

RECYCLING: MYTHS VS. FACTS

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MYTH

Recycling in Canada is in trouble.

FACT

In thousands of communities nationwide, including those with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), recycling is collected on a regular basis. Every day, thousands of bales of paper, plastic, and metal are generated at recycling facilities and sent to domestic and foreign buyers.

MYTH

Foreign countries have stopped accepting any recyclables or scrap from Canada.

FACT

Although China imposed import bans on many materials, Canada continues to export these valuable commodities to other countries. **Countries around the world continue to import plastic scrap and recovered fiber.** Canada has entered into a trade agreement with the United States authorizing trade in certain recyclables between the countries.

MYTH

The contamination rate for recyclables in Canada is 25 percent.

FACT

Contamination rates vary widely by community. **According to information gathered by the CBC, contamination rates can range from 3-26%.** Contamination rates are declining as local governments and recycling companies educate citizens about what can be recycled in their communities.

MYTH

Recycling isn't worth the effort anymore.

FACT

The market for materials may vary, but recycling has major benefits. These include extending landfill life so new ones don't need to be built, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy, reducing water use, protecting natural resources, creating new jobs, and supporting thousands of local jobs.

MYTH

No one knows how to fix the challenges facing recycling.

FACT

Solutions are being implemented. Public education and enforcement of local rules motivate people to recycle right. Recycling facilities are updating equipment and adding new technologies to keep up with changing material streams. New facilities are opening and existing ones are expanding, providing more demand for recyclables. The Canadian government is also phasing out problematic single-use items.