

What Can I Do?

Here are a few tips on how to reduce your waste:

- **RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE!!** Get a blue box or two for your home and office by contacting Eldon Wallman at 204.346.6532 or at ewallman@steinbach.ca
- **If you do not receive curbside pick-up of recyclables where you live, make the effort to bring your recyclables to one of the following locations:**
 - Extra Foods Parking Lot (276 Main St.)
 - Safeway Parking Lot (PTH 12 N and Park Road E.)
 - Eastman Recycling Services (92 Millwork Dr.)
- **Print and copy on both sides of paper. This reduces costs associated with printing and paper usage while simultaneously saving filing space and minimizing the amount of energy and fibre required for paper production.**
- **Sort your waste to ensure that everything that is recyclable or compostable is separated and dealt with appropriately**
- **Turn organic waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings, tea and coffee grounds, plant and grass clippings into compost (humus), a nutrient-rich addition to soil and gardens**
- **Buy a mulching blade for your lawnmower. This will eliminate lawn waste and will provide you with free organic lawn fertilizer and excellent compost material, not to mention the benefit of not having to rake after mowing**
- **Buy products and goods made with recycled content and packaged in returnable or recyclable materials**
- **Recycle old clothing by donating it to homeless shelters, thrift stores, and other community organizations**
- **Bring your own reusable bags to local stores when you shop - if you do receive plastic bags when you shop, use them as garbage bags instead of purchasing new plastic bags**

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City of Steinbach Waste Reduction Program



**Since 1950, we have consumed as much as
all the generations before us combined.
(Environment Canada)**



It's Time to Make a Change...

SAD TO SAY, BUT...

- In North America, we produce enough garbage each day to fill 70,000 garbage trucks. Lined up bumper to bumper, over a year, they would stretch halfway to the moon



- When our trash disappears off the curb, it is buried in the ground where it can remain unchanged for centuries
- Canadians take home more than 55 million plastic bags each week
- If everyone on the earth lived like the average Canadian, we would need at least four earth's to sustain our lifestyles and

provide all the materials and energy we currently use. We create well over 250 kg of waste each in our homes every year.

- About 1/3 of an average dump is made up of packaging material
- About 1/3 of landfilled waste is organic waste from yards and gardens
- Canadians produce approximately 7 million tonnes of organic waste each year
- 70% of landfilled waste could be either reused or recycled
- By the age of 6 months, the average Canadian has consumed the same amount of resources as the average person in the developing world consumes in a lifetime (Recycling Council of Ontario)
- Across Canada, it costs more than \$1.5 billion per year to dispose of garbage (Destination Conservation)
- Incinerating 10,000 tonnes of waste creates 1 job; landfilling the same amount creates 6 jobs; recycling the same 10,000 tonnes creates 36 jobs (Clean Nova Scotia)

ON THE UP SIDE...

There are several ways in which we can all help create a better world for our children, our children's children, our children's children's children, ... you get the idea.

1) REDUCE

- Reduce the amount of waste you create by using some of the ideas located on the back of this brochure.
- Buy only what you really need. Before purchasing something, ask yourself if you really need this item. (How much junk do you have collecting dust that you couldn't live without just a short time ago?)
- Avoid disposable products. Keep in mind that nothing is really "disposable" - in most cases it doesn't go away, it just takes up space at the landfill!
- Buy in bulk. When buying food or other products to be consumed in quantity, buy the largest amount you can easily store and use. Avoid over-packaged goods as well. Remember, it's what is inside the package that you want! This eliminates extra packaging going to the landfill.

2) REUSE

- Reuse items whenever possible. Many of the items that you recycle, such as glass jars and plastic containers, can be reused for storage.
- Buy used items. This applies to CD's, sports equipment, cars, building material, clothing, furniture - almost anything!
- Rent or share instead of buying. Many things that you need only occasionally, such as tools or party supplies, can be rented or borrowed.

3) RECYCLE

- **PLASTIC** bottles and aluminum cans can take anywhere from 400-500 years to break down in a landfill.
- PET plastic bottles collected for recycling in Manitoba are usually made into carpeting and fibrefill for pillows, sleeping bags and ski jackets, but can also be made into t-shirts, sweaters, automotive parts, and floor tiles!
- **ALUMINUM** is the most valuable (\$\$\$) recyclable material. Once aluminum cans have been remelted, they can be used in any product made from aluminum.
- It takes one million years for a **GLASS** bottle to break down in a landfill! In Manitoba, most recycled container glass is used as aggregate material in roads and sidewalks.

For more information on recycling, please go to www.mpsc.com.

4) COMPOST

- Canadians produce approximately 7 million tonnes of **ORGANIC WASTE** each year. 2/3 of our household waste can be composted. These materials can then be used to help create beautiful yards and gardens.

For more information on composting, please go to www.resourceconservation.mb.ca.

Guess What? Many of these ideas are not only environmentally friendly, but will save you money too!