

## Community Education Award Program Atlantic Canada

Webinar for CEA Participants September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## Your Speakers for Today

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## Our Agenda for Today

- 1. Background
- 2. Atlantic Canada Context
- 3. Web Site Best Practices
- 4. Effective Recycling Messaging
- 5. Public Space Recycling & Schools
- 6. What's Next







## Background



### First: What Constitutes a Food and Beverage Carton?

MERLO

SOY

Made mainly from paper, a renewable resource, light weight and compact, cartons have a low carbon footprint and are recyclable.



almond milk

### What is NOT a Food and Beverage Carton?





### Multi-layer Design Provides Protection Against Light, Air and Harmful Bacteria

### Refrigerated "gable top" cartons

On average the makeup is:

• 80% paper





### Shelf-stable "aseptic" cartons

On average the makeup is:

- 74% paper
- 22% polyethylene
- 4% aluminum



### Who is the Carton Council ?

- Formed in 2010
- Coalition of carton manufacturers working together to deliver long-term solutions to help increase carton recovery and recycling in Canada.
- Provides a platform for carton manufacturers in Canada to benchmark and profile cartons as renewable, recyclable and low-carbon packaging solutions





### Why We Launched the Community Education Program

- To increase food and beverage carton recycling.
- Research reveals that some consumers still may not know cartons can be recycled.
- We recognize that communities and organizations like yourself are short staffed, overworked and have many things to focus on.

Our aim is to make carton recycling education as easy as possible for everyone!







## The 2023 Community Education Award Participants

- Central NL Waste Management (NL)
- Commission de services régionaux Chaleur (NB)
- Eastern Region Solid Waste Management (NS)
- Eco360 (NB)
- Encorp Atlantic (NB)
- Fundy Regional Service Commission (NB)
- Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (NB)

- Hernewood Intermediate School (PEI)
- Island Waste Management Corporation (PEI)
- Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (NL)
- Municipality of East Hants (NS)
- Municipality of the District of Barrington (NS)
- Southwest Service Commission (NB)
- West Hants Regional Municipality (NS)
- Western Valley Regional Service Commission (NB)





## Atlantic Canada Context



### Carton Recycling Communications is a Complex Affair in Atlantic Canada

- Carton contents determines how to recycle them
  - Juice, water cartons go to redemption centre/depot
  - Milk, cream, soup, broth go in residential recycling system (blue bin)
  - Dairy substitutes: it depends
    - plant-based beverages NOT labelled as "fortified"
- Depot \_\_\_\_\_ plant-based beverages labelled as "fortified" along with the warning "NOT a source of protein"
- Blue Bin -
  - plant-based beverages that are labelled as "fortified"
  - High level of consumer confusion
    - In case of doubt, risk of cartons being thrown out



#### www.recyclecartons.ca/carton-recycling/#howarewedoing

For Discussion:

How do you navigate these complexities in your respective programs?





## Web Site Best Practices



### Lack of Awareness of Recyclability of Cartons is Leading Driver of Lower Recycling Behaviours

### Survey results for ON/QC residents (2016)

- Respondents are much less likely to recycle their food and beverage cartons, compared to other common recyclable materials
  - 90% or more always recycle newspapers/magazines, cardboard, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles/containers
  - 85% always recycle glass bottles
  - 78% always recycle food and beverage cartons
- Knowledge levels about the recyclability of food and beverage cartons in general, and soup/broth cartons in particular, are lower compared to other common recyclable materials.
  - 99% say plastic bottles are recyclable
  - 90% say milk and juice cartons are recyclable
  - 71% say soup/broth cartons are recyclable



#### Quebec Capture Rate in Residential Sector Gable Top Cartons 78 % Aseptic Cartons 55 % 78 % **Newspapers** Cardboard 78 % **Glass Containers** 62 % (non-deposit) Metal containers 66 % (non-deposit) Plastic water bottles 73 %

Ref: Caractérisation des matières résiduelles du secteur municipal 2015-2018, Recyc-Québec et Éco Entreprises Québec

### Carton Performance - NS

Nova Scotia 2017 disposal audits Relative Composition of Disposed Waste (Residential + ICI)





### Carton Performance – NB & National

Non-Deposit Cartons Disposed Annually (NB 2019 Waste Characterization Audit – includes residential & ICI)

	RSC1	RSC2	RSC3	RSC4	RSC5	RSC6	RSC7	RSC8	RSC9	RSC10	RSC11	RSC12	DISPOSED TOTAL ANNUAL (MT)
Non-Beverage Cartons	31.47	20.99	17.69	37.91	28.82	30.33	59.39	9.40	119.42	25.40	119.34	19.98	520
Dairy Gable Top and Aseptic	49.41	39.07	20.84	77.72	31.12	51.44	237.23	26.49	207.88	56.53	394.04	39.41	1,231
Total Non-Deposit Cartons	80.87	60.06	38.53	115.62	59.94	81.77	296.61	35.88	327.30	81.93	513.37	59.39	1,751

### "Drink box" and Gable Top Redemption Rate vs PET/plastics (2022)

Encorp Pacific	ABCRC	SARCAN	Encorp Atlantic	Divert NS	PEI	NL
59% / <mark>74%</mark>	72% / <mark>79%</mark>	60% / <mark>81%</mark>	33% / <mark>68%</mark>	39% / <mark>73%</mark>	29% / <mark>71%</mark>	39% / <b>73%</b>
Source: BCRNC	l					

Equiv. > 29,000 2L milk cartons

## Barriers and Potential Approaches for Addressing Them (ON/QC)

- The main barrier to regular carton recycling is a lack of knowledge and awareness. Lack of will/commitment ("I'm not into recycling") and logistical barriers (e.g., "bin too full") are much less significant.
  - "I forget" (55%)
  - "I didn't know I could" (54%)
  - "I'm not sure how" (49%)
  - "I don't have time" (10%)
- Top 3 sources to turn to for learning about the recyclability of food and beverage cartons:
  - The product packaging (70%)
  - Their municipal government website (53%)
  - Google search (31%)



### How Municipalities Can Help Increase Their Resident Participation

- All In-Scope Cartons should be added to list of accepted recyclables on websites and other materials
  - Community websites are second only to product packaging where residents go to look for recyclability information
- Social media, advertising, and local news also useful to educate about recyclability





### Best Practices for Adding Cartons to Your Materials

- List food and beverage cartons as their own, separate category (just like you would plastic, paper, glass, etc.)
- Provide a detailed list of what a carton can contain (including milk, cream, soup, broth, fortified plant-based beverage)
- Include various carton images







## Feedback from review of CEA participants' web sites

- About 50% of participants' web sites contain images
- Terminology used to refer to cartons varies (lots of reference to "Tetra Paks")
  - Most preferred: Food and beverage cartons
- Very little sites mention non-beverage cartons (soup/broth)
- Not all sites mention:
  - dairy alternatives
  - juice cartons (some sites refer to milk containers only)
- Very little sites list carton as own category (some list under Plastics, other under Metals)
- Several sites offer a "Waste Wizard/Soring App", but reference list of what is/is not accepted not always available



### How DRS Operators can Help Increase Carton Redemption Rates

- Clearly state that cartons are Accepted Beverage Containers (Deposit-Bearing)
- Make sure your Promotion & Education is not limited to "cans and bottles"
- Provide a list of what cartons are in scope and include images







## Effective Recycling Messaging



### Effective Food and Beverage Carton Messaging Can Overcome Myths

### Primary Messaging:

1. Communicate that cartons ARE recyclable and that it's easy.

- Recycle your cartons by ensuring no contents remain.
- Specific instructions to be addressed on a case-by-case basis:
  - $\circ$   $\,$  Need to rinse or not
  - $\circ$  Caps on or off
- 2. Ensure consumers know what is meant by a carton.
  - Pictures as well as written descriptions are most effective. Use CCC Image & Ad Bank
- 3. Convey the benefits of carton recycling.
  - Recycled cartons are used to make new paper products we all use everyday as well as eco-friendly building materials.



### **Common Carton Myths**

- 1. Cartons contain waxy coating
- 2. The multi layers mean it cannot be recycled
- Not all cartons have a logo on pack and no logo means it can't be recycled
- 4. Cartons need to be crushed
- 5. The caps cannot be recycled

#### www.recyclecartons.ca/carton-recycling-myths-vs-fact/

### Myth: Cartons don't get recycled into anything else.

Fact: Cartons are recyclable and are being recycled. Once recycled, cartons can be turned into new paper products, such as paper towels, tissues and office and writing paper. Additionally, the entire carton can be recycled into environmentally-friendly building materials, like wallboard and roof cover board, in a proces uses no water or chemicals.

# Myth: Cartons have a waxy coating and therefore can't be recycled.

**Fact:** Food and beverage cartons do not contain any wax. Cartons are made mainly from paper in the form of paperboard. What you may think of as "wax" on a carton is actually a thin layer of plastic.



Myth: Cartons have multiple layers that prevent them from being recycled.

Fact: The multiple layers in cartons are separated during the recycling process. The paper is used to make new paper products and the aluminum/plastic can be used to generate energy or become binding. In other cases, the entire carton is used to make building materials.



### General Recycling Messaging Tips

- 1. Tell consumers the benefits of recycling, with special attention paid to showing them what recycled materials go on to make
- 2. Use prompts to remind your residents to recycle.
- 3. When it comes to recycling, leverage the power of social norms.
- 4. Try to get consumers to pledge to recycle.



### Show Residents What Recycled Materials Go On to Make

- Ensure residents see the value of recycling by displaying messages and visuals or showing them what new materials are made from their recycling.
- Research has revealed that knowing what products are produced from their recycled materials is a motivator to recycling more.
- Resources on CCC web site:
  - Videos
  - How are cartons recycled
  - Infographic







#### How Recycled Cartons Become New Products

The one-minute video How Recycled Cartons Become New Products shows the different products that cartons can be recycled into.



About Us | Cartons 101 | Carton Recycling | Tools & Resources | Collaboration & Projects | Media Centre | D

#### How Are Cartons Recycled

#### Path 1: Consumer products

Carlos are packed together an event to a poper mill. All the paper mill, a grant barries are bardle to large machine cardinal de Hydrau, dur - sesentially a grant barries and a large machine cardinal de Hydrau, dur - sesentially a grant barries are separateria in the paper, bardle and aummum. The public is und in milliae paper porticults such as inpertises, fisce and oral poper. The residual paties and aummum can be send on for further monorities, such as producing sufficient gifts on automations. The full barre monorities, such as producing sufficient gifts on be send on for further monorities, such as producing sufficient of automations. The public send of an empty to the the paper mill.

#### Path 2: Building materials

Instead of a paper mill, cartons can also be sent to a recycling company that turns cartons into building materials. Cartons are shredded, then hask is applied and they are presented back together into large sheets – Like a panini prese made of shredded cartons!

About 30 cartons can be made into a single 21x2 ceiling ble, while roughly 400 cartons make up a full wallboard.





### Look for Ways to Prompt and Remind Residents to Recycle

Some examples	Residential Recycling	DRS Operators
Recycling calendars to help with collection schedules	$\checkmark$	
Bill stuffers in your community's electricity bill or other direct mail	1	1
Text alerts to residents	1	
Fridge magnets or bin stickers to remind people what to recycle and where	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Articles and blurbs in local community papers, including online versions	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$



ΓΛΡΤ

recyclecartons.ca



## The Power of Community

- Neighborhood peer pressure plays a big role in recycling participation.
  - People are concerned with how they think others view their behavior and generally don't want to feel like they are violating the social norm.
  - Ever notice how some streets have almost 100% participation while others have almost none?
- Make recycling personal and local to your community.
  - Recognize high achieving communities and individuals. Use friendly competition.
  - But avoid guilt or shaming as that can have the opposite impact.





A Gold Box is a gold medal in recycling and proves you're a super-recycler. Use your Gold Box every week for either your papers or containers and write your address on it- not everyone will win one, but everyone wants one!

- We randomly selected your street and checked your blue boxes, green bins, garbage and yard waste bins/ bags to see who the best recyclers are.
- Visit <u>www.hamilton.ca/waste</u>, call 905.546.CITY (2489) or email <u>askcity@hamilton.ca</u> for more information about recycling and composting in Hamilton.





People are more likely to recycle and recycle consistently if they feel like have promised to do so. Leverage this either through social platforms, online or in person.

Pledges can be broad or specific:

- I pledge to start participating in the curbside recycling program / bring back my beverage containers
- I pledge to recycle from other rooms besides just the kitchen.
- I pledge to recycle every carton I consume.



### Public Space Recycling: Need for Carton Inclusive Images







## Resources to Support Carton Recycling in Schools

- How to Make Effective Signage, Posters, and Stickers
- Best Practices for carton recycling at school
- Short video on carton recycling in schools
- Carton Recycling School Contest
  - Oct. 16 to Nov. 3 •
  - One (1) Grand prize: \$1,000 ٠
  - Two (2) Runner-up prizes: \$500
- Curriculum Resources





#### **Carton Recycling School Contest**

Showcase the power of carton recycling for a chance to win \$500 or \$1,000 for your school!

#### How to participate:

One (1) Grand prize: \$1,000



footprint by recycling our drink cartons at school.

Recycling drink boxes and milk cartons at school Best practices for curbside provinces

#### **Recycling at School**



Schools produce a lot of waste every day, especially at lunchtime. In fact, it is estimated that the average Canadian primary school produces 39,000 used milk and juice cartons each year<sup>1</sup>

When schools set up a strong recycling program, it ensures that items such as food and beverage cartons are recycled correctly. This, in turn, helps to conserve natural resources, save energy, and divert more materials from landfills, all while giving these items a new life!

When students and staff work collaboratively to create effective recycling systems at school, it benefits the environment while also providing opportunities for learning and student leadership.

In this guide, learn about some best practices to establishing a successful recycling program.



Through the recycling process, food and beverage cartons can be transformed into tissue, printing and writing paper, and

#### DO THE MATH & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



31

It's useful to have an idea of how many milk and

It will allow you to estimate the environmental impact that your recycling program has order to inspire participation and educate students. All you'll need to start is to know the tota milk program. Our formulas take attendance into account, so don't worry about that.

Use your math skills to estimate how many cartons your school could be recycling and how such waste your recycling program could prevent from going in landfills. (Formulas provided by Cartan Council of Canada.)

#### **PART 1: POTENTIAL IMPACT INDICATOR** a literatify the total number of enrolled students who est lunch at school:

1. HOW MANY CARTONS ARE GENERATED AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Does your school offer a milk program?

If yes:

x 0.409 (ovg. number of milk cortons consumed per student per day) = \_\_\_\_\_ # of envolled students who Expected daily mil ent lunch at school corton used If on

The expected daily milk carton usage will be 0

x 0.168 (ovg. number of juice cortans consumed per student per day) = # of enrolled students who eat lunch at school Espected daily mil



## **Discuss Your Questions and Comments**



### What's Next?

- We will compile and share your ideas.
- We are always available to answer questions, help with your education efforts, website updates, etc.
- On Friday, November 3, the final submission is due. To receive your \$2K award, you must fill out the submission form and demonstrate that your website clearly conveys that cartons are accepted in your recycling program and that you have executed at least two of the marketing or communications examples.
  - The form will be available on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Participant must also sign and return the Agreement Letter (it will be emailed to you directly). Payment will be made within 30 days via wire transfer to account designated in writing by participant.



### Reminder: Examples of Promotional Activities

- Social Media Provide examples of how you've used social media to engage with your residents and educate them on what and how to recycle, including cartons
- Marketing Materials Can include items such as direct mail, bill stuffers, bin stickers, refrigerator magnets, brochures or other marketing initiatives
- Events Virtual or in-person events designed to educate and promote recycling to your residents
- Advertising or Public Service Announcements Paid or donated space or time that promotes recycling
- Earned Media Articles in your local media that promote recycling
- Other Any other activity used to promote recycling in your local program not already described



### Get Inspired from our Image and Ad Bank

### Facebook Ads: Avid Recyclers



Facebook Ads: Does Not Recycle











YOUR BLUE BIN WILL TAKE THEM ALI



Facebook Ads: Recycler With Limitations















### ...and from past years' participants

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED

### Refer to the articles in the Winter 2021 and Winter 2022 editions

Cartons go into your

Rinse your food and beverage cartons and if there's a lid, scraw it back on. A carton that holds liquid is a container and goes into the yellow bin! Visit our website for more information.

> TOWNSHIP OF DRUMMOND NORTH ELMSLEY

www.dnetownship.ca





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🐝 Société VIA



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galmmauca/drifus ou teléchargez l'application DTRITUS
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MRC des Sources - organisation 11 November at 1800 @

RECYCLAGE - Mythe ou réalité?

X Mythe : avant de les mettre à la récupération, vous devez écraser les contenants multicouches, en plus d'enlever les bouchons et les pailles.

Réalité : vous n'avez qu'à vous assurer que les contenants sont vides, c'est tout! Vous n'avez pas besin de les écraser et vous pouvez même laisser les bouchons en place. De plus, vous pouvez insérer les pailles dans les contenants pour vous assurer qu'elles suivront le même procédé de recyclage qu'eux.

Source : https://www.recyclecartons.ca/../Carton-Council-Canada.



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## Thank you!

