

Trivia Questions:

1. What do the three arrows in the mobius loop stand for?

Answer:

Most people think they stand for Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, however the correct answer is Collection (sort and return recyclables), Remanufacture (make into new product) and Resale (purchase recycled products). The mobius loop refers to the recycling process which is not complete until the material has returned to the marketplace.

2. What are three ways waste can be reduced in an office?

Answer:

- Don't print all documents and emails
- Proof read documents on the computer rather than printing them off
- If you must print materials, print on both sides
- Extend the margins of your documents to reduce paper use
- Use a paper clip (reusable) rather than a staple (one-use)
- Read newspapers and trade magazines online
- Rent items that are seldom used (i.e. shredder)
- Compost your organic waste (vermicompost if compost bin is not possible)
- Re-think gift ideas – make a donation, look for local products
- Use one-side-good paper to print internal documents and faxes or better yet, use "fax to email"
- Don't over order supplies (things can dry out/go bad before they are used)
- Use scrap paper for notes
- Provide travel mugs to employees (can have an office contest)
- Have ceramic dishes and mugs available for use in the kitchen/staff area
- Don't provide hand outs for meetings (digital documents)
- Rather than travel to meetings, hold them by video conference

3. In Alberta, what material takes up the most space in landfills?

Answer:

In the municipal waste stream, organics (food and yard waste) make up about 25% while paper and cardboard are about 21% by weight.

4. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for how long?

Answer:

4 hours

5. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for how long?

Answer:

3 hours

6. How much space does one tonne of municipal garbage take up in a landfill?

Answer:

1.5 – 2.5 cubic metres

7. During the first 15 years of burial in a landfill, what percentage of organic material such as food and yard waste decomposes?

Answer:

Only 25%. Other trash can keep its original weight, volume and form for at least 40 years. Organic materials that decompose in landfills can produce methane gas. Often called landfill gas, methane is 21 times more potent than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas. The best place for organic materials is in a composting facility.

8. What happens to the used oil filters that are collected for recycling?

They are processed at steel recycling mills for use in new metal products such as rebar, nails and wire. 89% of used oil filters in Alberta are recovered and recycled.

9. How many used litres of used oil have been recycled in Alberta through the used oil recycling program?

In June 2011, Alberta recycled its one billionth litre of used lubricating oil since the start of the program in 1997. This amount of oil would fill approximately 400 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 881,057 hot tubs.

10. Where can I find local recyclers?

Answer:

Check out Alberta's Recycling Hotline (visit www.recyclinghotline.ca or phone 1.800.463.6326) and the Enviro Business Guide on the Recycling Council of Alberta's website (www.recycle.ab.ca/ebguide)