fairs (formerly known as Garbage Fairs), the new venue will feature the same interesting array of items.

For instance, the Reuse Centre will feature, fabric, corks, trophies, greeting cards and ice cream buckets. "They're the sort of things that are not collected elsewhere but lots of organizations will use them in their programming," says reuse coordinator **Amy Baxter**. "We definitely **do not want any furniture, clothing or appliances**. Many charities already accept that material."

Last year's 14 Reuse Fairs redistributed more than 200 different materials worth about \$59,000 to 170 organizations, says Baxter. But the problem with the fairs is that they only happen when a community decides to organize one.

"This is the next step up from the fairs. Because those have been so successful, people really wanted to support them, but they wanted something year-round."

People will be able to drop requested materials at the new centre five days a week at no cost. The items will then be available for a small fee. The Reuse Centre will also feature a workshop area where volunteers can demonstrate ways to create new items, such as birdfeeders or garden ornaments, from recycled goods.

"This is important because we know that people want to pass things on and help out organizations and others," says Baxter. "This will give them the opportunity to do it year round." The new centre will open this July.



Reuse Coordinator Amy Baxter has her hands full as she prepares for the opening of Edmonton's new Reuse Centre.



Towards a litterless Edmonton

About once a week last year, six-year-old **Sophie Jackson** would leash up her fluffy white dwarf rabbit named Snowflake, and head to her neighbourhood park with her parents and her brother Ethan to pick up garbage.

"It was a way to teach them about caring for the environment and their neighbourhood and to give them a sense of pride in doing something well," says **Melanie Lizotte**, the children's mother and one of 452 residential block captains for Capital City Clean Up.

That's a volunteer program designed to encourage Edmonton businesses and residents to adopt a block and keep it tidy. With the program's free gloves, garbage bags, buttons and other goodies, block captains find their own "crew" of volunteers to banish litter from their blocks.

Michael Latta sometimes has up to 14 people accompanying him around Gambit Products, his machine shop near Fulton Creek. Although he signed up as a

business block captain in 2006, he had been collecting the old barbecues, tires, stoves and other junk people dropped off in the industrial area for years.

"Now, since we've officially joined the program, I've posted it on our bulletin board and two or three times a year, if anybody wants to come, they can." Last spring, wearing Gambit Products coveralls, his employees hauled together enough old mattresses, truck parts and other garbage that the City needed a front end loader to fill 10 half ton trucks.

"The areas that were adopted last year were noticeably cleaner than those that weren't," says Chris Czernick, Capital City Clean Up's project manager. "It really works."

Lizotte agrees. Whenever her family visits a different park, the kids start picking up litter. They're already keen to get started this year, she says. And Snowflake will be along for the cleanup.



Sophie and Ethan Jackson, and their pet rabbit Snowflake, are happy to help keep our city clean and litter-free.

Business Supporting Community

The Business-Supporting-Community initiative matches businesses like Tim Hortons with not-for-profit groups such as Girl Guides who are paid for litter clean up around the businesses.

www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup



Your Actions Matter

As you start your spring and summer cleaning and yard care, remember: don't dump any hazardous products or rinse your grass clippings and leaves down the storm drain. Wash your car at the car wash and reduce your use of pesticides and fertilizers so these products don't enter the storm water system. Storm water is not treated and flows directly into the North Saskatchewan River. Your Actions Matter. For more information call Drainage Services at 496-6852.

Teachers tour 10,000 students every year

"Do workers at the compost building wear nose plugs?" a Grade 4 girl asks anxiously. The bespectacled **Brant Maidens** is quick to lay her concerns to rest.

No, the education officer at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre assures her, they wear breathing masks.

Each year Maidens offers answers, facts and enough jokes during his work to keep thousands of schoolchildren engrossed in the science of recycling and waste diversion. (What has four wheels and flies? is one of his standards. Answer: a garbage truck.)

"I view my job as a whole bunch of one-act plays," says Maidens enthusiastically, and every morning or afternoon I get to do my play over again."

He takes his visitors through the intricacies of, among other things, composting, recycling, landfill design and biofilters, all in layman's terms so that even adults who haven't seen a textbook in years can get it. (A percentage of Maidens' tours involve seniors, church groups and businesspeople.)

Like his fellow teaching officer, **Larry George**, Maidens was seconded to the City of Edmonton from Edmonton

Public Schools, where he taught for decades. He also does in-class presentations, including an intriguing exploration of the city's refuse history, from historical garbage dumps to today's state-of-the-art centre.

"I think we are making a difference," Maidens says of his and George's work. He points to the 88 per cent blue bag participation rate. "Virtually every adult that walks away from our tours walks away saying, 'wow, I never knew we had such a facility in Edmonton.' And they say 'I'm going to start recycling' or 'I'm going to recycle better'."



Students, teachers and parents get a great view of Edmonton's world-renowned recycling system from a comfortable viewing gallery.

Everyone's welcome to tour!

Seniors groups, church groups, business and professional groups, any group of eight or more is welcome to a free tour of the Edmonton Waste Management Centre. **Call 496-6879.**

Check out sortitout.ca!

There's a great interactive website called sortitout.ca where you can explore Edmonton's world famous recycling and composting systems. Great for kids and adults alike! Log on today!

SortItOut.ca

Call the police!

Bullets, firearms, flares, etc. should be taken to your nearest police station. They have the equipment and expertise to handle them safely. They should NEVER be put in blue bags or the garbage.

Oversize garbage cans threaten collector safety

Eric Ratcliffe feels a bit sheepish about what he used to do to his waste collector. While building his Edmonton home, he left piles of junk on the curb in huge containers. "And lo and behold it got taken, and I thought, 'oh great!'"

But now that Ratcliffe is a waste collector himself, he's hoping city residents remember that it's easier for collectors to haul stuff when it's put in containers smaller than 100 litres. There are quite a few cans larger than that in use, and they make things unsafe for your garbageman.

"What I find with the oversized cans is that people aren't really thinking that the collector has already done 300 houses before he gets to their house," he says. In fact, Ratcliffe picks up between 7,000 and 11,000 kg of waste every day.

Ratcliffe also really appreciates cans with fixed handles. The ones with movable flexible handles and wheels

are difficult to lift and the contents shift, causing wrist injuries. "We've been seeing more WCB claims because of these cans," he says.

Bottom line? **Waste Management Bylaw 13777 states that garbage cans must be no larger than 100 litres in capacity** and have rigid fixed handles. When filled, they can weigh no more than 20 kg (44 lbs). Make sure your garbage cans comply. Eric and his hard-working colleagues will thank you for it.



Batteries go to Eco Stations!

Please take all kinds of batteries, including button batteries, to Eco Stations for recycling or safe disposal. Keep batteries out of the garbage!



Keep your collector safe

- Make sure each filled bag or can is no heavier than 20kg (44 lbs)
- Double bag sawdust, vacuum cleaner dust, kitty litter and pet feces
- Package broken glass, mirrors, butcher knives and other sharp objects in boxes and mark them "glass" or "sharps".

New facility diverts waste from landfill

An innovative gasification facility to be constructed at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre will enable Edmonton to divert up to 90 per cent of residential waste from landfill, further cementing Edmonton's reputation as a global leader in waste management.

The \$87 million facility, which recently received \$29 million in funding from the Alberta Energy Research Institute, will also generate green power and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 150,000 tonnes per year – equivalent to removing 37,500 cars from Edmonton roads.

"There is no other city in the world currently using this exciting new technology to process solid waste in this manner," said project engineer Jim Schubert. "We will really be breaking new ground."

The facility will process Edmonton's residential waste that cannot be recycled or composted, such as certain plastics, textiles and contaminated paper; about 75,000 tonnes per year.

The waste will first be converted to a fluffy material called refuse derived fuel (RDF), which is then heated and broken down to molecular levels, producing a valuable

gas called syngas. The gas will be used for electricity production, and in the future may also be used to produce transportation fuels like ethanol.

Enough syngas will be produced from the waste to generate 12 megawatts of electricity - enough to power about 12,000 Edmonton homes. To top it off, the solid leftover material - called char (about 10 per cent of the original volume) - has potential uses as construction aggregate or as a fuel itself.

The facility will be developed in partnership with Epcor and it is expected to be in operation by 2010.

It goes in the garbage!

Food waste goes in the garbage. **Never put food scraps in a blue bag.** Your household garbage goes to the Edmonton Composting Facility. Biodegradable waste like food scraps and leaves are turned into compost, a valuable soil amendment.



What can I recycle in my Blue Bag, Blue Bin or Recycling Depot?

Paper

- Newsprint, inserts, flyers, magazines, catalogues
- White writing paper and computer paper
- Junk mail, paper bags, paper egg cartons, phone books



Cardboard

Flatten all boxes

- Cardboard boxes less than 1.2 m (4 ft) long – put packing materials in garbage.
- Cereal and food boxes (discard liner)
- Milk cartons (rinse with cold water and flatten)



Metals

No loose lids; trap inside can or discard

- Clean metal cans (soup, juice, etc.)
- Aluminum cans and containers (pie plates, take-out)



Glass

Empty and clean; discard lids; labels are OK

- Jars and bottles only. No other type of glass is acceptable. Ceramics go in the garbage.



Plastics

Discard caps and lids; all plastics must be clean and dry

- Household bottles and containers (dish and clothing detergent, fabric softener etc.)
- Pop, water and other beverage containers
- Milk jugs, windshield washer jugs
- Ice cream pails, yogurt/margarine containers
- Plastic bags, including grocery and retail bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags



Using paper with 100% post-consumer fibre helped save trees and water, wood and energy resources.



100% Post-Consumer Fibre
100% Recycled

THE CITY OF
Edmonton