

Did You Know?

The universal symbol for recycling is actually called a Mobius Loop. It consists of three arrows that loop back on themselves in a clockwise direction. When you find this symbol on a product, it typically means it can be recycled. However just because it can be recycled, does not mean that all municipalities collect these materials for recycling.

In April of 1970, the first Earth Day was held and a manufacturing company in Chicago sponsored a contest for their local art students. They were asked to design something to represent paper recycling, as this company was a leading user of recycled papers at that time. The first prize design, chosen from over 500 submissions, was of this three-chasing-arrows, also known as the Mobius Loop. Over the years, this symbol has become widely used as a recycling symbol. It typically means that the product or object is capable of being recycled, not necessarily that it will be accepted in all recycling collection systems.

But what, if anything, do those three arrows stand for? Many believe each arrow stands for one of the three Rs—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They are however, mistaken. Each arrow in the Mobius Loop represents one part of a three-step process that completes the recycling loop.



The first step is **collection**, wherein people take their recyclables to a drop-off centre or recycling depot. If the process stopped at the depot, it is not recycling, just collection. The other two parts of the loop must also be completed for the collected material to truly be considered recycled. From the collection point, these materials are then shipped to a manufacturing facility. The **remanufacturing** of the collected material, represents the second arrow in the Mobius Loop. The collected recyclable material is converted into new products and shipped to stores where they can be purchased by consumers. This third and final piece of the Mobius Loop completes the recycling loop through **resale**. Consumers purchase products made with recycled content, thereby creating a market for more recyclable materials. All three together complete the recycling loop.

If consumers do not choose products with recycled content, there may not be a market for potentially recyclable material. Manufacturers may charge, or possibly not even accept, the collected material. When we are asked by residents to add more, no-cost, material streams to our current recycling program, if there isn't a market where the collected material can be remanufactured and made into new items, we would only be technically collecting and storing the materials, not truly recycling. We will however, continue to pursue opportunities for new materials streams as markets open up. If we all buy recycled products, it will help create new markets!



Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038

Ph: 780.663.2038

50117 Range Road 173 (Secondary Highway 854)

Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

Ryley Landfill Hours:

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and STAS 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays **NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing**

Lindbrook Transfer Station Hours:

Tues 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Thurs 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Sat 10:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Tofield Transfer Station Hours:

Wed, Fri and Sat 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Viking Transfer Station Hours:

Tues 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sat 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kinsella Transfer Station Hours:

Wed 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fri 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.