

Solid Waste Management

The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010

Plan for Growth

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for regulating waste management, compliance, and the overall protection of human health and the environment. As such, the ministry has established requirements and practices for solid waste management in Saskatchewan, including issuing permits and approvals (to construct, expand and close a facility), reviewing monitoring results, inspections and enforcing legislation.

As knowledge and technology change, the ministry has adapted its solid waste management practices to reflect the mandate set out in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth 2020, which is to ensure infrastructure addresses the challenges of growth and protects the environment. All municipally owned landfills and transfer stations are permitted pursuant to *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations* and private and industrial landfills are permitted pursuant to *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* (EMPA 2010).

Applications and Permits

The ministry's results-based regulatory framework focuses on required environmental outcomes, emphasizes best practices, and encourages innovation by making operators accountable to find the best way to achieve or exceed the required outcomes. The Saskatchewan Environmental Code is an important part of the legal framework supporting the results-based approach. Although there are no current code chapters specific to landfills and transfer stations, the ministry provides guidance documents to assist with the design and operation of landfill and transfer station facilities.

Applications for design, operation, and closure of a waste disposal grounds or industrial waste works should be based on best practices as recognized by the ministry, which can include those of another jurisdiction, signed off by a qualified professional, and submitted to the assigned environmental protection officer for approval and inclusion in the permit.

What is solid waste?

Solid waste is any garbage, refuse, and other similar discarded material resulting from residential, commercial, institutional, agricultural, industrial sources, and from community activities. Solid waste can also refer to materials that are recycled or diverted from landfill.

How are waste management works regulated?

Municipal or government owned landfills are permitted under *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations*, (MRMR). All other landfills (e.g. private, industrial, or municipal accepting greater than 20 per cent industrial waste) are issued an Industrial Waste Works permit under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* (EMPA 2010).

How does the code apply to a landfill?

Landfills are required to follow certain chapters of the code for site closure and assessment of historical operations:

- Site Assessment Code Chapter - Landfills are considered potentially impacted sites and may require a site assessment to determine impacts to receptors such as groundwater or surface water.
- Corrective Action Plan Code Chapter – If the site assessment identifies that the site is an environmentally impacted site, then owners shall provide a corrective action to identify how the impacts will be addressed to ensure public safety and protection of the environment.

Other regulations to consider in solid waste management:

Landfill operating permits include conditions for recycling or rejecting hazardous waste as outlined in *The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations*. Permits also have conditions for reporting spills and discharges as per the Discharge and Discovering Reporting Code Chapter.

Solid waste management strategy:

The Government of Saskatchewan released a [Solid Waste Management Strategy](#) in early 2020. The strategy outlines a practical and sustainable strategy to achieve short- and long-term waste management goals over the next 20 years.

More information

Applicable legislation, and information about the code, is available online:

- [The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010](#)
- saskatchewan.ca/business/environmental-protection-and-sustainability/environmental-code
- [The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations](#)

Contact and References

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