



Recycling in the Yukon 2022

May 2023





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 2022. Previous two years of data are provided for context. 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 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](#) 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)
2020 ²	25%	0.92
2021 ³	26%	1.01
2022	30%	0.90

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 or 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.

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](https://www.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](https://www.yukon.ca/en/our-clean-future-2020-annual-report)

³ The Government of Yukon, *Our Clean Future, 2021 annual report* (August 2022), [Yukon.ca/en/our-clean-future-2021-annual-report](https://www.yukon.ca/en/our-clean-future-2021-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 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 report⁴

Plastic single-use check-out bags were banned January 1, 2022, and the single-use paper bag ban took effect on January 1, 2023. To learn more, please visit [Yukon.ca/bagban](https://yukon.ca/bagban).

In the middle of 2022, Department of Community Services discontinued collection of beverage containers (without a refund) and non-refundables at the transfer stations in Braeburn, Silver City, and Stewart Crossing. The transfer station in Keno was closed.

The Government of Yukon completed public engagement on extended producer responsibility (EPR) from November 1, 2022, to February 17, 2023 and is currently drafting this new regulation. The What We Heard report summarizing the public engagement is expected in June 2023. To learn more, please visit [Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility](https://yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility).

Two reports were commissioned by the Government of Yukon to support development of the EPR framework. The economic analysis report modelled six scenarios of the potential future with and without EPR⁵ and a report on the waste flows of paper products and packaging generated by the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sectors in the Yukon⁶. Both reports can be accessed from [Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility](https://yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility).

On February 28, 2023, Raven Recycling announced a plan to close free public drop-off of non-refundable materials in Whitehorse by the end of 2023 with the hopes of encouraging curbside collection of recycling for Whitehorse residents⁷. The Recycling Committee comprised of the City

⁴ Government of Yukon, Recycling in the Yukon 2019-2021 (2022), access from <https://yukon.ca/en/waste-and-recycling/recycling/what-can-i-recycle-and-where>

⁵ Eunomia Research and Consulting, Economic/Financial Analysis of Development and Implementation of EPR in Yukon (February 2023), <https://yukon.ca/en/economic-analysis-development-and-implementation-epr-yukon>

⁶ Policy Integrity Inc., Yukon Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging and Paper Products Baseline Report: Waste Flows Study (March 23, 2023), <https://yukon.ca/en/waste-and-recycling/recycling/learn-about-extended-producer-responsibility/yukon-industrial>

⁷ <https://ravenrecycling.org/operational-plans-for-2024/>



of Whitehorse, Government of Yukon and recycling processors (Raven Recycling and P&M Recycling) has been established to explore possible collection options.

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 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	-	Cardboard only	Y	-	-	-	HHW Days
Beaver Creek	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Braeburn	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Carcross	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Carmacks	-	-	Y	-	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 (Closed in 2022)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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.)

** HHW – household hazardous waste.

*** 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 price⁸. 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		
			2020	2021	2022
Milk and Milk substitutes	10¢	5¢	55%	64%	67%
Small Beverage Containers (≥30mL and <750mL)	10¢	5¢	68%	71%	69%
Large Beverage Containers (≥750mL)	35¢	25¢	72%	88%	79%
Total containers sold:			27.3 million	28.9 million	29.0 million
Total containers collected:			18.3 million	20.7 million	20.1 million
Overall recovery rate:			67%	72%	69%

Amounts of Beverage Container Regulation materials shipped out, reused and landfilled in 2022 are shown in the table below.

Product category	Tonnes shipped out		
	2020	2021	2022
PET	78.4	95.1	91.3
HDPE	30	31.6	16.2
TetraPaks/Milk cartons	32.0	41.1	36.7
Aluminum	139	171	150.3
Total recycled:	279.4	338.8	294.5
Glass (reused)	202	187	134
Glass (landfilled)	638	458	320

⁸ [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		
	2020	2021	2022
Cardboard	2324	2348	2353
Paper	422	603	689
PET	13	15	10
HDPE	15	19	8
TetraPaks	7	9	9.2
Mixed plastic	295	322	248
Plastic film	53	10	44
Styrofoam	6	0	1.6
Tin	23	9	44
Total	3158	3335	3364



Designated materials

What: Tires, e-waste and small electrical appliances

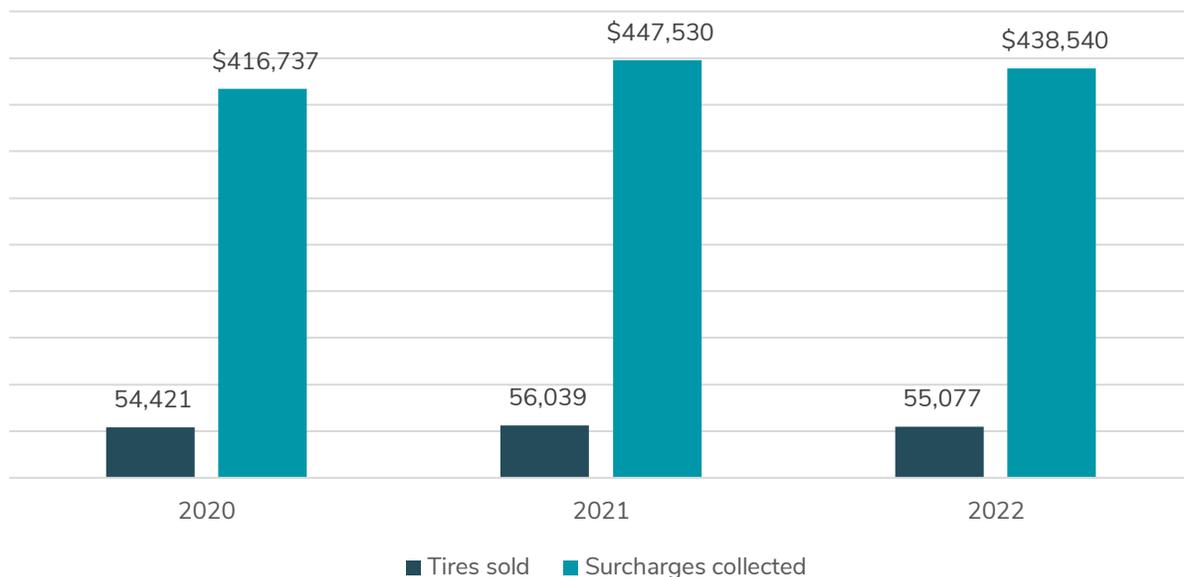
Regulation: [Designated Materials Regulation](#)

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.⁹

Number of tires sold and surcharges collected

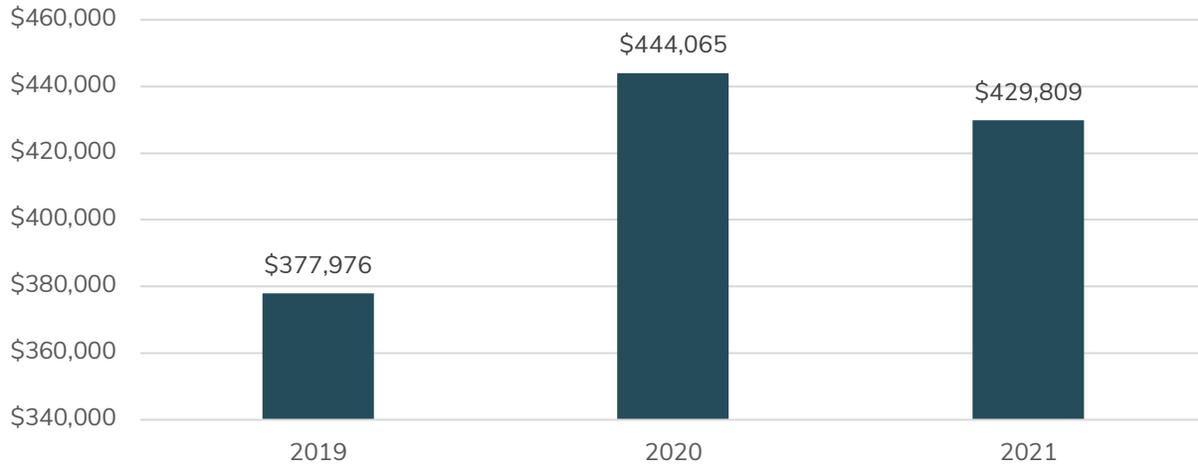


⁹ [Yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges](https://www.yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges)



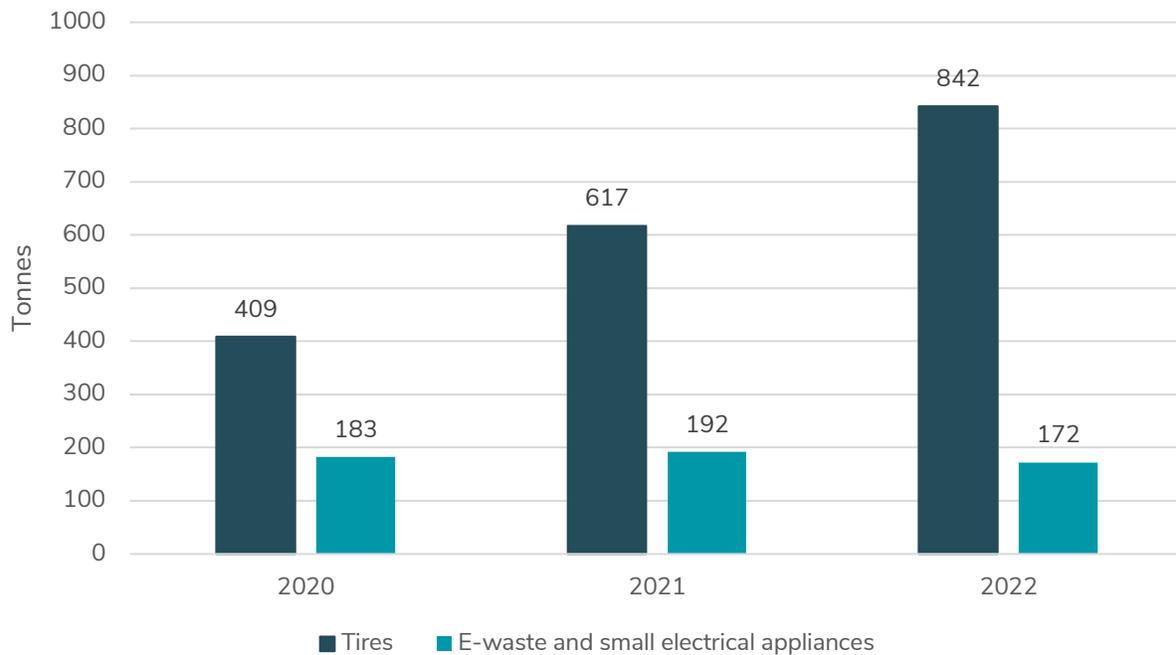
The surcharges for electronics and small electrical appliances range from \$0.14 to \$56¹⁰.

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



¹⁰ [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 includes 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

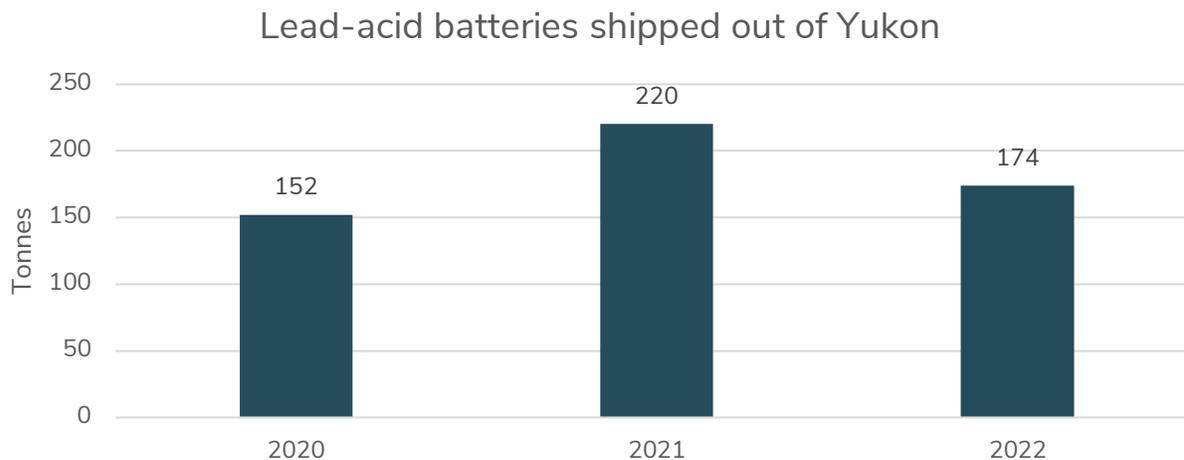
Household hazardous wastes are waste products that can be harmful to the environment and to human health. Hazardous wastes are common in most homes. Common types of household hazardous waste (HHW) include the use of oil from vehicles, fluorescent light bulbs, solvents, expired bear spray, cleaning products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

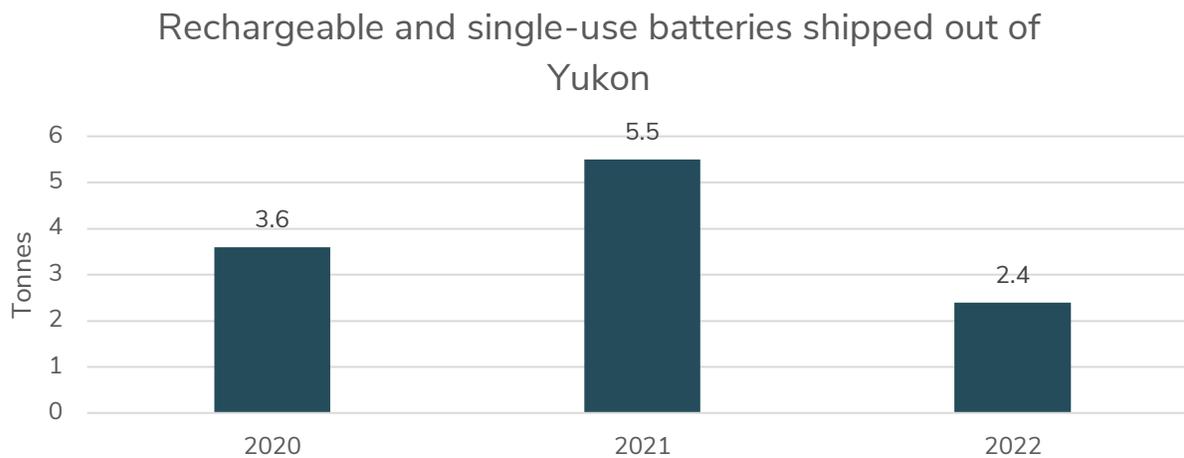




Old vehicle lead-acid batteries are accepted at Raven Recycling year-round.



Non-lead-acid batteries are also collected year-round through the voluntary Call2Recycle¹¹ collection program. There are five public drop-off locations in Whitehorse, including Raven Recycling, Staples, Save-on-Foods, Department of Environment, and Cadence Cycle.



¹¹ <https://www.call2recycle.ca/>



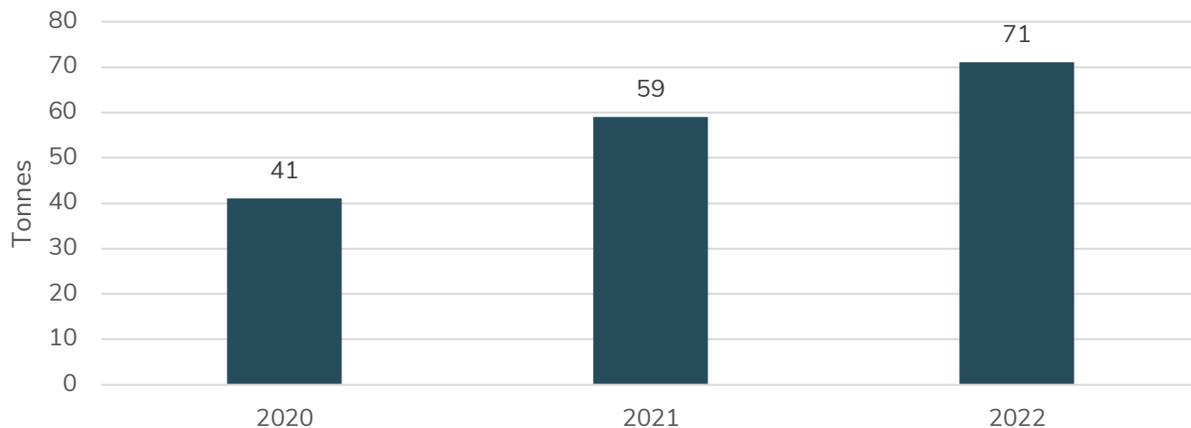
Textiles

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 Yukon





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 is working to establish a legal framework for extended producer responsibility (EPR) and establish EPR programs for the below priority materials by 2025.

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.

Public and stakeholders were engaged on the proposed EPR regulation between November 1, 2022, and February 17, 2023. The government is now working to process the feedback and draft the regulation. The What We Heard report summarizing the public engagement is expected in June 2023. To learn more about EPR in the Yukon, please visit [Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility](https://yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility).