

Recycling centre usage continues upwards in Olds

Paul Frey, Olds Albertan, February 2, 2010

Olds and area residents are continuing to do a better job in their recycling efforts according to recently obtained statistics from the [Mountain View Waste Management Commission](#). The statistics are based on population numbers from 2006.

"It's increasing monthly and we really have to commend the citizens of the community for taking a strong initiative and making use of our new recycling centre by diverting as much recyclable material away from our landfill as possible. It's absolutely phenomenal," said Mary Jane Harper, Olds' representative on the MVWMC.

Olds residents recycled 47.2 metric tonnes of cardboard during the month of December 2009 and the first two weeks of January. Residents also recycled 34.9 tonnes of mixed paper, 6.6 tonnes of plastics, 4.2 tonnes of newspaper and 2.5 tonnes of tin cans during the same period.

Harper said the town has also received several compliments from other municipalities regarding the layout of the new recycling centre on 49 Avenue.

For the year ended in December, Olds residents recycled 1,542 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste, representing 212.81 kilograms per capita. Included in that figure was 699.81 metric tonnes of compost, or 96.55 kilograms per capita.

Harper said all residents should be commended for their efforts and hopes the trend continues.

One of the downsides of the new recycling centre, however, is that because it is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, is that some people abuse the privilege and pile non-recyclable material such as large bags full of garbage next to the bins.

As a result, the town's operations staff is currently working on a plan to combat the abuse, which should be going into effect in the upcoming months.