



SASKATCHEWAN WASTE  
REDUCTION COUNCIL



2020

ANNUAL



REPORT

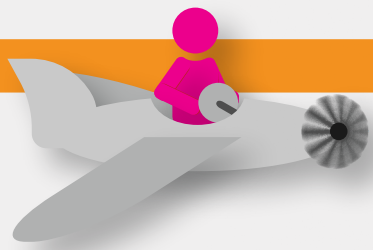
THE PATH



FORWARD

SASKATCHEWAN  
WASTE  
REDUCTION  
COUNCIL





## Mission

As an advocate for community and environment, SWRC leads in addressing the underlying causes of waste by identifying opportunities, creating connections, and promoting solutions.

## Vision

A waste-free Saskatchewan

***The Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council is dedicated to helping everyone in Saskatchewan to reduce waste. We provide information to the public and resources for municipalities and the waste/recycling industry.***



# Year in Review

The Ministry of Environment released its Solid Waste Management Strategy in January. It includes recommendations on education, regional collaboration, regulations, increasing waste diversion, new technologies and internal practices. Some of their priorities include reviewing the multi-material stewardship program, setting up a Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee and increasing the diversion of organic materials.

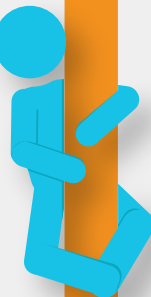
The Ministry approved two program plans for household hazardous waste. Call2Recycle will focus on household batteries up to 5kg, Product Care will cover the flammables and toxics. Both programs will roll out in 2021. Vehicle batteries and fluorescent lights are not included in the program.

In September, Regina launched a one-year residential pilot program to collect organics at the curb for 2,800 households. They are testing different cart sizes and combinations. The city delayed the implementation of their plastic checkout bag ban until 2021. On plastic bag bans, Prince Albert delayed its ban until after the pandemic is over as well.

Cleanfarms' grain bag program has been expanding. Near the end of the year, they added a pilot program to collect twine from 30 sites across the province. This is a welcome addition as twine was part of the original pilot project a few years ago. Cleanfarms is also piloting the collection of seed bags. These are more difficult to recycle than grain bags and twine, so some of them are going to waste to energy for the moment.

SARCAN had a busy year, closing for COVID for three months, opening to socially distanced procedures and a backlog of containers from Saskatchewan's thirsty residents. The new restrictions made their drop & go program more popular than ever, with extended hours in six depots. SARCAN continues to accept electronics and used paint for recycling, but they have discontinued the popular paint re-use program until after the pandemic.

Whether it's protective equipment, take out containers, or in-home consumption, residential waste definitely increased in 2020. It will be interesting to see if this is a blip or a trend.



# Staff



**Joanne Fedyk**  
Executive Director



**Meg Dorwart**  
Communications and  
Events Coordinator



**Bobbie Duns**  
Administrative Coordinator



**Deirdre Fritsch**  
Projects Coordinator



**Lisa Howse**  
Compost Education  
Coordinator

## Board of Directors



*Listed from left to right:*

Back Row: Dwight Grayston, Ben Brodie, Lisa Legault, Larry Schultz, Matt Wolsfeld, Sheri Praski.

Front Row: Joanne Fedyk, Bert Weichel, Jenna Curson, Chantelle Diakuw, Shelly Nicolle Phillips.

Absent: Wendy Yaworski, Rod Johnson, Henry Mutafya, Rebecca Fiddler

## Message from the Chair

I would like to begin by acknowledging that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

It was definitely a new and interesting year in 2020 with many challenges met and overcome and still a few more yet in front of us. On the environmental front, the pandemic has resulted in some interesting developments and certainly presents us with some opportunities to exploit as we look ahead to a post-pandemic world.

Through 2021 we will continue to promote organics diversion, advocate for expansion to existing Extended Producer Responsibility Programs as well as working with our partners exploring the challenges that continue to be presented as markets for recycling evolve.

We could not take on all of these initiatives without the support and contributions of all our sustaining members, members and sponsors and on behalf of the Council's staff and Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank everyone who was involved with the SWRC in 2020 and supported the idea of waste minimization through a year that had different priorities for all of us. It is through your support and participation in events that we are able to identify emerging trends, share our depth of knowledge and promote solutions to our waste challenges.

Thank you and we encourage you to join us and continue to support the SWRC in working towards a waste free Saskatchewan!

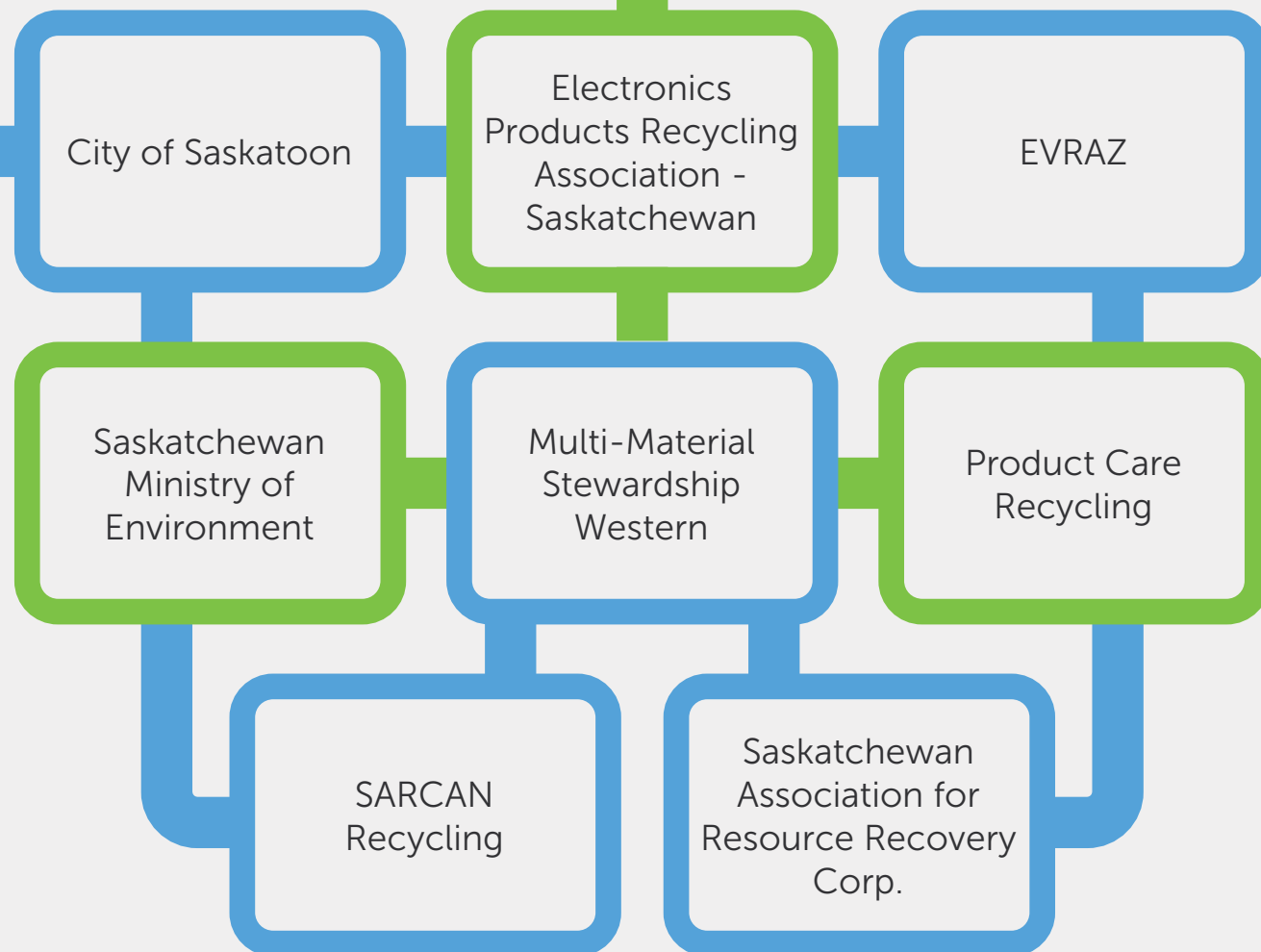
Dwight Grayston  
SWRC Board Chair



# 2020 Sustaining Members

# Members

Thank you to our valued members for their continued support!



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 16-43 Waste Management Corp                         | Barb Hanbidge                                     | RM of Torch River                            |
| Allied Paper Savers                                 | Audrey Harsh                                      | RM of Whiska Creek                           |
| Claire Amundsen                                     | Merv Hey  | RM of Wilton                                 |
| ARWMAS  | Highway 55 Waste Management                       | Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan |
| Jack Astill   | Johnson and Weichel                               | Salvation Army NRO                           |
| Biomed Recovery and Disposal Ltd.                   | Jacklyn Kaiser                                    | SARCAN                                       |
| Al Birchard   | Kishorkumar Kapdi                                 | SARM   |
| Boreal Area Regional Waste Authority                | K-Light Recycling                                 | Sask Abilities Council Yorkton               |
| Nathan Bruce  | Lisa Legault                                      | Saskatchewan Environmental Society           |
| Call2Recycle  | London Drugs Ltd.                                 | SEIMA  |
| Canadian Electrical Stewardship Association         | Loraas North                                      | Shkopich Enviro Limited                      |
| City of Lloydminster                                | Loraas South                                      | SUMA   |
| City of Meadow Lake                                 | Lynn Manners                                      | Titan Clean Energy Projects                  |
| City of Melfort                                     | Richard Matchett                                  | Touchwood Hills Regional Landfill WMA        |
| City of Melville                                    | Lisa Moehlman                                     |  |
| City of Moose Jaw                                   | Molok North America                               | Town of Eston                                |
| City of North Battleford                            | Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards                | Town of Gull Lake                            |
| City of Prince Albert                               | Anne Neuls  | Town of Kerrobert                            |
| City of Regina                                      | Kelvin Ng   | Town of Kindersley                           |
| City of Swift Current                               | North Central Sask Waste Management               | Town of Lumsden                              |
| City of Warman                                      | North Valley Waste Management Region              | Town of Maple Creek                          |
| City of Weyburn                                     | Northern Village of Ile a la crosse               | Town of Moosomin                             |
| City of Yorkton                                     | Northwest Regional Waste Management Authority Inc | Town of Outlook                              |
| Cleanfarms  | Chris Pantel                                      | Town of Radville                             |
| Conseil économique et coopératif de la Saskatchewan | PINTER & Associates Ltd.                          | Town of Rosthern                             |
| Cosmopolitan Industries                             | Sheri Praski                                      | Town of Tisdale                              |
| Crown Shred and Recycling                           | Quantum Lifecycle Partners LP                     | Town of Wynyard                              |
| Judie Dyck  | REACT   | Meagan Tungate                               |
| Ecotainer   | Recycling Council of Alberta                      | University of Saskatchewan                   |
| Emterra   | Red Coat Waste Resource Authority                 | VDQ-NRG Systems Inc                          |
| GFL Environmental                                   | RM of Lacadena                                    | Waste Management                             |
| GR Poier and Sons                                   | RM of Nipawin No. 487                             | Weyburn Wor-Kin Shop Corp.                   |
| Alysha Hales  |   | Ed Wilson                                    |
|   |   | WYWRA  |



# 2019 Waste Minimization Awards

We are proud to present the 2019 Saskatchewan Waste Minimization Awards, sponsored by SaskTel. Awards are given to Saskatchewan individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to reduce their own waste, and in doing so, are an inspiration to others.

Typically, we hold a ceremony at our annual Waste ReForum Conference. As we weren't able to have an in-person ceremony this year, we mailed everyone their awards to accept in the comfort of their home or office.

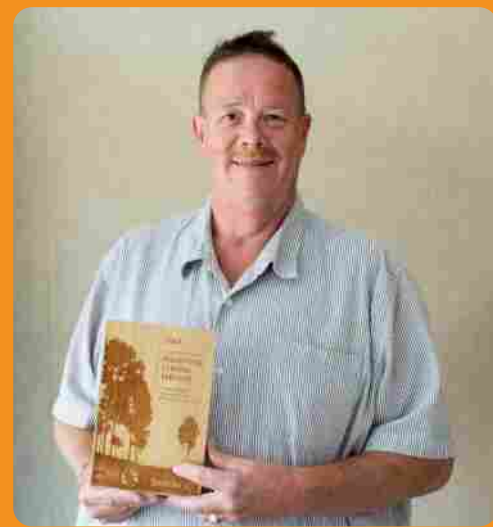


Thanks to SaskTel for their support of the Saskatchewan Waste Minimization Awards.

## Small Business

### The Wandering Market

This Moose Jaw based market delivers locally-grown produce and products to Saskatoon, Regina, Herbert, Waldeck, and Swift Current. Most of the deliveries are in coolers or recycled boxes. During the deliveries and pickups, customers return many items to be reused including jars, bags, buckets, egg cartons and boxes. The business encourages their producers to use compostable packaging that is then composted by a small business in Moose Jaw. They also host a monthly Repair Café, over 300 items have been repaired.



## Corporation

### Ministry of Central Services

Palliser Hospital was demolished in 2018/2019. All items of reuse value were removed from the building beforehand and given to community organizations and internal government organizations that wanted mechanical and electrical equipment, tools, filters, lights, etc. With the support of a local recycling company, they were able to demolish the building, reclaim the site and salvage or recycle approximately 97% of the material, diverting over 11,000 tonnes from the Swift Current landfill and saving more than \$1 million in tipping fees.

## Partnerships

### City of Saskatoon, SARCAN, City of Regina

To avoid glass breaking and becoming unrecyclable during the collection process, the Cities of Saskatoon and Regina partnered with SARCAN on a pilot program to allow residents to bring household glass to SARCAN depots. By the end of 2019, Regina and Saskatoon had collected a total of over 139 tonnes of household glass from 760,798 customer visits. Saskatoon reports that its share of glass recycled through the pilot program was greater than the amount of glass recovered from its curbside cart program.



## Individual

Austin Coleman

Austin lives and breathes for waste reduction. Not only does he work at SARCAN Recycling, a huge contributor to waste reduction, but he is passionate about making sure that waste in Regina makes it to the right place. He spends his time going around the city personally cleaning up neighborhoods. He teamed up with the City of Regina to make an informational video on how to use the curbside blue bin and he goes door-to-door to hand out information and give in-person sessions to homeowners to help them recycle properly.



## Municipality

City of Regina

The City of Regina initiated the GREEN Routine for its employees – a pilot program that involved expanding diversion options, centralized recycling/compost stations and extensive peer-to-peer encouragement from a well-trained Green team. The pilot buildings went from 10 percent diversion to 47 percent over the pilot period. They also replaced their pop-up compost collection events with a Permanent Yard Waste Depot. In the first year, they diverted 2660 tonnes of organics, which is six times the volume over previous years at the pop-up events.



## Festival/Event

ReVamp Upcycled Art Show

For the past eight years in Saskatoon the show curator, Melissa Squire, has invited five to ten artists to create using a minimum of 95% recycled or reclaimed materials. The artists are directed to choose materials, processes and techniques that are both environmentally and socially conscious.

The show includes an opening reception where the food and beverage waste is composted and marketing materials and signage for the opening reception is reused and recycled. The show committee has ensured that the event has been zero waste every year.

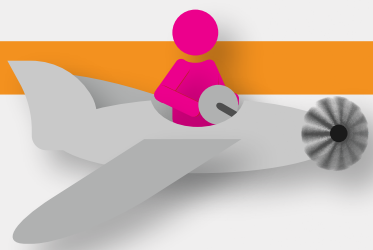


## Youth/School

The Douglas Park School Green Team

The Green Team at Douglas Park School in Regina was created by 20 students in 2018. They give up their afternoon recess every day to collect the school's recyclable plastics and paper. Since its formation, the Green Team has diverted 4,077 pounds of recyclable plastics and paper from the landfill. They also manage a vermicompost bin for food scraps. The Green Team educates fellow students, developing videos on how to recycle properly, visiting classrooms at lunchtime and giving out recycling rewards. They are also working on recruiting Grades 1-4 students to join the Green Team so that their legacy and efforts will be carried on.





# 2020 Projects

## Waste Reduction Database

The recycling database featured on our website is one of the main ways that we provide service to the people of Saskatchewan. Letting residents know about where and how to recycle has been an SWRC function since 1997. Our system for tracking the information evolved and, in 2020, after a decade since the last revision, we decided that it was time to update. The new database has a map feature, an expanded material list, and the potential for adding in options to Pass on (reuse/donate), Compost, & Repair items. It's also received a platform overhaul, making it much simpler to update information.

Most years, we hire a summer student to work on our online recycling database. This year's student was Tessa O'Bertos. Utilizing her computer & phone skills, she was able to help us transfer & update information from our old database format to the new one.

## 2020 Summer Students

**Tessa O'Bertos**

Database Development



**Alanna Bugera**

Recycling Ambassador



**Jessi Harms**

Recycling Ambassador



## Saskatoon Recycling Education

The City of Saskatoon's Rolling Education Unit is a display used at public events to encourage residents to recycle correctly. Summer students normally take the Rolling Education Unit to multiple events around the city. The 2020 students went virtual, creating a series of videos called the "YXE Waste Tour" which showcased various waste diversion opportunities through Saskatoon. Check it out on YouTube!

## Compost Coaches

The SWRC coordinates composting education activities for the City of Saskatoon. While COVID-19 interrupted most of our in-person activities, we were still able to provide many services in digital form. In 2020 we trained 11 new Compost Coach volunteers, set up at two community events, and gave 23 composting presentations. We also provided 27 (socially-distanced) home visits, and built new wooden compost bins for five community gardens.

## Recycling Ambassadors

In a typical year, our Recycling Ambassador summer students are road warriors, travelling throughout Saskatchewan on behalf of provincial recycling programs. In 2020, the three students worked from home instead, conducting phone surveys & research projects. Thank you to this year's partners; SARRC, EPRA, & Clean farms, for their support.

**Jasmin Parker**

Recycling Ambassador



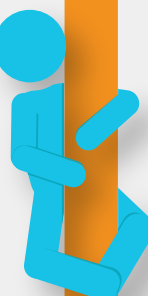
**Jonah Sutter**

Rolling Education Unit



**Rowan Hollinger**

Rolling Education Unit





# 2020 Workshops

## Virtual Waste to Energy Workshop

Co-hosted with SWANA Northern Lights, our virtual workshop on Waste to Energy drew more than 100 participants, mostly from the prairies, but ranging from Vancouver to Halifax. The federal and provincial governments outlined the regulatory requirements and pollution concerns from WTE facilities. Steve Jenkins, an expert based in Florida, outlined various technologies and their histories. Local companies highlighted their experiences with pyrolysis, hydrothermal liquefaction, and digestion.

## Newcomer Workshops

In 2020 the SWRC delivered recycling and composting workshops, on behalf of the City of Saskatoon, to newcomer agencies like the Saskatoon Open Door Society and the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association. Many of these agencies were shut down for several months of 2020 due to COVID-19. However, the SWRC was still able to deliver six compost workshops and seven recycling workshops in digital form.



SWRC Darning Workshop 2020



A vacuum given another life via a Repair Café



# 2020 Waste Reduction Week

We had originally planned to expand Waste Reduction Week by hosting Repair Café events in more communities than we had in 2019. Unfortunately, this wasn't possible in 2020. Our plans evolved many times and, in the end, we hosted a province-wide Virtual Repair Café as well as a program called Scrappy Masks, that recruited volunteers to sew masks from discarded fabric. These two projects worked well together and highlighted different areas of waste reduction.

The Virtual Repair Café featured volunteers ready to give repair advice and instructions on broken items through a video chat. We also held a Darning Tutorial and a Sewing Machine Basics Workshop.

Feedback from attendees and volunteers on both the workshops and the Repair Café was positive. We plan to host Virtual Repair Cafés every three months in 2021.

Scrappy Masks, in honor of Textile Tuesday, connected people with scrap fabric with those who are willing to sew reusable masks. The masks were then donated to groups who give them away to the public for free. Eight volunteers, in Saskatoon, Hepburn, Cut Knife and Moose Jaw, sewed 305 masks. The masks were dropped off at OUTSaskatoon and The Lighthouse in Saskatoon and Midwest Food Resources, The Lighthouse in North Battleford, and Rainbow Retro in Moose Jaw.



Scrappy Masks in progress and being safely handed off

**Affinity**  
Credit Union

Many thanks to Affinity Credit Union for making our repair cafes possible.



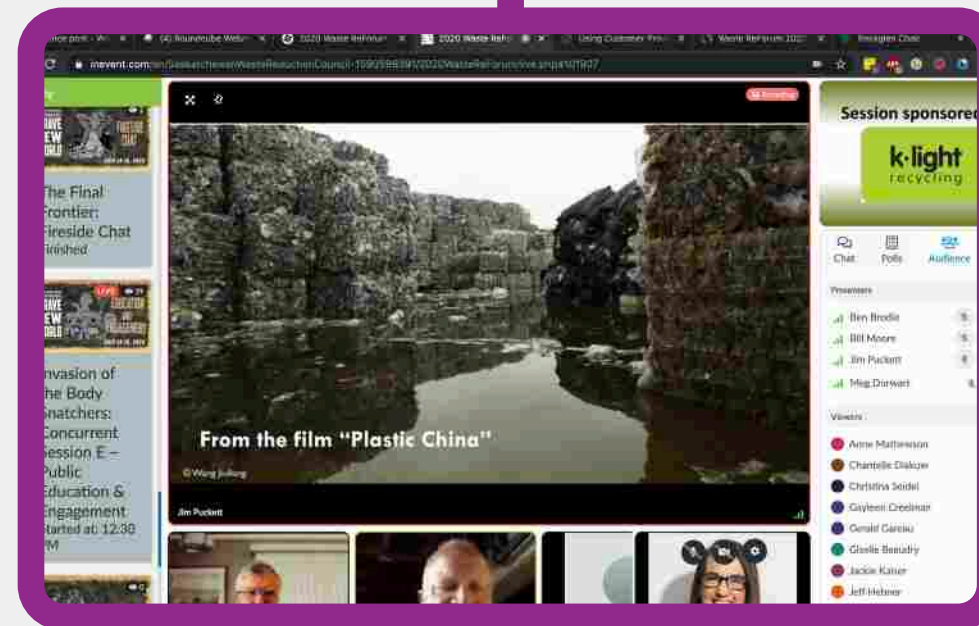
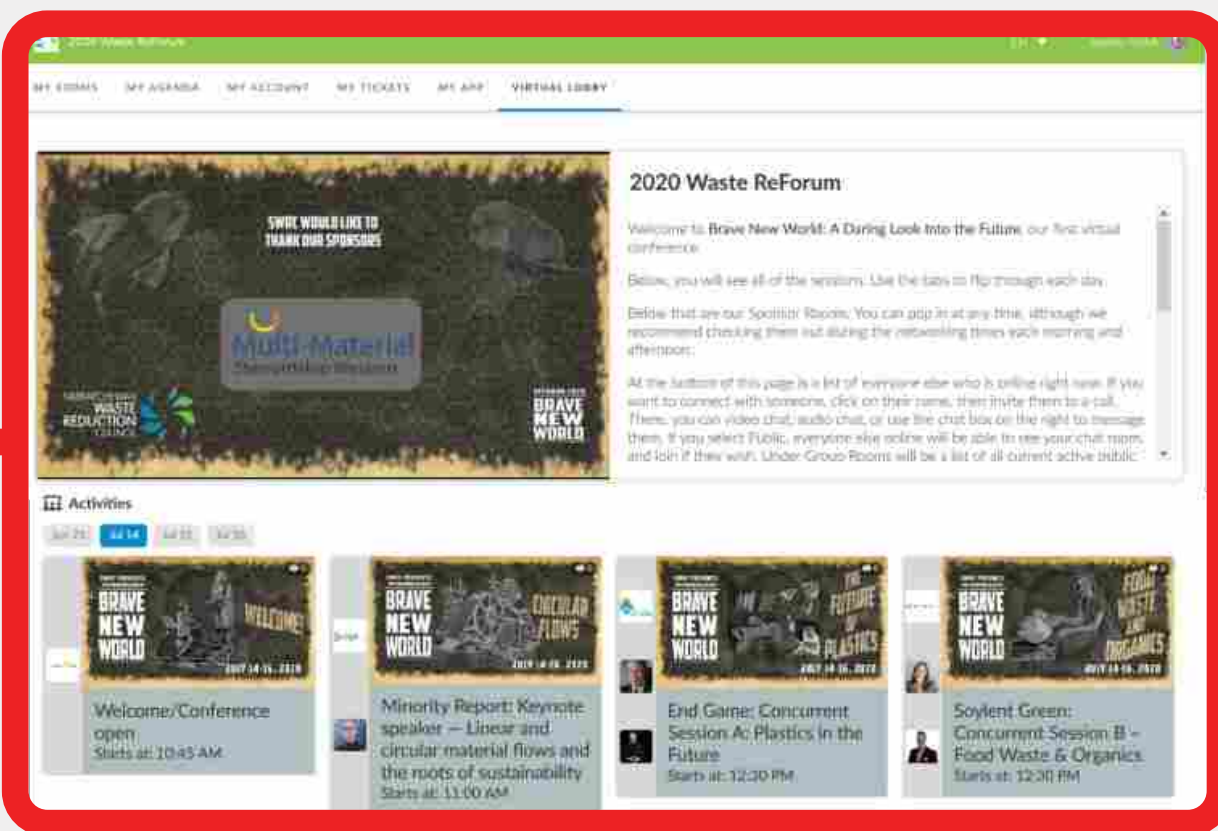


# ReForum 2020

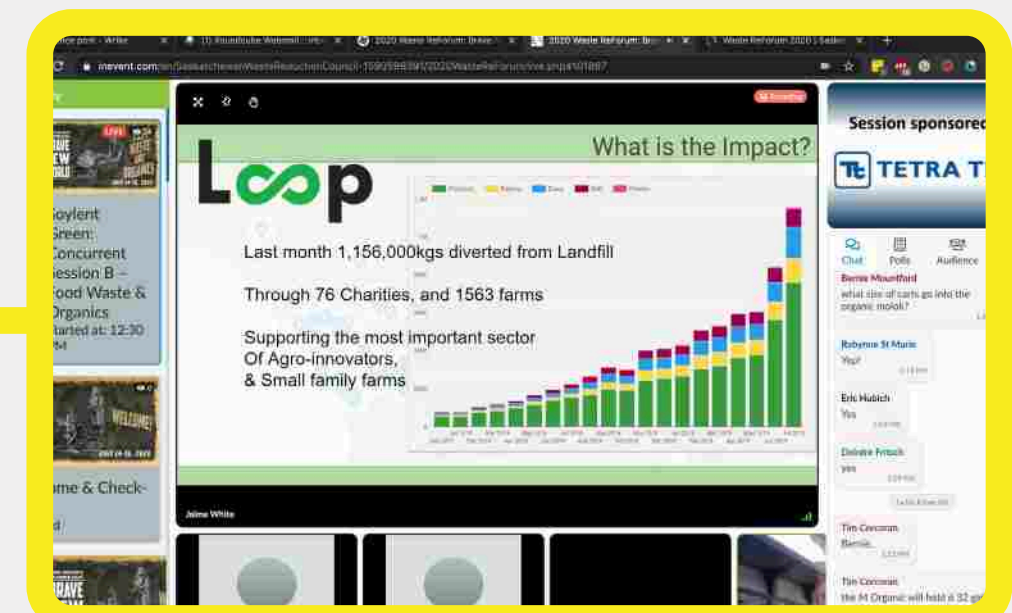
## Brave New World

We start planning conferences ten months ahead of time. So when we chose the theme Brave New World for the 2020 ReForum, we had no idea how apt it would be. We were thinking about radical changes to recycling markets, widespread consensus on re-thinking single use plastics and new EPR programs starting soon, not global upheaval.

It turned out to be a Brave New World for the conference format as well. Navigating through a world with zero predictability, we first postponed the event until September. As things progressed, we began to doubt that things would be back to 'normal' by then and decided to try a virtual event.



Thanks to our speakers and sponsors who supported the virtual event. Our keynote speaker, local author and activist Darrin Qualman, outlined the evolution in energy and material flows and how they relate to sustainability. Frances Edmonds, HP Canada's Head of Sustainable Impact, discussed circular economy, procurement and sustainable business in a fireside chat with Christina Seidel of the Recycling Council of Alberta. Session topics included plastics, food waste, robotics, public education and waste issues. Our popular lightning talks were done in Mythbuster style this year and received rave reviews.



# Financials

## Statement of Financial Position | December 31, 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019
<b>CURRENT:</b>		
Cash - unrestricted	\$ 201,368	\$ 146,872
Accounts receivable	5,803	13,805
Prepaid expenses	2,717	2,717
Goods and services tax recoverable	394	1,267
	210,282	164,657
<b>MANAGED INVESTMENT FUND</b>	139,376	74,747
<b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	24,636	2,194
	164,012	76,941
	\$ 374,294	\$ 241,598
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 6,356	\$ 6,355
Wages payable	4,492	3,757
Employee deductions payable	4,599	2,724
Deferred income	36,400	14,550
Refundable compost coaches fees	700	1,100
	52,547	28,486
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	165,881	99,833
Internally restricted net assets	131,230	111,196
Invested in tangible capital assets	24,636	2,083
	321,747	213,112
	\$ 374,294	\$ 241,598

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets | December 31, 2020

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Internally Restricted Net Assets	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 99,722	\$ 111,196	\$ 2,194	\$ 213,112	\$ 197,479
Excess of revenues over expenses	108,635	-	-	108,635	15,633
Amortization expense	4,863	-	(4,863)	-	-
Interfund transfers	(20,034)	20,034	-	-	-
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(27,305)	-	(72,305)	-	-
<b>BALANCE - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 165,881	\$ 131,230	\$ 24,636	\$ 321,747	\$ 213,112

## Statement of Operations | December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Project management and expenses recoveries	\$ 163,917	\$ 266,867
Federal government subsidies	113,238	-
Sustaining memberships	80,000	65,000
Event registrations and sponsorships	67,872	128,118
Memberships	24,600	25,175
Investment Income	16,204	5,754
Donations	4,857	3,063
Sundry income	1,105	-
	471,793	493,977
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Labour and benefits	161,092	146,957
Project expenses	134,674	210,332
Rent	16,723	17,590
Contract work	8,330	5,980
Professional fees	6,960	6,505
Materials and supplies	6,331	5,416
Meeting and events	4,963	57,905
Amortization	4,863	755
Telephone	3,155	3,619
Advertising and promotion	3,019	757
Website expenses	2,839	665
Finance charges	2,223	1,007
Print, copy and design	2,144	3,018
Insurance	2,095	2,008
Professional development	905	3,890
Bad debts	900	900
Travel	844	10,022
Workers' compensation	636	512
Technology support	410	-
Postage and courier	52	506
	363,158	478,344
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	\$ 108,635	\$ 15,633

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