

FOR RELEASE
December 7, 2017

Government of Yukon seeks feedback on changes to Designated Materials Regulation

During broad public consultation in 2014, the Government of Yukon heard overwhelming support from Yukoners for a more modern recycling system. As we prepare to amend the *Designated Materials Regulation* to improve our system, we ask Yukoners and industry to offer feedback on the proposed product categories and surcharges – as well as the timing for when these changes should come into effect.

The surcharges being proposed are the norm across Canada and Yukoners already pay them on many items purchased outside of the territory. In Yukon, the proposed surcharges will apply to electronic and electrical products (e-Waste) and tires at the point-of-purchase. In addition, tipping fees on these products would no longer be charged at solid waste facilities or depots. To keep a level playing field for Yukon businesses, we will put measures into place to collect surcharges from online retailers.

By updating our regulations, we can ensure that funds raised through surcharges stay in the territory to fund recycling programs here. They will also keep harmful metals and chemicals out of the landfills and reduce illegal dumping to preserve Yukon's wild spaces.

Yukoners can provide their feedback before February 1, 2018. For further information on public meetings and to complete the survey, visit engageyukon.ca.

Quotes

"We all have a role in the stewardship of our shared environment. These designated materials can leach harmful chemicals and metals into our soil and groundwater if not properly disposed of. We want to hear from Yukoners to ensure proposed regulations provide a sustainable recycling system that safeguards our environment."

–*Minister of Environment Pauline Frost*

"We look forward to speaking with Yukoners to ensure we implement the best recycling system for the territory. It's important that we all do our part to support recycling and make Yukon's waste management system more sustainable. Together, we can help maintain our natural environment now and into the future."

–*Minister of Community Services John Streicker*

Quick facts

- The *Designated Materials Regulation* has not been updated since its inception in 2003.
- The *Designated Materials Regulation* currently applies only to tires, with a \$5 surcharge on tires measuring 24.5 inches and less in diameter.
- In the 2014 consultation, 85 per cent of respondents supported adding surcharges to all tire sizes, and 80 per cent of respondents supported adding electronic and electrical products to the regulation.
- In most jurisdictions across Canada, industry-led recycling programs apply point-of-purchase surcharges. Over years, industry operators of recycling programs have developed efficiencies to help reduce costs.
- Costs of recycling in the North are significantly higher than southern jurisdictions due to the distance to recycling processors, costs of transport, smaller populations and generally less waste management infrastructure. This is why government-run stewardship programs try to balance the costs for consumers, while still providing the benefits a recycling system brings to our economy and environment.
- The engageyukon.ca website was launched in October 2017 as part of the Government of Yukon's new approach to public engagement. The site offers Yukoners a directory of initiatives that are presently available for comment. Visitors will also find completed engagements, including details about what feedback was received and how it helped shape each initiative.

Learn more:

Engage Yukon (engageyukon.ca)
Complete the survey

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News Release #17-262



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