



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT  
INSTITUTE OF CANADA

## OPEIC Consumer FAQs

### **Where can I take my electrical outdoor power equipment for recycling?**

Visit [www.opeic.ca](http://www.opeic.ca) and enter your city or postal code in the depot finder to find a location near you that includes the location's address, map and hours of operation.

### **What products can I recycle?**

OPEIC currently accepts outdoor power equipment, ranging in size from hand-held brush cutters and chain saws to pressure washers and lawn mowers. Products are divided into categories including: hand-held, walk behind, free-standing and lawn tractors. Visit [www.opeic.ca/accepted-products.html](http://www.opeic.ca/accepted-products.html) to see a complete list of what you can recycle.

### **What should I do with my products that don't qualify for recycling with OPEIC?**

Programs such as [ElectroRecycle](#), [ESABC](#), [Call2Recycle](#) and [Recycle My Cell](#) are available to recycle other types of electrical products.

For information on other recycling options for products not accepted by OPEIC, call the [Recycling Council of B.C.'s Hotline](#) at **1-800-667-4321** or download the convenient BC Recyclepedia Smart Phone App.

### **What to do with electrical products that are still in good condition?**

If an electrical product is still functional and is in relatively good condition, consider trying to find it a second home before dropping it off for recycling. Possible avenues include family members, friends, neighbours, a garage sale, thrift stores, charities, or classifieds sites such as [Craigslist](#), [Kijiji](#), [Freecycle](#), or the [Recycling Council of B.C.'s reuse sites](#).

### **What about gas-powered outdoor power equipment products?**

Many OPEIC collection sites also accept old or broken fuel-powered outdoor power equipment products. Please check for more details on your nearby OPEIC collection site at [www.opeic.ca](http://www.opeic.ca). **Gasoline and oil should be drained and removed from these products prior to taking them to a collection site.** For gasoline disposal, see [productcare.org/BC-Paint-Program](http://productcare.org/BC-Paint-Program) and for oil disposal, see [usedoilrecycling.com](http://usedoilrecycling.com).

### **What about component parts?**

If component parts have enough metal content to be considered scrap metal, the collection site would accept these materials.



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### **Why is there an Environmental Handling Fee on electric outdoor power equipment and not gas-powered?**

Environmental Handling Fees (EHFs) only apply to electronic/electrical products (battery or corded). While EHFs are not applied to fuel-powered equivalents, these products are accepted at many of the program's collection sites.

### **Why doesn't the fee pay for someone to pick up my outdoor power equipment for me?**

The OPEIC program is operated through a network system of accessible drop-off collection sites within the province. A curbside collection program would significantly increase program costs. Blue box and other curb-side recycling programs are paid for and managed by local governments and generally do not include products such as pressure washers, electric grass trimmers or electric movers. Much of the electric outdoor power equipment is too large for the blue boxes.

### **Do I get a refund when I recycle my electrical products (similar to bottle returns)?**

The recycling fee is not a deposit, so you won't get a refund when you recycle an electrical product. However, there is no charge to drop-off your electrical products at any OPEIC drop-off location.

### **What is the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada (OPEIC) Recycling Program?**

OPEIC is the only government-approved outdoor power equipment recycling program in B.C. As of July 1, 2012, British Columbians are able to recycle products ranging from chain saws, garden sprayers and lawn mowers to pressure washers, mulchers and wood chipper.

### **Who is OPEIC?**

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada (OPEIC) is a non-profit organization representing the outdoor power equipment industry in Canada that has developed a stewardship program for recycling old or broken electrical outdoor power equipment.

### **When will it begin?**

The program began July 1st.



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### **Why is it being introduced now?**

The provincial government has mandated that electric outdoor power equipment manufacturers and retailers must recover and recycle their products. A recycling program for outdoor power equipment has been developed by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada (OPEIC), which started on July 1, 2012.

### **How is the program funded?**

Like most other recycling programs operating in BC, this program is funded by a recycling fee applied on the sale of new products brought into the province by manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

This fee was introduced on July 1st, 2012 to support the management of this new program. OPEIC is a non-profit program that operates on a long-term cost-recovery basis. Retailers, manufacturers and distributors do not make a profit from these programs.

The costs of responsible recycling programs ultimately affect the price of the products we buy.

### **Is there a tax on the Environmental Handling Fee?**

The environmental handling fee is subject to sales tax, as it is considered to be a part of the price of regulated products. While the applicable tax is remitted to the government, no part of the environmental handling fee itself is remitted to the government.

### **How are recycling fees set?**

Recycling fees were determined by OPEIC based on industry-best practices and other factors including:

- Total product weight per category
- Costs of program administration
- Product sales and forecasts

Fees will be reviewed during the first two years of program operation and will be re-adjusted if necessary.

### **How can I get more information about OPEIC?**

If you don't see your question here, just email us directly to [info@opeic.ca](mailto:info@opeic.ca) and we'll make sure to get back to you. You can also call the [Recycling Council of B.C.'s](#) Recycling Hotline at 1-800-667-4321.