

Recycling Center Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report

The role of Peterborough Recycling Center Advisory Committee (PRCAC) is to support and promote the Recycling Center's mission to protect human health, to protect the environment, and to conserve precious and dwindling resources through the proper and integrated management of solid waste. This is done by diverting as much as possible from our municipal waste stream by means of recycling, composting, community-based reuse, and public education; and, as market conditions allow, by creating revenue to defray operating costs of Peterborough's Recycling program.

Before the COVID-19 lockdown, the committee was in the process of targeting the public education and community-based reuse aspects of the Peterborough Recycling Center mission. The public information campaigns centered on efforts to help reduce operating costs as well as improve the quality of materials sold for recycling. An example identified was the improper drainage of laundry detergent bottles, which both takes additional man hours to clean and/or lowers the quality of the plastic to be recycled. The campaign for community-based reuse focused on ways the committee could relieve some of the Recycling Center's person hours dedicated to maintaining the Swap Shop through an additional volunteer capacity from the committee.

The PRAC also continues its efforts in the Peterborough Green Star certification program that publicly recognizes businesses that promote improved environmental stewardship through their waste reduction, education practices, and commitment to adaptability in five categories: conserve, reuse, recycle, educate, and innovate. We identified a couple businesses and planned to present awards during Greenerborough, however, due to the pandemic the award presentation has been delayed. We aim to distribute these awards publicly in 2021.

Through the lockdown the PRCAC halted in-person meetings. As restrictions continue to be lifted, the committee hopes to begin monthly in-person meetings again when it is safe to do so. At which time the previous mentioned efforts will be continued. The PRCAC does not have a budget.