



RECYCLING IN THE PEACE REGION

WHERE DOES MY RECYCLING GO?

We get asked this question a lot. Recycling is a global industry and with global markets in a state of flux, the end-markets for the Peace Region's recycled materials are a hot topic.

Here's a list of some of the items we process, and where they currently end up after you drop them off for recycling. As these end points depend on markets and demand, this list is subject to change.

All our materials are shipped out via backhaul, filling up trucks that would otherwise go south empty.

MIXED PAPER

Mixed paper is baled and shipped to sorting facilities in Edmonton or Vancouver. Once sorted, it is sent to various processors including a processor in Greater Vancouver for new egg carton manufacturing, and a processor in Alberta that makes insulation.

CARDBOARD

Cardboard is shipped to mills in the Pacific Northwest, mainly in Washington State. This material is pulped and reprocessed into new cardboard.

CONTAINERS

Containers are shipped to a processor in Greater Vancouver, Merlin Plastics. This processor also handles materials from the RecycleBC EPR program. High

value plastics such as #1 PET and #2 HDPE are washed and ground/pelletized before being sold as material to make new products. Mixed hard plastics are also sorted, cleaned and processed into grind/pellets. Tetra-Paks and wax cartons are processed by Merlin and shipped to recyclers in North America and overseas to be pulped. “Soft plastics” including plastic bags and overwrap (#2 and #4 films) are pelletized and used in the manufacturing of plastic lumber.

STYROFOAM

Styrofoam is densified locally with a thermal hot melt densifier. The thermal densifier heats up and removes the air from the Styrofoam. This results in a 90:1 compression – 90 truckloads of foam are reduced to 1 truckload! The densified blocks are then shipped to a processor in Greater Vancouver where they are pelletized and used to make picture frames and crown moulding.

METALS

Metals are shipped to ABC Recycling in Fort St John. From there, they are sent to various processors in North America to be made into new metal products, including packaging and sheet metal.

GLASS

Glass is shipped to a processing facility in Quesnel where it is ground up and turned into sandblasting material. The sandblasting material is used locally by businesses in the Peace Region as well as across BC and Alberta.

COMMINGLED CURBSIDE

Commingled curbside material is shipped to facilities in Edmonton and Vancouver to be sorted into the above categories. Once sorted, the material is shipped to various processors for recycling (see specific categories above for more info).