Comment on Reuse of Electronics, Paint and Tires

Reuse 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 determine that their 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 regarding how/if the program relates to reuse activities for designated material. Following is the organization's position for each program regarding these enquiries.

Position on Reuse

Electronics

If Albertans or Alberta businesses think their computer equipment or TV's can still be used, they may choose to donate them to a charitable organization or drop them off at companies that refurbish these products. They can also check if their local municipal landfill/transfer station/recycling depot (municipal depot) has a "take-it-or-leave-it" area where items can be left for others to take.

Paint

Paint exchanges (similar in set up to a take-it-or-leave-it area) have been a long-standing practice at a number of municipal depots whereby Albertans or Alberta businesses (as approved by the municipality) can leave their leftover usable paint for someone else to use. Municipal depots do not usually require an individual to bring in paint in order to take what they need.

Tires

In the case of tires, typically they are left at the tire shop etc. when new ones are installed. If reuse occurs it is likely to be at this commercial level where the tires may be culled for resale (as is) or for retreading. This is under the control and discretion of the business owner. Once scrap tires are collected under the program and delivered to the site of a registered processor, culling for resale on site is prohibited under the program and not eligible for funding.