

Connector

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RCA

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"Under the Big Top" RCA/CCS Joint Conference

The last week of September saw over 600 participants descend upon *The Castle in the Rockies* – aka The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel – to discuss issues related to waste reduction and stewardship. This event was the culmination of a year of planning and partnership on the part of the Recycling Council of Alberta and Conference on Canadian Stewardship. Both groups saw the benefits of bringing their respective organizations together to share learning and networking on a widely diverse range of topics, from The Sharing Economy to Business Perspectives on Stewardship.

Groups took advantage of the opportunity to bring people together from across the country to hold pre- and post-conference meetings, seeing Banff buzzing with activity related to recycling and stewardship the whole week. One example was the CCME Workshop on Consistency of Key Elements of EPR Programs, held on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The conference kicked off Wednesday morning with tours of the Banff N-Viro Organics Processing Facility and Canmore MRF, and a workshop on tracking Corporate Sustainability. After lunch, delegates were fully immersed into the topic at hand with a series of concurrent sessions ranging from Waste Reduction to Measurement and Accountability. Making sure to balance the social aspect of the conference, and introducing the overall theme, the first official conference evening event featured a Carnival Midway Reception, complete with clowns, acrobats, corn dogs, and even cotton

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Connector

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continued from title page



candy. Teams competed in a series of hilarious acrobatic endeavours, showing that recycling folks can balance more than environmental objectives.

Thursday dawned to Mother Nature's continued delightfully bright contribution to the conference, and kicked



delegates slipped back to their rooms to don their circus attire



off more insightful sessions, including the first keynote, Adam Minter, author of *Junkyard Planet*, who challenged our pre-conceived notions of the recycling industry and markets. After a full day of maxing out their learning capacity,

for the gala circus banquet. The room full of circus characters combined with the antics of Ringmaster MC-extraordinaire Donovan Workun, made for a very colourful and festive atmosphere. Ursula Denison was the proud winner of the iPad for best costume, in her "Under the Big Top" tent costume. Topped off with the always-memorable Sponsor Tribute and an entertaining journey with adventurer Brian Keating, the evening was truly fulfilling and memorable.

Friday morning saw a few bleary-eyed delegates lined up at the coffee stations, but everyone was soon back in the swing of the conference with the final motivating sessions, including the final keynote, Ralph Torrie, who never fails to inspire us to think beyond our normal boundaries, with his talk *Compost, Coral and Collaboration*. As the conference formally wound up, delegates seemed sad to leave this magical place and say good-bye to old and new friends.

The RCA was thrilled to work with our partners, Conference on Canadian Stewardship, to deliver this truly amazing conference. Thanks to all our fabulous sponsors, without whom we could not deliver an event approaching this magnitude or quality. We look forward to seeing you all again next fall in Jasper.



Bring Your Own Cup!!!

We all know that single-use coffee cups and water bottles are an unnecessary form of waste. A 2000 report by Starbucks and Environmental Defence found that every 16-ounce disposable paper cup made produces approximately 0.11 kg of CO₂ emissions. If one person used a disposable cup five times a week for a year, that's 29 kg of CO₂. Multiply that by the millions of people that drink coffee in a disposable cup and you get a lot of emissions from one source.

The RCA Coffee Cup Campaign has kicked off again and this year we're helping people to remember to Bring Your Own Cup! The RCA has developed a sticker to be placed on coffee shop doors and other coffee spots to remind customers to bring in their own mug instead of using a disposable cup.

Over the coming months, the RCA will be contacting coffee shops in Alberta and partnering with post-secondary institutions to discuss promoting their current waste reduction efforts and displaying the BYOC reminder sticker.



Want to get involved? Take a selfie with your reusable coffee cup and post it to twitter using the #BYOC hashtag, encourage co-workers to bring their own mugs and do the same, and always remember to Bring Your Own Cup.



If you would like a sticker for your workplace please contact Leanne at leanne@recycle.ab.ca.

Edmonton Valley Zoo Drops Tassimo

The Edmonton Valley Zoo will no longer be a drop-off site for Tassimo coffee disc recycling as of December 1, 2015.

TerraCycle, the international company that collects difficult-to-recycle packing and products, has announced it will be ending the Tassimo Brigade program and will no longer be accepting coffee discs or coffee bags.

Since joining up with TerraCycle in 2012, the Edmonton Valley Zoo has sent in nearly 225,000 Tassimo discs for recycling.

The Edmonton Valley Zoo remains committed to conservation and environmental efforts, and will continue to support other recycling programs. Items currently accepted at the zoo for recycling include:

- empty cereal bags
- cell phones
- laptops
- digital cameras
- iPods
- e-readers
- handheld game devices



The zoo is currently pursuing options to expand its recycling program to other products and appreciates the public's support to help clean up our environment.

Source: City of Edmonton



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www.cascadesrecovery.ca

Think Green Success Story

Halifax Clear Bag Program Reduces Waste

Feature sponsored by



On August 1, 2015, the Halifax Regional Municipality in Nova Scotia switched to clear trash bags to assure that residents are complying with recycling and composting rules. Although single-family homes can still throw out up to six garbage bags, as of August 1, only one of them can be black or opaque while the rest must be clear.

Since that ordinance went into effect, waste collected at the curb dropped 31.4% while recycling rates increased by nearly 20%.

A report notes that there has been no other significant change in the generation of waste streams year over year, therefore the clear bag and its associated changes are responsible for the new rates.

City officials also report there has been no increase illegal dumping, which means residents are diverting more waste to the recycling stream.

If the trend continues, Halifax will consider making facility adjustments to properly accommodate for the municipality's waste and recycling rates.



The Halifax Regional Municipality is also saving money. Waste Dive reported the financial benefits of the new law, stating that it cost \$170 to process a metric ton of garbage at the landfill, but only \$50 to process each metric ton at the recycling facility.

To keep residents compliant, Halifax has depended on extensive outreach and education programs carried out by the city's solid waste professionals.

Sources: Waste DIVE,
The Chronicle Herald



Photo: CBC.ca

Do you have a Waste Reduction Success Story?

Submit details on your successful business or municipal program to info@recycle.ab.ca, fax 403.843.4156 or phone 403.843.6563 for further details.

Congratulations to your 2015 Collection Site Award of Excellence Winners!



Large Category Winner: Lethbridge Waste and Recycling Centre.
Bob Barss, Chair of Alberta Recycling (left) and Steve Rozee, Waste and Recycling Specialist with the City of Lethbridge (right).



Small Category Winner: Swan Hills Sanitary Landfill.
James Spellman, Public Works Supervisor with the Town of Swan Hills (left) and Bob Barss, Chair of Alberta Recycling (right).



Medium Category Winner: St. Michael Regional Landfill.
Bob Barss (left), Frank Rosypal, Chair of the St. Michael Regional Solid Waste Commission (right) and Linda Davies, Commission Manager (centre).

In October, Alberta Recycling honoured three municipal collection sites for their unwavering commitment to excellence in recycling electronics, paint and tires. We are very pleased to recognize the Lethbridge Waste and Recycling Centre, St. Michael Regional Landfill and Swan Hills Sanitary Landfill as 2015 Collection Site of Excellence Award winners.



www.albertarecycling.ca



Recycling Council of Alberta Honours 2015 Rs of Excellence Award Winners

The Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) unveiled the winners of the annual Rs of Excellence Awards at its recent conference in Banff. Deserving recipients were honored for their outstanding contributions to waste reduction, recycling and resource conservation in Alberta.

Corporate Leadership Award: Calgary Italian Bakery Ltd.



The Calgary Italian Bakery took steps to improve its waste diversion after its first waste composition study showed over 90% of material going to landfill had the potential to be diverted.

Jay Cummings, Research and Development Manager, took charge of increasing the bakery's waste diversion. Colour coded bins were introduced, and bakery staff

was engaged to gain buy-in and support.

The Calgary Italian Bakery now recycles or reuses almost 80% of the materials they used to send to the landfill.

Organic waste has been reduced from 20,000 kg to 11,000 kg per month through source reduction, with remaining organic waste diverted to a local pig farmer.

Management staff is also now evaluated on their support and growth of these initiatives.

Social Marketing Award: The City of Red Deer's Composting at Home Program



Using Community-Based Social Marketing Principles, Red Deer's Composting at Home program gives participants all the tools and training they need to start backyard composting, in

exchange for a commitment to compost for one year.

Since 2012, 839 households have committed to composting, and results show that 72% of households are still actively composting one year later.

During that time, the program has diverted an estimated 54 tonnes of organic waste from the landfill, turning it into a valuable soil amendment.

Every year, the program becomes more popular. In year two it was full after 2.5 days, and in year three, 200 spaces were filled in only 36 hours.

The City of Red Deer has also demonstrated leadership in this program by sharing its experience and resources with others interested in setting up similar programs.

Public Education Award: RedHat Co-operative's Misfit Veggies Campaign



Building on the Inglorious Fruits and Vegetables campaign launched by French grocery store Intermarché, RedHat Co-op developed a Misfit Veggies marketing campaign for non-standard veggies grown by its members.

Typically, 5 to 10% of greenhouse-grown vegetables will look funny and be discarded despite being perfectly edible.

RedHat packages up the unsightly produce and sells them for 30% less than their more attractive counterparts. The company has produce in Safeway and Sobeys stores in Western Canada, and is currently licensing the brand for expansion into the US.



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Community Leadership Award: LeftOvers Calgary



Close to half of the food produced worldwide is wasted. LeftOvers Calgary is a local organization helping to connect local food business and companies to local charities.

Leftovers Calgary is a 100% volunteer-based organization that aims to reduce food waste in the City through social engagement. Leftovers volunteers pick up near-expired food from 22 different vendors a week and drop off at 13 different social service agencies in need of perishable goods.

By connecting directly with communities to find out where the needs lay, then taking the time to connect with business owners, LeftOvers Calgary finds out how to best service each community.

LeftOvers Calgary serves the community in many ways, connecting needs, reducing hunger, reducing waste and filling kitchens with fresh food that would otherwise be thrown away.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Ken Armstrong



Ken is a principal consultant with Tetra Tech EBA with over 40 years of experience in Civil Engineering on a variety of major environmental, municipal, and industrial engineering projects in western and northern Canada. He has overseen key aspects of infrastructure and program development for organics diversion programs in Wood Buffalo, Leduc, and Roseridge.

Ken's current assignments include assessing the capacity of current and proposed landfills and technologies to extend the operational life of the landfill.

A primary option for current systems analysis is the assessment of the organic waste component. Systems reviewed include in-vessel composting alternatives as a viable alternative to other higher technology solutions, such as waste to energy processes.

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News

CANADIAN NEWS

WM Opens Thorhild Landfill

Waste Management Canada's (WM) Thorhild landfill facility, about 85 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, finally opened on October 19, nearly 10 years after the project's announcement, demonstrating the challenges to current siting of new landfills.

In June 2006, WM announced the Thorhild Landfill Project, reported consultant findings to County Council and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Thorhild.

WM submitted a development permit application to the County of Thorhild No. 7 in 2011. The Development Permit approval was provided by County Council on July 14, 2011.

EPEA and Water Act approvals were provided by Alberta Environment on September 22, 2011.

Residents within a 1.8 mile radius of the landfill are eligible to receive compensation as property value protection.

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

"Under the Big Top"

Proceedings from the RCA's 2015 Waste Reduction Conference are posted at conference.recycle.ab.ca/proceedings

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Saskatchewan MMRP Will Launch in January

Saskatchewan's Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) will begin on January 1, 2016, for large businesses (over \$5 million in gross revenue).

MMRP is a cost-shared initiative between businesses and municipalities that will provide funding for the collection of recyclable household materials, including printed paper, newsprint, cardboard, plastic, metal, and glass packaging.

MMRP will be managed in Saskatchewan by Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW), a non-profit organization that operates similar programs in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. MMSW will act on behalf of businesses that produce, sell, or distribute residential packaging and paper to Saskatchewan households.

MMSW will collect fees based on the size of each participating business, as well as their production of paper and packaging products. MMSW will then reimburse municipalities for collection of waste paper and packaging.

Changes to the program that were announced in December 2014 will continue to be in place. Under this program:

- Businesses which generate less than \$2 million in gross annual revenue, generate less than one tonne of paper per year, or operate as a single point of retail are permanently exempt from participating in MMRP.
- A transition period exemption until January 1, 2017, is in place for businesses whose annual revenue is between \$2 million and \$5 million, as well as for all newspapers. These businesses will not be required to report their tonnage of household packaging and paper during this period, but will be required to register with MMSW and contribute a \$500 annual flat fee.
- Businesses that generate \$5 million in gross annual revenue and do not fall into any of the exemption categories are required to fully participate in MMRP.

A working group has been established during the transition period to identify further program adjustments that will help to bring mid-size businesses and larger newspapers into MMRP.

"We're pleased to see the Multi-Material Recycling Program is finally moving forward," Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Executive Director Joanne Fedyk said. "The program will allow communities across the province to have stable and expanded recycling programs, and help municipalities to achieve their waste diversion objectives."

For more information, contact
Ron Podbielski, SK Environment, at 306.787.6595
or ron.podbielski@gov.sk.ca.

City of Vancouver to Transfer Recycling Collection to MMBC

The City of Vancouver has voted to shift its residential recycling collection directly to Multi-Material BC (MMBC). Payments from MMBC do not cover the full cost of Vancouver's collection service delivery, and in 2015, the shortfall between MMBC revenues and program costs may exceed \$4 million, according to a committee report. Further, Vancouver currently owns and operates a fleet of 30 recycling trucks that have aged beyond their useful service life and are in "urgent" need of replacement, a cost that could reach about \$12 million.

Council also directed staff to report back on city-delivered programs that enhance public realm cleanliness, reduce overflowing litter cans, and improve service response time.

Throughout most of the province, residential recycling collection is financed by MMBC, a non-profit industry-led organization that assumed responsibility for managing residential packaging and printed paper recycling on behalf of industry.

Since MMBC was created in May 2014, the City has provided residential recycling collection services under contract to MMBC.

The City and MMBC expect the transition of service to be complete by the end of 2016.

MMBC manages recycling collection services on behalf of its member organizations, which pay fees based on how much packaging and printed paper they supply into the BC market. The cost of the recycling service will be paid for by MMBC instead of through municipal utility fees.

For more information, contact 604.871.6336 or media@vancouver.ca.

*Sources: City of Vancouver Press Release,
Solid Waste & Recycling*



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New Brunswick to Recycle Electronic Waste

New Brunswick will become the last province in Canada to establish a program for electronic waste. The Gallant government announced Wednesday it plans to have the program operational by the fall of 2016.

Under the program, people will pay a recycling fee to the retailer at the time of purchase of an electronic item. The amount of the fee varies depending on the type of product.

The waste program will be managed by brand owners of electronic equipment and overseen by Recycle New Brunswick.

It is expected the program will divert about 3,500 tons of electronic equipment from landfills every year.

Source: CBC News






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News

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Green Fence Back?

A global recycling trade group says China has rekindled its scrutiny of imported plastics.

According to a report from the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), China's Ministry of Environmental Protection has informed local authorities throughout the country to focus inspections on the quality and legality of imported scrap plastic shipments. In 2013, a similar action by the Chinese government, known as Operation Green Fence, cut off significant flows of material from the US and elsewhere.

BIR reports a priority of the latest crackdown, which began on Nov. 1 and will run until Dec. 31, is aimed at identifying and rejecting import loads containing unacceptable material such as solid waste. The action is also looking to ensure Chinese scrap processors are handling material according to the procedures laid out in their individual licenses.

Source: Resource Recycling



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Scotland's Plastic Bag Charge Leads to 80% Reduction

The number of plastic carrier bags handed out in Scottish shops has reduced by at least 650 million in the first year of the nation's 5p charge. New figures released this week – exactly a year after the levy was introduced – reveal that carrier bag usage has fallen by around 80%.

The charge for single-use carrier bags has also raised around £6.7m for good causes in the past 12 months.

Morrisons, the Co-operative, Waitrose, and Boots have all reported an estimated 80% reduction in carrier bag use, with Asda witnessing a drop of 90% and Sainsbury's 100% (as it no longer offers them to shoppers).

A reduction of 650 million bags means an annual net saving of more than 4,000 tonnes of plastic and other materials, and more than 2,500 tonnes of CO₂.

All retailers are being urged to sign up to Scotland's carrier bag commitment, an agreement to disclose information on the charge and donations made.

Earlier this month, England became the final UK country to introduce a carrier bag charge. But unlike the rest of Britain, the charge in England only applies to shops that employ more than 250 staff members.

It is hoped that over the next decade the levy will save £60m in litter costs while simultaneously saving £13m in carbon savings across the UK.

Source: edie.net

Are You On Facebook?

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facebook.com/RecyclingCouncilOfAlberta

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UK Supermarkets Slash Food Waste

The UK's leading retailers have banded together to reduce supermarket food waste by 20,000 tonnes over the past year, according to a new report from the British Retail Consortium (BRC).

Asda, Co-operative Food, Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and Waitrose are among the retailers who reduced their food waste from 200,000 to 180,000 tonnes in a year.

The BRC report has been independently collated by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which along with the retailers agreed to a set of common rules to ensure the transparency of the report.

The report notes that currently retailers account for just over 1% of the estimated annual 15m tonnes of UK food waste. However it said the retailer's position at the heart of the supply chain means it can influence and potentially reduce the amount of food waste occurring during the supply chain and in households.

Tesco found that 41% of its food waste occurred within the bakery departments. To reduce bakery waste it implemented a two year strategy which saw bakers bake less bread more often, rather than larger volumes in one bulk. Tesco also worked with suppliers to source ingredients to extend the shelf life of products, as well as donating surplus food to charities to cut even more waste.

Asda has created clearer labels and dating codes to avoid confusion in households about the expiry dates of food. It also reviewed packaging across its entire product line to protect food, keeping it fresh for longer.

Last year, Sainsbury's partnered with waste management specialists Biffa to create an innovative facility allowing the store in Cannock to run on power generated from the supermarket's surplus food waste.

Last month, M&S announced the launch of a nationwide food redistribution scheme which will see 150 of the supermarket's biggest stores pass surplus food onto a host of local charities with the help of charity Neighbourly.

Outside of the retail industry, a group of businesses and NGOs including Unilever and WWF have joined a new coalition organisation tasked with inspiring companies to adopt comprehensive food waste programmes.

View the BRC Food Waste Report here.

Source: *edie.net*

Coming Events

Compost Facility Operating Practices Course plus Alberta Compost Facility Operator Certification Exam

hosted by the Compost Council of Canada, December 1-3, 2015, Calgary, AB, contact: 1-877-571-4769, www.compost.org

"EPR: Building Momentum Toward the Tipping Point"

2015 US Product Stewardship Forum & PSI's 15th Anniversary Celebration hosted by the Product Stewardship Institute, December 8-9, 2015, Boston, MA, contact: 617.236.8293, www.productstewardship.us

GLOBE 2016 conference and trade show, March 2-4, 2016, Vancouver, BC, 2016.globeseries.com

ISRI 2016 Convention & Exposition, hosted by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, April 3-7, 2016, Las Vegas, NV, contact: 202.662.8500, www.ISRIConvention.org

SWANApalooza, featuring the 20th Annual Landfill Symposium, 39th Annual Landfill Gas & Biogas Symposium, Road to Zero Waste Conference and more, hosted by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), April 4-7, 2016, Charleston, SC, contact: 301.585.2898, www.swana.org

SWRC's Waste ReForum 2016, Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Conference, April 20-22, 2016, Regina, SK, contact: 306.931.3242, www.saskwastereduction.ca

8th Canadian Waste Resource Symposium, co-hosted by the Atlantic Canada Chapter of SWANA and the Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia, April 27-29, 2016, Halifax, NS, www.atcanswana.org

SWANA Northern Lights Chapter Annual Conference, May 11-13, 2016, Calgary, AB, contact: 780.496.5614, www.swananorthernlights.org

"Inspiring Circular Innovation - How to Get to a Zero Waste Planet: Plan It!", 42nd Annual Recycling Council of BC Zero Waste Conference, May 18-20, 2016, Whistler, BC, www.rcbccconference.ca

Resource Recycling Conference 2016, Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, 2016, New Orleans, LA, www.rrconference.com

2016 Recycling Council of Alberta Waste Reduction Conference, September 28-30, 2016, Jasper, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, info@recycle.ab.ca

2017 Recycling Council of Alberta Waste Reduction Conference, October 10-12, 2017, Lake Louise, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, info@recycle.ab.ca

Visit www.recycle.ab.ca/events for more events listings.

2015-16 RCA Board of Directors

At the September 30, 2015 AGM at The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, RCA members elected a new board of directors, shown in the picture below.



From left to right:
Anne Auriat, Guy West,
Trevor Nickel, Anne Ruzicka,
Daniel Rochette, Mary Hughes,
Darryl Wolski, Sean Dann,
Dave Schaaf (City of Lethbridge
liaison), Mary Curtis (City of
Red Deer liaison), Jessie Kwasny,
Leah Seabrook, Sharon Howland,
Don Hughes.

Not pictured: Amy Horne,
Chris Fowler (City of Edmonton
liaison), Jason London (City of
Calgary liaison), Jennifer Martin
(Alberta Government liaison).

Market Updates

	\$ Per Tonne	Trend
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	60-65	↓
Cardboard (loose)	30-55	↓
Office Pak (loose)	65-75	↓
Mixed (loose)	5-10	↓
Magazines (loose)	5-10	↔
News (loose)	25-70	↔
Plastic		
HDPE (baled)	250	↑
Mixed #1-7	-80 to 0	↓
Clear PE Film (baled)	250	↑
Coloured PE Film (baled)	-40 to 0	↑
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	50	↓
White Goods	50	↓

Prices reflect surveyed averages (F.O.B. buyer) at the time of publishing and are subject to market fluctuations. Individual prices may vary according to material quality, volumes and contractual arrangements. Please contact your buyer to update prices at time of shipping.

Classifieds

For Sale

- Only 2 left! Used excellent quality **6030HD down stroke balers** by Capital Paper Recycling Ltd. Either for sale, rent, or placement if fiber supply is sufficient. Please contact sales at either the Calgary office at 403.543.3322 or the Edmonton office at 780.421.8047 for more information.
- Calibre Environmental Ltd. in Calgary is offering five of their **EcoCoat Recycled Paint** colours (light and dark brown, light and dark grey, and taupe) to municipalities and government agencies for \$5.00 per container plus any applicable shipping costs. The \$5.00 amount is simply to cover the cost of the paint - the paint inside is free! A wide range of other colours are also available - download the price list here. For more information, about EcoCoat Recycled Paint, visit www.recyclepaint.com or contact Calibre Environmental at 1.888.287.7728.

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