

Update on SARCAN Recycling Glass Partnership – As of July 2019

In January of 2019, the City started a glass recycling pilot for household glass in partnership with SARCAN.

Image 1: Glass Recycling Campaign (Spring 2019)

Household Glass Pilot Program



take it, don't break it

Background

By weight, glass makes up about 4% of the recycling stream. A large portion of the material collected through the curbside program is broken by the time it is sorted. Broken glass is difficult to sort and becomes contaminated by other residual materials. As a lower value recycling commodity, options are limited for broken glass and the most common option is use in road base or other construction applications as a down-graded material. Broken glass can contaminate other material streams and often ends up in the landfill as residual waste.

The pilot program with SARCAN Recycling provides a more effective recycling option by using a method of capture that utilizes a depot and hand sorting to ensure glass is unbroken. The clear glass is made into reflective glass beads for road paint and coloured glass is made into fibreglass insulation for home construction.

The environmental impact of household glass ending up in the landfill is not as significant as other materials, including plastic and hazardous material, as it is an inert material.

Through the first six months of the glass pilot, approximately 60 tonnes of household glass has been collected, processed, and recycled by SARCAN. The amount of glass captured in the SARCAN program through the first six months has exceeded the amount of glass that can be successfully recycled through the curbside program.