



Canada: Innovative Asphalt Recycling for Ontario Roads

Ruth Williamson
Brian Pfeiffer
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Overview

Recent technological innovations have catapulted asphalt recycling to the forefront in greening and cost-saving initiatives, and as a consequence it is garnering worldwide recognition, notice and acclaim. According to Joe Tiernay, Executive Director of the Ontario Good Roads Association, road authorities are free to experiment with any type of asphalt or methodology they feel will meet their needs and specifications. For example, many municipalities in the Province of Ontario are experimenting with asphalt recycling.

Asphalt recycling is a process whereby dilapidated road segments are broken down, reconstituted and re-used which minimizes waste, as well as material and transportation costs. Various forms of asphalt recycling exist including: Cold, Full Depth, Hot-In-Place, and Hot. For more information access the following link: <http://www.arra.org/>.

Canadian road specifications are set by the governing road authority. In other words, if the road is owned by the municipality, the municipality sets the specifications. If it is owned by the province, then the province sets the specs. The Federal Government owns very few roads.

Widely accepted engineering standards exist for road specs depending on the class of the road in question. Obviously higher volume roads are built to a higher specification than local low volume roads. In Ontario, municipalities generally follow the standards used by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in determining road class and construction specifications.

Ontario municipalities do not purchase their own resurfacing equipment. The same is true for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. Both the municipalities and the province of Ontario contract out road resurfacing to the private sector.

Implications and Opportunities for U.S. Firms

Suppliers of asphalt recycling equipment interested in entering the Canadian market should note that each January the Ontario Good Roads Association holds an Asphalt Rehabilitation and Preservation Workshop in Mississauga, Ontario. The two-day event attracts over 300 participants. It includes presentations by key decision makers, as well as a trade show where companies have the opportunity to meet and interact with local purchasers, contractors and government officials. Interested parties should contact the Ontario Good Roads Association at (905) 795-2555, or visit the organization on-line at <http://www.ogra.org/home.asp>.

Road repair and resurfacing is done at the provincial, regional, and municipal levels. Contractors bid on tenders that are awarded based upon competitive pricing, quality, and specifications. Tenders can come from all three levels of government, and are advertised on MERX Canadian Public Tenders (www.merx.com). Contractors are required to have all necessary equipment and are responsible for their own purchases. A list of registered contractors operating in Ontario can be found at: <https://www.raqsa.mto.gov.on.ca/login/raqs.nsf/English/Graphic/fmViewApprovedContractors?OpenForm>

In Ontario, The Road Authority (<http://www.roadauthority.com/home.asp>) works to bring together distributors, manufacturers and suppliers of infrastructure products and services with the municipal and provincial governments that use them. Registration with The Road Authority, a fee based service, enables interested parties to display products and services within the on-line information resource system.

Resources & Contacts

Asphalt Recycling and Reclaiming Association (ARRA)
Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)
Ontario Ministry of Transportation

For More Information

The U.S. Commercial Service in Toronto, Canada can be contacted via e-mail at: ruth.williamson@mail.doc.gov; Phone: (416) 595-5412, ext. 238; Fax: (416) 595-5419; or visit our website: www.buyusa.gov/canada.

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