



Comment on Energy Recovery for Electronics, Paint and Tires

Energy recovery is outside the scope of the Waste Incentive Program Requirements that are approved by Alberta Recycling's Board of Directors for the recycling of end-of-life computer equipment and TV's, paint and paint containers, and tires (designated materials).

If Albertans or Alberta businesses decide that their old computer, can of paint or tires have reached the end of their useful life and they want to recycle these items, they have the option of dropping them off at over 450 registered municipal collection sites throughout the province. From there, the items are collected into Alberta's Electronics, Paint and Tire Recycling Program where they will be recycled by companies registered with Alberta Recycling. They cannot be resold in their original state but must be processed into a final recycled state.

However, Alberta Recycling occasionally receives questions and proposals from companies regarding how/if the program relates to energy recovery activities for designated material, particularly regarding electronics and tires. Following is the organization's position for each program regarding these enquiries.

Position on Energy Recovery

Alberta Recycling's Board of Directors has determined that it may evaluate proposals regarding energy recovery on a case-by-case basis based on the following circumstances:

Electronics

The material generated from electronics recycling that has encountered the most challenges in finding consistent, viable markets is 'lower value' plastic. This plastic, commonly used to make the rigid housing and base pieces for electronics, is made up of co-mingled resins which can make it difficult to recycle. Therefore the use of lower value plastics in the energy recovery process will be considered for review upon confirmation that there is a limited recycling market for it.

Paint

Energy recovery or 'fuel-blending' is an accepted process for the processing of eligible oil-based paints, but only by downstream processors approved through the Program.

Tires

With the general success of the tire recycling program, consideration for energy recovery proposals will be considered when markets for the approved processes of tire-derived aggregate, mulch, and crumb are limited, causing stockpiles of tires over an extended period of time (to be determined by the Board).