Alberta recycling MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

STEWARDSHIP

USED OIL MATERIALS RECYCLING 2025–2026 PROGRESS REPORT

OVER 2.3 BILLION* LITRES OF USED OIL RECOVERED SINCE 1997

ENOUGH FOR OVER **488,000,000 VEHICLES**

USED OIL IS COLLECTED FROM A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES ACROSS ALBERTA

AND COLLECTED FROM **261** COLLECTION SITES IN 101 MUNICIPALITIES AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

TRANSPORTED TO **15** REGISTERED USED OIL MATERIALS PROCESSORS IN ALBERTA

HIGH-QUALITY OIL IS RE-REFINED INTO NEW LUBRICATING OIL, WHILE LOWER-QUALITY OIL FUELS VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

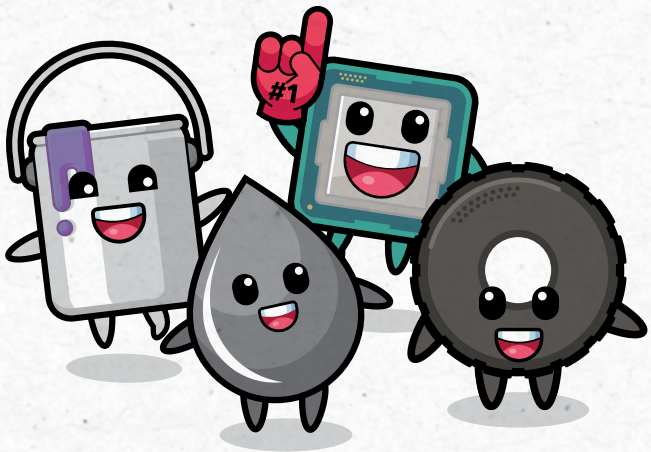
OIL FILTER METAL BECOMES CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, WHILE PLASTIC CONTAINERS BECOME NEW CONTAINERS, GUARDRAILS, AND PLASTIC LUMBER

** The cumulative collection total for used oil has been restated to correct a historical reporting error.*

RECYCLING **USED OIL**

Registered processors collect used oil materials from businesses and registered collection sites located in municipalities and Indigenous communities across Alberta.

High-quality used lubricating oil, such as automotive oil, is re-refined into new lubricating oil. Lower-quality used oil is processed into a fuel that can be used by pulp mills, cement plants, asphalt plants, and other industrial applications.



TEACHING RESOURCES

Developed by ARMA, this engaging resource introduces students to the recycling process for electronics, paint, tires, and used oil materials—an essential yet often overlooked part of environmental responsibility.

Featuring interactive learning resources and activities, this guide complements other recycling education resources, reinforcing the principles of reducing, reusing, and recycling, with a specific focus on materials that go beyond the blue bin.

Find it on our website under the **'Learn'** section.

USED OIL RECOVERY RESULTS

This chart presents results over the last three years for used oil recovery.

USED OIL COLLECTED	LITRES COLLECTED* (MILLIONS)	LITRES PER CAPITA COLLECTED
2023–2024 Result	90.30	19.26
2024–2025 Result	91.49	18.64
2025–2026 Target	89.13	17.72
2025–2026 Result	**95.09**	**18.91**

**Based on an average weight per litre of 0.87 kg.*

COLLECTION AND PROCESSING RESULTS FOR **FILTERS**

The chart presents results over the last three years for used oil filters collected.

FILTERS COLLECTED AND PROCESSED	KG. (MILLIONS)		KG. PER CAPITA COLLECTED	RECOVERY RATE COLLECTED
	COLLECTED	PROCESSED		
2023–2024 Result	4.48	3.27	0.95	82%
2024–2025 Result	4.26	3.22	0.87	75%
2025–2026 Target	4.49	3.33	0.89	87%
2025–2026 Result	**4.43**	**3.31**	**0.88**	**75%**

COLLECTION AND PROCESSING RESULTS FOR **CONTAINERS**

This chart presents results over the last three years for containers collected and processed.

CONTAINERS COLLECTED AND PROCESSED	KG. (MILLIONS)		KG. PER CAPITA COLLECTED	RECOVERY RATE COLLECTED
	COLLECTED	PROCESSED		
2023–2024 Result	2.31	1.98	0.49	97%
2024–2025 Result	2.24	1.86	0.46	89%
2025–2026 Target	2.26	1.80	0.45	95%
2025–2026 Result	**2.37**	**2.23**	**0.47**	**91%**

See definitions on page 14 for KG. PER CAPITA and RECOVERY RATE.

ENVIRONMENTAL **COMPLIANCE**

ARMA's goal is to ensure that all used oil materials are collected and recycled by registered processors in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Monthly site visits and independent environmental audits every three years help confirm processors meet program requirements.

PROGRAM **SUSTAINABILITY**

The environmental fees Albertans pay for new oil materials are used to help fund the collection and recycling of leftover material along with other program-related costs. Registered producers and suppliers remit fees on eligible products sold. ARMA values their commitment as part of the front line of the program.

Sustainability reviews of processor operations are periodically conducted by an independent third party to assess the adequacy of program funding levels.

FEE MANAGEMENT

RECYCLING EXPENDITURES

88.5%

Collection and recycling of used oil materials

RECYCLING DEVELOPMENT

0.8%

R&D; Program awareness

PROGRAM DELIVERY EXPENDITURES

6.4%

Costs to deliver the program

CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

4.3%

Corporate costs

ENVIRONMENTAL FEES

	LUBRICATING OIL	**$0.06** per litre or per kilogram
	OIL CONTAINERS *HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE) OR METAL CONTAINERS* *NON-HDPE OR NON-METAL CONTAINERS*	**$0.12** per litre of container size **$0.20** per litre of container size
	OIL FILTERS *LESS THAN 203 MM (8") IN LENGTH* *203 MM (8") OR MORE IN LENGTH*	**$0.55** **$1.25**

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR EMPTY CONTAINERS AND USED FILTERS?

Plastic oil containers and metal oil filters are an equally important part of the Used Oil Materials Recycling Program as the environmental fees paid at the time of purchase help fund the collection and recycling of these materials.

The containers are pelletized and used as feedstock for new plastic products such as composite lumber, fence posts, and parking curbs.

Oil filters are crushed (with the residual oil captured) and processed into industrial materials such as rebar.

UPCOMING **PROGRAM EXPANSION**

On May 7, 2026, the Government of Alberta announced changes to the Used Oil Materials Recycling Program that will expand recycling opportunities and support a more responsive stewardship system across the province.

The following newly designated materials, along with the increased maximum container size from 30 litres to 50 litres, are recyclable as of October 1, 2026.

- Diesel exhaust fluid (DEF)
- Windshield washer fluid
- Antifreeze
- Containers associated with these materials

"More than one-third of all used oil processed in Canada is processed in Alberta."

2026 EY Economic Impact Assessment: Used Oil Management Association of Canada (UOMA), 258,600,000 litres of oil processed nationally.

For more information, read ARMA's Annual Report on our website under **Publications** or scan the QR code.

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