

# Connector

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*Recycling Council  
of Alberta*

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## World's First Municipal Waste-to-Biofuels Facility Opens in Edmonton

Officials from the Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton, and Enerkem Alberta Biofuels celebrated the opening of the first industrial-scale facility to produce biofuels from municipal solid waste on June 4.

The Waste-to-Biofuels and Chemicals Facility located at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre is owned and operated by Enerkem. The City of Edmonton will supply 100,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste, not diverted through its recycling and composting programs, to be converted into biofuels and chemicals.

The facility is part of a larger collaboration between Enerkem, the Government of Alberta through Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environment Solutions and the City of Edmonton. This waste-to-biofuels initiative also includes a waste preparation facility and a world-class Advanced Energy Research Facility.

When operating at full capacity, the facility will produce 38 million litres of fuels and biochemicals. It will initially produce methanol and later ethanol. The production capacity of ethanol will be enough to fill the tanks of 400,000 cars using a 5% ethanol blend.

*continued on page 2*

# Connector

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## Connector

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The start-up of the biorefinery follows a rigorous commissioning plan which is nearing completion. Biomethanol production will begin progressively during the start-up. A module converting the biomethanol into advanced ethanol will be added by the end of 2015.

For more information and to learn how the waste-to-biofuels process works please visit [edmonton.ca/WasteToBiofuels](http://edmonton.ca/WasteToBiofuels)

For more information on the project partners, visit:

- [www.enerkem.com](http://www.enerkem.com)
- [www.ai-ees.ca](http://www.ai-ees.ca)



ESRD Minister Robin Campbell, Enerkem CEO Vincent Chornet and Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson cutting the ribbon



Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson taking a photo of the Waste to Biofuels and Chemicals Facility

## ESRD Releases Leaf & Yard Waste Report

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development has released the report "Recommendations for Reducing Leaf and Yard Waste in Alberta". A download link is posted at <http://esrd.alberta.ca/waste/default.aspx> under "General Waste Information" near the bottom of the page.



# Edmonton Public Schools Significantly Increase Waste Diversion Rates

In 2012, Edmonton Public Schools established a three, five and ten year plan to further develop existing environmental initiatives and support the district Environmental Policy. Important priorities of this plan included increasing district waste diversion rates and participating in organics recycling. To set higher sustainability standards for district waste service providers, Edmonton Public Schools' EnviroMatters Office worked with the Purchasing and Contract Services department; this process led to a partnership with City of Edmonton Commercial Waste Management Services and participation in its waste diversion program.



The City of Edmonton waste diversion program offers non-source separated organic waste composting and co-mingled recycling services to district schools and administration buildings. With its innovative Integrated Processing and Transfer Facility (IPTF), organics recycling does not require an additional bin and additional service fees nor does it require students and staff to separate organic waste from the standard garbage waste stream. Instead, district waste is collected from schools and taken to the screening facility, rather than to a landfill, where the garbage waste is manually and mechanically separated, and remaining waste is sent to the City of Edmonton composting facility. The diversion option exists for materials that are placed in garbage and recycling bins, which accounts for 90% of total waste.

In the near future, garbage waste will be separated even further and all non-recyclable plastic waste will be utilized to generate ethanol. This will happen once the City of Edmonton Waste-to-Biofuels Facility is operational. It is projected that by 2017, less than 10% of material in district garbage waste bins will be landfilled.

Launched in September 2013, Edmonton Public Schools waste services partnership with the City of Edmonton made organic waste recycling available to all district schools and administration buildings. In February 2014 the City of Edmonton produced the first official waste diversion report which showed a 41% increase in the district's waste diversion rate, from 14 to 55%, within the first five months of program implementation. In addition to the improvements in waste diversion rates, the District has also met its goal for increased participation in organics recycling, with 100% of district schools and buildings now participating.

Acknowledging the District's commitment to environmental stewardship through its waste diversion, general recycling and construction and demolition waste recycling, the City of Edmonton and Mayor Don Iveson recently presented Edmonton Public Schools with three Certificates of Recognition.



With the support and services of the City of Edmonton, the EnviroMatters Office reached its ten-year goal to implement organic waste recycling in all district buildings in two short years. This exciting partnership has also helped to educate students and staff on thoughtful disposal practices, synchronize the organics recycling processes between home and school and position Edmonton Public Schools as a community leader in sustainability.

For more information on this partnership and Edmonton Public Schools' environmental initiatives, please contact Maegan Lukian in the EnviroMatters Office at 780.429.8513 or [maegan.lukian@epsb.ca](mailto:maegan.lukian@epsb.ca).



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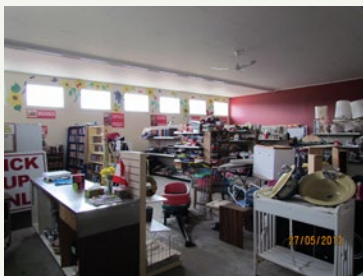
# Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



## Take It or Leave It in Edson

The Edson & District Recycling Society (EDRS) currently runs a very successful and extremely popular program called the Take It or Leave It. It serves both an environmental and or social / economic function within the region. The program fulfills a need by residents to find new homes for items they no longer need or use, and for those residents who need gently used items at no charge.



Building of the Take It or Leave It facility began in the fall of 2012 and the doors opened in May of 2013. The building itself is environmentally friendly. Eco paint

was used on the walls, much of the shelving was donated or purchased second hand, and the roofing tiles are made from recycled tire products. The depot has also added 72 solar modules onto the building to reduce its carbon footprint. This is equal to approximately 17,000 kwh of energy produced per year, supplying about 38% of the energy required to operate the whole Edson & District Recycling Depot.



Recyclers are encouraged to divert some of their items they normally recycle and bring them to the Take It or Leave It for reuse, such as paper towel rolls, tissue paper and ribbons, small glass jars, egg cartons, crayons, pencil crayons and plastic bottle caps, etc. Items can be used by individuals, schools and other groups for art projects.

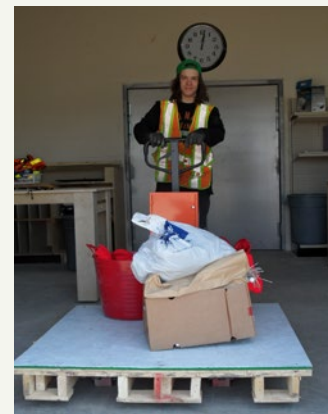


To determine the amount of "waste" that is diverted from the landfill, everything that is dropped off is weighed and items going out are weighed as well. Many of the ideas implemented in the Take It or Leave It were inspired from touring the Edmonton Reuse Center.

On average, approximately 100–150 people drop items off in a 4-hour period and between 200–300 people visit the pickup area for "shopping". In May of this year, just over 18 tonnes of materials came into the Take It or Leave It and approximately 16 tonnes were picked up. A small percentage of the materials coming into the program enter our recycling program or are redirected to the landfill.

The main funding for construction of the building came from Talisman Energy, Shell Environment Fund and the Alberta Government's Community Facility Enhancement Program.

*submitted by Anne Auriat,  
Edson & District Recycling Society*



*Do you have a Waste Reduction Success Story?*

*Submit details on your successful business or municipal program to [info@recycle.ab.ca](mailto:info@recycle.ab.ca), fax 403.843.4156 or phone 403.843.6563 for further details.*

# Become Involved in Waste Reduction Week in 2014!

In 2001, National Waste Reduction Week was initiated by a coalition of non-government, not-for-profit environment groups from each of the 13 participating provincial and territorial jurisdictions across Canada. The week was created for all Canadians to analyze their waste habits and create goals revolving around lowering waste production and our impact on the natural environment. We challenge Albertans to reduce their waste creation during Waste Reduction Week this year from October 20-26!

We have a number of programs and tool kits to help schools, businesses and municipalities get involved. These initiatives and resources will educate individuals and communities on effective waste management and show steps they can take to reduce waste and help planet Earth.

For grade 4 classes, we have the "Triple StaRs Waste Reduction Challenge" which is a five-day waste audit that takes place during Waste Reduction Week. The week's finale is when each class develops a "Pledge of Action" to reduce waste in the classroom for the rest of the year. To become involved, Grade 4 teachers can visit <https://www.recycle.ab.ca/rrr>. Another challenge for schools, open to all grades, is the Recycle My Cell Challenge. This challenges Canadian students, from kindergarten to post-secondary, to recycle as many old

wireless devices and accessories as possible. In addition to doing a good thing for the environment, students could also win prizes for their school to use for green initiatives! If neither of these challenges are the right fit for your class, create your own program and waste initiatives by using the School Resource Kit found at <http://bit.ly/WRWschool>.

If you are no longer scholastically active but would love to become involved in Waste Reduction Week, why not challenge your workplace or community to reduce their waste. You can find the Waste Reduction Week business resource kit at <http://bit.ly/WRWbusiness> and the municipal resource kit at <http://bit.ly/WRWmunicipal>. In these resource kits you can find pertinent information on why reducing our waste generation is important and clearly lists easy steps to go about doing it. Utilizing these resource kits is an excellent learning opportunity for everyone!

We at the Recycling Council of Alberta encourage you to become involved in Waste Reduction Week this year and to challenge yourself and your peers to reduce your impact on the environment and reduce the amount of materials being sent for disposal!



## 2014 Rs of Excellence Awards – Call for Nominations

The RCA is seeking nominations for its 2014 Rs of Excellence Awards.

If you know a person, program or organization that has made an outstanding contribution towards waste reduction, please let us know.

Application is simple:

Submit a brief description of the nominee's achievements and why you think they deserve an award. Considered criteria include:

- Environmental impacts (i.e., quantified reductions in waste)
- Innovation and progressiveness
- Leadership
- History and track record
- Overall environmental commitment

Please include contact information for the nominee as well as yourself. Please include two letters of support with your nomination.

You can use the electronic submission form at [www.recycle.ab.ca/nominate](http://www.recycle.ab.ca/nominate), email the nomination to

[info@recycle.ab.ca](mailto:info@recycle.ab.ca), or fax it to 403.843.4156.

Application deadline: August 10, 2014

Awards will be presented at the RCA's Waste Reduction Conference "Recycling in the Rockies – A Waste Reduction Expedition", which will be held October 1-3, 2014 at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.



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## ALBERTA NEWS

### SENA Waste Services to Run Edmonton Waste Management Facilities

The City of Edmonton has contracted with SENA Waste Services on a five-year agreement worth approximately \$75 million to operate and maintain two key portions of the Edmonton Waste Management Centre. Under the new agreement, SENA Waste Services will maintain and operate the Edmonton Composting Facility (ECF) and provide important maintenance support services for the Integrated Process and Transfer Facility (IPTF) and the Construction & Demolition (C&D) Facility. SENA Solid Waste Holdings Inc., an Alberta-based corporation, is a joint venture between Suez Environnement North America and AECO.

The IPTF maintained by SENA Waste Services allows the separation of waste into three categories:

- organics for composting;
- waste for landfill; and
- waste for conversion to ethanol at the on-site Waste-to-Biofuels Facility.

The C&D Facility recycles wood, drywall, asphalt shingles, concrete, metals and brush and trees. The Edmonton Composting Facility operated and maintained by SENA Waste Services is the largest composting facility in the country, allowing for composting of both organic solid waste and biosolids material.

*Source: Recycling Today*

### Calgary Plans Commercial Cardboard Ban by 2018

Calgary plans to ban businesses from dumping cardboard at landfills by 2018 and compostable organic waste by 2019, but officials hope softer incentives will get businesses to reduce their waste before then.

Next January, city landfills would begin charging \$150 per tonne for paper or cardboard, instead of the regular \$107 rate. Then the city would mandate recycling for all businesses in 2017, and then follow that with a ban.

*Source: Calgary Herald*

### "Recycling in the Rockies – A Waste Reduction Expedition"

Details on the **RCA's 2014 Waste Reduction Conference** will be posted at [www.recycle.ab.ca/conference](http://www.recycle.ab.ca/conference)

## Updates from Cleanit Greenit

Cleanit Greenit Composting System Inc. has implemented a forced aeration system, which has been up and running for about a year. Tests on compost from the new system show it is Grade A Compost, which is consistent with the product produced since 1998.

The new system increases oxygen levels, generating less odour. Since November there have been no complaints, and the complaint numbers for all of 2013 were drastically down, according to the company. Cleanit Greenit continues to work to build relationships with its neighbours, both industrial and residential. To be proactive, they send out odour patrols to catch odour events early. This is based on the premise that the human nose is far better than current detection equipment at identifying odours.

Cleanit Greenit's advice to fellow composters, regulators, and municipal administrators is to work on improving communication with everyone. They report communication as the biggest challenge through this process.

As with recycling, to make composting effective, it is important to close the loop. Municipalities must lead the way in using the compost created from their organics to build the market.

Cleanit Greenit held 22 compost fundraiser sales in Edmonton on May 10<sup>th</sup>, helping non-profit groups in raising over \$55,000. Cleanit Greenit is also hosting Backyard Composting Workshops in May and June.

Its sister company, Advanced Enviro Engineering Ltd., will be hosting a Municipal Workshop "What are you getting, what are you missing?" on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The workshop will include an update on Cleanit Greenit's new aerated static pile system, information on winter composting (how to get through), as well as a session featuring low cost tips to increase your diversion rate. There will also be an international expert on hand to answer your questions about collection carts. In the afternoon, there will be golf at the Ranch Golf and Country Club in Edmonton. For information and reservations call 780.488.7926

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## Calgary Hybrid Bulldozers Save Fuel at Landfills

Hybrid cars have become commonplace on Calgary streets but hybrid bulldozers are a relatively new addition to the fleet of heavy machinery working at city landfills, being used since 2013, with one at each of three landfill sites.

The Caterpillar D7E uses a “diesel-electric hybrid powertrain” that the city was told could result in between 10 and 30% fuel savings compared to the standard diesel engine.

The dozers belong to Whissell Contracting, which has had a long-standing deal with the city for compaction at landfills, and introduced these machines to landfills during the last contract renewal.

The machines aren't quite like a hybrid car, in that they don't store power in batteries, but rather split the diesel engine's power between a hydraulic pump that moves the blade and an electric generator that drives the dozers. That allows the diesel engine to run more constantly at its most efficient speed.

Source: Metro News

## Reports Show Calgary Lags Behind Provincial Counterparts in Recycling

Calgarians are well behind the rest of the province when it comes to recycling beverage containers. About 2.2 billion drink containers were sold in Alberta in 2012, with 82% of those finding their way to a recycling depot by November 2013. The rates of return in the province's two major cities was much lower, however, with Edmonton averaging 76.3% and Calgary a paltry 69.7%.

One of the reasons for the low number in Calgary, says a report prepared by Cochrane Urban Learning, is a lack of bottle depots in the suburbs. Current zoning means depots are only allowed in industrial areas or large-format regional shopping centres, making it tough to service those living on the edges of the city that are largely single-family homes.

According to the report, there should be one depot for every 40,000 residents, meaning Calgary should be sitting at 29 depots, however there are only 23 depots in the city. One way of improving the situation, according to the report, is to allow smaller, storefront-style depots, which would collect containers, but not sort or process them.

Source: albertadepot.ca / Calgary Sun

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## CANADIAN NEWS

### London Drugs Aimed to Double Recycling During Earth Month

London Drugs announced aggressive recycling goals for Earth Month, aiming to double the amount of materials recycled in stores over April 2013.

More than 52,000 kilograms of waste including electronics, Styrofoam, cardboard, and other materials were recycled in stores in April 2013. This year, London Drugs hoped to see a 100% increase, according to Maury McCausland, Administrator of Retail Operations and Sustainability for London Drugs.

With many Canadians taking part in spring cleaning during the month of April it was a perfect opportunity for customers to collect their old electronics, light bulbs, batteries, cell phones, and other recyclable items and drop them off at any London Drugs location.

Last year, London Drugs customers helped keep over 10 million pounds of waste out of landfills and toxic materials out of the ecosystem.

Customers who brought items into stores for recycling between April 11 and April 30 could fill out an entry form for a chance to win the Energy Efficient Electronics Bundle including a Samsung 46" LED Energy Star TV and a Microsoft Surface 2 32GB Tablet (valued at over \$1500).

London Drugs' *What's the Green Deal?* recycling stations can be found in stores.

For more information on the *What's the Green Deal?* program or to learn more about the eco-friendly services and products available at London Drugs, visit [www.greendeal.ca](http://www.greendeal.ca).

### Nova Scotia Contemplating Landfill Ban on Textiles

Nova Scotians send 30,000 tonnes of clothes, shoes, bedding and other textiles to landfills each year, a practice both the government and charities want to curb.

Environment Minister Randy Delorey says officials are contemplating a ban on tossing textiles in landfills, given the material makes up 11% of all waste heading for disposal. In the meantime, he's urging people not to toss their ripped jeans and old socks in the garbage and is pleased with a project launched by a coalition called the Association for Textile Recycling. The group is made up of charities that raise money in Nova Scotia by accepting donations of shoes and clothes – about 7,000 tonnes of material each year. They've launched a website asking people to donate rather than toss their textiles.

Source: CBC News

## Ontario Economy Would Benefit from Recycling Reforms

The Conference Board of Canada recently released *Economic Impacts of Waste Diversion in North America*. The report describes the significant potential net economic opportunity associated with increasing waste diversion in Ontario – from the current rate of under 25% to 60%.

Increasing Ontario's waste diversion rate to 60% would support close to 13,000 net new jobs in the province at the same time as a boost to GDP of \$1.5 billion and a decreased dependence on US landfills as home for Ontario waste.

The Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) contends that three priority actions will put Ontario on the correct path to reap the benefits of more jobs and enhanced environmental stewardship:

- Fix our broken waste diversion framework.
- Increase waste diversion in areas of low diversion by utilizing economic instruments such as disposal bans and Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Require direct accountability for achieving environmental outcomes.

ReThink Waste (released by the OWMA in 2013) complements the new Conference Board of Canada report. ReThink Waste is a blueprint to unlock Ontario's resource recovery potential and sets the stage for a multi-million dollar investment by expanding Ontario's waste management infrastructure.

Economic Impacts of Waste Diversion in North America together with ReThink Waste provide the direction needed to address the current enormous loss of resources and squandered economic opportunity when every day, 75% of our waste resource is sent to landfill.

For more information contact Rob Cook, CEO, Ontario Waste Management Association, at 905.971.9500 or [rcook@owma.org](mailto:rcook@owma.org).



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# News

## Canada's Plastic Recycling Rate Grew by 10% in 2012

Canada's plastic packaging recycling rate grew in 2012 for the third year in a row, according to a study commissioned by the Canadian Plastics Industry Association.

In total, more than 627 million pounds of post-consumer plastics packaging was recycled in 2012, 10% more than in the previous year. About 83% of the volume was consumed in North America, CPIA reported on March 19.

Plastics collected for recycling included bottles, rigid containers, film, bags, outer wrap, and expanded polystyrene. The materials were processed into new bottles, fleece jackets, pipe, pallets, crates, decking, and lawn and garden products.

Bottle recycling grew 3% to 384 million pounds. Rigid containers, at 78 million pounds, were up 29% versus 2011. Plastic bags and outer wrap rose 18% to 97 million pounds. Expanded polystyrene volumes were up 24% to 2 million pounds.

"We continue to work with our members to build and grow our national recycling industry in Canada, re-using valuable plastic materials and creating jobs," stated CPIA President and CEO Carol Hochu in a news release.

Canadian recyclers want more supply since they have underutilized capacity, the study found. Film and bag recyclers used 49% of their capacity in 2012 while non-bottle rigid container recyclers ran at 60% of capacity.

Moore Recycling Associates Inc. of Sonoma, California, conducted the survey called 2012 Post Consumer Plastics Recycling in Canada.

*Source: Plastics News*

## Plastic 'Caps On Bottles' – Designed to be Recycled

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR), representing over 90% of North America's post-consumer plastic recycling capacity, is encouraging municipal recycling programs to promote leaving the 'Caps On Bottles' to take advantage of this recycling opportunity. The Canadian Plastic Industry Association supports this initiative because plastic bottle caps and closures are highly recyclable. They have been well designed for recycling when replaced and recycled on the bottle they came with to be remanufactured into new products.

This is a simple program to implement that produces highly marketable plastic bales. Caps are made from HDPE#2 and PP#5 plastic resins, which are in high

demand. Generally, most heavy-duty horizontal ram balers have sufficient pressure to compact plastic bottles with caps on to produce good bales for cost-efficient shipping.

Through a simple message – "Empty bottle, crush, replace cap and recycle", citizens find it easy to participate and recycle caps & closures. Important benefits include a reduction in caps that end up as residuals in recycling sorting facilities and avoids loose caps becoming litter that could end up in our marine environments.

CPIA's new on-line Promotion & Education Image Bank (see next story), is available at no cost to assist municipalities and collectors to help promote the recycling of plastic bottles, containers and caps.

If you have questions or comments on this and other plastic recycling programs, contact your local CPIA representative, Grant Cameron, at g.m.cam@telus.net. For more information, contact Darlene Gray, Canadian Plastics Industry Association, 905.678.7748 ext. 239.

*Source: Canadian Plastics Industry Association*

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[www.cascadesrecovery.ca](http://www.cascadesrecovery.ca)



## Source for Photos of Recyclable Plastic Bottles and Containers

The days of surfing internet photo banks looking for good quality, royalty-free photos of recyclable plastic bottles, jugs, jars and pots to illustrate promotional and educational materials are over, according to the Canadian Plastic Industry Association (CPIA).

CPIA has created an online digital photo resource for recycling educators.

The digital photo bank, located on CPIA's website ([www.plastics.ca](http://www.plastics.ca)), contains more than 40 individual, unbranded photos of plastic bottles and various types of containers that are now widely recyclable and collected in municipal resource diversion programs. The digital photos cover the most common category types including containers for bakery, beverage, dairy and deli, food, household cleaners, produce, toiletry, lawn and garden, and vehicle cleaning products. Educators can download the images as .jpg, .tiff or high resolution .eps files for printing.

In addition to the individual photos of plastic bottles and containers, CPIA has created three ready-to-use advertisements that can be used as-is, or manipulated into website illustrations or printed posters.

For more information, contact Darlene Gray, Canadian Plastics Industry Association, 905.678.7748 ext. 239.

## S.C. Johnson to Finance New Ziploc Recycling Program

Household products giant S.C. Johnson plans to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in a recycling program in Canada for plastic bags in conjunction with Walmart. The program will target users of its Ziploc plastic baggies.

Walmart will place Ziploc-branded bins at the front of its stores and S.C. Johnson will finance signage and marketing campaigns.

The program will accept all plastic bags, including competing brands, even though the bins will be marked with Ziploc branding. Consumers will be urged to first reuse plastic baggies and, when they are no longer usable, to wash them, dry them and bring them to Walmart. Different third-party companies will be contracted to collect the baggies and recycle them.

*Source: Business in Vancouver (biv.com)*

### Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

Visit **Alberta's Recycling Hotline**  
at [www.recyclinghotline.ca](http://www.recyclinghotline.ca)  
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## BC's Blue Box Recycling Shift May Bring Some Confusion

BC's new industry-funded recycling system debuted May 19 and the main change for residents is the ability to put many more types of containers and other packaging in the blue box.

Milk cartons, coffee cups, aerosol containers, aluminum foil packaging, and plant pots are just a few of the new items accepted curbside under the Multi-Material BC (MMBC) system.

Just about all plastic jugs, bottles, jars, and clear clamshells can go in the blue box. But plastic foam trays and plastic shrink wrap have to be taken to a depot, as do grocery store plastic bags and various other film plastics and expanded polystyrene (a full list is at [recyclinginbc.ca](http://recyclinginbc.ca)).

Also required to go to a depot is any glass to prevent bottles and jars from breaking and contaminating other recyclables. Unless, that is, if you live in cities like Richmond, Coquitlam and Langley City, which have opted for curbside pickup of segregated glass.

The list of what's accepted in blue bins, what isn't, and what has to go to depots will now be consistent across BC.

But it's far from a universal system, with some Lower Mainland cities – such as Delta and Abbotsford – opting out, at least for now. And MMBC has yet to strike deals covering some other areas of the province as well, although curbside or depot service will also roll into new communities like Terrace and Smithers that have never had it before.

Most Lower Mainland cities have opted to accept payments from MMBC in return for continuing to act as recyclable collectors under the new system. Coquitlam is an exception that has allowed MMBC to hire its own contractors to replace the city's service.

MMBC reported to be covering 75% of the province at the program launch.

The provincially mandated system is intended to make companies that generate waste responsible for recovering it, allowing municipalities to potentially reduce their property taxes.

Some big question marks remain, including whether the newspaper industry, which refuses to pay MMBC fees, will set up its own stewardship system.

*Source: BC Local News*

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## A New Proposed Recycling Plan to Surface in British Columbia

StewardChoice Enterprises Inc. announced that it will publish a draft stewardship plan for packaging and printed paper in June which will undergo public consultations over the course of the summer. Once the plan is approved by the BC Government, the new recycling service will commence as early as next year initially in multi-family residential buildings.

"We see this as an opportunity to provide producers with more choice while offering cost-effective solutions," says Neil Hastie, Development Director and spokesperson for StewardChoice Enterprises Inc. "We strongly believe that producers should have the ability to choose a preferred service when determining how to meet their regulatory obligations."

Under the British Columbia Recycling Regulation, companies must recover at least 75% of their packaging and printed paper generated through households. Today, more than 20% of multi-family buildings in BC do not receive a producer funded recycling service.

"We have two priorities at StewardChoice. One is to provide solutions for producers to achieve their environmental goals in compliance with the Recycling Regulation, and the other," says Hastie, "is to offer a plan that will increase collection of packaging and printed paper waste generated in BC beginning with areas like multi-family buildings that are currently not receiving any producer-funded recycling services."

Neil Hastie is the former head of BC's product stewardship corporation Encorp Pacific, which he had joined in 1998. He has a B.Sc. from Bishops University, and an MBA (honours) from York University. Neil's current position will see him working with waste management companies to expand areas of service in BC. He will play a significant role engaging with recycling organizations, municipalities and NGOs to find solutions to enhance the recovery of recyclable material in BC.

For more information, please contact Neil Hastie at 604.360.8870 or [nhastie@stewardchoice.ca](mailto:nhastie@stewardchoice.ca)

*Sources: CSWire.com, Solid Waste & Recycling*

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## BC Plastics Plant May Close Over Recycling Shift

A Metro Vancouver plastic processing company says it may be forced out of business by the provincial government's transfer of control of curbside recycling to Multi Material BC.

Fraser Plastics fears it will have to lay off 30 employees and shut down its Maple Ridge plant, which converts recyclable plastic into pellets for sale to other firms that make products like lawn furniture and plastic lumber.

Spokesperson Rupe Gill said her family's firm has lost access to plastic that will be collected under the new system, because stewardship agency MMBC in February awarded a five-year contract to process recyclables to Green By Nature, a consortium that includes Merlin Plastics, Fraser's direct competitor.

Fraser Plastics gets some plastic from other sources, but Gill said the plastic collected curbside from homes that's now guaranteed to Merlin made up 50 to 60% of what they required.

MMBC said at least half of plastics available to recyclers comes from commercial or industrial businesses, not residential pickup. And it says not all residentially collected plastic is under the control of MMBC contractors – some communities have opted out and about 70 haulers in those areas are free to sell collected plastic as they wish.

Green By Nature, the winning consortium that also includes Emterra Environmental and Cascades Recovery, promised to process recyclables province-wide and spend \$32 million on a new Lower Mainland container recycling plant and a material recovery facility in Nanaimo. MMBC said the Green By Nature group offered the best combination of value, experience, efficiency and innovative design.

Source: BC Local News

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## Empty Seed and Pesticide Bag Pilot Program Returns to Ontario

Farmers in select regions of southwestern Ontario are being offered new options to manage their empty seed and pesticide bags this year. CleanFARMS will be operating an extended pilot project to collect and safely dispose of empty bags, at no cost to participating farmers. This pilot is part of the agricultural industry's commitment to the responsible management of its products throughout their entire lifecycle and will help determine the feasibility of a permanent program.

CleanFARMS will collect, transport and ensure collected bags are safely converted to energy at facilities that have extensive emission controls and meet all necessary provincial and federal approvals. Farmers can contribute to a cleaner environment by ensuring that empty seed and pesticide bags end up in the right place.

Funding for this pilot program is provided by CropLife Canada, the Canadian Seed Trade Association, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs through the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. The program will operate from May to September 2014 at collection sites located at participating retailers in southwestern Ontario. A list of participating retail collection sites can be found at [CleanFARMS.ca](http://CleanFARMS.ca).

Source: CleanFARMS



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Packaging Waste Best Practices that Support Harmonization

PAC NEXT announced the publication of its members report "Policy Best Practices that Support Harmonization: Summaries of Eleven Global Extended Producer Responsibility Programs". This project was created to help education and harmonization processes with a goal of resource recovery, reducing cost and regulatory complexity.

As one of the five initial projects focused on achieving the PAC NEXT vision of A World Without Packaging Waste the founding members identified that a variety of global policies and legislative approaches existed to improve packaging material recovery, with mixed success.

Alan Blake, PAC NEXT Executive Director, stated that "While there is wide disagreement on the effectiveness and efficiency of EPR legislation, this project was designed to develop a fact-base of global best practices related to recovery solutions and EPR policies; to identify agreed-upon best practices that would support industry and government collaborative efforts to create harmonized solutions for managing packaging waste in non-regulated or EPR-legislated jurisdictions".

Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP) EPR programs in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia were compared with EPR programs in Belgium, France, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Australia.

The report can be downloaded at [http://www.pac.ca/press\\_releases/pdf/epr-report.pdf](http://www.pac.ca/press_releases/pdf/epr-report.pdf).

For more information contact Alan Blake, PAC NEXT Executive Director, at [alanblake7@gmail.com](mailto:alanblake7@gmail.com) or 513.413.1438. To learn more about PAC and PAC NEXT go to [www.pac.ca](http://www.pac.ca)

Source: PAC NEXT

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### Closed Loop Fund Brings \$100 Million Recycling Investment

Some of the largest companies in the world have come together to form a \$100 million recycling fund. Announced by Walmart, the Closed Loop Fund will be formed by nine core firms and aim to become "an innovative investment vehicle that will help finance projects that increase recycling." According to Walmart, the project was sparked by supply shortages.

By encouraging communities to recycle more, Walmart and others are hoping to gain access to a valuable stream of recycled commodities. Communities, meanwhile, could stand to see fiscal benefits in the form of job creation and "green" business growth.

In addition to Walmart, the founding companies are The Coca-Cola Company, Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson Family of Consumer Companies, Keurig Green Mountain Inc., PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation, Procter & Gamble, SC Johnson, and Unilever.

One immediate beneficiary of the initiative could be the newly announced Recycling Partnership, led by the Curbside Value Partnership. The outcome of a four-month intensive stakeholder discussion led by the Southeast Recycling Development Council and focused on coming up with a plan to drive recycling in the region, the Recycling Partnership will rely on public-private initiatives to increase recycling on a city-by-city basis.

However, critics point out that the new initiative might be just another example of 'easy sustainability'. The fund represents approximately .0001% (one ten-thousandth of a percent) of annual revenue of the companies involved, or .0016% (one sixteen-hundredth of a percent) of annual profits. It is also a loan fund, not a grant. It's essentially a recycling bank.

They argue that this may help some cities finance some relatively small projects, but the loan fund will do little to help achieve the stated goal to "provide 100% of US consumers with access to recycling where and when they need it".

The companies involved are not seeking to take responsibility for recycling the packaging waste they create. This approach perpetuates the concept that governments should continue to subsidize the management of packaging waste through municipal waste services and taxpayer dollars.

It is further suggested that companies have developed the fund because they are trying to avoid extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation, which would make them responsible for financing packaging collection and meeting recycling targets. While the same companies involved in the Closed Loop Recycling Fund have operated under EPR systems throughout Europe for many years, they have given strong resistance in the US.

Sources: Resource Recycling and The Guardian

## Dell Advances Green Packaging, Closed-Loop Recycling

Dell has become the second high-profile company to announce a deal with AirCarbon, an innovative plastic material from Newlight Technologies created by pulling carbon out of the air. Newlight, which last year got a \$4 million grant from the US Department of Energy, recently announced a relationship with Sprint, under which it is making “carbon-negative” iPhone accessories.

Dell’s initial plan is to use AirCarbon for sleeves to protect new Latitude series notebooks. The feedstock for the plastic comes from greenhouse gases collected from the air at landfills, farms, wastewater treatment plants and other facilities. Its status as a carbon-negative substance has been independently verified by Trucost, in cooperation with NSF Sustainability.

In addition to the Newlight deal, the technology giant is turning to long-time manufacturing partner, Wistron GreenTech, to pull off another big breakthrough: becoming the first company in the IT industry to earn a closed-loop recycling validation from UL Environment.

Dell’s new OptiPlex 3030 All-in-One desktop computer will be the first to contain a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled plastic, collected through Dell’s ongoing electronic-waste recovery processes. The recycled e-waste material is specifically used to make parts such as

the stand and the backing for the computer, according to an infographic from Dell.

Dell’s goal is to include up to 50 million pounds of recycled-content plastics and other “sustainable” materials in its products by 2020.

*Source: GreenBiz*

## Chicago Introduces Plastic Bag Ban

Following the lead of Los Angeles, Chicago has become the second largest city in the country to pass a plastic bag ban ordinance.

The ban is set to go into effect in August 2015, and will spare “independent” stores and establishments, instead focusing on chains and franchises throughout the Windy City. Like many plastic bag bans, the ordinance will require stores to carry alternative bags, such as “compostable” bags, paper sacks and reusable totes.

At independent stores and restaurants, an existing city ordinance will continue to hold merchants responsible for offering alternatives to plastic bags and providing a visible collection bin for used plastic bags.

*Source: Resource Recycling*

## Way to go Alberta!

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For more information on Alberta’s recycling programs, visit [www.albertarecycling.ca](http://www.albertarecycling.ca)



# News

## Chinese Recycling Demand Drops

Economic indicators point to a continuing decline in orders for recovered materials by Chinese companies. And with China being the second-largest economy in the world, this is affecting local recycling markets in North America.

Recovered paper, plastic and metal shipments westbound to China are down about 5% or more in the past year. This has resulted in a global price weakness.

Much of the slowdown in orders is due to a desire by the Chinese central government to reduce growth volatility and to move the economy forward in a more sustainable manner. Government planners want the economy to improve by 7.5% this year, rather than the typical 10% or more seen in previous years.

*Source: Resource Recycling*

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## First US Single-Use Battery Recycling Law Passes in Vermont

Single-use household battery manufacturers that sell or manufacture their products in the state of Vermont will be required to plan, implement, and manage a statewide battery collection program by 2016, per a bill passed by the Vermont House of Representatives.

The bill, known as H.695, "Act Relating to Establishing a Product Stewardship Program for Primary Batteries," is a type of extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that requires primary (single-use) battery manufacturers to fund and manage a take-back and recycling program on behalf of consumers. Once signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin, the bill will become the first EPR law in the country that covers primary batteries of multiple chemistries (e.g., alkaline, zinc carbon, lithium primary silver oxide, and zinc air). There is already a voluntary collection program in place for rechargeable batteries.

It is estimated that more than 10 million batteries are sold in Vermont each year. However, there are very few recycling programs available to consumers. The law will require battery manufacturers to submit a plan to the state by July 2015 outlining how they will implement a convenient collection program. In accordance with the bill, the program will provide convenient battery drop-off locations for consumers at retail and municipal sites.

*Source: Product Stewardship Institute*

## BREAKING NEWS:

### Manitoba to Fund Composting

Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship has announced a new program to increase organics recycling through MANITOBA COMPOSTS!, a dedicated annual funding program of \$1 million, available to municipal and commercial composting facilities for processing services as well as capital funding, research and market development support. MANITOBA COMPOSTS! has been established under the WRARS (Waste Reduction and Recycling Support) Program, administered by Green Manitoba.

To be eligible for funding, composting facilities must meet several criteria, which are outlined at [www.greenmanitoba.ca](http://www.greenmanitoba.ca).

Eligible organic materials include food waste, leaf and yard waste, chipped wood waste and animal manure and bedding (from IC&I sources) used in the composting process. Manure and bedding from on-farm sources, biosolids (sewage sludge), meat processing by-products and animal mortalities are ineligible to receive incentive payment.

For more information, contact Jim Ferguson, Senior Manager, Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Programs, Green Manitoba, at 204.945.7042 or [Jim.Ferguson@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Jim.Ferguson@gov.mb.ca).

# Coming Events

**Agricultural Plastics Recycling Conference & Trade Show**, organized by Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc., July 20-22, 2014, Marco Island, FL, [www.aprc2014.com](http://www.aprc2014.com)

**"What are you getting, what are you missing - A Municipal Waste Seminar"**, hosted by Advanced Enviro Engineering Ltd. and Greenit Cleanit Composting System, July 23, 2014, Edmonton, AB, contact: 780.488.7926, [www.cleanitgreenit.net](http://www.cleanitgreenit.net)

**"Excel-erate Zero Waste"**, Zero Waste Conference hosted by The City of Orillia's Waste Management and Environmental Advisory Committee, August 10-11, 2014, Orillia, ON, [www.zerowasteconference.ca](http://www.zerowasteconference.ca)

**2014 WASTECON "50 Shades of Green"**, presented by SWANA, August 26-28, 2014, Dallas, TX, [www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org)

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Alberta Recycling Conference**, hosted by Alberta CARE, September 3-5, 2014, Lac La Biche, AB, [www.albertacare.org](http://www.albertacare.org)

**2014 Recycling Innovators Forum**, September 15, 2014, New Orleans, LA, [www.recyclinginnovators.com](http://www.recyclinginnovators.com)

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Resource Recycling Conference**, September 16-17, 2014, New Orleans, LA, [www.rrconference.com](http://www.rrconference.com)

**2014 National Compost Conference**, presented by the Compost Council of Canada, September 22-24, 2014, Halifax, NS, contact: 1.877.571.4769, [www.compost.org](http://www.compost.org)

**"Recycling in the Rockies – A Waste Reduction Expedition"**, 2014 Recycling Council of Alberta Waste Reduction Conference, October 1-3, 2014, Lake Louise, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, [info@recycle.ab.ca](mailto:info@recycle.ab.ca)

**RE-BEAUTY Recycled Art Silent Auction Fundraiser and Waste Awareness Event**, held at Grant MacEwan University's Paul Byrne Hall in partnership with Cleanit Greenit Composting, October 10, 2014, Edmonton, AB, contact: [rebeautyart@gmail.com](mailto:rebeautyart@gmail.com), [www.karoantonio.com/re-beauty-2014](http://www.karoantonio.com/re-beauty-2014)

**RemTech™ 2014**, Remediation Technologies Symposium hosted by the Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA), October 15-17, 2014, Banff, AB, contact: 780.429.6363 x 223, [www.esaa-events.com/remtech](http://www.esaa-events.com/remtech)

**Waste Reduction Week in Canada**, October 20-26, 2014, [www.wrwcanada.com](http://www.wrwcanada.com)

**"Fostering Sustainable Behaviour"**, Introduction to Community-Based Social Marketing workshops with Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, October 20-21, 2014 in Vancouver, BC and October 22-23, 2014 in Nanaimo, BC – <https://register.cbsm.com>

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual E-Scrap Conference & Trade Show**, presented by Resource Recycling, October 22-23, 2014, Orlando, FL, [www.e-scrapconference.com](http://www.e-scrapconference.com)

**Coast Waste Management Association Conference**, October 22-24, 2014, [www.cwma.bc.ca](http://www.cwma.bc.ca)

**2014 Rubber Recycling Symposium**, hosted by the Rubber Association of Canada in partnership with RECYC-QUEBEC, October 22-24, 2014, Monreal, QC, [www.rubberassociation.ca](http://www.rubberassociation.ca)

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Waste Sector Symposium (CWSS)**, November 18-20, 2014, Toronto, ON, [www.canwastesectorsymposium.ca](http://www.canwastesectorsymposium.ca)

**Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo**, held in conjunction with the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Waste to Resource Conference**, November 19-20, 2014, Toronto, ON, [www.cwre.ca](http://www.cwre.ca)

**US Composting Council 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and Tradeshow**, January 20-23, 2015, Austin, TX, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

**2015 Plastics Recycling Conference**, presented by Resource Recycling, February 24-25, 2015, Dallas, TX, contact: 503.233.1305 x 117, [www.plasticsrecycling.com](http://www.plasticsrecycling.com)

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management (ICSW)**, March 15-18, 2015, Philadelphia, PA, [www.solid-waste.org](http://www.solid-waste.org)

**Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Conference**, April 22-24, 2015, Saskatoon, SK, contact: 306.931.3242, [www.saskwastereduction.ca](http://www.saskwastereduction.ca)

**2015 Recycling Council of Alberta Waste Reduction Conference**, held jointly with the **Conference on Canadian Stewardship**, Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2015, Banff, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, [info@recycle.ab.ca](mailto:info@recycle.ab.ca)

Visit [www.recycle.ab.ca/events](http://www.recycle.ab.ca/events) for more events listings.

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## Market Updates

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Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	50-60	↓
Cardboard (loose)	30	↓
Office Pak (loose)	35-110	↓
Mixed (loose)	5-20	↓
Magazines (loose)	5-40	↓
News (loose)	35-40	↓
Plastic		
HDPE (baled)	180-440	↑
Mixed #1-7	-50 - 40	↑
Clear PE Film (baled)	180	↑
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↑
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	100	↔
White Goods	100	↔

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### Keynote Speakers

- "Just Eat It" Filmmakers
- The Carbon Farmer

### SESSIONS

- Waste - The Big Picture
- Food Waste

- ICI and C&D Waste Diversion
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Recycling at Sporting Events



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