

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted on June 27th, 2024

## Saskatchewan Household Hazardous Waste Program

Submitted by:



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# 1.0 Introduction

The Saskatchewan Household Hazardous Waste Product Stewardship Program (“Program”) is operated and managed by Product Care Association of Canada (“Product Care”). Product Care is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit product stewardship association formed in response to stewardship regulations and is governed by a multi-sector industry board of directors.

This annual report is prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in *The Household Hazardous Waste Products Stewardship Regulations* (“Regulation”) issued under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*, and the Saskatchewan Household Hazardous Waste Product Stewardship Program Plan (“Program Plan”) approved by the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment on June 23, 2020. This report provides information for the period covering January 1 – December 31, 2023

The members of the Program are the obligated “first sellers” or “stewards” (manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) pursuant to the Regulation regarding the following product categories:

- Flammables materials
- Corrosives materials
- Toxics materials
- Physically hazardous materials
- Pesticides

The Program is funded by membership fees, known as Environmental Handling Fees (EHFs), remitted to Product Care by its members based on the volume of sales of designated Program Products in or into the province. In some cases, retailers recover this expense as a separate visible EHF to consumers. The EHF rates are set by Product Care. Program revenues are applied to the operation of the Program, including administration, communication and outreach, collection, transport, and processing of collected Program Products, as well as the maintenance of a reserve fund.

Product Care operates product stewardship programs for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in three other Canadian provinces: British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. Product Care also operates programs for paint in British Columbia, Saskatchewan,

Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland & Labrador; Lights in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and PEI; and alarms in British Columbia. See the Product Care website at [www.productcare.org](http://www.productcare.org) for more information.

## 2.0 Program Summary

Pursuant to Table 1 of the Regulations, The Program accepts the following categories of products (“Program Products”):

- i. Waste Household Hazardous Materials including
  - a. Flammable materials
  - b. Corrosive materials
  - c. Physically hazardous materials including explosives, but not including ammunition
  - d. Toxic materials; or
  - e. Environmentally hazardous materials including those materials that meet the criteria of being “toxic” and either “persistent” or “bioaccumulate”
- ii. Pesticides

The Program offers collection services (collection sites and collection events) throughout the province where consumers can bring leftover Program Products. Collected products are shipped to a processor for treatment and responsible disposal.

The Program has established an advisory committee in Saskatchewan, composed of representatives from NGOs, local governments, and industry to allow various stakeholder input and feedback.

## **3.0 Collection System**

At the launch of the Program, there were no permanent facilities in the province for the collection of HHW products. Recognizing the time required to establish collection sites, the Program committed to operating collection events in the interim. Due to the hazardous nature of some of the Program Products, establishing permanent collection sites presents significant challenges and takes considerable time. The collection of Program Products is best suited to sites already involved in waste management, such as transfer stations and landfills. Unlike the collection systems for other products, such as paper and packaging or beverage containers, the collection of Program Products has more stringent requirements including weather protection, security, and supervised collection service. Establishing collection sites typically requires zoning approvals, local authority approvals, and addressing other administrative and regulatory requirements.

In 2023, Product Care contracted with service providers and communities to provide four collection sites and 51 collection events across Saskatchewan. Consumers could drop off leftover Program Products at no charge at these sites and events throughout the province. Product Care continues to work on establishing permanent collection sites in Saskatchewan. Establishing collection sites remains a goal for the program, which in turn reduces the number of collection events needed yearly. Table 1 details the permanent collection sites and their locations.

Table 1: Location of Collection Sites

Collection Sites		
Depot Name	City	Location
City of Regina Household Hazardous Materials Depot	Regina	Donald St in the Northeast Quadrant
North Valley Waste Regional Landfill	R.M. of North Qu'Appelle	NW 1/4 21-21-13 W2W
QM Environmental Saskatoon Waste Transfer Facility	Saskatoon	818 48th St. East
SaskAbilities (Yorkton Branch)	Yorkton	180 Ball Road

The program operated 51 collection events in 2023, held across 39 communities. Some communities held multiple collection events during the year. Depending on the community, some collection events collected other products (Non-Program Products) in addition to Program Products. Table 2 details the communities serviced by collection events in 2023.

Table 2: Location of Collection Events held in 2023

Communities that held Collection Events in 2023.	
Agrium Potash Vanscoy	Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation
Biggar	Bruno
Carlyle	Colonsay
Coop Refinery	Duck Lake
Edenwold	File Hills
Hoodoo	Humbolt
Kindersley	Lac La Rouge
Lakeland	Last Mountain
Maple Creek	Martensville
Melfort	Mistawasis
Moose Jaw	Muskoday FN
Niacam	North Battleford
Nutrien	Outlook
Potash Cory Mine	Prince Albert
Saskatoon	Stoughton
Swift Current	Tisdale
Town of Dalmeny	Unity
Warman	Watrous
Watson	Weyburn
Wilkie	

# 4.0 Collections

## 4.1 Collection Volumes

Residual recovery volume represents the estimated liquid volume, measured in litres, of liquid Program Products recovered by the Program. Table 3 shows the estimated residual recovery volume of flammable, toxic, corrosive, and pesticide Program Products collected in 2023.

The collection, packaging and transportation of hazardous waste is dictated by Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulation (TDGR) and waste management options. As a result, in some instances, some product categories are comingled such as toxics and pesticides. Environmentally hazardous materials are collected and managed under other product categories such as toxics.

Table 3: Estimated Residual Recovery Volume of Program Products Collected in 2023 (Litres)

Product Category	Total <sup>1</sup> (L)
Flammables <sup>1</sup>	8,229
Corrosives <sup>1</sup>	2,012
Toxics Incl. Pesticides <sup>1</sup>	3,176
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,417</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Residual volume collected is calculated by taking the weight of materials provided by the processor and removing container weights (based on standard container weights as determined by Product Care). The weight of the material is multiplied by the average estimated density of the specific materials obtained from SDS specifications.



Table 4 shows the estimated number of units of pressurized Program Products collected in 2023.

Table 4: Estimated number of Pressurized Program Products Collected in 2023 (Units)

Product Category	Total (units)
Other Aerosol <sup>2</sup>	12,373
Physically Hazardous Products	3,210
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,583</b>

## 5.0 Product Management

The objective of the Program is to minimize the improper disposal of Program Products by providing an accessible collection system and ensuring that the collected materials are recycled, treated or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Product Care strives to manage collected products in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy. Product management and the application of the pollution prevention hierarchy varies by product.

Processors are selected based on several factors, including regulatory compliance, location of operations, processing capacity, processing methods, competitiveness, downstream markets, and conformity with Product Care requirements. All processors are required to comply with federal and provincial regulatory requirements, as well as Product Care's requirements.

Product Care's end-of-life management protocols employ the following hierarchy to minimize impacts on the environment: reduction, recycling, and disposal in an environmentally responsible manner. Reuse is not an option for household hazardous waste. Due to the wide range in composition and properties of HHW products, different management methods are used for different products.

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<sup>2</sup> "Other Aerosol" includes flammable, corrosive and toxic aerosols.

Product Care encourages consumers to buy the right amount of consumable products for their needs to reduce waste. The “BUD” Rule is Product Care’s primary message, where consumers are encouraged to:

- Buy no more than you need.
- Use all that you buy; and
- Dispose of leftovers safely.

The following section outlines the product management processes employed by the Program for each product category.

#### Flammable Materials

Given the nature and mixed composition of flammable materials, it is not economically viable or feasible to reuse or recycle flammable liquids. Instead, leftover flammable materials were blended and sent for energy recovery.

#### Corrosive Materials

Corrosive materials were neutralized, and chemically treated; any resulting neutralized liquid is either discharged to sanitary sewers under a permit or deep well, and benign solids securely landfilled. Corrosive aerosols were evacuated, propellants were absorbed by activated carbon, and the corrosive liquids were managed as noted above.

#### Toxic Materials

Toxic materials were sent for incineration at high temperatures in a government-regulated and permitted incinerator. Toxic aerosols were evacuated, propellants were absorbed by activated carbon, and the toxic liquid was sent for incineration.

#### Pesticides

Pesticides were incinerated at licensed facilities and at temperatures high enough to avoid creating hazardous by-products. Pesticide aerosols were evacuated, propellants absorbed by activated carbon, and the residual pesticides were sent for incineration.

#### Physically Hazardous Material (Fuel Cylinders)

Fuel from fuel cylinders was sent for energy recovery. Containers from Fuel Cylinders were sent for metal recycling.

## Containers

All metal containers were recycled as scrap metal. Plastic containers containing flammable or corrosive liquids were either recycled or sent to landfills depending on the type of plastic and the level of contamination. Plastic containers that contain toxic materials are incinerated along with their contents.

## 5.1 Summary of Volumes Processed by Processing Method

Table 5 summarizes the estimated amount and the management options utilized for each product category.

Table 5: Estimated amount of Program Product and Product Management

Product Category	Product Management				
	Reused	Recycled	Energy Recovery	Incinerated	Treated <sup>3</sup>
Flammable Liquids & Gasoline (Litres)			8,229		
Toxics (including pesticides) (Litres)				3,176	
Corrosives (Litres)					2,012
Physically Hazardous Products (Units)			3,210		
Aerosols (Units)			12,373		
<b>Total (Litres)</b>			<b>8,229</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>2,012</b>
<b>Total (Units)</b>			<b>15,583</b>		

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the treatment of these products, please refer to section 5.

## 6.0 Public Education and Communications

The initial focus of the program was to develop and establish a collection system, followed by public outreach and public education to make consumers aware of the program and recycling services.

In 2023, the Program implemented several strategies to raise consumer awareness, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The following section provides details regarding communications and public education tactics implemented in 2023 to fulfill commitments as outlined in the Program Plan.

### 6.1 Program Awareness

The Program plans to conduct consumer awareness surveys once a reasonable permanent collection system has been established.

### 6.2 Website

The Product Care website includes the following content for the Saskatchewan HHW Program as outlined as a commitment in the Program Plan:

- Recycling locator (a map displaying the drop-off events and collection sites) – see [Appendix A](#)
- Events and collection site hours and operations
- Lists of accepted and not accepted products
- Program member support center with news and updates
- Consumer videos showing the product management approach for Program Products

In 2023, productcare.org received 547,411 sessions from 439,607 users, including 36,423 users from Saskatchewan.

### 6.3 Program Hotline

Product Care continued to operate a toll-free, “hotline” for consumers to obtain information about the Program.

## 6.4 Advertising

An ad campaign was deployed to reach locations where we have permanent collection sites as well as locations where drop-off events took place.

On top of that, Facebook event ads were targeted locally to promote events to residents living around the area, and Spotify ads were used to promote the opening of the collection sites.

A print ad in the newspaper “Yorkton This Week” was placed in April to support the digital efforts promoting the opening of the new permanent site in Yorkton.

Overall, these ads generated approximately 2.6 million impressions. Impressions are broken down in the table below.

Table 6: Summary of Campaign Types, Duration and Engagement

Type of Campaign	Description	Duration	Impressions	Video Views	Clicks
Google Search	Text ads shown on Google & other search engines when users actively look for information about recycling any of our accepted products	Jan-Dec	1,927	-	388
Google Display & Performance Max	Responsive banners displayed across the Google display network, including YouTube, Gmail, the discovery section, and thousands of websites and apps like the weather channel network. Performance Max is a Google Ads campaign type that uses machine learning to optimize ad placements and performance across all Google platforms based on specified advertising goals.	Apr-Sep	1,022,990	149	6,805
Google Video	Skippable video ads displayed across YouTube and Google's video partners	Apr-Dec	509,632	133,601	834
Meta Ads	Responsive ads including a mix of images, text and video displayed through Facebook and Instagram to promote permanent collection sites and event ads to attract event attendees	Apr-Nov	1,104,377	289,993	6,808
Spotify	30-second audio ads with a clickable banner on Spotify to promote permanent collection sites	Apr & Nov	37,789	-	16
Total			2,676,715	423,743	14,851

## 6.5 Partnerships

Product Care is a founding member and has continued to participate in Recycle Saskatchewan (RS), an informal alliance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in Saskatchewan connected by a shared goal to:

- Share best practices on extended producer responsibility and product stewardship with government and other stakeholders.
- Maximize the benefits and impact of joint RS initiatives.
- Increase utilization of member programs by all Saskatchewan residents.

Product Care is an Associate Member of the Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan (ARWMAS) and participates in ARWMAS's bi-monthly meetings to share updates on the Program, provide information to Saskatchewan's regional waste authorities and to receive feedback on the program.

## 7.0 Financial Information

A summary of the Program's financials for 2023 is provided in Table 7. The financials detail the total amount of recycling fees collected to fund the Program and the amount spent to operate the Program, including communications and administration costs.<sup>4</sup>

Table 7: Financial Summary 2023

2023 Revenue and Expenses	\$
Total Revenue	365,878
Program Operations	174,405
Program Administration	17,850
Education, Public Awareness & Communications	14,125
Total Operating Expenses	206,380
Surplus / Deficit	159,497
Cumulative Surplus (Reserve)	253,920

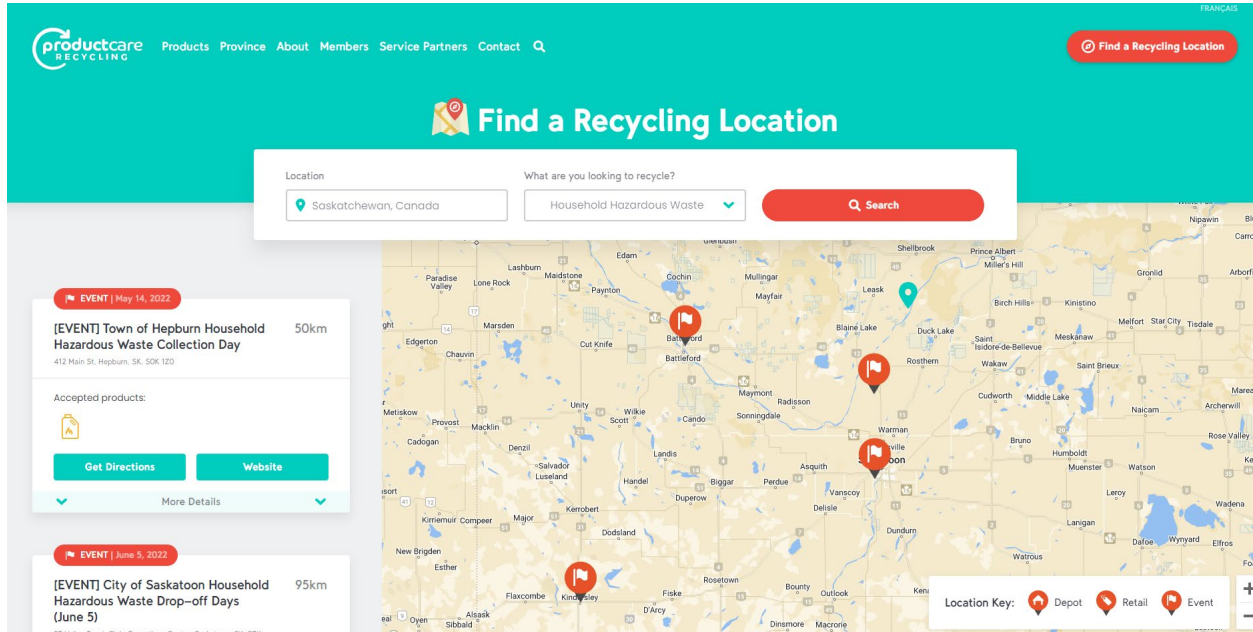
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<sup>4</sup> The Program does not utilise recycling incentives and therefore none were paid out.



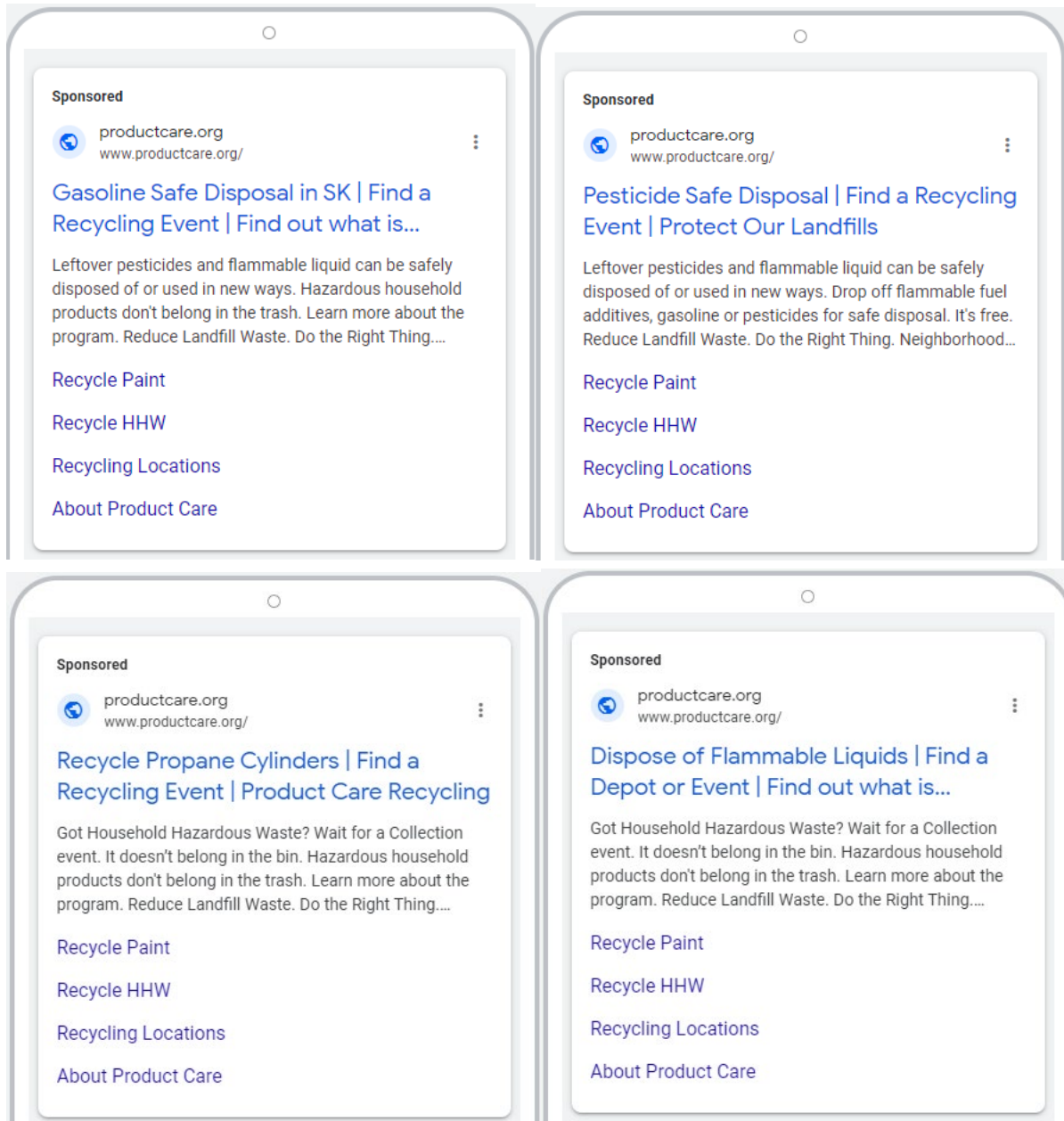
# Appendix A: Recycling Locator

Below is a snapshot of the recycling locator tool found at ProductCare.org:



# Appendix B: Public Education and Communication Materials


## Google Search




# Google Display

## Desktop


Example of your image ad at 160x600



**HHW safe disposal near you**



Leftover pesticides and flammable liquids can be safely disposed of or used in new ways



Example of your image ad at 300x250



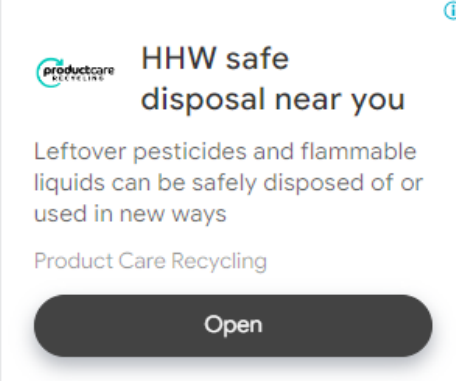
**HHW safe disposal near you**



Leftover pesticides and flammable liquids can be safely disposed of or used in new ways



Example of your text ad at 300x250



**HHW safe disposal near you**

Leftover pesticides and flammable liquids can be safely disposed of or used in new ways

Product Care Recycling

**Open**

Example of your native ad at 480x120



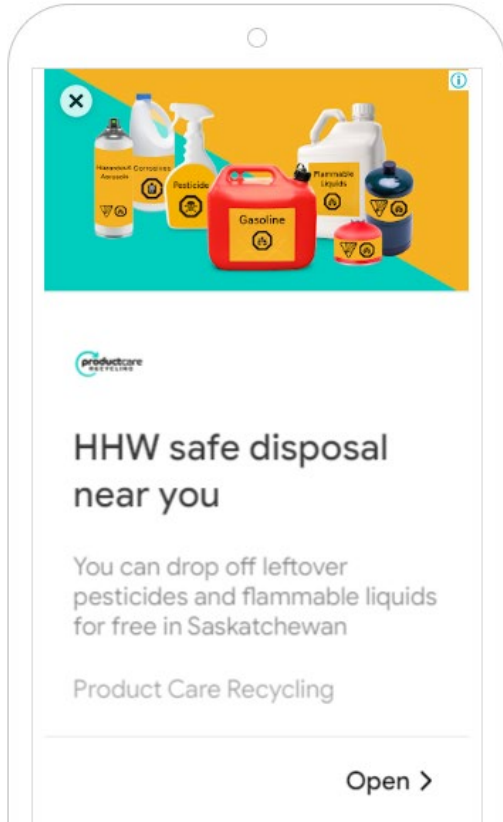
Household hazardous products don't belong in the trash. Find a location...

**Ad** Product Care Recycling

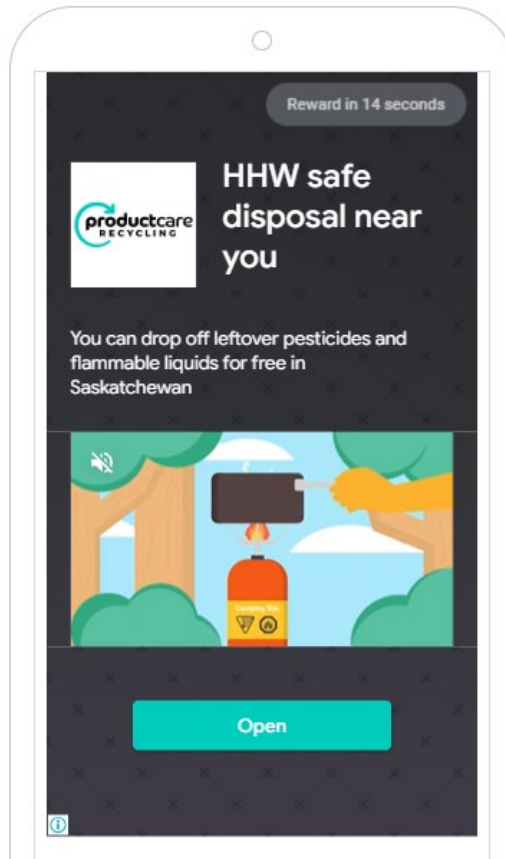
**Open**

# Mobile

Example of your image ad at 320x568

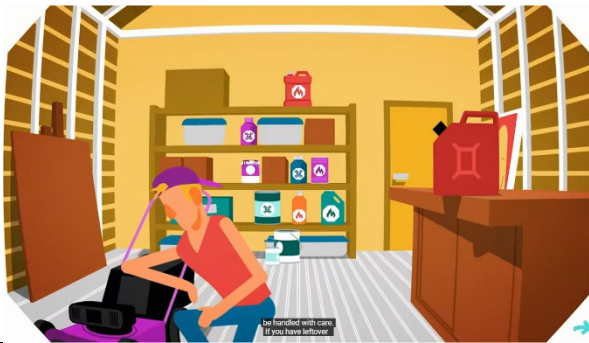


Example of your video ad at 320x568



Google videos

HHW General 15" ([watch](#))



HHW Explainer video ([watch](#))



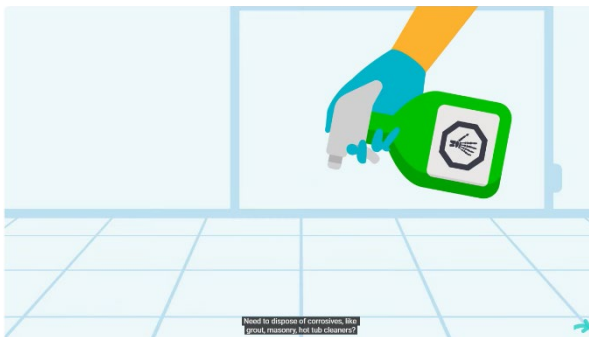
Flammable liquids ([watch](#))



Physically hazardous ([watch](#))



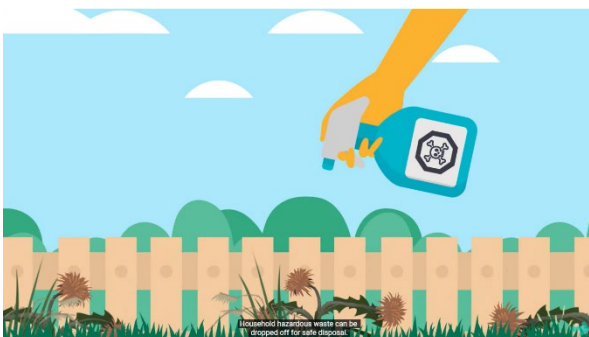
Corrosives ([watch](#))



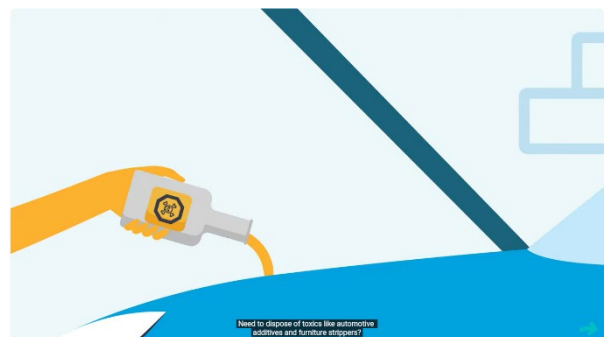
Solvents ([watch](#))




Pesticides ([watch](#))



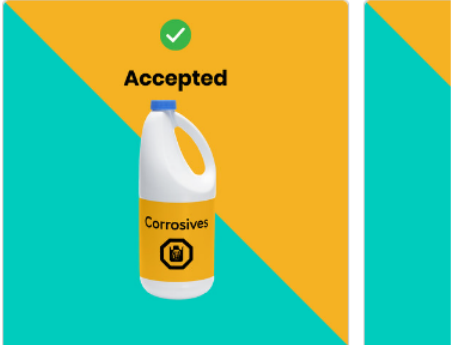
Toxics ([watch](#))



## Meta ads

 **Product Care Recycling**  
Sponsored · 🌐

Drop off Household Hazardous Waste near you for safe disposal. Check what is accepted before you go




**Dispose of Them Safely** Find What Is ... [Learn more](#)

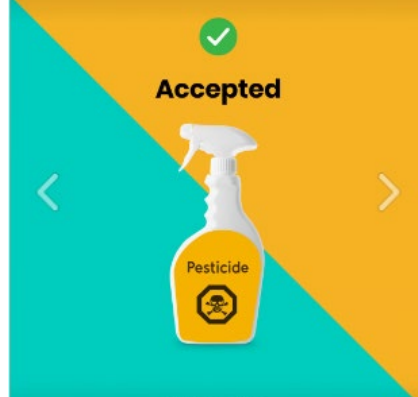
**HHW Safe Disposal** Find What Is ... [Learn more](#)

👍❤️ 2

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

**Reels** 

✓  
**Accepted**



productcarerecycling

[Learn more](#)

Drop off Household Hazardous Waste near you for safe disposal. Check what is a... more

👍❤️


🗨️

📍


👤

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

## Examples of Facebook Event ads

 **Product Care Recycling**  
Sponsored · 🌐

Drop off pesticides, toxics, corrosives, flammable liquids and more. Click below to learn more.



**Household hazardous waste drop off day**

SAT, OCT 14, 2023

**Household Hazardous Waste Event at Warman, SK**

501 Centennial Blvd

22 people interested

[Interested](#)

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

## Spotify

Audio script example:

*Fort Qu'Appelle's first Household Hazardous Materials Depot opens this May 1. Drop-off leftover hazardous materials to keep them out of your garbage, drains, and storm drains. It's free! Accepted items include pesticides, toxics, corrosives, and flammable liquids. The depot is next to the North Valley Waste Regional Landfill. For opening hours and a list of accepted items, visit [productcare.org/saskatchewan](http://productcare.org/saskatchewan)*

Preview:

The screenshot displays the Spotify mobile application interface. On the left is a dark navigation sidebar with icons for Home, Search, Your Library, Create Playlist, Liked Songs, and Your Episodes. The main content area features a 'Mood Booster' playlist with a cover image of a person blowing a pink bubble. Below the playlist title, it says 'Get happy with today's dose of feel-good songs!' and 'Spotify • 7,093,722 likes • 76 songs, 4 hr 3 min'. Below the playlist is a 'Recycle' advertisement with a yellow background, listing 'Flammable Liquids, Solvents, Pesticides, and more!' and showing images of cleaning products. At the bottom, a music player shows a track list with two items: '1 Name Artist 3,472,345 3:03' and '2 Name Artist 2,472,382 3:23'. The player controls at the very bottom show a play button, a progress bar from 0:00 to -0:30, and various control icons.

# Agriculture

Wednesday, April 18, 2023  
Sasktoday.ca  
A10

## Will yaks become farm niche?

One reason Canadian Prairie farmers have always managed to survive - at least as a collective - is their willingness to try new things.

While there are times the sector is criticized for not taking on new production technologies quickly enough, the barrier is often cost as opposed to general reluctance to adapt to something new.

You can go back to the emergence of corn tillage as an example. While the benefits might have been realized by research data, producers had press drills already, so there was a big cost associated with

the changeover to the new tech.

It's a similar consideration with autonomous machinery. It may well be easy to see the benefits - for example, reducing some pressures on finding trained operators for harvest equipment - but again producers have an equipment fleet and replacing it is a big cost.

By contrast, a new crop might come along - for example the hope over lupine, dating back to the 1990s. The markets never quite developed and interest waned, rather than quickly, but farmers could dedicate some acres to trying



**Agriculture THIS WEEK**  
Calvin Daniels

the crop with less input than some first generation machinery which makes a technological step forward.

It's the same on the livestock side, where through my years - first growing up on a farm and then covering the sector as a journalist for more than three

decades - producers have been willing to try a massive range of critters.

Through the years there has been big interest in ostrich and emu, elk, bison and fallow deer, red wattle and wild pig, Iberian goats, llamas, alpacas and now yaks.

Most of the 'next hot thing' fished away rather quickly - red wattle hogs and ostrich and fallow deer come to mind.

But others remained in at least continuing niche markets led by bison and Iberian goats.

So what about yaks? Who knows? A report at [www.producer.com](http://www.producer.com) noted interest in forming an association which would of course promote the animals, so that would be a start, but of course it ultimately comes down to creating market and ensuring supply. Irridities that are often too high for new farm prod-

ucts to scale.

Of course yak aren't exactly a new animal in domestication like bison and elk were. They have been farmed in other countries for years, so that too is a positive, so if having a registry to help monitor genetics - yep breeders can register with IVAK, the international yak association, and USYAK.

It's not likely yak will ever be a major ag sector in Canada, but could they be the next bison - a longstanding niche sector? Time will tell, but it is certain producers in Canada will be trying to make yak work here.

## Manitoba Farmer Wellness increases outreach effort

By Miranda Leybourne, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter (Brandon, Sask.)

It has been just over a year since Manitoba Farmer Wellness first opened. This year, the group is hoping to provide care for even more producers looking for help with their mental health.

Manitoba Farmer Wellness, created for farmers by farmers, was launched in March 2022 after Gerry Friesen, the organization's chief administrative officer, and other members of the board recognized a gap in the ability to access mental health services in the agriculture sector. The organization offers no-cost counselling and support to Manitoba farm families.

Last year, 120 spots were open for farmers and their family members who needed support with their mental health. The services include six free, confidential, one-on-one, one-hour counselling sessions with a registered counsellor who has a background in agriculture.

"Our goal this year is

to raise funds to help 100 farmers," Friesen said. "We've noticed a significant increase in people reaching out for services."

The organization raises money and pays for the counselling sessions on its own, which is why outreach and awareness is so important, Friesen said. From being active on social media to having a presence at Manitoba Ag Days in January, the more people that know about Manitoba Farmer Wellness, the better, he added.

One-quarter of all Manitobans deal with mental illness, according to a report released by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy. The Anxiety Disorders Association of Manitoba says one in four people will experience an anxiety disorder in their lifetime.

The University of Guelph's 2021 survey on mental health outcomes in agriculture noted that farmers are experiencing mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation at higher rates than the general population.

When you couple those statistics with farming, which Friesen said can often be an isolating job that is subject to the ups and downs of the season and the instability of Mother Nature, it's important that producers have where to turn when they find themselves struggling.

"If you don't need these services, good for you. But we all know someone that does, so let's make sure we spread the word. Let's make sure we tell others about this program," Friesen said.

A former producer who goes by the name "the Recovering Farmer" in his public speaking career, Friesen is no stranger to the challenges that mental health can throw at people. His career in farming and the stress involved in it contributed to his own mental health journey, and now he's passionate about talking to others to let them know that no matter how dark things seem, there is always hope, and that there is no shame in asking for help.

"There needs to be an outlet," Friesen said. "There needs to be a dedicated service."

Prototyping the role of



Gerry Friesen

that dedicated service and offering mental health counselling to farmers means that producers and their families who opt to take part in the six sessions Manitoba Farmer Wellness offers have a lot of groundwork covered to further their healing, Friesen said.

The group is able to change the lives of so many people thanks to

the generosity of personal donors, individual sales, businesses and community groups, who Friesen said, Manitoba Farmer Wellness could not exist without. Since the organization receives no government funding, donations of all sizes are incredibly helpful, he added.

"I went to the mall last week, and there

was a cheque in there for \$200," Friesen said. "I've received cheques from people I don't know, and just got a cheque. It's amazing."

At the same time the group's organizers are focusing on fundraising, they're also setting intake goals for next winter, Friesen said, in hopes of reaching even more people in the future.

### New HHW Depot Opening

Safely dispose of household hazardous materials in Yorkton  
Learn what is accepted at [productcare.org/saskatchewan](http://productcare.org/saskatchewan)



April 22, 10 AM - 1:30 PM

180 BALL RD, YORKTON, SK

After the opening event, regular hours will be:  
8:00am to 4:00pm Monday - Friday

