CITY OF
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

YOUR CARTS ARE READY TO ROLL!

This is your waste collection guide. Inside you'll learn about:

- Important dates
- How to use and store your new carts
- Your collection zone and pick-up schedule
- How to properly sort your waste
- Helpful tips, hints, and FAQs
- Program benefits

LET'S JUMP IN!

FORTSASK.CA/WASTE

GETTING STARTED

The City of Fort Saskatchewan is committed to reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting as many waste materials as possible. Sorting efforts to date have resulted in less waste going into landfills, ensuring our community is healthy for future generations. Small efforts from your household can create significant, lasting effects.

ARE YOU READY TO DIVE INTO FORT SASK WASTE?

Want to know more and stay up-to-date? Download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app today!

On the app you will find:

- A personalized collection calendar
- The ability to report missed collections
- Weekly pick-up reminders
- Detailed sorting information
- Information about special collection events.
- **And much more!**

Enable notifications to receive real-time alerts from the Waste Department including collection changes and service updates.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 | **GETTING STARTED**
1 | **DOWNLOAD THE APP**
3 | **THE BASICS**
- HERE ARE A FEW KEY POINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW
- HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

5 | **SETTING OUT YOUR CARTS**
6 | **STORING AND WINTERIZING YOUR CARTS**
7 | **COLLECTION MAP**
9 | **KNOW WHERE IT GOES**
- ORGANICS
- GARBAGE
- RECYCLABLES

13 | **OOPS STICKER**
13 | **MANAGING YOUR CARTS**
- HELPFUL HINTS
- ODOUR AND PEST CONTROL

14 | **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**
15 | **SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS**
16 | **WASTE TRANSFER STATION**
16 | **TRANSFER STATION HOURS AND LOCATION**
17 | **THE COST OF CONTAMINATION**
17 | **THE ORGANICS PROCESS**
18 | **BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM**

THE BASICS

Fort Saskatchewan's waste program includes three collection streams: Organics, garbage, and recycling.

We need your cooperation to ensure that this system works! Each household is asked to sort materials into their appropriate streams before setting materials out for collection.

Here are some basics to help you master the system and become a waste wizard.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY AND VOLUMES

GARBAGE	Collected every other week
ORGANICS	Collected weekly in the summer Every other week in the winter
RECYCLING	Collected every other week
VOLUME AMOUNTS	Limited to container size

CART BEST PRACTICES:

To ensure safe and efficient collection, please follow these guidelines:

- Set carts and blue bags out by 7:00 a.m. on your collection day.
- Place carts on the street with wheels against the curb, facing forward.
- Keep carts at least 1 metre (3 feet)—about an arm's length—away from obstacles such as vehicles, trees, other carts, or overhead obstructions like branches and basketball nets.
- Ensure the lid is fully closed. Overflowing carts will not be collected.
- Do not place extra bags of garbage or organics outside the carts. Excess waste will only be collected during Extra Yard Waste Pick-Up events.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
CONTACT US IF:

- You have questions about the service
- Your cart needs repairs or is lost
- You want a smaller cart
- You want an additional garbage cart

780-992-6218 • waste@fortsask.ca
FortReport.ca • fortsask.ca/waste

If your address is currently not listed in the app, please report it and we will add you in.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

YOUR ORGANICS CART AND KITCHEN CATCHER

Your vented green cart is for organic materials. Your vented kitchen catcher will conveniently collect organics in the kitchen.

WHAT GOES IN HERE:

(A more comprehensive list of compostable materials on page 10)

- Food waste, kitchen scraps
- Meat, dairy, bones
- Yard waste, grass clippings
- Soiled paper products
- Greasy pizza boxes
- BPI-certified compostable bags

IMPORTANT ORGANICS CART INFORMATION:

- Organics placed in plastic bags or non-compostable plastic bags are not accepted.
- Place your organic materials into the cart directly, into an empty cereal box, or buy BPI-certified compostable bags, which help reduce odour and mess.
- All organics must fit inside the cart with the lid closed. Materials left outside the cart will not be collected.
- Cart contents must weigh less than 200 pounds.
- Stones and rocks are NOT included in the organics collection program as they will damage the equipment at the processing facility.
- *Reminder:* Sod is not accepted at the compost facility. Please take these materials to the Transfer Station—fees may apply.

YOUR GARBAGE CART

Your black cart is for garbage and is for household waste that isn't organic and can't be recycled.

WHAT GOES IN HERE:

(A more comprehensive list of garbage materials on page 12)

- Meat trays/liners
- Ceramics
- Broken toys
- Diapers
- Vacuum bags
- Dryer sheets

IMPORTANT GARBAGE CART INFORMATION:

- All garbage must fit inside the cart with the lid closed. Materials left outside the cart will not be collected.
- Place garbage bags directly into the cart. It is recommended that you bag all garbage to prevent litter.
- Homeowners must loosen cart contents before collection—use a shovel along the inside if needed.
- Cart must weight less than 200 pounds.

BLUE RECYCLING BAGS

Recycling will be placed and collected in blue bags.

WHAT GOES IN HERE:

(A more comprehensive list of recyclable materials on page 11)

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Tin/aluminum cans and containers
- Rigid plastic packaging

Recycling services in Fort Saskatchewan are managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization responsible for recycling programs across Alberta.

Learn more at: **circularmaterials.ca/FortSaskatchewan**

IMPORTANT RECYCLE BAG INFORMATION:

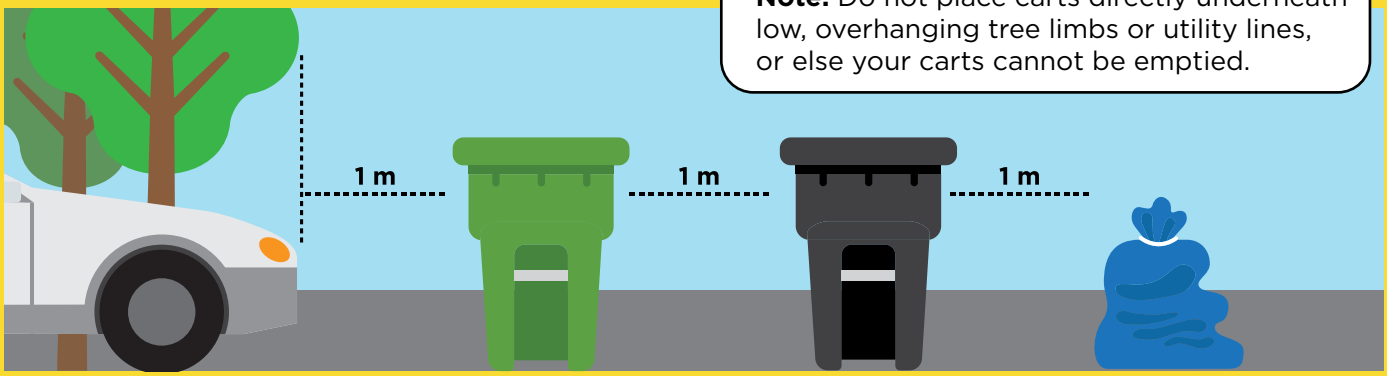
- For a full list of accepted items visit **circularmaterials.ca/FortSaskatchewan**.
- Cardboard boxes must be broken down to a maximum size of 2 ft x 3 ft, stacked and placed underneath blue bags for collection.
- Containers must be rinsed and dried.
- DO NOT place household hazardous materials—such as batteries, pressurized tanks, or chemicals—in any cart or bag. The City hosts a free annual Recycling Roundup to safely dispose of these items.
- Blue bags must weigh less than 50 pounds and be placed at least one metre away from the carts.

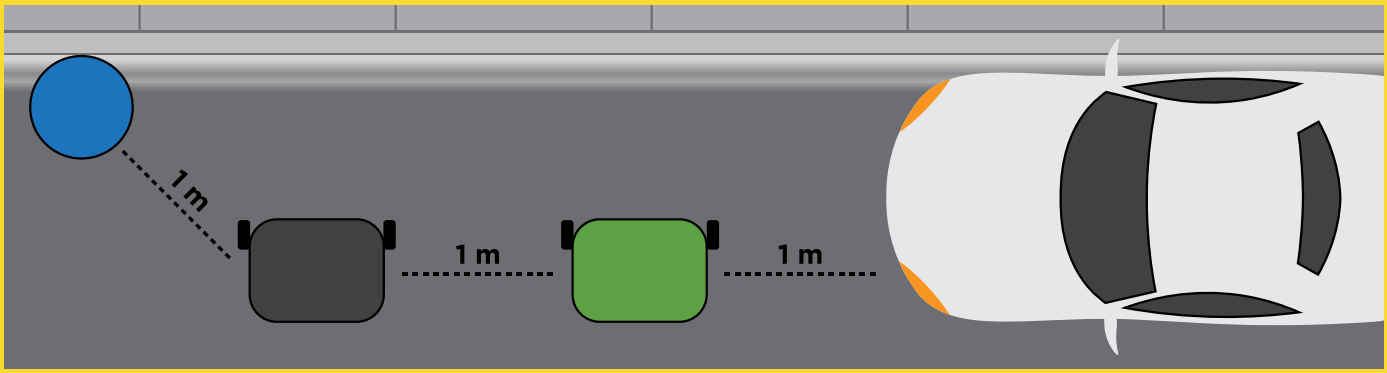
SETTING OUT YOUR CARTS

Placing your carts at the curb is easy—your carts have been designed and tested with maneuverability and ergonomic performance in mind. The wheeled cart enables you to push or pull more weight than you would be able to carry.

USE THESE SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS TO SET OUT YOUR CARTS AND RECYCLING:

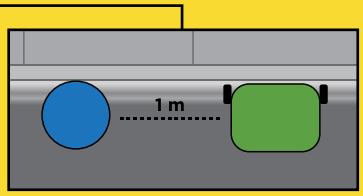
Note: Do not place carts directly underneath low, overhanging tree limbs or utility lines, or else your carts cannot be emptied.

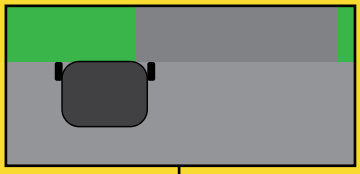




If You Have a Curb:

- Place the wheels of the cart in the gutter between the curb and the road.
- Front of the cart must face the street.
- Place the recycling bag against the curb.





If You Do Not Have a Curb:

- Place the cart out at the edge of your driveway and the road. Ensure that the cart is on a flat area and the wheels are closest to the ditch of your driveway.
- Front of the cart must face the street.

If You Live in a Cul-De-Sac:

- Do not park in the cul-de-sac on collection day as collection trucks have a difficult time maneuvering around the vehicles and cannot access the roll-out carts.
- Follow the appropriate instructions for curb or no curb collection.
- If there is insufficient spacing between houses, carts must be placed in front of your driveway.

REMINDER:

- Cart lids **must be completely closed** or they will not be collected.
- Carts and recycling bags **must be out by 7am**.
- Carts and recycling **must be 1 arm length (1 metre) apart** from each other.
- Carts and recycling **must be unobstructed** by parked vehicles, fences, power lines, etc. It must be pulled away from all structures, including garages and fences.

ALLEY COLLECTION RULES.

If your carts and recycling are collected in an alley, please follow these guidelines to ensure your waste is collected:

- Carts must be pulled away from the fence and other permanent structures to be collected. Carts that do not have enough clearance or are not at the edge of the alley will not be collected.
- Carts and recycling bag must have 1 arm length (1 metre) clearance space between them and any obstructions, including: fences, trees, garage roofs, power lines, etc.
- Remove any and all other obstructions from the alley to allow space for the collection trucks, including parked vehicles.
- Carts must be stored against a fence or another permanent structure on non-collection days.
- Carts cannot block vehicles or traffic.

If there is insufficient spacing between houses, carts must be placed in front of your driveway.

STORING YOUR CARTS

On non-collection days, your carts must be brought up and stored on your property—not on the road or boulevard. Your cart footprint is slightly larger than an average-sized garbage container, and it rolls and maneuvers easily. Here are some great places to store your carts:

- Inside or against your garage
- Neatly against the side of your home
- In your backyard
- Against a fence
- Wherever you currently keep your garbage

TIP: Prevent odours and pests by storing your cart in a cool, shaded area.

CART CARE

With a bit of care, your carts will last a long time. Here are some tips to help you keep your carts in top-notch shape:

- Rinse your cart with water and pour the contents on the grass or gravel, being careful the dirty water does not enter the storm drain.
- To clean the surface and remove odours, mix one part vinegar and three parts hot water.
- In winter, be careful not to empty water onto driveways, sidewalks, or walkways, as it could freeze and create hazardous conditions.
- If any material gets stuck inside the cart, use a broom or shovel handle to loosen it.
- Line your cart or kitchen catcher pail with paper (like crumpled newspaper or a paper yard waste bag) or use BPI-Certified compostable bags.
- The City of Fort Saskatchewan will replace any cart that breaks or cracks through regular use. If your cart is damaged or needs repairs, call the Waste Hotline at 780-992-6218.
- **IMPORTANT:** Carts and kitchen catchers must not be altered or painted. The cart belongs to the house and must not leave the premises, even if you move.

WINTERIZE YOUR CART

In winter, prevent material from getting stuck or frozen inside your organics cart.

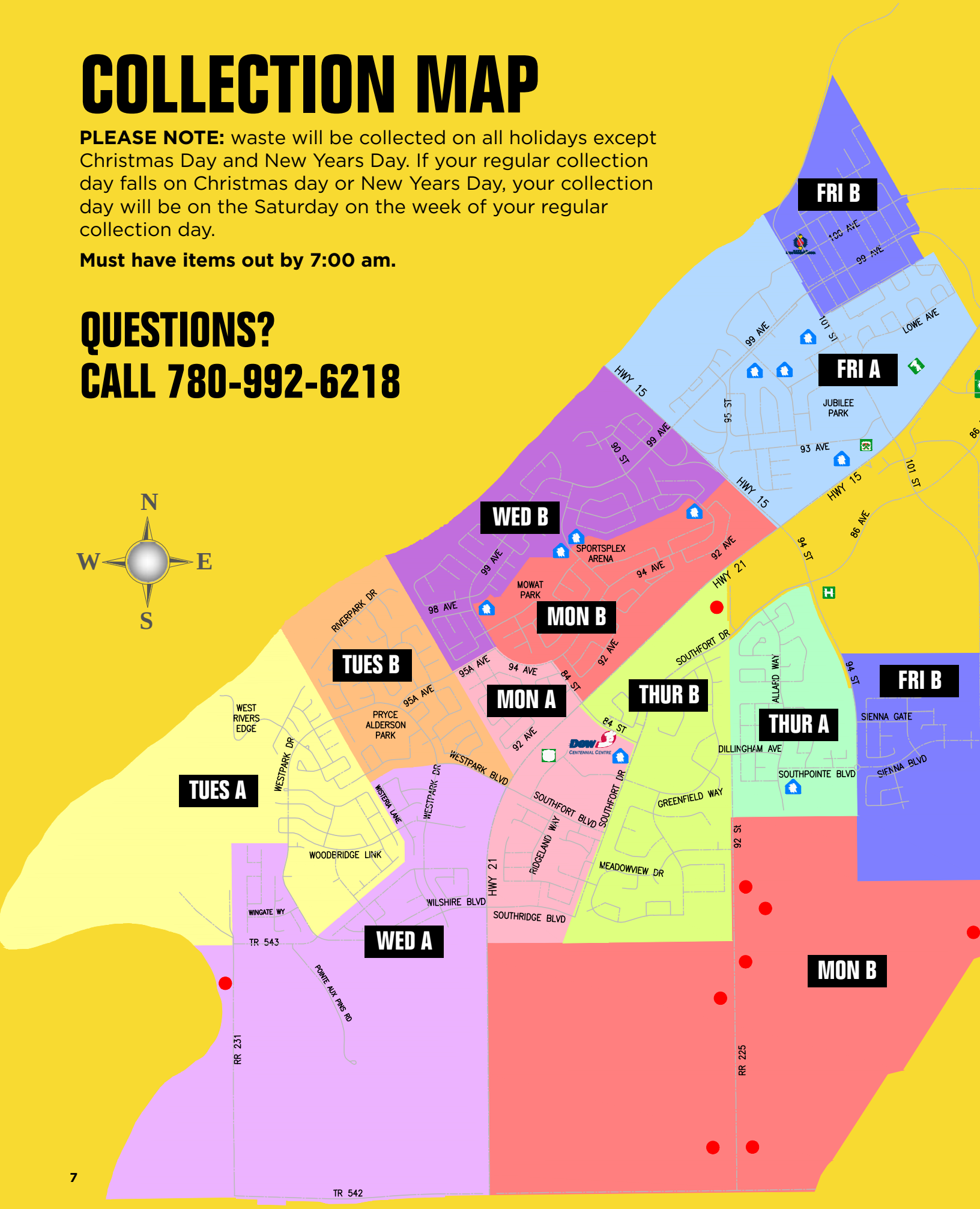
- Make food scraps less wet by straining out liquids from soups or sauces before placing them in the cart.
- Try wrapping wet material in paper to help stop it from freezing to the cart.
- Store your organics cart outdoors instead of indoors between collections to stop material from thawing and refreezing inside.
- Pre-freeze food scraps in smaller quantities before putting them into your cart. They'll slide out easily when your collector empties the cart.
- Line your kitchen catcher and green organic cart with newspaper or flyers to prevent food from freezing to the side of the cart

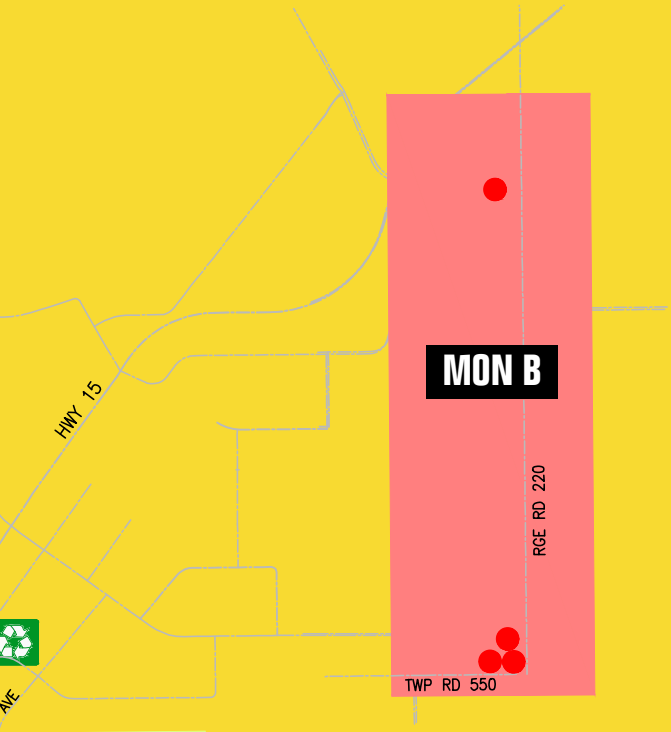
COLLECTION MAP

PLEASE NOTE: waste will be collected on all holidays except Christmas Day and New Years Day. If your regular collection day falls on Christmas day or New Years Day, your collection day will be on the Saturday on the week of your regular collection day.

Must have items out by 7:00 am.

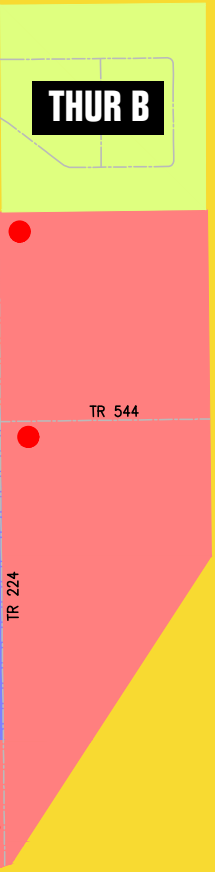
QUESTIONS?
CALL 780-992-6218





LEGEND

- RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION
- SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- RCMP STATION
- FIRE STATION
- GOLF COURSE
- CITY HALL
- RESIDENCIAL AGREAGE



MONDAY A	MONDAY B
TUESDAY A	TUESDAY B
WEDNESDAY A	WEDNESDAY B
THURSDAY A	THURSDAY B
FRIDAY A	FRIDAY B

TIP: Download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app and enter in your address: the app will tell you your zone and send you reminders of your collection days.

If your address is currently not listed in the app, please report it and we will add you in.

ORGANICS

Think it's just about grass clippings and leaves?
Think again—*you can put all sorts of natural materials in your green cart:*

- Bamboo utensils
- Bones, meat, fish
- Bread, baked goods
- Coffee grounds, coffee filters
- Cooled, solidified grease
- Corn stalks
- Eggs, egg shells
- Facial tissue
- Feathers
- Flour, grains, dough
- Food scraps
- Fruits, vegetable peels
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Leaves, yard waste
- Paper towel
- Pasta
- Plant material (limited soil)
- Pumpkins
- Rice
- Sauces and spreads
- Shredded paper
- Small branches
- Soiled paper
- Soiled wax paper
- Tea and tea bags
- Toothpicks
- Twigs
- Wine corks
- Woodchips

Look for these symbols when purchasing compostable bags! Biodegradable bags are NOT accepted.

COMPOSTABLE
Biodegradable Products Institute | US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

COMPOSTABLE
www.compostable.info

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- **IMPORTANT**: Plastic of any kind, rocks, metal, batteries, and other non-organic materials are NOT permitted in your organics cart. These items cause major contamination issues. This increases processing costs, and the final compost may not be usable. Organics carts containing these, or any other non-organic materials, will not be collected.
- **REMINDER**: Sod and soil are not accepted at the compost facility. Please take these materials to the Transfer Station—fees may apply.

If contamination persists, a penalty of $100 per event may be issued under the Waste Bylaw.

- Do not place your organics in a non-compostable bag. Instead, place them directly into the cart, or buy BPI-Certified compostable bags. Since soiled paper and cardboard are compostable, wrapping food items in newspaper or placing them in an empty cereal box are also great ideas!
- If the item is made from something that was once living and contains no synthetic material, then chances are it's organic.
- Beware of paper products that contain a plastic or waxy liner (e.g. paper cups); these items are not typically compostable.
- Organics and other compostable materials are turned into valuable compost. However, in a landfill, organics may never break down and contribute to the release of harmful greenhouse gasses, such as methane.
- The City of Fort Saskatchewan conducts audits of organics carts to ensure compliance.

For more information on organics, download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app.

GARBAGE

After sorting your recyclables and organics, most of what is left is considered your garbage, including:

- Air fresheners (non-aerosol)
- Dirty aluminum foil
- Blinds (must fit inside your cart)
- Broken toys
- Candles
- Carpet (must fit inside your cart)
- CDs and DVDs
- Ceramics, dishes
- Cigarettes
- Cleaning wipes (cosmetic and cleaning)
- Clothing (not reusable)
- Contact lenses
- Cotton balls (soiled)
- Crayons
- Dental floss
- Disposable diaper wipes
- Disposable diapers
- Dryer sheets
- Elastic bands
- Feminine hygiene items
- Flour bags (or any bag that has a lining)
- Foil wrappers
- Frozen juice cans
- Furnace filters, air filters
- Glass (or bring to an Eco-Station)
- Incandescent light bulbs
- Latex products
- Leather
- Magnets
- Make-up remover pads and Q-tips
- Meat trays/liners
- Nails, screws, nuts, and bolts
- Needles (in a sealed, hard container)
- Non-recyclable packaging materials
- Paper clips, pens, and pencils
- Pet food bags
- Pet waste in plastic bags
- Potato chip bags
- Disposable plastic, grocery and sandwich bags, and cling wrap
- SOS pads
- Toothbrush and toothpaste tubes
- Treated wood
- Utensils (not reusable)
- Vacuum bags

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- All garbage must fit inside the cart with the lid completely closed, or it will not be collected.
- Place garbage bags directly into the cart.
- Garbage outside the cart will not be collected.
- Bring any awkwardly shaped or large items to the Transfer + Eco Station for disposal. Fees may apply.

For more information on garbage, download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app.

RECYCLABLES

There is no limit to the number of blue bags you can leave out for collection.

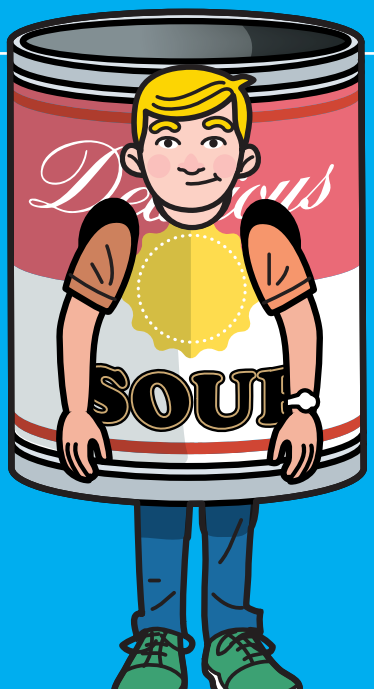
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit organization that now manages residential recycling collection in Fort Saskatchewan. They do this through a policy called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which shifts the cost of recycling away from residents and onto the producers and manufacturers of packaging and paper products.

Thanks to EPR, residents no longer pay for recycling collection—those who produce the materials cover the cost, and Circular Materials oversees the program on their behalf.

To learn more, visit circularmaterials.ca/FortSaskatchewan.

circular materials

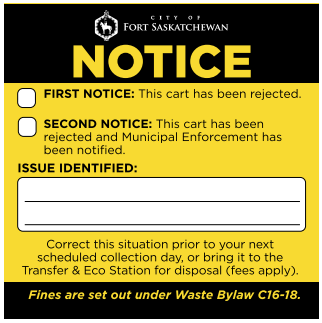


DOOR HANGERS & STICKERS

Sorting your waste incorrectly or not following collection set-out rules may result in it not being collected. This is to avoid contaminating organic or recyclable contents in the collection truck.

An "Oops!" sticker may be placed on your carts or blue bags explaining why they were not collected, and you will need to re-sort these materials for collection on your next scheduled collection day. For immediate removal of your waste, transfer station drop-off is available for a fee.

REMEMBER—the success of the waste system depends on you sorting your materials correctly.



MANAGING YOUR CARTS

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR CARTS:

- If organics become stuck, use a broom or shovel handle to loosen them.
- Put your carts out for collection even if they are not full.
- Clean out your refrigerator/freezer the night before organics collection.

ODOUR AND PEST CONTROL:

- Store your carts in shaded or covered areas to avoid the heat.
- Sprinkle a small amount of baking soda, powdered lime, or bleach-free laundry detergent at the bottom of your carts.
- Wash your carts out if they become soiled.
- Wrap wet or smelly materials in paper bags or soiled boxes.

TIP: Layer your organics cart with newspaper and other dry organics to help prevent sticking, odours, and pests.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we have to separate organic material?

- We love our city and we want to keep it clean, safe and healthy.
- A study revealed that approximately 60% of the waste Fort Sask residents are sending to the landfill is organic and could be composted rather than landfilled.
- With your help, we are joining many other municipalities across Canada to ensure those valuable organic materials are used to make compost rather than being wasted in a landfill.

I don't have a lot of yard waste, why do I need an organics cart?

- Organic material that is accepted in this program includes everything from meat, bones and food scraps to soiled paper and cardboard. This material is being sent to a commercial composting facility, which means you can put organic materials in the cart that you wouldn't be able to in your backyard composter, such as raw meat and dairy products.
- Was the material produced from something that was once living? If the answer is yes, chances are this item can be placed in your organics cart! If you're not sure where an item should go, download our 'Fort Sask Waste' app and look the item up on our Waste Wizard.

ORGANIC MATERIAL ISN'T LIMITED TO FRUITS AND VEGGIES

Did you know organic material can go directly into your green organics cart? BPI-Certified compostable bags are accepted but not required.

How to collect organics without breaking the bank:

1. Use an empty cereal box. Any empty, liner-free boxboard is the perfect substitute for a compostable bag. Place your food waste into the empty box and put it directly into the green cart!
2. Wrap food waste in newspaper, or line your small kitchen catcher in newspaper and place it directly into the green cart.
3. Place food (or cooking grease/fat) into a compostable container, such as peat pods (for all you gardeners!) or an empty paper egg carton. Remember to make sure it's made of paper (not foam or plastic) and remove any plastic packaging.

REMINDER

The green organics cart is collected weekly in the summer, to prevent food waste odours. The black cart is collected every other week.

THE COST OF CONTAMINATION

LITTLE MISTAKES CAN LEAD TO BIG COSTS.

Every sorting mistake matters—from the meat liner in your blue bag to the plastic grocery bag in your organics cart. The cost for the processors to mechanically or manually remove garbage from recycling and organics is not cheap or feasible in some cases. These costs get passed down to the City and our utility ratepayers. A small sorting mistake can contaminate an entire load, leading to a lower diversion rate, increased waste costs, and higher greenhouse gas emissions.

Keep contamination costs down by educating yourself on how to sort waste. Before long, sorting will become natural, and we can all enjoy a greener, more sustainable city at a much lower cost.

SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS

These events happen each year. Download the Fort Sask Waste app, request an updated collection calendar, or check out the website fortsask.ca/Waste for specific dates and instructions.

Household Large Item Pickup

- Up to two large items (fridge, mattress, couch, etc.) will be collected during this week.
- Max weight of 150 lbs per item.
- If disposing of a fridge, freezer, or other appliance with refrigerant, it must be removed prior to collection and clearly marked with a "Refrigerant Removed" sticker.
- Takes place in the spring of each year.

Recycling Round-Up

- Drop off hazardous waste and electronics for proper disposal.
- Takes place once annually.

Christmas Tree Collection

- Set out your natural Christmas tree for curbside collection.
- Occurs in January each year.

Extra Yard Waste Pickup

- Put out unlimited yard waste in brown paper bags for curbside collection.
- Occurs Spring and Fall each year.

DISPOSE OF ELECTRONIC AND HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE PROPERLY!

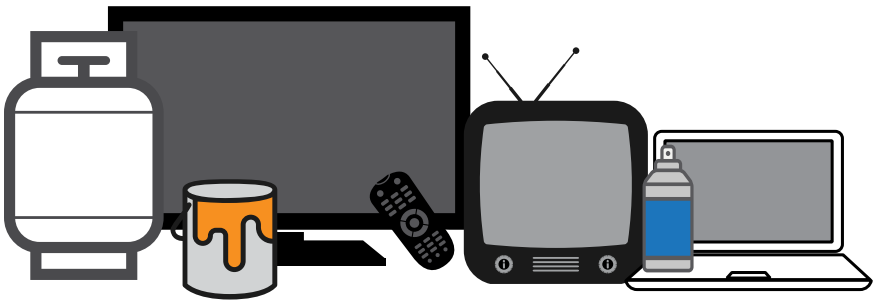
Toxic chemicals released from electronics and hazardous materials in landfills can contaminate soil and groundwater.

Dispose of your hazardous waste for FREE at the City's annual household Recycling Round-Up event at the Transfer + Eco Station (8609 111 Street, Fort Saskatchewan). Accepted items include:

- Paint, stains, and solvents
- Aerosols
- Propane tanks
- Used motor oil and automotive fuels
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Electronics (phones, TVs, computers, VCRs, etc.)
- Cleaners
- Fluorescent bulbs and ballasts, and smoke detectors
- All types of batteries

DID YOU KNOW?

The City's Transfer + Eco Station accepts items year-round for FREE. Paint, electronics, batteries, propane tanks, and used motor oil can be brought to the Transfer + Eco Station anytime. The Transfer Station is open seven days a week from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. It is closed on all Statutory Holidays



WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Oversized, hazardous, and electronic waste is not collected at the curb. Please drop it off at Fort Saskatchewan's Transfer + Eco Station, or bring it to our annual Recycling Round-Up event, which takes place annually. Here's an example of the items you can bring to the Transfer + Eco Station year-round:

- **Batteries, fluorescent bulbs and fixtures, and smoke detectors (FREE)**
- **Any household items with a cord (FREE)**
- **Electronics, used oil, glycol, tires, and paint (FREE)**
- **Propane tanks and scrap metal (FREE)**
- **General household garbage and bulky waste, including furniture ($)**
- **General Construction and Demolition waste ($)**
- **Grass, leaves, garden waste, and branches (FREE to Fort Saskatchewan residents with ID)**
- **Items containing refrigerant ($)**

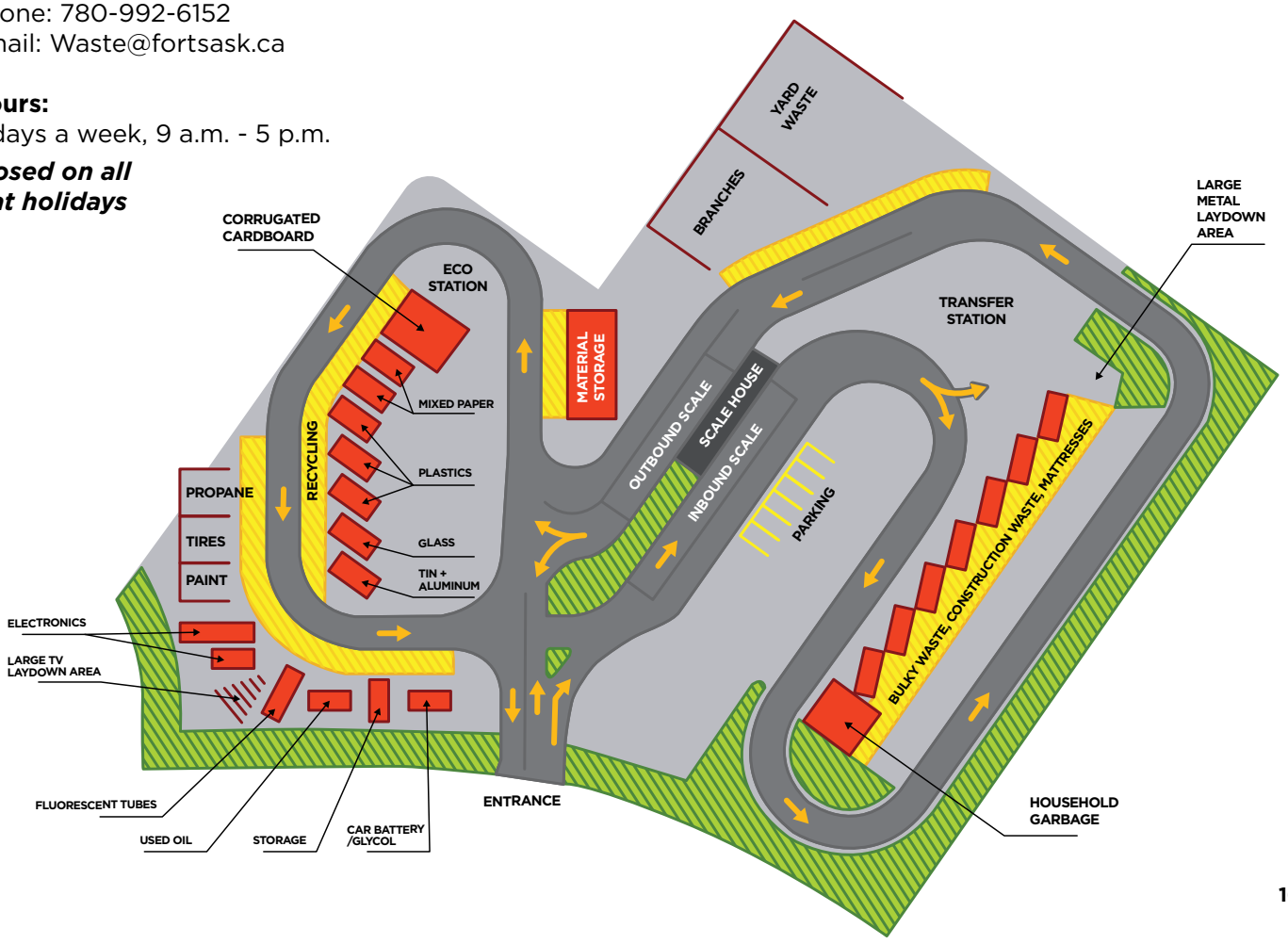
For a comprehensive list of items and waste not collected at the curb, download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS AND LOCATION

8609 - 111 Street
Phone: 780-992-6152
Email: Waste@fortsask.ca

Hours:
7 days a week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed on all stat holidays



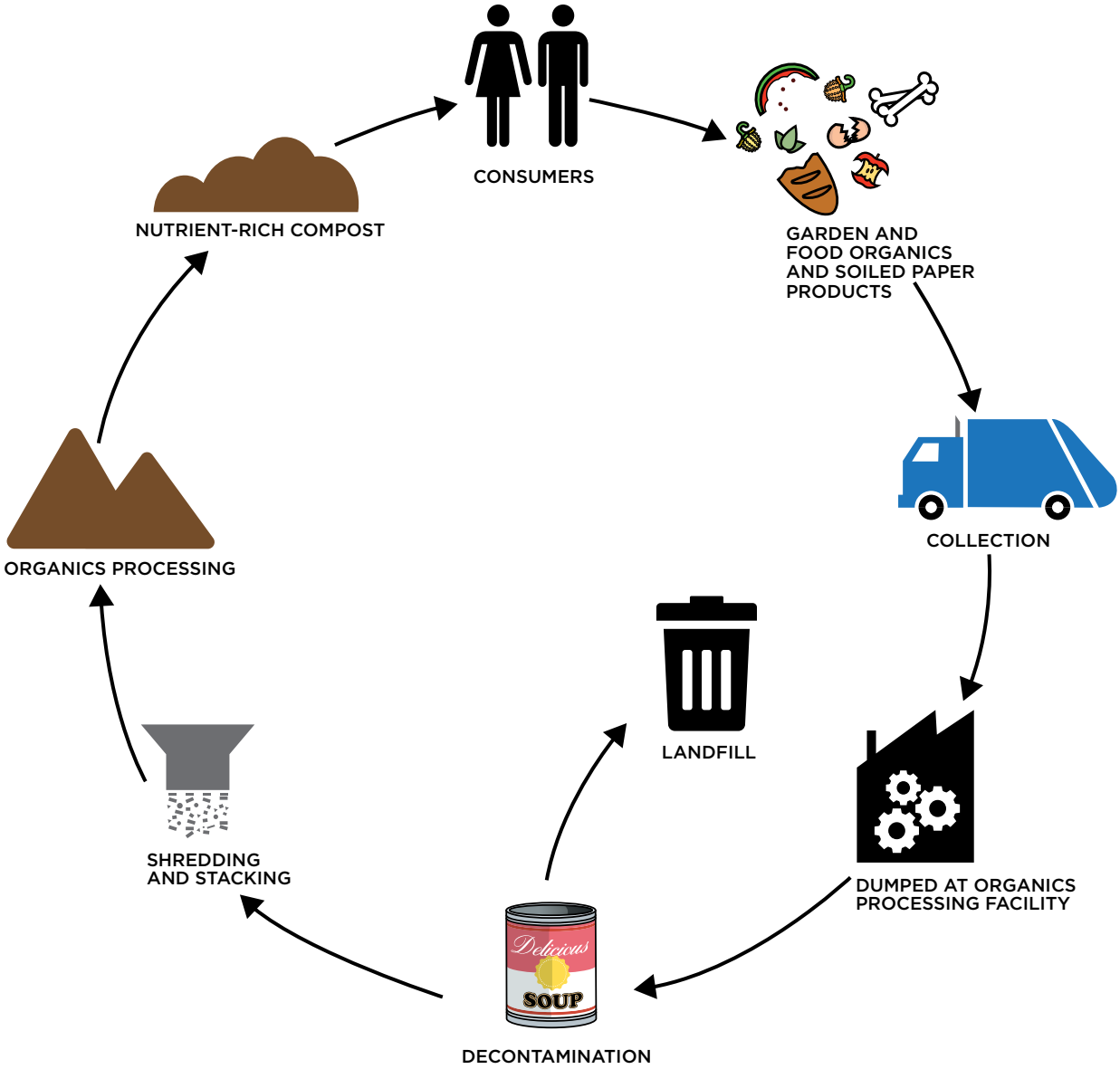
THE ORGANICS PROCESS

WHY ORGANIC COLLECTION?

Organic material in the landfill decomposes without oxygen and releases methane—a greenhouse gas 30x more potent than carbon dioxide. By diverting organics to a composting facility, we save money and the environment. In addition, valuable nutrients are present in organic matter, particularly in food waste. We aim to extract and repurpose that organic matter as a soil enhancer.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ORGANIC MATERIAL ONCE IT'S COLLECTED?

- The material collected in your green organics cart is taken to a composting facility where it is used to make compost.
- Compost is a valuable material for helping grow plants, maintaining soil structure, and retaining soil nutrients.
- Materials made from composting provides a product that is beneficial for Alberta.



BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

By working together and sorting our waste properly, we can reduce our impact on the environment and lower the cost of waste removal. If we each do our part today, we can enjoy a greener, more sustainable Fort Saskatchewan tomorrow.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

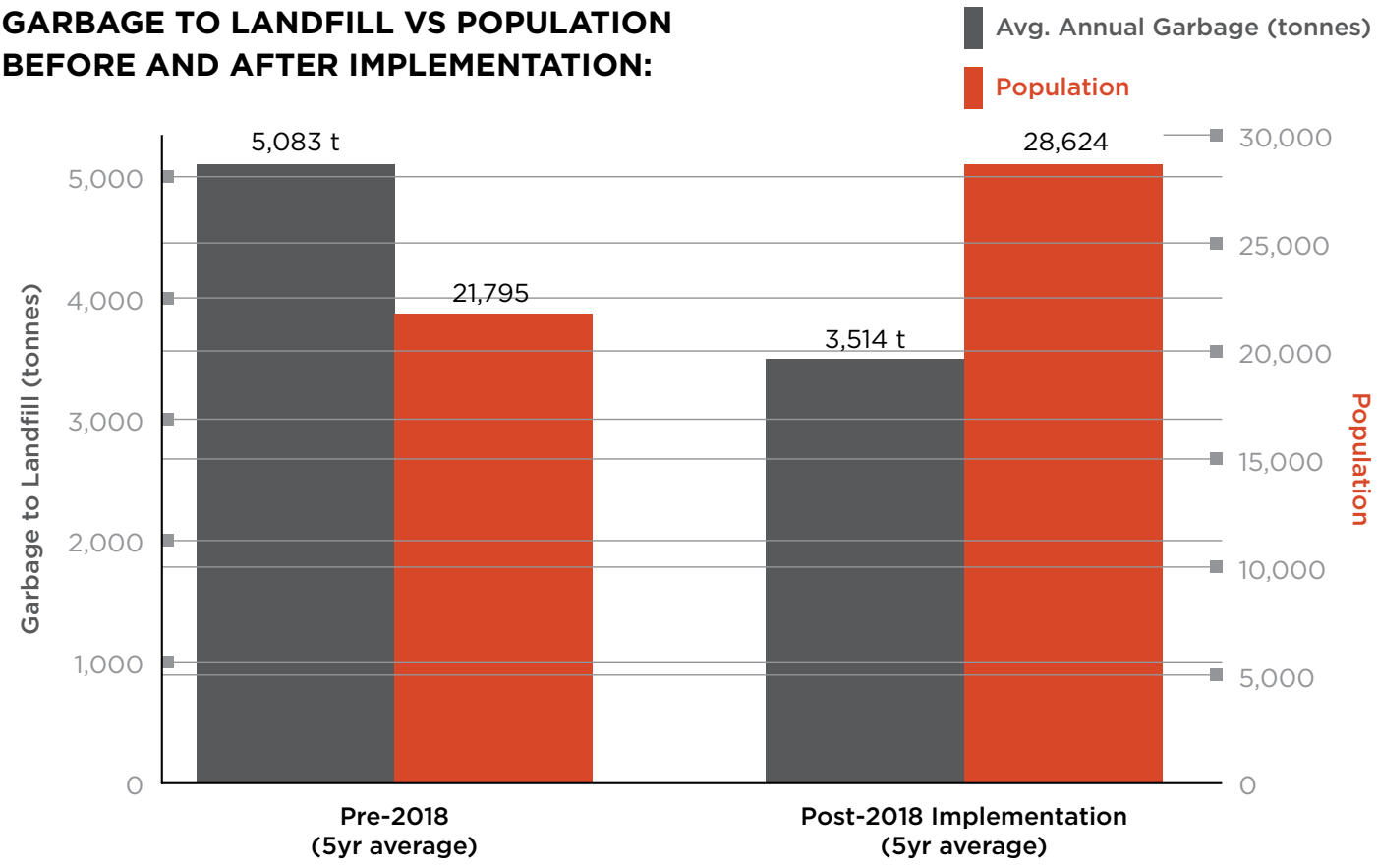
- Divert up to 80 percent of our waste.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduce landfill waste.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

- It costs the City less to compost organic materials than it does to send them to the landfill.
- Organics collection provides a valuable resource for Alberta.

Since implementing the Fort Saskatchewan Waste Program in 2018, residents have sent over 18,000 tonnes of organic waste to the processing facility!

GARBAGE TO LANDFILL VS POPULATION BEFORE AND AFTER IMPLEMENTATION:



CITY OF
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

To learn more, please visit **FortSask.ca/Waste**
or download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app.

For further questions, please call 780-992-6218,
email waste@fortsask.ca, or visit fortreport.ca.

Want to know more and stay up-to-date?
Download the 'Fort Sask Waste' app today!

On the app you will find:

- A personalized collection calendar
- The ability to report missed collections
- Weekly pick-up reminders
- Detailed sorting information
- Information about special collection events.
- **And much more!**

Enable notifications to receive real-time alerts from the Waste Department including collection changes and service updates.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Printed on recycled paper.
Recycle it again to keep the cycle going.