

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Program



Rechargeable batteries are a common part of daily lives. They are available as individual batteries and are also found in many other things including cellular phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, remote control toys and power tools.

The question many people face is what to do with rechargeable batteries when they no longer hold a charge. Sending them to the landfill is not the answer. Rechargeable batteries contain toxic and potentially cancer-causing substances such as cadmium and mercury. Putting them in a landfill creates the potential for these substances to leach into the soil and water.

People in Saskatchewan can recycle their rechargeable batteries and cellular phones through an environmentally safe and convenient national program called *Call2Recycle™*. It is run by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation which is a national, industry sponsored, non-profit agency. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's partners include the world's largest manufacturers of rechargeable batteries, cordless electronic products and cellular phones.

How to Recycle

Consumers can simply drop off their old rechargeable batteries and cellular phones at any of the 328 locations and participating community centres the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation has set up across the province. To determine which type of rechargeable battery can be recycled look for the EPA-certified recycling seal on the battery. To locate a depot visit the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's website at www.rbrc.org.



How the Program Works

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation is funded by licensing the Corporation's Battery Recycling Seal to manufacturers and marketers of rechargeable batteries and battery-powered products. Retailers, businesses, communities and public agencies collect the used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones and ship them to the Corporation's recycling facility where reusable materials are reclaimed from the batteries. The cell phones are recycled or refurbished and, when possible, resold. A portion of the proceeds from these sales is donated to selected charities.

RBRC does not recycle mobile phones (installed or bag phones), two-way radios, walkie-talkies or pagers.

Accomplishments

Since 1994, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation has recycled more than 19 tonnes of rechargeable batteries collected in Saskatchewan. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation has also earned numerous awards such as the Environment Canada EcoAction Network "Environmental Partner of the Year".

Interesting Facts

On average, consumers use six wireless products in their day-to-day lives.

The average cell phone is replaced or upgraded every 18 to 24 months.



For more information about Rechargeable Battery Recycling visit www.call2recycle.org or call 1-800-8-BATTERY.



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