Waste

Each year, thousands of kilograms of “stuff” ends up in garbage dumps or landfills across Alberta. In 2006, Statistics Canada reported Alberta had the highest per capita landfill rates in the country at more than 1,100 kilograms of waste per person, per year.

The 3Rs

With the help of the three R’s—reduce, reuse and recycle—you can help maximize the life of our resources and reduce the amount of waste that gets sent to the landfill.

1) Reduce your consumption

This is the first and most important step in minimizing resource extraction and the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

- Borrow or share an item rather than buy it.
- Practice mindful purchasing — durable and long-lasting items do not need to be replaced as often.
- Choose items with minimal packaging — buy in bulk.

2) Reuse materials and extend the life of a product

Once you have a product, get the most out of it:

- Use reusable bags when shopping for both food and clothing.
- Carry a water bottle, reusable mug, reusable utensils and/or reusable to-go containers.
- Be creative — check out do-it-yourself projects online and get inspired to turn your leftover goods into something new.
- Get to know your local tailor and repair old clothes instead of replacing them.
- Shop at and donate to second-hand stores for clothing, toys, books, furniture and more.
- Use rechargeable batteries.

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Local Tailors

Whyte Ave Tailors Shop
10820 82 Ave
780.439.7536
whyteavetailorsshop.ca

Modern Tailors
11109 87 Ave
780.433.8480

Tony the Tailor
10172 104 Street
780.426.4654
edmontontailor.com
(LRT to Bay/Enterprise Square Station)

Brought to you by:
3) **Recycle** all you can

When you are finished with a material or product, find out whether it can be recycled before you dispose of it.

- Familiarize yourself with recycling opportunities, both on and off campus.
- Purchase items made out of recycled materials to help increase demand for these products and close the recycling loop.

### Discover Recycling on Campus

Since the 1970s, the University of Alberta has operated a formal recycling program diverting tonnes of materials, like paper and beverage containers, from the landfill. Currently more than 30 per cent of our campus waste is recycled. Our goal is to increase our diversion rate to 50 per cent by 2015.

**Did you know that the University of Alberta operates its own recycling system? It is not the same as the City of Edmonton’s system.**

The U of A uses a multi-stream recycling system, meaning that items must be sorted prior to collection. This differs from the City of Edmonton’s single-stream recycling program, where items are co-mingled without an initial sorting. For more information on the City of Edmonton’s recycling system, visit their website at edmonton.ca/recycling

### Contamination

Contamination occurs when the wrong stuff ends up in a recycling or composting bin. When a bin is contaminated, the whole bin may be sent to the landfill instead of being recycled or composted. Avoid contamination by putting your items in the correct bin and making sure that dirty containers are rinsed before recycling.

A brief list of what can be recycled in each bin is provided below. For more detailed information on what can and cannot be recycled, check out the recycling guide found on the Facilities and Operations website, at [www.facilities.ualberta.ca/recycling](http://www.facilities.ualberta.ca/recycling)
Organics
- Dairy and eggshells
- Meat scraps
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Paper and cardboard food containers

Beverage Containers
- Cans and bottles
- Tetra paks
- Milk cartons

Glass & Light Metals
- Jars
- Steel (soup cans)
- Aluminum containers
- Paper clips and staples

Paper & Cardboard
- Paper
- File Folders
- Envelopes
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Books
- Cardboard

Plastics
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic containers
- Non-hazardous lab plastics

Did you know?
56% of the waste generated on campus is compostable and over 250 metric tonnes of organics are collected on campus annually.
Organics and Composting

Composting, or the recycling of organic materials, provides a huge opportunity to decrease the amount of waste sent to the landfill. Campus organic waste is sent to a local composting facility, from which the university receives one tonne of finished compost for every tonne of organic waste that we deliver. This compost is used in campus flower and shrub beds.

Where to compost on campus:

- SUB food court and Lister Market (the residence dining hall).
- Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA) has organics bins located in nutrition nooks on the third, fourth, and fifth floors.
- East Campus Village (ECV) has outdoor recycling huts that contain organics bins.

Reduce Waste with Sustain SU

Sustain SU is a service of the Students’ Union (SU). They encourage students to incorporate sustainability into every aspect of their university experience. Sustain SU provides a number of services, including:

Reusable Dish Program

A large amount of waste is generated from disposable food and beverage containers. The Reusable Dish Program provides the university community opportunities to access free reusable food and beverage containers for lunch in SUB and special events. Visit su.ualberta.ca/services/sustainsu/reusabledish for more information.

InfoLink Recycling Project

Recycle your batteries, ink/laser jet cartridges, and cell phones at InfoLink booths in ETLC, SUB, CAB and HUB. Ink and laser jet cartridges are also accepted at the University Bookstore and SUBprint.
City of Edmonton Re-Use Centre
10004 103A Avenue 780.442.4380

The Reuse Centre accepts a wide variety of items, including arts and crafts supplies, office and school supplies, as well as paper and plastic products. You can also visit the centre to purchase goods that were donated for reuse.

A complete list of items accepted and sold can be found on their website, which can be accessed through edmonton.ca/reuse.

Items are accepted during hours of operation at the West door.

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The Bissell Centre

The Bissell Centre accepts donations of gently worn clothing and housewares and has two drop-off locations:

Bissell Thrift Shoppe
8818 118 Avenue 780.471.6644

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South Side Drop-off Location
5120 – 122 Street 780.432.2377

The entrance is located on the north side of the building, near the mailboxes.

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Online Resources

Reuse & Recycling Directory
The City of Edmonton has an online directory where you can find charities that accept used items. Visit edmonton.ca/reusedirectory or phone 311 for more information.

There are a number of websites that allow you to post and browse used items online for free.

It is important to use good judgment when buying and selling items online. Kijiji recommends meeting in a public place, with many people around, to see the item and exchange money.

Items for Free
Edmonton Earthcycle
trashnothing.com
Freecycle
freecycle.org

Items for Sale
Kijiji
edmonton.kijiji.ca
Used Edmonton
usededmonton.com
Goodwill Industries of Alberta

Goodwill accepts gently used clothing, small household items and selected furniture items. They have a number of donation centres in Edmonton including two located near campus.

A complete list of acceptable items and drop off locations can be found on their website, goodwill.ab.ca

Duggan
3901 106 Street 780.944.2733

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Edwards
375 91 Street 780.450.1597

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Find
5120 122 Street 780.988.1717

Find is a furniture bank that is managed by Homeward Trust. It accepts donations of previously used furniture that it provides for sale to the public as well as to participants in the Housing First Support Program.

For a complete list of acceptable items, visit their website at findedmonton.com

The donation door is located behind the store warehouse; ring the bell for assistance.