

Waste Management Glossary

TERMS

Compost
Result of the decomposition of organic waste (fruit, vegetables, etc.) that resembles soil. There are several ways to start composting in a community: windrow composting, rotating thermophilic composting (high-temperature), or domestic composting

Deposit
A deposit is a method of recovering beverage containers (cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, juice containers, etc.) associated with a sum of money collected from the consumer when purchasing a product. This amount is refunded when the container is returned

Ecocentre
Designated site for the disposal of recyclable materials; bulky waste; household hazardous waste (HHW); construction, renovation and demolition waste (CRD), organic matter (dead leaves, branches, etc.) and recoverable objects, to ensure their reuse and recycling

Engineered Landfills
Designated site for the safe disposal of waste through environmental impact mitigation

Leachate
Residual liquid produced by water seeping through decomposing waste.

Residual Materials
Solid residue from a process of production, transformation or use. Can also be a material, a substance or a product. The term “waste” is most commonly used

Recovery
Generic term that encompasses all the techniques that allow the reuse, recovery or recycling of waste, in order to divert them from disposal

Selective Collection
Selective collection is the process of sorting and collecting recyclables materials (containers, packaging, and prints) to divert them from disposal sites and give them a second life. The term “curbside recycling” is most commonly used

Sorting Centre
Facility where recyclable materials and construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) waste are sorted for recycling or recovery.

Transfer site
Location where waste is transported in order to optimize transport to a treatment or disposal facility

Waste characterization
Scientific approach to obtain a statistical portrait of the characteristics of waste (composition, quantity, collection and disposal methods)

ACRONYMS

4R’S
Reduce, reuse, recycle and recover

CRD
Construction, renovation and demolition

HHW
Household hazardous waste

ICI
Industrial, commercial, and institutional

OM
Organic matter or organic material

WHMIS
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

WM
Waste management

WMP
Waste management plan

PROGRAMS

Redistribution of the Charges Payable for the Disposal of Waste
Program whereby a portion of the additional charges collected for disposal are redistributed to municipalities and eligible communities in the form of a grant to fund activities related to the development, implementation and revision of a waste management plan (WMP). These fees are redistributed based on regional performance. Since 2024, it has been necessary to implement an organic waste management initiative in order to qualify for the grants.

Compensation for Municipal Services Provided to Recover and Reclaim Residual Material
The compensation program ended on December 31, 2024. It has been replaced by the modernized curbside recycling system

Modernization of the Curbside Recycling System
Reform of Quebec’s curbside recycling system aimed at transitioning to an extended producer responsibility (EPR) approach. From now on, companies that market containers, packaging, and prints are responsible for overseeing and supporting the end-of-life management of these products. Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) is the designated management organization (DMO) for curbside recycling in Quebec.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
Principle whereby the companies that market products in Quebec are responsible for managing them at the end of their life cycle. A recognized management organization (RMO) is mandated to recover and recycle the following product categories:

- **Call2Recycle** : Batteries and cell phones
- **Éco-Peinture** : Aerosols, paints and containers
- **EPRA-Québec** : Electronic products
- **GoRecycle** : Household cooling appliances and air conditioning units
- **HPSA** : Medications and used medical sharps
- **Product Care Recycling** : Non-refillable pressurized fuel containers
- **RecycFluo** : Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes
- **SOGHU** : Oils, antifreeze, filters and containers
- **SORAC** : Commercial and institutional refrigeration and freezing appliances