

The City of Edmonton is celebrating 25 years of recycling and is thanking residents for their ongoing and enthusiastic participation in its three residential recycling programs.

"This anniversary is an important milestone, and demonstrates Edmontonians' dedication to the environment," says Mayor Stephen Mandel. "We've come a long way in the past 25 years, and we are now world leaders in sustainable urban waste management."

Edmonton was the first major city in Canada to implement curbside recycling, and since its inception in 1988 Edmontonians have set out enough recycling to form a convoy of trucks from Edmonton to Lake Superior, Ontario, a distance of approximately 2,500 kilometres.

"Through recycling alone, Edmonton diverts close to 20 per cent of residential waste from landfill," says Mandel. "Recycling continues to be a cornerstone component of our excellent waste management system."

The Blue Bag program, which replaced the Blue Box system in 1999 for single-family households, prevents contents from being blown about on windy days, and makes collection more efficient. The Blue Bin program, implemented in 2002, provides on-site recycling at apartments and condos. Twenty Recycling Depots located throughout the city offer convenient 24-hour access for all households and small businesses.

Recycling has many environmental benefits in addition to diverting waste from the landfill, such as reduced consumption of natural resources (trees, fossil fuels and metals), and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information about the City's recycling programs and what items should be recycled please visit [edmonton.ca/recycling](http://edmonton.ca/recycling) or call 311.

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