



Recycling in the Yukon 2023

July 2024





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 2023. The previous two years of data are provided for context, and the 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 Future¹](#) 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 upcoming 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)
2021 ²	26%	1.01
2022 ³	30%	0.90
2023	28%	0.93

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 (EPR) is an environmental and economic policy approach that makes producers of products and packaging be responsible for managing

¹ The Government of Yukon, *Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy* (September 14, 2020), [Our clean future | Government Of Yukon - Our Clean Future](#)

² The Government of Yukon, *Recycling in the Yukon, 2019-2021*, (2022), <https://open.yukon.ca/sites/default/files/recycling-yukon-2019-2021.pdf>

³ The Government of Yukon, *Recycling in the Yukon, 2022* (May 2023), <https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-recycling-report-2022.pdf>



their products and packaging throughout their entire lifecycle, including the waste management stage.

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

In September 2023, the Department of Community Services discontinued the collection of soft plastics as recycling at the solid waste facilities. This change occurs due to the lack of processing of soft plastics in provinces further south. The soft plastic material was being shipped out and landfilled.

Dawson City has a weekly curbside collection of cardboard from residential and commercial properties in the historic downtown area.

The Government of Yukon finalized the *Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation*, and it came into effect on January 25, 2024. Producer Responsibility Organizations have begun stakeholder consultation on Stewardship Plans under the Regulation. To learn more, please visit [Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility](https://yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility). The programs operated under these Stewardship Plans are anticipated to begin operation by the end of 2025.

In November 2023, Raven Re-Centre (formerly known as Raven Recycling) agreed to extend the anticipated closure date of the free public drop-off of non-refundable materials in Whitehorse from end of 2023 into 2024. On April 18, 2024, Raven Re-Centre announced a new closure date for free public drop-off of non-refundable materials in Whitehorse of September 15, 2024 with the hopes of encouraging curbside collection of recycling for Whitehorse residents.

A gap in non-refundable recycling services was anticipated to occur between Raven Re-Centre closing the non-refundable drop off in September 2024 and EPR program becoming operational in the fall of 2025.

⁴ Government of Yukon, Recycling in the Yukon 2020-2022 (2023), access from <https://yukon.ca/en/waste-and-recycling/recycling/what-can-i-recycle-and-where>



To address the gap in services, the City of Whitehorse has voted to initiate a temporary drop-off with tipping fees at the City of Whitehorse Landfill. The vote was passed by City Council on May 27, 2024. In June 2024, the City of Whitehorse decided to also fund curbside collection of the non-refundable materials prior to the EPR program coming into service at the end of 2025.

The City of Whitehorse increased the frequency of household hazardous waste collection at the landfill from twice a year to weekly in February 2024.

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. City of Dawson collects cardboard from some residential and commercial properties.

Table 1 - List of depots

Yukon community	Beverage containers (with refunds)	Non-refundables*
Whitehorse - P&M Recycling	Y	Y
Whitehorse - Raven Re-Centre	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
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcross	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Carmacks	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	HHW Day
Champagne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Deep Creek	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	-	-	-	-	-
Haines Junction	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	HHW Day
Marsh Lake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Mayo	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	HHW Day
Mount Lorne	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y
Old Crow	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Pelly Crossing	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y
Ross River	-	-	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.

*** Frequency of HHW Days switched from twice yearly to once a week in February 2024.

**** 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 price⁵. 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		
			2021	2022	2023
Milk and Milk substitutes	10¢	5¢	64%	67%	63%
Small Beverage Containers (≥30mL and <750mL)	10¢	5¢	71%	69%	76%
Large Beverage Containers (≥750mL)	35¢	25¢	88%	79%	90%
Total containers sold:			28.9 million	29.0 million	27.4 million
Total containers collected:			20.7 million	20.1 million	20.9 million
Overall recovery rate:			72%	69%	76%

Amounts of *Beverage Container Regulation* materials shipped out, reused and landfilled in 2023 are shown in the table below.

Product category	Tonnes shipped out		
	2021	2022	2023
PET	95.1	91.3	234
HDPE	31.6	16.2	0.7
TetraPaks/Milk cartons	41.1	36.7	30.6
Aluminum	171	150.3	139
Total recycled:	338.8	294.5	404.3
Glass (reused)	187	134	66
Glass (landfilled)	458	320	374

⁵ [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 paper products and packaging (PPP) 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 Re-Centre 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 borne 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. Raven Re-Center has stopped collecting and processing soft plastics in 2023. PPP materials received from residents and commercial clients are processed together.

Material	Tonnes shipped out		
	2021	2022	2023
Cardboard	2348	2353	2267
Paper	603	689	599
PET	15	10	26
HDPE	19	8	6.5
Tetra Paks	9	9.2	0.9
Mixed plastic	322	248	260
Plastic film	10	44	0
Styrofoam	0	1.6	0
Tin	9	44	55
Total	3335	3364	3214



Designated materials

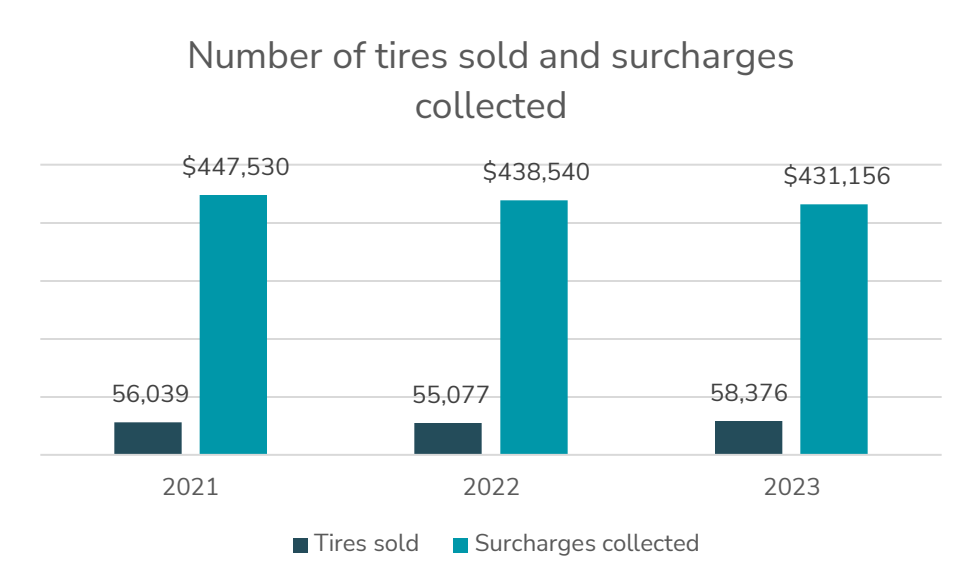
What: Tires, e-waste and small electrical appliances

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.

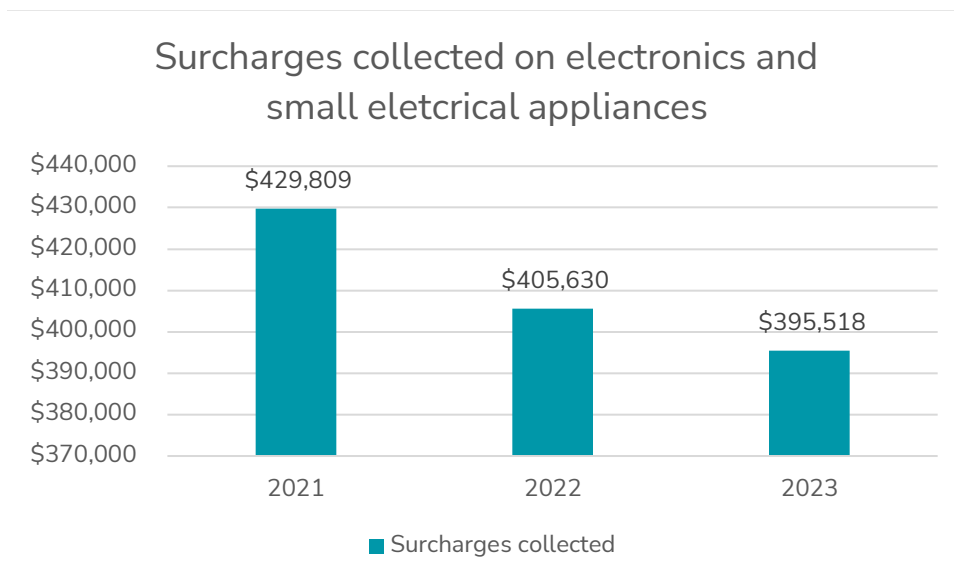
The surcharges for tires range from \$5 to \$200 depending on the rim size of the tires and the vehicle type.⁶



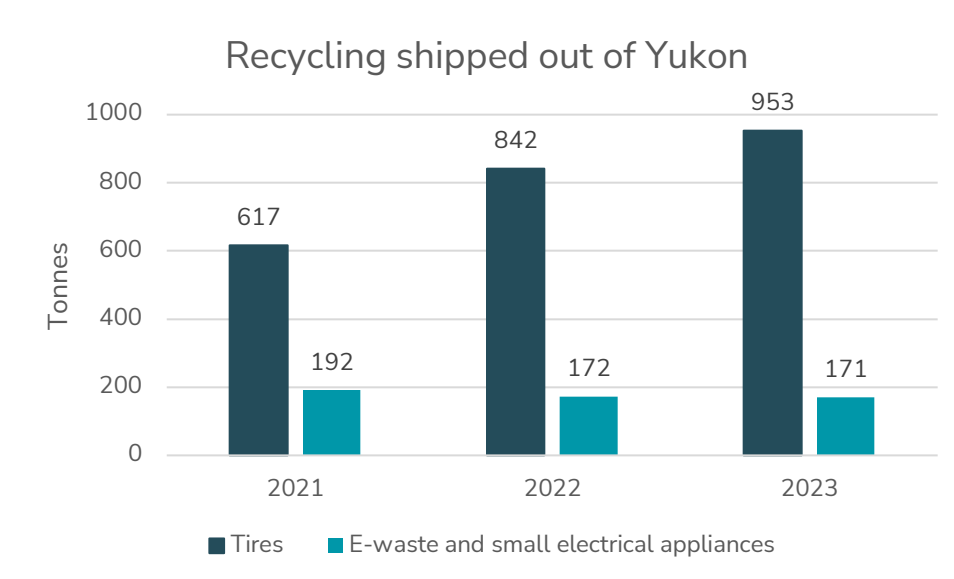
⁶ [Yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges](https://www.yukon.ca/en/tire-recycling-products-definitions-and-surcharges)



The surcharges for electronics and small electrical appliances range from \$0.14 to \$56⁷.



The actual collection and recycling activities under the *Designated Materials Regulation* are contracted separately using the funds from the collected surcharges.



⁷ [Yukon.ca/en/electronics-and-electrical-products-recycling-surcharges](https://www.yukon.ca/en/electronics-and-electrical-products-recycling-surcharges)



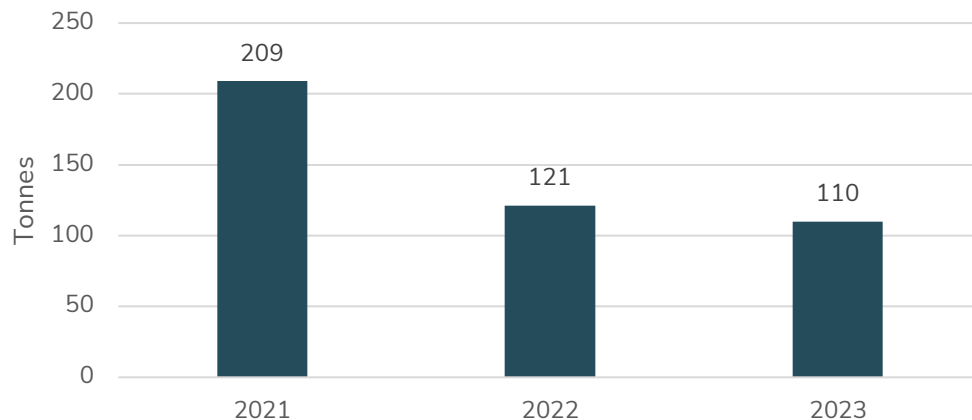
Household hazardous waste

What:	Household hazardous waste including 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 use oil from vehicles, fluorescent light bulbs, solvents, expired bear spray, cleaning products and oil paints.

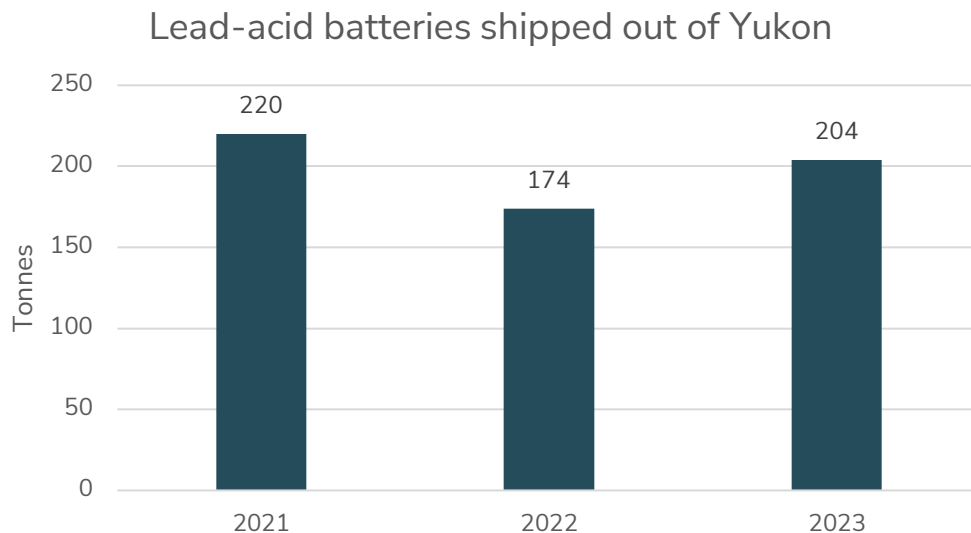
Yukon municipalities and most communities host HHW collection events once or twice a year, allowing residents to drop off HHW at no cost. Eleven communities collect HHW year-round at their local solid waste disposal facility (SWDF).

Household hazardous waste shipped out of Yukon

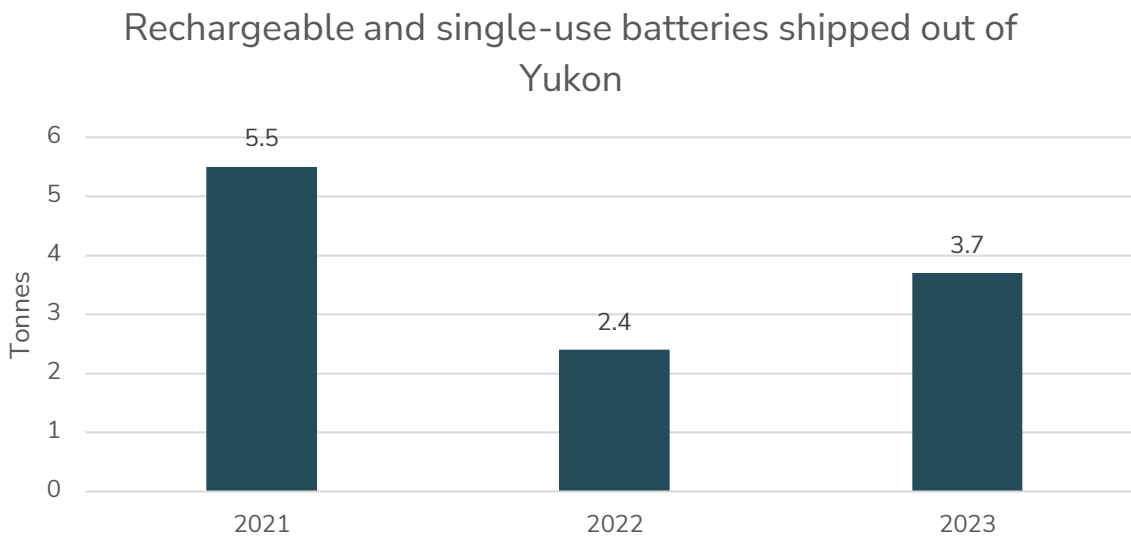




Old vehicle lead-acid batteries are accepted at Raven Re-Center year-round.



Non lead-acid batteries are also collected year-round through the voluntary Call2Recycle⁸ collection program. There are three public drop off locations in Whitehorse including Raven Re-Centre, Staples and Department of Environment. There are also public drop offs located at the Department of Environment in seven additional communities including Faro, Ross River, Mayo, Carmacks, Teslin, Dawson City and Watson Lake.



⁸ <https://www.call2recycle.ca/>

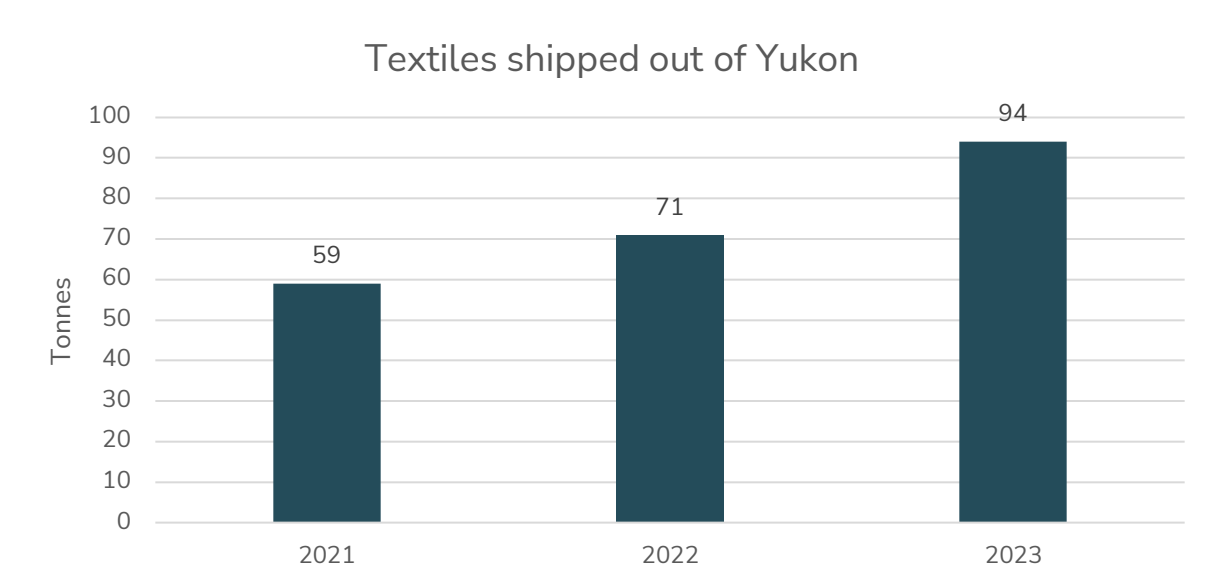


Textiles

What: Clothing and non-clothing textiles such as sheets, curtains, towels, etc.
Regulation: Not regulated
How: Operated by Raven Re-Centre
Collection outside of Whitehorse is funded by territorial and municipal governments

Raven Re-Centre 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 Mount Lorne and Tagish. Municipalities of Haines Junction, Teslin and Watson Lake also collect textiles. Raven Re-Centre processes all textiles.





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 released a legal framework for extended producer responsibility (EPR) in January 2024. EPR programs for the below priority materials will become operational in 2025.

The two priority categories of materials to be managed under EPR in the Yukon are:

- paper products and packaging products, such as blue box type items (but not including beverage containers);
- hazardous and special products, including waste paints, fuels and solvents; and
- automotive wastes, such as waste oil, diesel exhaust fluid, waste antifreeze and their containers.

Public and stakeholders were engaged on the proposed EPR regulation between November 1, 2022, and February 17, 2023. In 2024, Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) have begun to release draft stewardship plans for public review and input. The final versions of the plans will be submitted to the Yukon Government by September 25, 2024. To learn more about EPR in the Yukon, please visit Yukon.ca/extended-producer-responsibility.