



Background Information Stewardship (OTS)

Rethink your relationship with tires

About Ontario Tire

Did you know that...

- Over 12 million tires are sold every year in Ontario
- Over 90 percent of all tires contain non-biodegradable materials such as synthetic rubber, oil, polyester and steel, which could be a burden on our environment if improperly managed
- Up to **four** tires can be recycled for free at registered collectors at any time, during regular business hours
- Recycling four tires can save the energy equivalent of 18 gallons of gasoline and reduces greenhouse emissions by 146 kg (323 lbs) of CO2 equivalent (Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries)
- Your old, used tires can be responsibly disposed of through OTS and turned into new, green products for your home, garden and community spaces

OTS Program Facts

Ontario Tire Stewardship is an Industry Funded Organization (IFO) established by Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) to support the development, implementation and operation of a diversion program for used tires in Ontario. Its primary objective is to foster the implementation of a sustainable used tire stewardship program in the province of Ontario.

- In 2017, OTS celebrated a major milestone: diverting over 100 million of Ontario's used tires
- There are about 7,000 registered tire collection locations across the province where Ontario drivers can drop off up to four tires for free. For a full list of locations, visit [RethinkTires.ca](https://www.rethinktires.ca).
- To date, OTS has cleaned up more than 1.6 million tires in piles across the province.
- Through the Used Tires Program, old tires are transformed into a variety of eco-friendly products including patio tiles, rubber mulch, gym flooring and floor underlay.
- The program is funded through the Tire Stewardship Fee – a fee paid by tire manufacturers and importers to OTS in order to cover the costs of responsibly diverting tire waste through the Used Tires Program.

Since the introduction of the Program in 2009, OTS has made significant investments in the Ontario tire recycling industry, including Research & Development (R&D), which has driven more **\$40 million dollars of new investments**, innovation in Ontario's green sector, and created hundreds of new jobs in the province.

OTS Supporting Innovation

OTS and the Used Tires Program support innovation through partnerships with several Recycled Product Manufacturers including:

- [Heffco](#) - Rubber mulch doesn't fade, compress, or rot. This makes it cleaner and safer for gardens, landscaping, and playgrounds than traditional mulch.

- [SofSURFACES](#) - SofTILE is a durable, slip-resistant playground surface made entirely of recycled materials.
- [National Rubber Technologies \(NRT\)](#) – Pro-Fit Athletic flooring is made from recycled tires and is durable and non-slip.
- [Enviroshake](#) – Enviroshake roof shakes look like cedar shingles but last longer, are fire resistant and cost-effective.
- [Multy Home](#) - Multy Home's envirotile™ patio tiles are made entirely of recycled tires. They are used as patios, pathways and decorative accents in gardens.
- [Eco-Flex](#) – Eco-Flex's innovative paving stones and bricks are made from recycled tire rubber, and are suitable for patio paving, driveway applications and sidewalk surfacing.
- [North West Rubber](#) – Made of 100% recycled tire rubber RedBarn rubber mat products are highly durable and slip and weather resistant, making them ideal for use in high-impact applications such as agricultural and recreational use.
- [Fabricushion](#) – Fabricushion offers a range of carpet cushion and acoustical underlayment products made from recycled rubber products that are durable and easy to install, and help improve sound shock and sound absorption and comfort.
- [Shercom](#) – Offers a selection of recycled rubber landscaping, paving and playground surfacing solutions that are more durable than alternative solutions, and easier to maintain, making them ideal for patios, decks, sidewalks, driveways and around pools/trampolines and play areas.

OTS in the Community

Community Renewal Fund

- Launched in 2011, the Community Renewal Fund (formerly Community Grant Program) is a funding program that is available to help Ontario community groups *think green, build green and grow green*.
- OTS supports local communities by offering eligible organizations grants of up to \$50,000 of Ontario-made products containing recycled tire rubber.
- Ontario communities invest considerable resources to support recycling as a way to protect our environment. The Community Renewal Fund provides an opportunity for communities to use and benefit from a wide range of Ontario-manufactured products made from recycled tires.
- Past grant recipients include [Kawartha Village Co-op](#), [City of Vaughan](#), and [Pathways Health Centre for Children](#).
- The 2017 Community Renewal Fund program is now open and accepting applications. Visit RethinkTires.ca if you have a community project in the works that might benefit from this sustainable grant initiative.

Community partnerships:

- OTS has worked with organizations that promote sustainability including [Earth Rangers](#) and [YMCA of Greater Toronto](#) in an effort to help educate children and parents on tire recycling and recycled tire products.
- For the eighth year in a row, OTS is partnering with Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association (OARA) to host the OARA Tire Take Back Collection Events, allowing Ontario residents to drop off as many used tires as they want for free at participating OARA locations.
- In 2016, over 64,000 tires were collected through these events and over \$117,000 was raised for The Sunshine Foundation.

OTS Student Design Challenge

- In this intensive competition, post-secondary students from across the province break into teams to come up with innovative design concepts using recycled tire products.
- Students are mentored by seasoned judges in the architecture and landscaping space. Past judges have included Assistant Professor at University of Toronto Elise Shelley and Toronto-based industrial designer, Lee Fletcher.
- The design brings community members together and allows design students to have their designs implemented, rather than remaining conceptual.
- The 2016 Design Challenge was a huge success, where students assembled at [Artscape Youngplace](#) in Toronto, to view and study the area to be redesigned with the use of recycled rubber products. The winning landscape design will be the inspiration for the site's revitalization, with construction anticipated to being in the Spring of 2017.
- A past challenge includes Toronto Central Grosvenor St. YMCA Centre, where the winning team was able to implement their winning design in the concourse area.