



The Alberta Plastics Recycling Association is in its 31st year as a not-for-profit association dedicated to advancing plastic circularity and progressing Alberta as a sustainable place to do business. APRA is a conduit of information in the diversion of plastics from landfill and makes introductions among stakeholders to build important relationships. Its membership consists of plastics resin producers, manufacturers, fabricators, converters, wholesalers and retailers of plastic products, along with plastics recyclers and other members of the recycling community. Businesses of all sizes will be part of the solution to transition from a linear to a circular economy. The organization has helped to establish plastics recycling initiatives in Alberta for materials including used oil containers, milk containers and expanded polystyrene (EPS) among others. The Association is committed to the establishment of an agricultural plastics program and increased capture of plastic materials without a designated recycling program.

Vision: A sustainable plastic circular economy where post-use plastic stays out of the environment and in the economy.

Mission: To advance plastic circularity and progress Alberta as a sustainable place to do business.

Values:

- belief that all plastic in the environment and landfill can be eliminated
- committed to the concepts of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, and Recover
- recognizes that a plastic circular economy offers many advantages to society
- understands that important business opportunities can be realized through a plastic circular economy
- committed to the inclusion of all members across the plastic value chain
- believes all participants in the plastic value chain need to take responsibility, and play a leadership role in providing stewardship solutions to post-use plastic

Finding Solutions for Plastics Recycling

APRA demonstrates to government and the public that industry partners are taking responsibility for finding solutions to plastics waste management issues in Alberta through pro-active initiatives.

In Action:

APRA determined the need for a recycling program for expanded polystyrene (EPS), a material majorly excluded from municipal recycling programs. The Association helped to establish an EPS recycling program in the City of Airdrie for over 65,000 residents. The program has been fully operational for over eight years.

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APRA participates on the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG), a Province-wide working group of stakeholders leading the *Alberta Ag Plastic- Recycle It!* pilot project for twine and grain bag recycling and has been involved in the execution of ag plastics pilot programs across the Province for over two decades.

Stakeholder Cooperation and Issue Advancement

APRA facilitates introductions between members and industry stakeholders to find solutions that reduce plastic waste going to landfill. APRA does this through cooperation between industry and all levels of government.

In Action:

APRA has been actively engaged with provincial organizations including the Plastics Alliance of Alberta (PAA), the Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA), Alberta CARE, and the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA). APRA promotes and supports companies in proper plastics management to help keep plastic pellets and flake out of the environment.

Communication and Facilitation

APRA spearheads contact and acts as a liaison to communicate its own initiatives as well as partners' waste management initiatives to the government, public, media and interest groups.

In Action:

APRA's work with varying committees and working groups includes government officials and partners. Through these relationships, we are able to share updates on APRA's members' activities. We keep members and the public informed through articles on our website and newsletters with information and resources about plastics, a toll-free phone line and email to receive questions on plastics materials and recycling opportunities.

Data

APRA is focused on a data-gathering project to help make decisions for the management of plastic.

In Action: APRA led the Plastics Data Gathering Project in the Edmonton region to characterize and quantify post-use plastic from industry and institutions and identify opportunities to advance a circular economy in the region - partly funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada's Zero Plastic Waste Initiative with total financial and in-kind contributions at \$235,000. The advisory committee includes municipalities, industry, and academics. The project wrapped up in the spring of 2022 and results will be shared shortly.

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