

Unified Dairy Recycling System



The Unified Dairy Recycling System is an environmental stewardship program by Saskatchewan's dairy industry through its recycling partner, SARCAN. The partnership supports the voluntary collection and recycling of plastic milk jugs and polycoated milk cartons. The Unified Dairy Recycling System was established in 2001 as a formal agreement between the four major national dairy companies (Dairyworld, Parmalat, Lucerne and Foremost), SARCAN, the Ministry of Environment and the Saskatchewan Milk Control Board.

Its Purpose

The Unified Dairy Recycling System provides consumers with an environmentally safe and convenient method to dispose of their milk containers. Milk containers, in particular the plastic containers, represent a valuable resource that can be recycled economically.

Recycling milk containers helps reduce the overall costs of operating Saskatchewan's landfills, as all forms of milk containers take up valuable landfill space. Recycling the containers also reduces the consumption of natural resources that would otherwise be required to produce containers from virgin material.

How to Recycle

To access the program, consumers can simply drop off their washed-out milk containers at any of the 71 SARCAN Depots in the province or place them in a community drop-off bin. There is no charge.

Information on depots and community drop off locations can be found at: http://www.sarcsarc.ca/sarc/milk_recycling.php.

Prior to dropping the containers off for recycling, users are asked to rinse the milk jugs and cartons with soap and water to eliminate any milk residue.

How the Program Works

The program is funded through an Environmental Handling Charge on the sale of fluid milk. The funds are remitted to the Saskatchewan Milk Control Board and used for the collection and recycling of the material through the SARCAN depots and community networks.

Under the program, consumers pay a rate of one cent on 1- and 2-litre containers and two cents on 4-litre containers for all fluid milk sold in Saskatchewan. While smaller milk containers are exempt from the Environmental Handling Charge, consumers can still take them to any SARCAN depot or any drop-off location.

The used plastic containers are cleaned and shredded at a material recovery facility. The clean plastic is then melted at high temperature and formed into pellets. The pellets are sold to plastic forming plants that use the

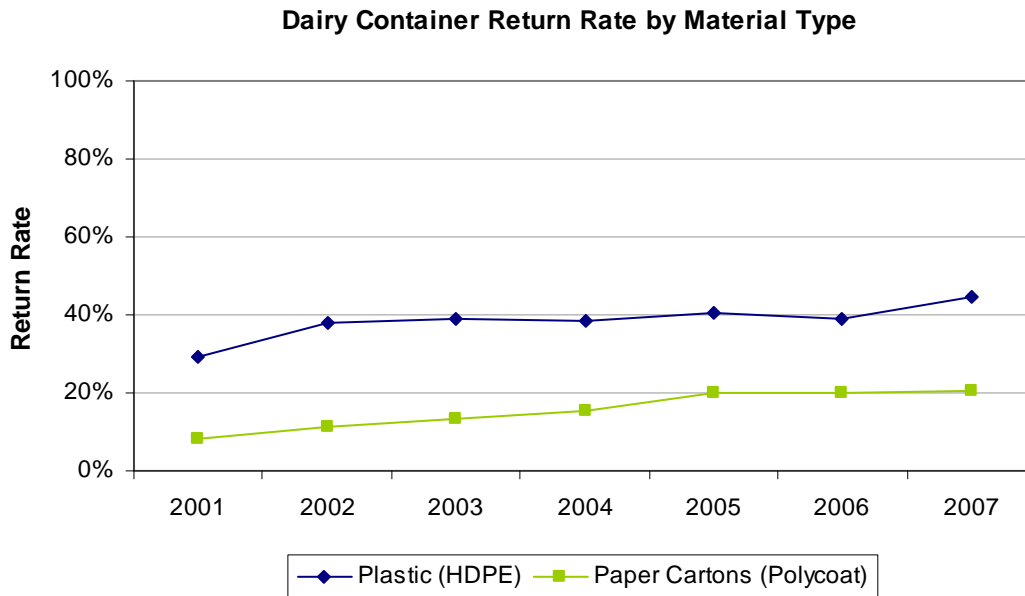


material to make non-food plastic products, including plastic dimensional lumber for decks or packaging such as detergent bottles and toy casings.

The polycoated cartons are used to make new paper products, such as corrugated cardboard, linerboard, household tissues and even fine writing papers.

Accomplishments

In 2007-08, Saskatchewan residents recycled over 10.7 million milk containers.



Interesting Facts

It takes less than half the energy to make a new product from the recycled material than it would to make the same container from virgin material.

Recycling milk containers in Saskatchewan will now benefit more than just the environment. The Saskatchewan program has connected the recycling of milk containers to fundraising for charities. From December 2007 to February 2008, SARCAN made over \$44,000 in donations to various charitable organizations in the province.

**For more information about Milk Container Collection and Recycling, visit
www.sarcsarcana.ca/sarcana/milk_recycling.php
or call 1-800-667-3016**