

# Organization Overview

## Introduction

The Alberta Plastics Recycling Association (APRA) is a not-for-profit organization advancing Alberta's transition to a sustainable plastics circular economy. We believe Alberta can lead the way in building a plastics circular economy—one where materials are valued, waste is designed out, and business and the environment thrive together. For more than three decades, APRA has united industry, government, and community partners to strengthen collaboration across the plastics value chain—driving both economic growth and environmental stewardship.

As a trusted partner and source of insight, APRA facilitates the exchange of information, fosters innovation, and supports initiatives that keep plastics in use and out of landfills. The organization has helped establish recycling programs for materials such as used oil containers, milk jugs, and expanded polystyrene (EPS) and is championing agricultural plastics recycling and new circular solutions.

*APRA facilitates partnerships and programs to advance circularity across the plastics value chain.*

**Mission:** APRA advances the circular economy for participants in the plastics value chain in Alberta by fostering collaboration that drives economic growth and environmental stewardship.

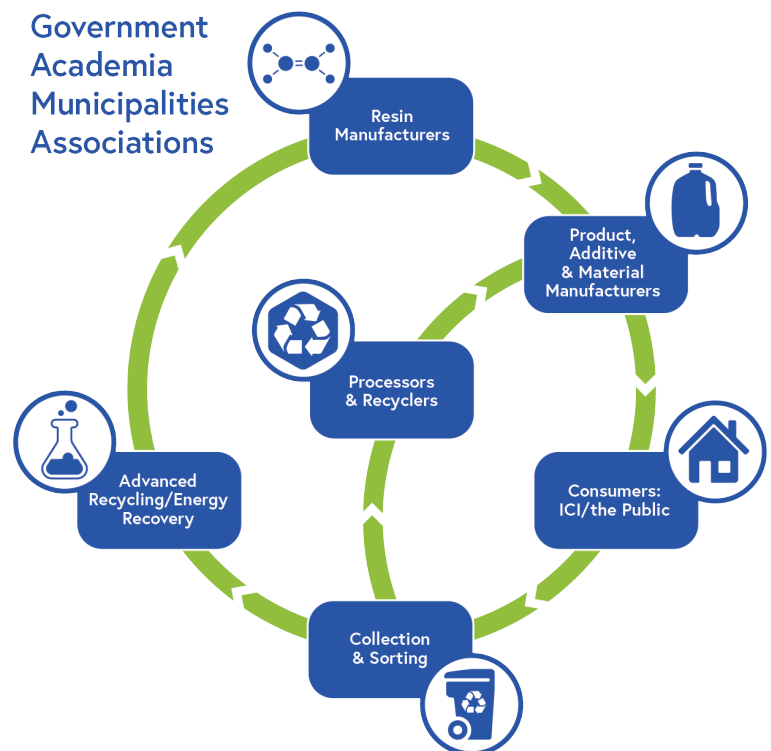
**Vision:** APRA envisions a future where Alberta is at the forefront of an innovative and sustainable plastics circular economy.

### Goals:

- **Enable Initiatives:** Focus on initiatives/projects that can build the circular economy for plastics.
- **Advocacy:** APRA is the voice of our members with government and advocates for policies that promote the circular economy while improving the position of Alberta organizations in the plastics circular economy.
- **Education:** Foster knowledge-sharing across the plastics value chain in Alberta.
- **Communication:** Effectively communicate industry information and developments to members and partners.
- **Financial Stability:** Create a diversified funding mechanism so the organization can meet its sustainability goals.

### Across All:

- **Capacity Building:** Develop tools and partnerships that enhance member experience and strengthen APRA's ability to lead in plastics circular economy initiatives.
- **Growth:** Demonstrate leadership in plastics circularity by expanding APRA's influence, growing membership, aligning with national initiatives, and delivering industry-focused value that distinguishes APRA from other industry organizations.



## Who are our members?

Our members represent stakeholders such as resin manufacturers, material manufacturers, processors and recyclers, advanced recyclers, municipalities and individuals of the public. APRA's work with varying committees and working groups includes government officials and partners. Businesses of all sizes will be part of the solution to transition from a linear to a circular economy.

To view more information about our members visit our [website](https://www.albertaplasticsrecycling.com).

## CONTACT US

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# Membership Benefits

## Learn and Network

Members can access expertise and establish connections with the membership pool. Networking, referrals and learning opportunities enabled through APRA are beneficial for companies to meet business objectives and grow. Through these relationships, we share updates on APRA's members' activities. We help members to meet their Environment, Social and Governance goals that can serve to boost a company's credibility, trustworthiness and goodwill in the marketplace.

### We offer:

- **Networking events, held quarterly across the province to allow members to learn about work being done and connect on relevant issues, challenges and successes.**
- **A phone line and general email address to receive questions on plastics materials and recycling opportunities for the public, local businesses and municipalities with outreach questions and inquiries.**
- **Information for members and the public through sharing on the APRA website, in newsletters and on our social media channels about the latest news and resources related to plastics recycling and circularity.**

## Advocate.

APRA leads advocacy efforts on behalf of members on key environmental and plastics issues such as:

- **APRA completed two dozen submissions in the last few years to the federal and provincial governments on issues ranging from single-use plastics bans, extended producer responsibility (EPR), labelling requirements and a plastics registry among others. To view these and other submissions visit our website here: <https://albertaplasticsrecycling.com/membership/advocacy-submissions/>**
- **Cooperation with the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada's (CIAC) Plastic Division on national issues and opportunities.**

## Innovate.

With an extensive knowledge base in plastics management, APRA is well positioned to support member organizations and their business objectives through fee for service provisions. This includes:

- **Project management services to coordinate, facilitate and execute projects that support plastics circularity.**
- **Access to our members that are on the cutting edge of developments to use post-consumer plastics as a resource to develop new products and close the loop on plastics circularity.**
- **Sharing of ideas and problem solving with other like-minded organizations to advance plastics circularity.**

## Events

### ACPD

From 2023 - 2025 APRA has held Alberta Circular Plastics Day - a one-day conference that highlighted:

- unique networking opportunities across all areas of the plastics value chain including speakers and exhibitors from a variety of companies and organizations directly involved in the circular plastics economy
- tours of the state-of-the-art Productivity and Innovation Centre at NAIT
- focused exploration and information gathering about policy, advocacy, barriers and innovations emerging right here in Alberta to guide future decisions within the Alberta circular plastics economy

*In each of the three years we've hosted around 180 attendees representing more than 80 different organizations.*

### Quarterly Networking Events

APRA hosts quarterly networking events to bring members together and to see the innovative work members are doing across the province. These events often include tours of member facilities followed by networking time at a local restaurant.

### Canada Winter Games 2018

Expanded the profile and post-use plastics with the national industry Association and NOVA Chemicals.



## Projects

APRA has been involved in numerous large- and small-scale projects within Alberta aimed at advancing plastics circularity. 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. Below you will find a brief description of some of the larger projects APRA has been part of.

### Agricultural Plastics Recycling

After more than 15 years of focus and advocacy on the challenge of agricultural plastics management, APRA is advancing progress with the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG), leading the implementation of an Alberta-wide agricultural plastics recycling pilot project for grain bags and twine. At the end of 2023, the program had 48 collection partners and 148 collection sites across the province, with over 3,000 MT of grain bags and 437 MT of twine collected and has actively engaged over 34 partners across the province. We are advocating for a permanent program.

### 2021 Alberta Plastics Data Gathering Project

APRA led the Plastics Data Gathering Pilot Project in the Edmonton region to characterize and quantify post-use plastic by 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 included municipalities, industry, and academics. Outcomes included a plastics characterization report and an audit guide for use in future studies.

### Plastic Pellet Loss Problem Solving and Solution Implementation

Implementation of Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS) with Alberta companies, to keep plastic pellets and flake out of the environment through workshops, outreach, and one on one support. In 2018 APRA was quietly notified of a large quantity of plastic pellets and litter found on the banks of Chestermere Lake. The Association quickly mobilized to meet with the City of Calgary contacts, investigating the release with the plastics industry in the City and exploring where the pellets came from. We connected with the Cities of Calgary and Chestermere, along with Alberta Environment and Parks and other community groups and together we cleaned up the area, developed positive relationships with NGOs, government and industry.