

Reuse

Starve a landfill, feed a future

Definition

Reusing involve the use of a product more than once without altering its form, whether for the same or for a different purpose.

Why reuse?

The goal of reuse is to keep using items as long as they have a function or value. Municipalities can support reuse by linking those who have items with those who want them through events, standalone facilities, or dedicated areas of recycle depots or landfill centers.

The benefits of reuse include:

- Saves landfill space
- Saves resources and energy from being used to make new products
- Supports local charities and economy, which keeps resources in our communities
- Reused items are more affordable than new items and often unique

Municipal Examples

Municipality	Initiative
Provincial	
City of Edmonton	<p>Focus on Reuse The City has a number of initiatives dedicated to promoting reuse including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reuse Centre - A dedicated centre located in downtown Edmonton that accepts various items from Edmonton residents free of charge and makes them available to organizations and individuals for reuse. • Reuse Fairs - A one-day community event where unwanted but reusable household items are collected and passed on to charities, non-profits, artisans and schools that need them. Every Reuse Fair collects a slightly different list of items based on the requests they receive. Examples of typical items include: milk jug lids, old bedding, onion bags, keys, spices, corks, broken jewelry, nylons and old calendars. • Eco Station Reuse Areas - makes items such as furniture, electronics and appliances dropped off by customers available for reuse at no charge. <p>Click here for more information.</p>
City of Lethbridge	<p>Environmental Deconstruction For the past several years, the City of Lethbridge has taken a responsible attitude to mitigate the impact on the environment when a City facility or building has reached the end of its useful lifecycle and must be removed.</p>

	<p>In the context of physical construction, <i>deconstruction</i> is the selective dismantlement of building components, specifically for reuse, recycling, and waste management. It differs from demolition where a site is cleared of its building by the fastest way. Buildings, like everything, have a life-cycle. Deconstruction focuses on giving the materials within a building a new life once the building as a whole can no longer continue.</p> <p>Ultimately deconstruction is a method of harvesting what is commonly considered waste and reclaiming it into useful building material.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>City of Spruce Grove</p>	<p>Freecycle</p> <p>The Donation of Goods section in the City's Community Resource Directory (Green Book) for links and contact information of local organizations that accept household items in good condition.</p> <p>The City also promotes Edmonton Freecycle and Edmonton Earthcycle Yahoo Group which are free online exchanges of unwanted stuff. A wide range of items are swapped on the sites, whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano or an old door. Non-profit groups are also welcome to participate in the network.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>City of St. Albert</p>	<p>Take It or Leave It Event</p> <p>Each year, the City of St. Albert organizes the "Take It Or Leave It" event to give residents a chance to unload unwanted items such as sofas or camping gear, and to pick up items that they may want. It's a great way to promote reuse within the community!</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Leduc District and Regional Waste Management Authority</p>	<p>Take It or Leave It Program</p> <p>The Authority operates a Take It or Leave It Program as part of their materials recovery facility. Residents can drop off or pick up items that can still be put to use, helping to keep them out of the landfill. Common items reused include toys, sporting equipment, antique dinnerware, furniture, electronics, and more.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Town of Athabasca</p>	<p>Take it or Leave it</p> <p>A special area has been set up for take it or leave it (garage sale) items at the Town's Recycle & Transfer Site Facility.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Town of Edson</p>	<p>Recycling Depot</p> <p>The Town's Recycling Depot has a "Take It Or Leave It" center open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday noon to 4:30pm and Thursday evening from 4pm to 7pm.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>

Town of Strathmore	Take it or Leave it The Huxted Waste and Recycle yard in Strathmore offers a “take it or leave it” area which allows customers to drop off gently used and working items, allowing others the opportunity to take and utilize what they need. Click here for more information.
Village of Marwayne	Treasure Hunt Marwayne hosts a treasure hunt the second Saturday in June to provide residents an opportunity to get rid of appliances, furniture or other large items that can be re-used by someone else. Residents put these items on their front boulevard and are encouraged to cruise around town looking for treasures to take home free. The following Monday, public works begins hauling items to the dump. Click here for more information.
YOUR MUNICIPALITY HERE	DOES YOUR MUNICIPALITY HAVE A REUSE INITIATIVE THAT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW? IF SO, SEND THE INFORMATION TO RACHEL DE VOS rdevos@auma.ca

Additional Resources

Other Organizations	Resource
Provincial	
Alberta Computers for Schools	Refurbishing Computers Alberta Computers for Schools (ACFS) is part of a Canada-wide initiative providing refurbished computers – at little or no cost to recipients – to Canadian schools, public libraries, and non-profit learning organizations. Click here for more information.
Alberta Used Oil Management Association (AUMOA)	Oil Reuse Just one litre of used oil can contaminate one million litres of water. Since 1997, over 1.4 billion litres of used lubricating oil, 123 million filters, and 30 million kilograms of plastic containers have been reused, recycled, and recovered responsibly in Alberta. Click here for more information.
Electronic Recycling Association (ERA)	Refurbishing Electronics ERA is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing electronic waste through the reuse and recycling of unwanted computers, laptops and related electronic equipment. They maximize the lifecycle of computers, laptops and related electronic equipment by recovering and refurbishing them to donate to charities and other nonprofit organizations at no cost. ERA ensures all materials not suitable for donation, are appropriately recycled in a responsible and environmentally friendly way. Click here for more information.



FCM's Green Municipal Fund	Funding for Reuse Programs and Centers The GMF provides funding for reuse programs and centers. To be eligible for funding, your project must demonstrate the potential to divert at least 60% of municipal solid waste from landfill. If your municipality has already achieved a total diversion rate of at least 60%, your project must demonstrate the potential to result in an incremental improvement above 60%. Click here for more information.
The Freecycle Network™	Freecycling The Freecycle Network™ is made up of 5,302 groups with 9,139,673 members around the world. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and neighborhoods. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers. Click here for more information.



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