

Recycling is our business!

Recycling industry

The recycling industry generates over \$4.7 billion in economic benefits.

Companies that collect and process recyclable materials provide more than 10,000 direct jobs to Quebecers in all administrative regions of the province.

There are almost 620 companies involved in the residual materials field in Quebec, representing 42% of all companies active in the environmental industry and generating \$4.1 million in earnings.ⁱ

Packaging industry

In Canada, the packaging market is worth more than \$10 billion, with over half of that in the food sector.

The packaging market is in constant evolution. Worldwide, it totals approximately \$400 billion and employs about 5 million people in 100,000 companies. Packaging accounts for between 1% and 2% of the gross domestic product of industrialized countries.ⁱⁱ

Overall impact of municipal curbside recycling programs

- Total recycled materials recovered by municipalities in 2013: **More than 700,000 tonnes**
- A **65%** recovery rate of all recyclable materials in the residential sector.
- In 2000, that percentage **was only 21%**. Great progress was made in a short time, and Quebec is on track to meeting the Quebec government's objective to recover 70% of recyclable materials.
- **99%** of Quebec's population is served by curbside recycling services.

Curbside recycling = mass transit for recyclable materials!

Average recovery rate per class of materials in 2010ⁱⁱⁱ

- Total recovery rate in Quebec: **65%**
- Recovery rate per material:
 - Paperboard: **70.8%**
 - Glass: **82.1%**
 - Metal: **52.7%**
 - Plastic: **32.6%**



Financing of municipal curbside recycling programs

- Contrary to the popular belief that taxpayers pay most of the costs of residential curbside recycling, the 3,000 companies that put containers, packaging and printed matter on Quebec's market in fact foot the bill for 100% of the eligible net costs of municipal curbside recycling programs every year.
- That financial responsibility was established by the Environment Quality Act.
- Since 2005, companies have contributed almost \$1 billion to finance Quebec's curbside recycling system, including about \$135 million in 2014.

Since 2005, that financial contribution enabled the curbside recycling system to...

- Recover more than 5 million tonnes of recyclable materials, or the equivalent of:
 - ✓ More than 200 million large recycling bins (360 L)
 - ✓ Approximately 45 Olympic Stadiums!

- 2 million tonnes of greenhouse gases were avoided, or the equivalent of 440,000 fewer vehicles on the roads for a whole year!
- 550 municipal organizations receive an annual cheque to compensate for the curbside recycling services they provide. That cheque is written by RECYC-QUÉBEC from the funds Éco Entreprises Québec collects from contributing companies.

ⁱ Source: INSTITUT DE LA STATISTIQUE DU QUÉBEC. *Enquête québécoise sur l'industrie de l'environnement 2011*, Québec. Survey report published in June 2013. The data referred to herein apply to all companies involved in processing residual materials, whether they are involved in curbside recycling or non-recyclable materials processing.

ⁱⁱ Source: CONSEIL DE LA TRANSFORMATION AGROALIMENTAIRE ET DES PRODUITS DE CONSOMMATION *Guide de l'emballage alimentaire*.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source: ÉCO ENTREPRISES QUÉBEC and RECYC-QUÉBEC. *2010 Characterization of Residual Materials in Quebec's Residential Sector*.