productcare RECYCLING

SASKATCHEWAN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Submitted to:

Travis Keisig
Minister of Environment
Saskatchewan

2024 Annual Report
Submitted on June 27, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Saskatchewan Household Hazardous Waste Product Stewardship Program ("Program") is operated and managed by Product Care Association of Canada ("Product Care"). Product Care is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit product stewardship association formed in response to stewardship regulations and is governed by a multi-sector industry board of directors.

This annual report is prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in The Household Hazardous Waste Products Stewardship Regulations ("Regulation") issued under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 and Household Hazardous Waste Product Stewardship Program Plan ("Program Plan") approved by the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment on June 23, 2020. This report provides information for the period covering January 1 – December 31, 2024

The members of the Program are the obligated "first sellers" or "stewards" (manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) pursuant to the Regulation regarding the following product categories:

- Flammables materials
- Corrosives materials
- Toxics materials
- Physically hazardous materials
- Pesticides

The Program is funded by membership fees, known as Environmental Handling Fees (EHFs), remitted to Product Care by its members based on the volume of sales of designated Program Products in or into the province. In some cases, retailers recover this expense as a separate visible EHF to consumers. The EHF rates are set by Product Care. Program revenues are applied to the operation of the Program, including administration, communication and outreach, collection, transport, and processing of collected Program Products, as well as the maintenance of a reserve fund.

Product Care operates product stewardship programs for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) or Hazardous & Special Products (HSP) in five other Canadian provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario and Quebec. Product Care also operates programs for paint in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland & Labrador; Lights in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI; and alarms in British Columbia. See the Product Care website at www.productcare.org for more information.

2. PROGRAM SUMMARY

Pursuant to Table 1 of the Regulations, The Program accepts the following categories of products ("Program Products"):

- Waste Household Hazardous Materials including
    - Flammable materials
    - Corrosive materials
    - Physically hazardous materials including explosives, but not including ammunition
    - Toxic materials; or
    - Environmentally hazardous materials including those materials that meet the criteria of being "toxic" and either "persistent" or "bioaccumulate"
- Pesticides

The Program offers collection services (collection sites and collection events) throughout the province where consumers can bring leftover Program Products. Collected products are shipped to a processor for treatment and responsible disposal.

The Program has established an advisory committee in Saskatchewan, composed of representatives from NGOs, local governments, and industry to allow various stakeholder input and feedback.

3. COLLECTION SYSTEM

At the launch of the Program, there were no permanent facilities in the province for the collection of HHW products. Recognizing the time required to establish collection sites, the Program committed to operating collection events in the interim. Due to the hazardous nature of some of the Program Products, establishing permanent collection sites presents significant challenges and takes considerable time. The collection of Program Products is best suited to sites already involved in waste management, such as transfer stations and landfills. Unlike the collection systems for other products, such as paper and packaging or beverage containers, the collection of Program Products has more stringent requirements including weather protection, security, and supervised collection service. Establishing collection sites typically requires zoning approvals, local authority approvals, and addressing other administrative and regulatory requirements.

In 2024, Product Care contracted with service providers and communities to provide five collection sites and 46 collection events across Saskatchewan. Consumers can drop off leftover Program Products at no charge at these sites and events throughout the province. Product Care continues to work on establishing permanent collection sites in Saskatchewan. Establishing collection sites remains a goal for the program, which in turn reduces the number of collection events needed yearly. Table 1 details the permanent collection sites and their locations with the City of Saskatoon onboarding in 2024.

Table 1: Location of Collection Sites

Collection Sites		
Depot Name	City	Location
City of Regina Household Hazardous Materials Depot	Regina	Donald St in the Northeast Quadrant
North Valley Waste Regional Landfill	R.M. of North Qu'Appelle	NW 1/4 21-21-13 W2W
QM Environmental Saskatoon Waste Transfer Facility	Saskatoon	818 48th St. East
City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon	Valley Road
SaskAbilities (Yorkton Branch)	Yorkton	180 Ball Road

The program operated 46 collection events in 2024, held across 39 communities. Some communities held multiple collection events during the year. Depending on the community, some collection events collected other products (Non-Program Products) in addition to Program Products. Table 2 details the communities serviced by collection events in 2024.

Table 2: Location of Collection Events held in 2024

Communities	
Aberdeen	Maple Creek
Assiniboia	Martensville
Canora	Meadow Lake
Corman Park	Melville
Cut Knife	Moose Jaw
Dalmeny	Muskoday
Delisle	Nipawin
Duck Lake	Onion Lake
Emerald Park	Paddockwood
Esterhazy	Patuanak
Estevan	Potash Corp-Allan Mine
Gallivan	Potash Vanscoy Mine
George Gordon FN	Prince Albert
Hague	Raymore
Humboldt/Watrous	Rosetown
Indian Head	Shell Lake
Kipling	Swift Current
Lac La Ronge	Warman
Lanigan	Weyburn
Maidstone	

4. COLLECTIONS

COLLECTION VOLUMES

Residual recovery volume represents the estimated liquid volume, measured in litres, of liquid Program Products recovered by the Program. Table 3 shows the estimated residual recovery volume of flammable, toxic, corrosive, and pesticide Program Products collected in 2024.

The collection, packaging, transportation and processing of hazardous waste is dictated by Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulation (TDGR) and waste management options. As a result, in some instances, some product categories are comingled such as toxics and pesticides. Environmentally hazardous materials are collected and managed under other product categories such as toxics.

Table 3: Estimated Residual Recovery Volume of Program Products Collected in 2024 (Litres)

Product Category	Total[1] (L)
Flammables[1]	3,808
Corrosives[1]	2,077
Toxics Incl. Pesticides[1]	3,173
Total	**9,057**

Table 4 shows the estimated number of units of pressurized Program Products collected in 2024.

Product Category	Total (units)
Other Aerosol[2]	14,525
Physically Hazardous Products	3,042
Total	**17,567**

Collection volumes do not accurately reflect the program's performance since these are consumable products, and the program adheres to the "BUD" rule (see Section 5). The program's primary focus is on making services accessible to communities that express interest or prioritize HHW services within their community.

5. PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

The objective of the Program is to minimize the improper disposal of Program Products by providing an accessible collection system and ensuring that the collected materials are recycled, treated or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Product Care strives to manage collected products in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy. Product management and the application of the pollution prevention hierarchy varies by product.

5.1. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

Over the past 5 to 10 years, the consumer chemical industry has made notable progress in reducing the toxicity and improving the recyclability of household hazardous products. Manufacturers are reformulating products such as oven cleaners, and pesticides by replacing harmful chemicals with safer, more environmentally responsible alternatives, prioritizing both user safety and environmental protection.

This shift is supported by findings from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which highlights a clear industry trend toward reformulation, safer ingredients, and improved labeling. According to the U.S. EPA, consumer demand for products labeled as non-toxic, biodegradable, or derived from renewable resources has accelerated industry innovation and the adoption of greener alternatives.

As a result, the household hazardous and special products sector is undergoing a meaningful transition. Products are becoming safer to use, less harmful to dispose of, and more aligned with broader sustainability goals. These efforts reflect an industry-wide response to changing regulations, consumer expectations, and the need for greater environmental responsibility.

Processors are selected based on several factors, including regulatory compliance, location of operations, processing capacity, processing methods, competitiveness, downstream markets, and conformity with Product

[1] *Residual volume collected is calculated by taking the weight of materials provided by the processor and removing container weights (based on standard container weights as determined by Product Care). The weight of the material is multiplied by the average estimated density of the specific materials obtained from SDS specifications.*

[2] *"Other Aerosol" includes flammable, corrosive and toxic aerosols.*

Care requirements. All processors are required to comply with federal and provincial regulatory requirements, as well as Product Care's requirements.

Product Care's end-of-life management protocols employ the following hierarchy to minimize impacts on the environment: reduction, recycling, and disposal in an environmentally responsible manner. Reuse is not an option for HHW. Due to the wide range in composition and properties of HHW products, different management methods are used for different products.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are considered in the management of the program. Product Care encourages service partners to implement "milk runs", optimize collection routes to minimize transportation costs and reduce GHG emissions wherever possible with respect to transportation and collection activities. Product Care requires service providers to adhere to established best practices in the recycling and disposal of HHW to ensure optimal outcomes, including the safe recycling or final disposal of these materials. Product Care is in consultation about developing a standardized method for tracking GHG emissions across all stages of the program: collection, transport, and treatment.

Product Care encourages consumers to buy the right amount of consumable products for their needs to reduce waste. The "BUD" Rule is Product Care's primary message, where consumers are encouraged to:

- Buy no more than you need.
- Use all that you buy; and
- Dispose of leftovers safely.

The following section outlines the product management processes employed by the Program for each product category.

FLAMMABLE MATERIALS

Given the nature and mixed composition of flammable materials, it is not economically viable or feasible to reuse or recycle flammable liquids. Instead, leftover flammable materials were blended and sent for energy recovery.

CORROSIVE MATERIALS

Corrosive materials were neutralized and chemically treated; any resulting neutralized liquid is either discharged to sanitary sewers under a permit or deep well, and benign solids securely landfilled. Corrosive aerosols were evacuated, propellants were absorbed by activated carbon, and the corrosive liquids were managed as noted above.

TOXIC MATERIALS

Toxic materials were sent for incineration at high temperatures in a government-regulated and permitted incinerator. Toxic aerosols were evacuated, propellants were absorbed by activated carbon, and the toxic liquid was sent for incineration.

PESTICIDES

Pesticides were incinerated at licensed facilities and at temperatures high enough to avoid creating hazardous by-products. Pesticide aerosols were evacuated, propellants absorbed by activated carbon, and the residual pesticides were sent for incineration.

PHYSICALLY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (FUEL CYLINDERS)

Fuel from fuel cylinders was sent for energy recovery. Containers from fuel cylinders were sent for metal recycling.

CONTAINERS

All metal containers were recycled as scrap metal. Plastic containers containing flammable or corrosive liquids were either recycled or sent to landfills depending on the type of plastic and the level of contamination. Plastic containers that contain toxic materials are incinerated along with their contents.

5.2. SUMMARY OF VOLUMES PROCESSED BY PROCESSING METHOD

Table 5 summarizes the estimated amount and management options utilized for each product category.

Table 5: Estimated amount of Program Product and Product Management

	Product Management				
Product Category	Reused	Recycled	Energy Recovery	Incinerated	Treated[3]
Flammable Liquids & Gasoline (Litres)			3,808		
Toxics (including pesticides) (Litres)				3,173	
Corrosives (Litres)					2,077
Physically Hazardous Products (Units)			3,042		
Aerosols (Units)			14,525		
Total (Litres)			3,808	3,173	2,077
Total (Units)			17,567		

6. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Consumers are an integral component of the recycling ecosystem; without their participation, responsible end-of-life management of household hazardous waste (HHW) products cannot be achieved. For this reason, a concerted communications strategy must be deployed to ensure consumers of regulated products:

1. Are aware that the product can be recycled or safely disposed of; and
2. Know how and where to do so.

In 2024, Product Care Recycling implemented a focused set of awareness and education activities aligned with these objectives, tailored to the unique geographical and logistical considerations of the Saskatchewan HHW program.

6.1. STRATEGY

Communication activities are highly localized and emphasize digital strategies. Campaigns prioritize precision over scale, ensuring messaging reaches consumers in relevant areas when and where it was most needed.

Our communications strategy was built around two key pillars:

- **Localized outreach:** Messages were geographically targeted to consumers near permanent collection sites and temporary round-up events.
- **Product-specific education:** Creative assets highlighted HHW product categories (e.g., flammables, pesticides, non-refillable pressurized containers), emphasizing safe and responsible disposal methods in accessible, user-friendly language.

6.2. ACTIVITIES

6.2.1. INFORMATION HUB

Product Care Recycling maintains productcare.org as the primary source of HHW program information for Saskatchewan residents. The website provides:

Recycling locator:

[3] *For more information on the treatment of these products, please refer to section 5.*

Interactive map displaying the locations of all HHW collection sites and collection events within the province, along with their hours of operation and contact information.

Program information:

- Listing of accepted and non-accepted products, along with tips for drop-off
- Environmental Handling Fees

Product information:

- Topical content related to environmental issues and waste management
- Videos describing the HHW management process

6.2.2. POINTS OF SALE (POS) AND POINTS OF RETURN (POR)

To support localized awareness, printed materials such as posters, brochures, and event flyers were offered free of charge through the Product Care website. Retailers and collection sites were encouraged to order and display these materials to educate consumers at the point of purchase and disposal. For HHW events, customized flyers were created to drive attendance and explain which products were accepted at each.

6.2.3. DIGITAL ADVERTISING (SEARCH, DISPLAY, VIDEO, AND SOCIAL MEDIA)

A targeted digital campaign was executed using Google Ads (Search, Display, and Video formats) and Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram). Ads were geo-targeted exclusively to the communities with permanent collection sites, ensuring optimal ad spend and message relevance. These campaigns focused on:

- Raising awareness of specific HHW product categories
- Directing consumers to the website to find local collection sites and events

6.2.4. FACEBOOK EVENT ADVERTISING FOR HHW EVENTS

To promote mobile collection events, Facebook Event ads were deployed locally two weeks prior to each event. These ads effectively reached nearby residents with timely, actionable information, including event location, time, and accepted materials. This tactic helped drive attendance and ensured that consumers were aware of the opportunity in their area.

6.3. PROGRAM HOTLINE

Product Care continued to operate a toll-free "hotline" for consumers to obtain information about the Program.

6.4. PARTNERSHIPS

Product Care is a founding member and has continued to participate in Recycle Saskatchewan (RS), an informal alliance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in Saskatchewan connected by a shared goal to:

- Share best practices on extended producer responsibility
- Collaborate on projects

Product Care is an Associate Member of the Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan (ARWMAS) and participates in ARWMAS's bi-monthly meetings to share updates on the Program, provide information to Saskatchewan's regional waste authorities and receive feedback on the program.

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A summary of the Program's financials for 2024 is provided in Table 6. The financials detail the total amount of recycling fees collected by the Program and the amount spent to operate the Program, including communications and administration costs[4].

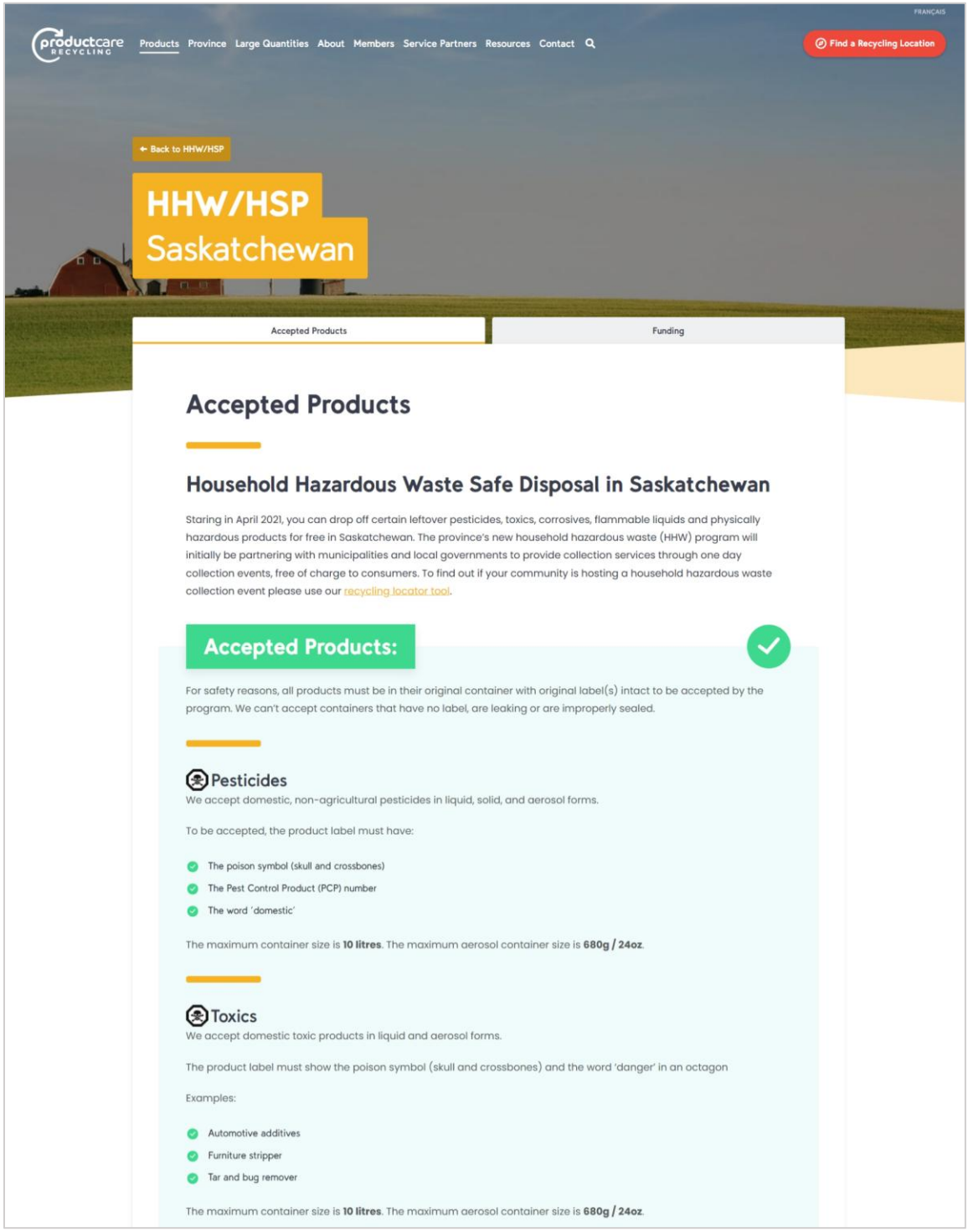
Table 6: Financial Summary 2024

2024 Revenue and Expenses	$
Total Revenue	414,020
Program Operations	202,183
Program Administration	53,291
Education, Public Awareness & Communications	18,221
Total Operating Expenses	273,695
Surplus / Deficit	140,325
Cumulative Surplus (Reserve)	394,245

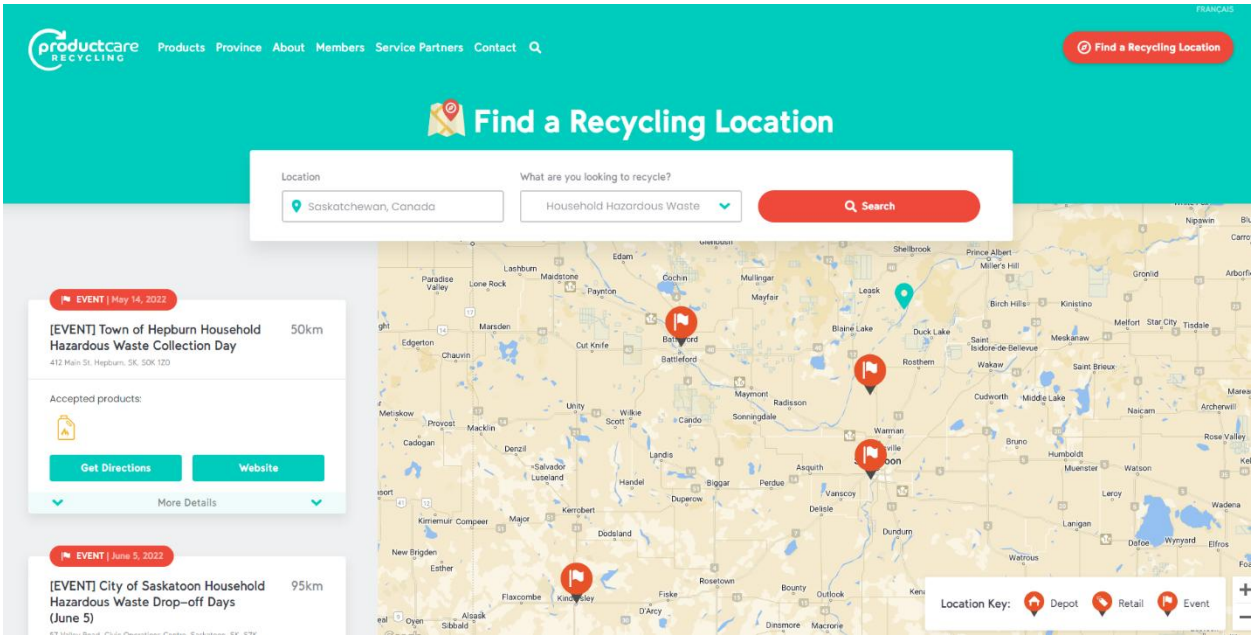
[4] *The Program does not utilise recycling incentives and therefore none were paid out.*

APPENDIX A: WEBSITE

PROGRAM PAGE

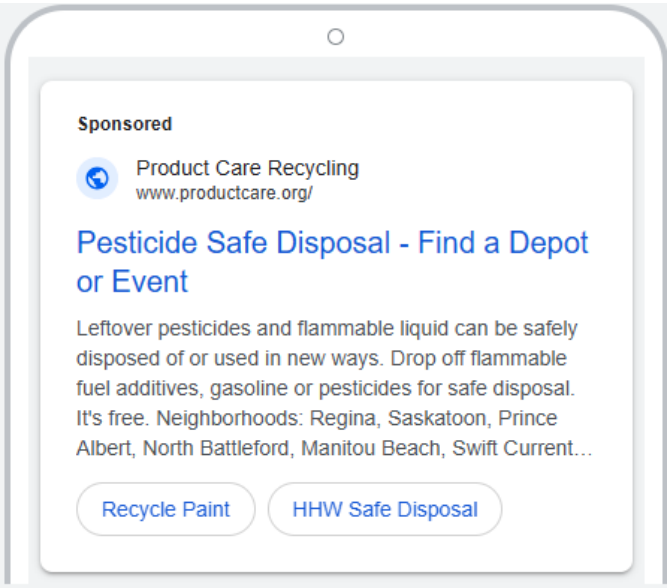


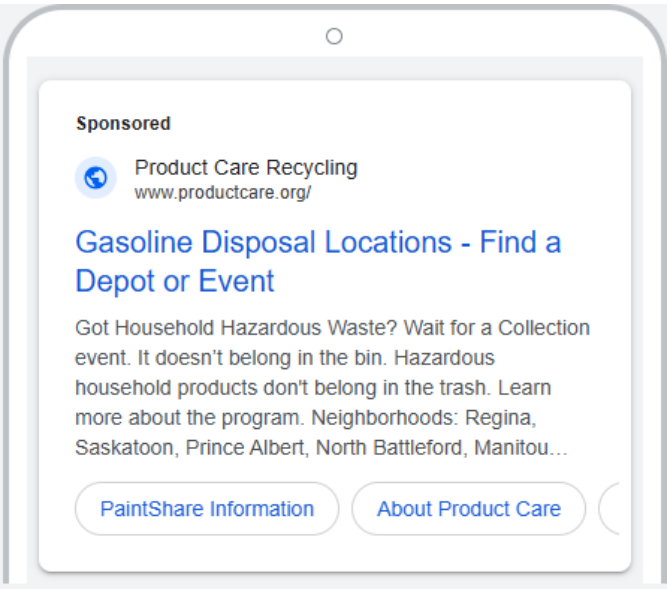
COLLECTION SITE FINDER



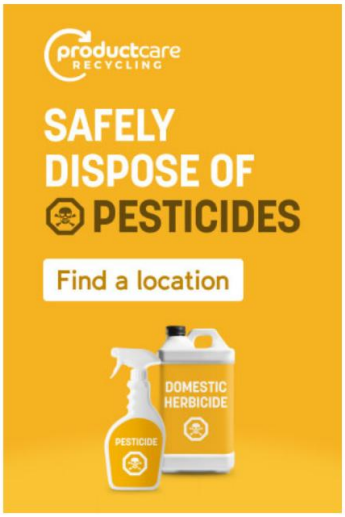
APPENDIX B: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

TEXT ADS – USED FOR GOOGLE SEARCH (EXAMPLES)

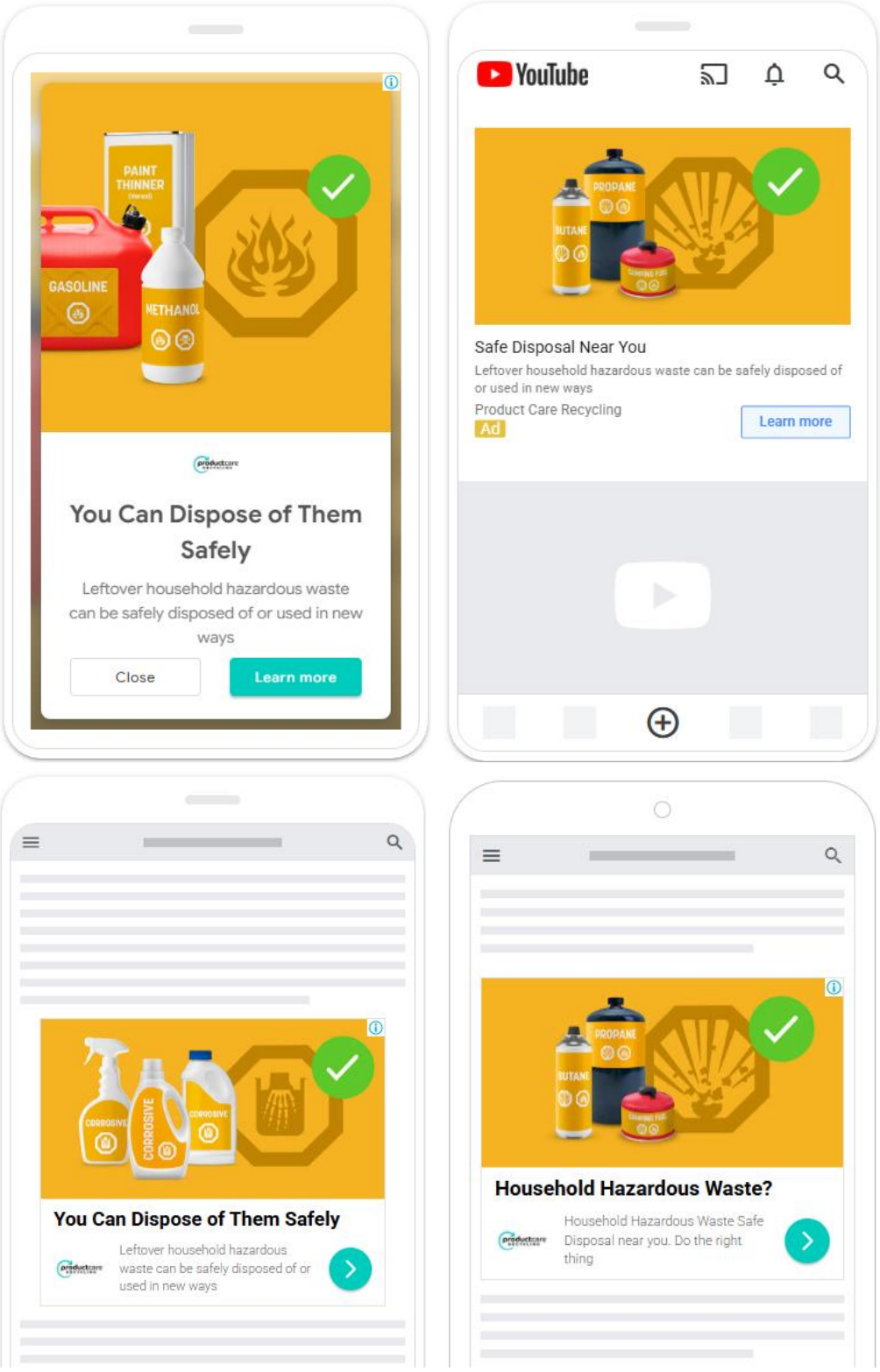




BANNER ADS – USED FOR GOOGLE DISPLAY

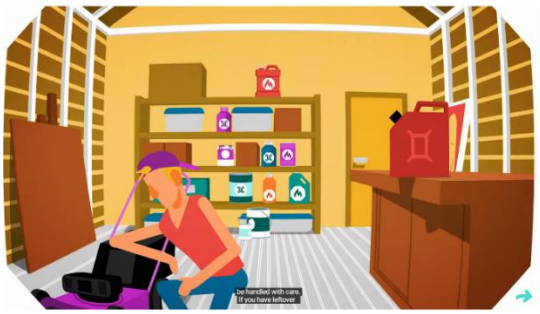


RESPONSIVE ADS – USED FOR GOOGLE DISPLAY



VIDEOS – USED FOR GOOGLE DISPLAY, YOUTUBE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADS

HHW General 15" (watch)

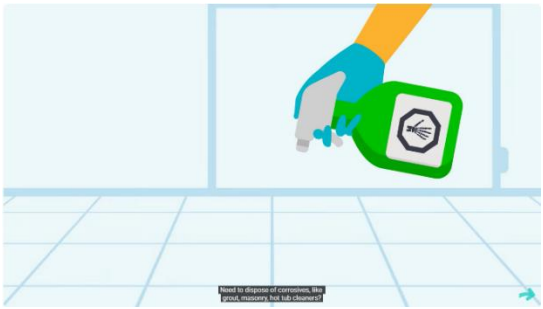


HHW Explainer video (watch)

Flammable liquids (watch)

Physically hazardous (watch)

Corrosives (watch)

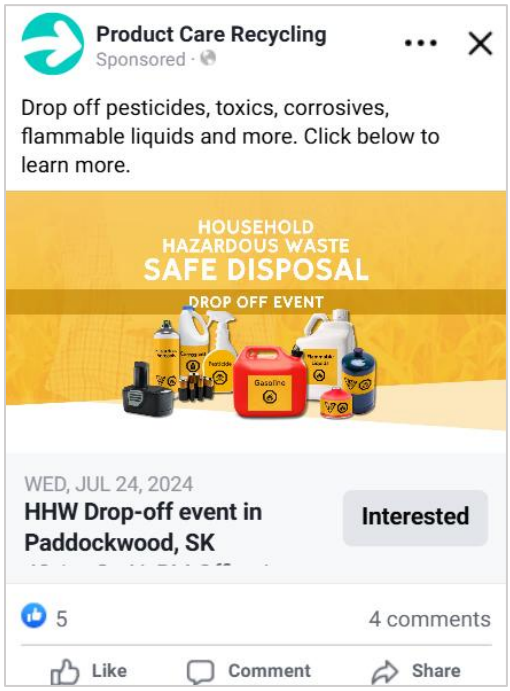


Solvents (watch)

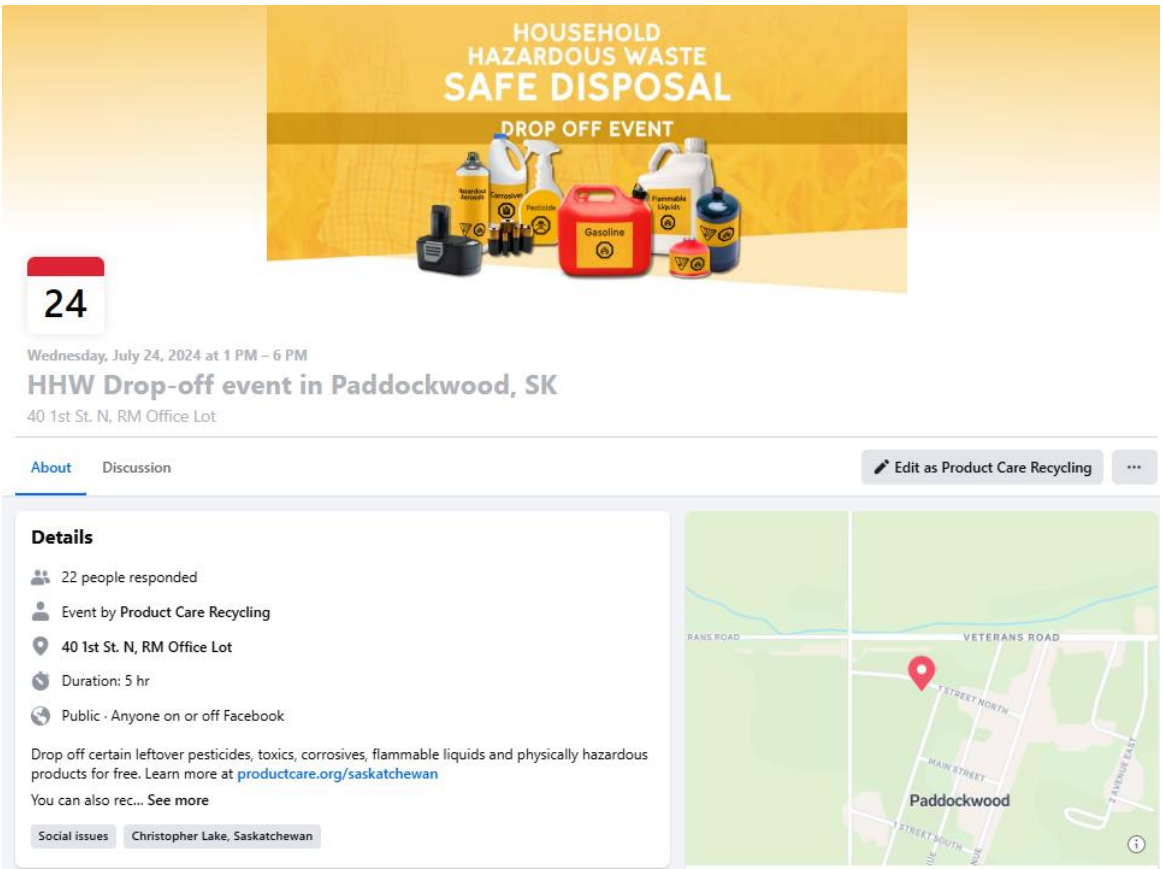
Pesticides (watch)

Toxics (watch)

FACEBOOK EVENT ADS



Event ad Open



RESPONSIBLE, TOGETHER.

productcare.org