

Cardboard Recycling Services

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Did you know? In 2013, stewards under Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba program recovered and recycled 15,000 metric tons of paper-based packaging (e.g. corrugated cardboard, boxboard, polycoat etc).

Minimum Sustainable Recommendations

When developing bid documents for cardboard recycling services, request the following:

- The vendor must ensure all cardboard collected is sent to manufacturers for recycling and not deposited in the landfill.
- If you require cardboard recycling metrics, request the vendor provide weights of cardboard materials collected on the invoices on a monthly basis.

Other things to consider

If your organization is using or transitioning to a commodity-based recycling program, request the following:

- Request the vendor use a commodity based approach for cardboard recycling services. The purchase price for the cardboard should be based on the weight of the material collected and the current market value, less cost to the vendor.

If your organization requires detailed monitoring of collection services and reporting data:

- Request the vendor provide truck-mounted technologies such as Radio-Frequency Identification Tags (RFID), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), weigh scale, camera modules, etc and integrated software technologies to enhance collection services and reporting data.

Optimize the type of bin system (the number and size of bins) and the vendor collection schedule to reduce costs associated with services and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transportation of materials to the recycling facility.

What are the sustainability issues?

Businesses generate a significant amount of cardboard packaging in their daily operations. When cardboard is sent to the landfill, it creates methane gas, a greenhouse gas which has a global warming potential that is twenty-one times more than carbon dioxide. Also, landfilling the cardboard material rather than recycling increases the reliance on forest resources. Cardboard packaging should be recycled and thought of as a commodity. Cardboard can be sent back to pulp and paper mills for re-use in paper packaging.

What are the sustainability options?

Cardboard is an easily recyclable commodity. Cardboard collected from recycling programs can be used by the paper industry to manufacture new cardboard products. Using recycled cardboard (post-consumer waste) to create new products reduces the use of forest resources, as well as the use of energy and water during the manufacturing process.

In addition, cardboard is considered as a valuable commodity in today's market. Businesses can separate their cardboard from their conventional mixed recycling programs and receive monetary incentives from their contracted service provider.

If your organization is looking for sustainable specifications for purchasing cardboard (paper-based packaging), please see "Paperboard Packaging" products.