

Connector

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Celebrate Canadian Design for Preventing Waste & Increasing Sustainability

Achieving zero waste means incorporating environmentally conscious design from start to finish, and Canada's National Zero Waste Council is highlighting eight companies for their ability to meet design criteria for zero waste and increased sustainability.

The National Zero Waste Council's design portfolio is a showcase and education portal featuring products made using lifecycle thinking and zero waste design principles as key elements of manufacturing, distribution, use, and disposal. These products provide a benchmark for Canada's zero waste movement, and the product and packaging industry.

The goal of the Council's Product Design and Packaging Working Group is to promote zero waste design at all stages of a product's lifecycle. This web-based design portfolio is the Working Group's first project, and showcases what companies can accomplish with great design.

Businesses can apply to be featured in the design portfolio, and their products must be both available for purchase in Canada, and be either invented, designed, manufactured, or packaged in Canada. A panel of leading experts in sustainable design and circular economy review all qualifying applications.



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www.recycle.ab.ca

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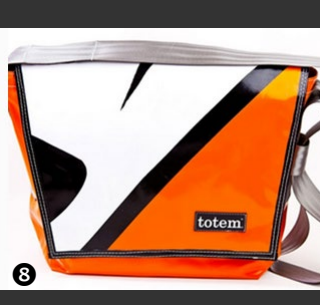
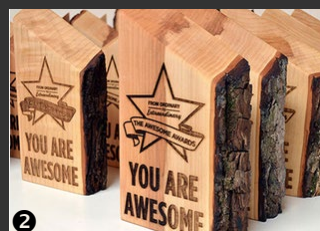
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Beverage Container Management Board,
Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance
City of Calgary,
City of Edmonton,
Tetra Tech EBA Inc.

The eight businesses and their products currently featured in the National Zero Waste Council's design portfolio are:

1. Steelcase – Think Chair
2. Eclipse Awards – Green Recognition Awards
3. Nature's Path – Flax Plus® Granola Packaging
4. Keilhauer – Felt Furniture
5. Live for Tomorrow – Dirt Happens Laundry Detergent
6. Mountain Sky Soap – Mountain Sky Natural Bar Soap
7. Boardroom Eco – EcoApparel rPET Clothing
8. Totem Bags – Quality Bags with a Conscience

View the design portfolio at <http://www.nzwc.ca/design/portfolio>

Source: NZWC



Meet The Minister

Shannon Phillips represents the southern Alberta riding of Lethbridge-West. She was appointed Minister of Environment and Parks, and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women by Premier Notley in May 2015. She also serves as Deputy Government House Leader.

Raised in Edmonton, Shannon graduated with honours from the University of Alberta with a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science. After graduating, she worked with Jack Layton and the federal NDP as well as at the Alberta Legislature with the NDP opposition.

Before being elected, she worked as a journalist and consultant before taking a position with the Alberta Federation of Labour as an economic policy analyst,

where she worked on issues related to Alberta's economy: oil sands and pipelines, labour markets, government finances, and health care.

Shannon is the mother of two preschool-aged boys and lives in the London Road area of Lethbridge.

The RCA looks forward to working with the new Minister and her department to advance waste reduction in the province.



2015 Summer Ambassadors

The RCA's Recycling Ambassadors are back in action!! They have been working on a wide range of projects from setting up educational booths at community events, conducting waste audits and helping with organic survey follow-ups throughout the province. These ambassadors are excited to learn all about the world of waste reduction and recycling and experience it first hand.

Shelby is a returning ambassador working for the City of Leduc and is very excited about the experience she will gain this summer. Shelby has a Bachelor of Science in ecology and some previous work experience with oil and gas remediation. In her free time she enjoys hiking, gardening and painting.

Alex has completed her second year of Environmental Science at Mount Royal University is one half of the Calgary team. She is passionate and enthusiastic about the environment and is looking forward making a positive contribution to Alberta's recycling programs as a summer Ambassador. In her free time she enjoys running, yoga and hiking through the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Corinne finished her third year at the University of Calgary in the Environmental Science program with a concentration in Geology and is the second member of the Calgary team. She has played soccer almost her entire life and has also coached. She is happy to be joining the Recycling Council of Alberta team and is looking forward to positively contributing to the events this summer.

Tina is studying Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario and a member of the



Edmonton team. She has been extremely passionate about any and all global environmental issues. She spent a year living in the Netherlands and believes this is when her passion began – seeing the different environmental attitudes overseas. In her free time she likes to be outside she is a firm believer that untouched nature is the best medicine and must keep it that way!

Rachel is currently working on her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MacEwan University in Edmonton. Her two passions in life are environmental protection and animal rights. She has two dogs and five cats, enjoys being outside, and loves camping. She is really excited to be working with the Recycling Council of Alberta this summer and travelling around the province while working with one of her passions.

Kristen is an Education student at the University of Alberta and one of the Edmonton Office Ambassadors. She believes education is the first step to change, which is why she is so excited to work with the RCA this summer. She looks forward to teaching the public ways they can reduce their environmental footprint, ensuring their children and grandchildren can enjoy the same world we live in today.

Eilish is in her fourth year of environmental studies at the University of Alberta and the second Edmonton Office Ambassador. She enjoys drinking tea and riding her bike. She is excited to be working with both the RCA and the City of Edmonton to help educate and engage the public about sustainability.

Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



SAIT Raises Diversion Rate

Back in 2012, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) saw a trend developing in the City of Calgary and among post-secondary institutions. For years, SAIT had taken a traditional approach to waste removal and recycling. As long as it went away, everything was good.

But, SAIT knew that sustainable initiatives were becoming a hot button topic on campus. Students were asking for more alternative programs and the institution knew they had to find a different way of doing things. SAIT had been talking about developing more sustainable initiatives as far back as 2008 and knew that their current efforts were negligible, at best.

In the fall of 2012, SAIT began an exhaustive search for a partner who could assist in developing programs that would divert waste from landfills and help SAIT achieve some aggressive targets for waste diversion. After a long and thorough RFP process, SAIT selected Waste Management to help make a difference on campus.

SAIT and Waste Management developed a plan to analyze current services, identify areas of opportunity and track the success of the school's efforts on a monthly basis. In the first three months of the partnership, it was discovered that SAIT's diversion rate was below 20%, well below the target of 80% diversion in 2020 for the entire City of Calgary.

But, with coordinated efforts to identify areas of opportunity, and analysis of service levels, SAIT was able to reduce costs while adding new service opportunities. Instead of waste from SAIT's many kitchens going to the landfill, organics collection points were created. Brick and wood that used to end up in the landfill were now being recycled.

The results have been impressive. Diversion rates have tripled and now average just under 60% per month. Over twenty metric tonnes of organics is diverted every

month. Compost from SAIT is brought back to the school for use in the organic garden. The School of Hospitality and Tourism has added sustainability to its curriculum. All food vendors have been supplied with organics collection containers. All this was done with cost savings from service reductions and no additional budget money needed to be allocated to these new initiatives.

With a diversion rate of 60%, SAIT is refusing to rest on its laurels. The school wants to be a leader among

Alberta's post-secondary institutions. New buildings conserve water and the use of chemical fertilizer has been minimized. And, SAIT's on-campus culinary restaurant has set a goal to be net zero waste in the near future.

As everyone in Calgary is looking for direction in their efforts to increase their diversion

rate and comply with coming landfill bans, SAIT is already leading the way.

submitted by Gordon MacAlpine



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.

Plastic Lumber Plant Offers Local Mixed Plastics Market

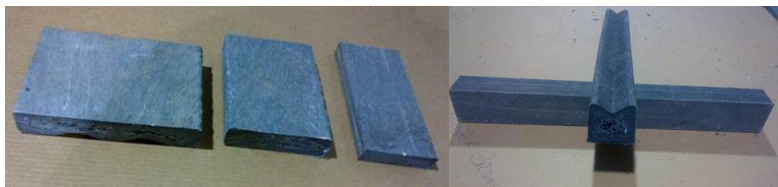
Outlook Plastics, a factory for manufacturing plastic lumber, plastic fence posts and parking curbs, has been operating just outside the town of Nobleford, AB, for the past 2 years. The end products are made from 100% recycled post-consumer and post-industrial waste plastic, and marketed by Alternative Plastic Products Manufacturing Inc. of Lethbridge.

The main product being made is insert beams for a number of United States firms in the concrete form business. Raw materials are being used from a number of Alberta towns and cities – most of which is post-consumer

waste plastic that is mixed together, granulated, and extruded into

aluminum molds to form the final products. Outlook Plastics is concentrating on developing future products such as Barrier Posts, 4 x 4 x 72" park bench lumber, and 2 x 6 x 72" boards for park tables for local markets.

For more information, contact Grant Harrington at 403.329.1713 or gh@west-can.com.





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SESSIONS

- Provincial ADM Panel
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- EPR World Stage
- Organics Diversion
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EVENTS

- Local Tours
- Gala Banquet
- Rs of Excellence Awards
- Exhibits and Networking Opportunities

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ADAM MINTER - author of Junkyard Planet

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 15

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Recycling Council of Alberta



Enjoying Your Favourite Festival or Event without Costing the Planet

Who doesn't love a great event or festival? A chance to enjoy our often fleeting summer, great tunes, lively entertainment, amazing food and spending time with family, friends and other members of your community.

That being said, do you ever take a moment and think about all that trash generated at one of these events? The paper plates, plastic cutlery, disposable water bottles, the posters and flyers and random stuff that people bring and end up throwing away. It means that these amazing events can use up a significant amount of resources and can be hard on the planet.

Do we have to choose between our favourite events and being kinder to the planet? Well, imagine your favourite event with recycling sorting stations everywhere you turn, vendors using compostable or better yet, re-usable food ware, water bottles that can be filled on-site, a bike valet to store your bike safely while you're enjoying the show, and best of all, leaving a site in your local community almost as clean as you found it? It's called "event greening" and some of our biggest attractions have been doing it for a few years with awesome results!



How can you green your event?

It starts in the planning:

- Establish and communicate your green procurement policies to your vendors and suppliers;
- As you do your site visit, think about where the most waste will be generated and make a plan for lots of well identified sorting stations to make it easy for people to recycle;
- Consider having a green energy provider onsite;

- Secure water re-fill stations. You can even make it a disposable waterbottle-free zone!

On the day of the event:

- Ensure you've assigned trained volunteers to supervise your sorting stations;
- Monitor to make sure your vendors are complying with your procurement policies;

Post event:

- Assess the amount of waste generated and what's headed for the landfill vs. what's being recycled (often called your diversion rate – this is your chance to see how well you did!);

Want to learn more about event greening? Visit greencalgary.org for resources, advice and event greening services to help you celebrate without costing the planet!

submitted by Areni Kelleppan, Green Calgary



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2015 Rs of Excellence Awards – Call for Nominations

The RCA is seeking nominations for its 2015 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
- Suggested award category (past categories include Institutional Leadership, Product Stewardship, Waste Reduction Service, Corporate Leadership, Zero Waste, Special Event, Municipal Program)

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, email the nomination to info@recycle.ab.ca, or fax it to 403.843.4156.

Application deadline: August 9, 2015

Awards will be presented at the RCA's Waste Reduction Conference "Under the Big Top", which will be held September 30 to October 2, 2015 at The Fairmont Banff Springs hotel.

RCA & CCS Conference Guide Mobile App

Have the latest program, as well as information on speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and delegates at your fingertips. Access the app in your mobile browser on any device, simply visit <http://bit.ly/RCA-CCS>



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ALBERTA NEWS

Lethbridge Chooses Pilot for Curbside Recycling

A recent Lethbridge City Council meeting saw plans for city-wide blue-bin curbside recycling discarded, along with an initiative to assist residents of apartments and condos. Instead, Council settled on a proposal to plan a pilot project involving approximately 1,000 homes, and hire a “specialized independent consultant” to evaluate options for curbside blue-bin service.

No timelines were set for the pilot, and Council did not decide whether it would involve organics, recyclables, or both.

Council approved a request to draft a city policy “to maximize diversion of recyclable and compostable materials from the landfill, to conserve the operating life of the landfill”, as well as an action plan tailored to the different streams of waste heading into the landfill, aiming at a “full diversion strategy” by late 2020.

Source: Lethbridge Herald

Editor’s Note: With the new Environment Minister hailing from Lethbridge, it will be interesting to see if diversion plans move forward more quickly.

Chestermere Residents Have Issues with Mandatory Use of Clear Garbage Bags

Chestermere residents are making a stink about a new rule that would make it mandatory for curbside trash to be stored in clear plastic bags.

The small city’s plan to roll out curbside recycling and compost pickup this spring will require residents to put out trash in transparent bags. Trash collectors would then be able to see whether paper products or other recyclables are being sent to the landfill.

The program will have a soft rollout – expect recycling and compost bins to be delivered in May – and the city won’t enforce the new rule right away.

And while enforcing strict recycling standards may help the city reduce its tipping fees at Calgary landfills, residents are crying foul. In an online petition to reverse the clear bag rule, many people have called the clear-bag policy disgusting, unnecessary, and an invasion of privacy.

By introducing recycling and compost service, which won’t cost residents any more money, Chestermere estimates it could reduce the amount of garbage it takes to the landfill by about 75%. Chestermere Utilities will focus on educating residents about the new rules before they ticket or fine people for putting paper in the trash.

Source: Calgary Herald

Calgary Fesses Up – Won’t Meet 2020 Landfill Targets

Calgary was one of the last major cities in Canada to adopt curbside recycling, but the same year council finally said yes to blue bins, it set one of the country’s most ambitious waste reduction targets.

It will miss that target.

After years of stating Calgary could remain on track to divert 80% of all waste from landfills by next decade – the “80/20 by 2020” campaign – city waste officials have confirmed it’s likely unobtainable.

Calgary will try to improve the diversion rate in coming years: mandatory recycling in condos and apartments next year, green-bin composting for houses in 2017, and an outright ban on accepting business’ paper and cardboard at city landfills by 2018.

Even with all those measures, it’s more likely 60/40 by 2020. Even the strongest sector – single-family homes, soon to have three separate bins – will still send 30% of its trash to landfill.

The Vancouver region, which has the same 80/20 target timeline, has hit a 60% rate, having long had composting and an ever-expanding list of materials banned from the trash stream.

Source: Calgary Herald

Alberta Hospital Waste Piles Up

The province’s hospital waste is piling up as a proposal for a new incinerator at Ryley was turned down and an older facility was closed for violating air pollution standards.

Alberta Health Services says some waste that does not require incineration is being sent to Saskatchewan; while some is being “safely stored” until a solution is finalized.

Meanwhile, Ryley residents say they’re pleased the proposal for a much larger incinerator adjacent to their village was turned down by the Beaver County development appeal board.

AHS says it will “consider all potential sites in Alberta and other provinces” in the search for the best long-term and short-term disposal solution.

The AHS contract with its contractor G-M Pearson expires in January 2016, so there will be a request for proposals soon.

Source: Edmonton Journal

Are You On Facebook?

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Drop by the RCA’s Facebook page:
facebook.com/RecyclingCouncilOfAlberta

CANADIAN NEWS

Funding Doubles For SK Grain Bag Recycling Program

A Saskatchewan grain bag-recycling program is back for another year. The federal and provincial governments announced they are doubling the funding – from \$100,000 to \$200,000 – for the 2015 pilot program.

Since 2011, approximately 2.4 million pounds of plastic have been collected. In 2014, three times more plastic bags were collected than during the first three years of the program.

This is a stopgap funding program while the Ministry of Environment is working on creating regulations to make the recycling program permanent.

There are currently 13 locations in Saskatchewan where producers can drop off plastic grain bags and twine: Cudworth, Hirsch, Humboldt, Kelvington, Macoun, Marshall, Milestone, Moose Jaw, Mossbank, Prince Albert, Rush Lake, Saskatoon, and Unity.

Source: Global News

National Solid Waste Benchmarking Study

The Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) is pleased to present the first Industrial, Commercial, & Institutional (IC&I) waste performance benchmarking study of its kind in Canada.

The National Solid Waste Benchmarking Study features generation and diversion data from 1,012 office and retail properties from across the country, and is an important first step in addressing the need for industry-specific waste benchmarking.

What's in the study:

- Performance rates for 1,012 office, retail centres and retail stores from across the country
- Diversion rate
- Capture rate
- Year-over-year generation rate
- Divertible materials recycled and disposed
- Diversion programs in place across Canada
- Recommendations

The benchmarking study is an important step in gathering much needed waste management information for the IC&I sector.

Jo-Anne St. Godard, Executive Director, RCO

Editor's Note: RCA and RCO are discussing options to expand this program to Alberta.

Way to go Alberta!

You're some of the best recyclers in the world...

6.8 million computers and TVs

14.8 million litres of paint

2.6 million spray paint cans

92 million tires

Keep up the good work!

For more information on Alberta's recycling programs, visit www.albertarecycling.ca



Grants in Gear Winners Announcement

The Automotive Recyclers of Canada (ARC) and Summerhill Impact have announced the four winners of the Grants in Gear funding program. The winners, located throughout Alberta and Ontario, will each receive up to \$25,000 to help execute their programs and advance the environmental outcomes of their automotive-related projects.

Grants in Gear is a nation-wide program in its second year that provides funding to Canadian environmental non-profit organizations to achieve tangible results in emissions reductions or pollution prevention in the transportation sector and/or excellence in automotive recycling techniques.

The winners are:

- University of Waterloo Alternative Fuels Team, who will convert a 2016 Chevrolet Camaro into a hybrid vehicle decreasing the vehicle's emissions, while increasing its efficiency and maintaining its performance.
- Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) (in partnership with Fort Albany First Nation (FAFN), Moosonee Transport Limited and Summerhill Impact), who will develop a long-term Waste Management Plan to recycle and responsibly manage end-of-life vehicles in the Fort Albany First Nations community.
- Inside Education, who will deliver Clean Air Responsible Schools (CARS), an education and action plan aimed at educating students about air quality, specifically related to idling, around their school.
- Sustainable Waterloo Region, who have developed the TravelWise@School pilot project to implement School Travel Action Plans that will increase active transportation and reduce emissions of both students and parents.

Further information about each of the winning projects can be found at <http://autorecyclers.ca/grants-in-gear-funding/2015-grants-in-gear-winners/>

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

Visit **Alberta's Recycling Hotline**
at www.recyclinghotline.ca
or phone 1.800.463.6326

Paper and Cardboard Ban Recommended at Saskatoon City Landfills

The City of Saskatoon could be cracking down on businesses and institutions that don't recycle. A report advocating a ban on paper and cardboard at the Saskatoon landfill is heading to a city committee. The report lists a number of possible ways to enforce the ban.

The city could require businesses, schools and hospitals to provide on-site recycling. Regular inspections of trucks at the landfills could also occur, with potential fines or rejected loads for companies that don't comply.

Administration also looked into the potential of a ban on plastic bags and styrofoam. However, the administration felt that issue would be better dealt with in the future.

Source: CBC News

Cascades Recovery, Cellmark Recycling Form Joint Venture

Cascades Recovery Inc. (CRI), Toronto, and Cellmark Recycling Inc., a large trading group with North American headquarters in San Rafael, California, have announced a joint venture agreement between CRI and CellMark BC Holdings Inc., Cellmark's Canadian division.

The joint venture, called CasCell Trading Group Inc., will take over Cascades' Material Management Group (MMG) in the western provinces of Canada. MMG was responsible for marketing the recyclables collected and processed at Cascades' nine recycling facilities in Western Canada. Provinces covered by the new joint venture include Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Cascades will retain the MMG division that serves the eastern part of Canada and the United States. CasCell Trading Group Inc. will be headquartered in Surrey, BC. Cascades' staff who previously worked in its Materials Management Group for Western Canada will be absorbed by the new company.

CasCell Trading will handle the marketing of all recyclables collected and processed at Cascades' nine facilities in Western Canada and three recycling facilities Cellmark operates. The plants themselves will remain under the ownership of the existing companies. This transaction will be effective May 1, 2015.

Source: Recycling Today

"Under the Big Top"

Details on the **2015 Conference on Canadian Stewardship and RCA Waste Reduction Conference** are now posted at www.conference.recycle.ab.ca

EPR Tops Nova Scotia Concerns

When the Nova Scotia government went looking for input to improve its waste regulations, it found that extended producer responsibility was the hottest topic of debate, primarily because the province lags behind most others in Canada.

The public widely suggested adding a section to the solid waste regulation that will guide product stewardship in a consistent manner across designated products. The province suggested a number of materials that could be stewarded in the province.

Submissions called for using clear and common definitions to “aid national companies in complying with Nova Scotia rules.” Also emphasized was the need for national and international companies, as well as industry associations to be in total compliance. Specifically, that “for the new recycling regime to work, all participants must sign on.”

The report found that submitters stressed the importance of reaching the right balance between municipally-run services and industry-funded programs, while maintaining the service delivery model that Nova Scotia residents have come to expect.

Stakeholder consultation focused on proposed changes in seven key areas:

- **Product Stewardship** – adding Extended Producer Responsibility regulations for designated products
- **Disposal Bans and Approval Requirements** – adding more items to the ban and strengthening compliance requirements
- **Used Tire Management Program** – expanding current regulations to include off-the road tires
- **Removal of Requirement for Regional Solid Waste Management Plans** – regulations to reflect current goals and recognize that regions will collectively work towards achieving provincial goals
- **Clarity on Rules for Energy from Waste** – revising regulations to ensure materials banned from disposal are also banned from all forms of thermal treatment used to process mixed municipal solid waste.
- **Improved Enforceability of Solid Waste Regulations** – Focusing department enforcement efforts based on risk. Updating definitions and terms to better reflect provincial goals and the Environment Act
- **Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program** – changing to a deposit / refund with a separate recycling fee, with no immediate change to the fee amount.

The department will continue to engage with interested groups on the amendments to be given to government later this year. If approved, changes would be phased-in over the next five years.

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

CRD to Make Up \$450,000 Annual Rural Recycling Shortfall

Capital Regional District (CRD) in BC approved \$450,000 per year funding to recycling depots on the Gulf Islands and in the Juan de Fuca electoral area by agreeing to make up a funding shortfall from Multi-Material BC (MMBC).

The new recycling program, administered by stewardship group MMBC, came as part of a Ministry of Environment policy change intended to shift financial responsibility for recycling packaging and printed paper from local governments to the industries that produce those materials.

The CRD entered into a contract with MMBC to collect blue box materials, but MMBC's incentive for depot collection of the materials covers only 12% of the cost.

CRD directors agreed to cover the shortfall until 2019, when the curbside collection contract expires.

Source: Times Colonist

Manitoba Plastic Film and Twine Recycling Program Initiated

Used plastic twine, old grain bags and silage covers are a nuisance on most farms and are usually burned. This year, CleanFARMS will be operating a pilot program aimed at keeping plastic film and twine out of select municipal landfills in Manitoba. 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.

The collections will be carried out in both the spring and fall of 2015. Materials have to be clean and dry and must be kept separate. This can include bale and silage wrap, grain bags and plastic (polypropylene) twine. Nylon twine / rope, netting, feed / seed bags and excessively dirty materials will not be recycled.

Collection bags are available for free at participating collection sites.

Source: Portage Daily Graphic

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DATA CALL: Ontario Waste Diversion Average Still Under 50%

For 2013, there were about 20 Ontario municipalities that achieved a residential waste diversion rate of at least 50%, meaning they diverted more materials than they sent to landfill.

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) has released residential waste diversion data from 2013 that reveals a provincial diversion average of 47.3%, almost exactly the same as 2012.

The annual Municipal Datacall online reports for 2013 were submitted last year by 98% of Ontario's total population. Municipalities are required to complete the Municipal Datacall to be eligible for Blue Box Program funding.

The top-performing municipality, according to the data, isn't much of a surprise. The City of Guelph takes the honour with a diversion rate of more than 69%, even beating its own 2012 record of 67.7% diversion.

Second to Guelph in the diversion rankings is the City of Orillia with a rate of 63.7%.

TOP PERFORMERS:

- City of Guelph (69.15%)
- City of Orillia (63.75%)
- Municipality of Meaford (61.11%)
- Regional Municipality of York (58.58%)
- City of Owen Sound (58.30%)
- Township of West Grey (57.79%)
- County of Simcoe (55.73%)
- City of Kingston (55.60%)
- County of Oxford (55.07%)
- City of Peterborough (54.71%)
- Township of Dysart et al (54.66%)
- Region of Halton (54.60%)
- Region of Durham (53.75%)
- Town of Latchford (53.38%)
- Township of Madawaska Valley (53.16%)
- City of Toronto (52.63%)
- Municipality of Grey Highlands (52.59%)
- Regional Municipality of Waterloo (52.28%)
- Regional Municipality of Niagara (51.77%)
- Town of Perth (50.14%)

The number of people in Ontario with access to any type of residential organics program (kitchen organics and/or leaf and yard waste) increased by 345,962 in 2013 over 2012, or 3% of Ontario's population. Thirteen of the municipalities with a residential waste diversion rate of at least 50% operate a kitchen organics program.

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

Ontario Misses E-Scrap Collection Targets

Ontario's electronics stewardship organization fell 14% short of its e-scrap collection target for 2014, and says smaller and lighter products are to blame.

Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES), an industry-funded non-profit organization, oversaw the collection of 78,284 tons of e-scrap last year, short of the original goal of 90,941 tons.

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), who regulates e-scrap collection and approves program plans submitted by the manufacturers' group, has asked OES to present revised targets that address industry and recycling trends, including light weighting and today's shorter product life cycles.

OES also reported 96.5% of Ontario residents live within 6.2 miles of an OES e-scrap drop-off site or affiliated drop-off point, and that 98.3% of the province's urban population is within a 15-minute drive of a drop-off location.

Source: Resource Recycling

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

California Targets Recycled Content Minimums

Legislation in front of California lawmakers would require beverage companies to use at least 10% recycled plastic in bottles if they want to continue receiving discounts on fees they pay to the state.

The Senate bill, sponsored by environmental group Californians Against Waste, would require manufacturers of plastic beverage containers sold in the state to prove they're using at least 10% recycled content starting in 2017. It would apply to all resins.

Under the Senate bill, manufacturers would have to hit the recycled content minimums if they want to continue receiving discounts. It would apply to containers produced out of state as well.

It's not clear what the average recycled content is for containers in California, according to a bill analysis. Coca-Cola uses, on average, 6% recycled content for PET packaging, while PepsiCo reports using 10% for beverage containers, the analysis states. Nestle states that five of its brands use a range from 50% to 100% recycled PET.

A separate bill in the California Assembly would require a 10% minimum recycled content for PET food and beverage containers starting in July 2016. Assembly Bill 1447 would also extend the current 35% minimum recycled content requirement on glass all bottles filled in California, not just those made in California.

The bill would help PET recycling companies struggling to compete with makers of virgin PET because of low oil prices, according to Californians Against Waste.

Source: Resource Recycling

French Food Waste Inspiration

You have to hand it to the French. They can make just about anything sound exotic – even food waste. Also known as “gaspillage alimentaire”, food waste sounds better in French and its future looks a whole lot better too, due to some bold policy moves.

National policy makers in France released a comprehensive policy proposal to prevent food waste and keep unavoidable food waste out of the landfill. Under the proposed policies:

- **Donate Extra food** – Supermarkets would have a legal obligation to donate extra food to non-profit organizations that ask for it.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility** – To foster transparency, large corporations would be required to include data on food waste in statements.
- **Alternatives to Landfilling** – Businesses generating large quantities are directed to follow the food waste hierarchy directing waste to use as animal feed, industrial applications, anaerobic digestion or composting, with landfills being the option of last resort.
- **Dedicated National Agency** – The agency would work collaboratively with a wide variety of stakeholders and support innovation at the national and local levels.
- **Proposed regulatory measures** – Clarify expiration dates on grocery products, establish parameters around the rejection of food shipments from suppliers by retailers, encourage waste reduction in government food programs and institutions, encourage gleanings of unharvested crops on farms, and even offer “clemency” to dumpster-divers, among other strategies.
- **Education and public awareness** are a priority and include learning opportunities for children about food production and food waste prevention.

Recently enacted, the new policies set a high bar for national food waste policy. Given the French goal of cutting food waste in half by 2025, this new approach rightly recognizes the need to tackle both over-production and over-consumption in the French food system.

Source: Switchboard, NRDC Staff Blog

Unprofitable Recycling Weighs on Waste Management

Waste Management (WM) Inc. said that tumbling prices of recycled materials and lower recycling volumes weighed on its revenue in the first quarter, leading the company to lower its profit forecasts. Executives also pointed to worsening economics around handling glass, which has become a money loser for the Houston-based company.

The CEO said WM's recycling division lost \$13 million during the quarter and shut down four

recycling plants over the past year, with more plant closures planned.

Market values of used plastics have fallen sharply, a decline some in the industry have attributed to lower crude oil prices, which have pushed down the price of producing new plastic and have left manufacturers less keen to work with recycled material. Slower economic growth in China and other countries also has reduced demand for used paper and other recycled commodities. Even prices of used metals are down.

For WM, recycling items collected from American households has traditionally been less lucrative than other businesses like collecting and disposing of trash from companies and factories. But recycling was a growing business for many years. Recycling rates rose as the company worked with towns and cities to let residents dump all their recyclables into a single bin.

Now, that collection system is making it harder for recyclers to turn a profit because the mixed materials are often contaminated with garbage, which is expensive to sort out and cart away. Glass is a particular problem because it breaks in collection and transit and damages machinery. Waste Management has to pay a processor to take the glass it recovers off its hands.

Last year, the company lost \$6 million recycling glass. The company is now trying to get municipalities to pay for glass to be recycled, but so far, it has been unable to renew some contracts, because customers won't agree to pay.

Source: nasdaq.com

Novelis Launches Line of 100% Recycled Aluminum Products

You may not have heard of Novelis, but the chances are high you have touched its products, perhaps multiple times on a daily basis. With over US\$11 billion in revenues, the company has made its mark everywhere from aluminum cans, foil, and electronics, to the automobile sector.

Novelis has announced a new product line of high-recycled content for food and beverage containers.

The product, called evercycle, could be an important step in the overall sustainability of the aluminum industry. Recycled aluminum uses less than 5% of the energy used to make it out of virgin bauxite.

The product contains about 90% post-consumer content, with the rest coming from customer manufacturing scrap. For now, the evercycle product is only available in North America, but the company expects it to become available globally as demand increases. The development of this product is one part of Novelis' overall sustainability agenda.

Source: Triple Pundit

Reduced Oil Prices Cause Concern for Plastics Recycling Sector

Areas of plastics recycling are becoming uncompetitive, according to the British Plastics Federation (BPF), and this is threatening not only the viability of businesses but also, potentially, the recycling record of the whole supply chain.

The BPF is calling on companies in the downstream supply chain, when considering their materials selection policies, to keep to the fore the fact that high recycling targets have to be met under the Packaging Waste (Producer Responsibility) Regulations and that many individual Corporate Social Responsibility programmes support increased recycling levels.

Defra Resources Minister Dan Rogerson MP renewed its commitment last week to the voluntary agreements that have driven progress in collection and recycling of rHDPE plastic packaging by ensuring minimum recycled content in plastic packaging, especially plastic milk bottles.

Ray Georgeson, Chief Executive of the Resource Association, also expressed concern that some of the “major players” in the supply chain have switched back to virgin polymer.

Source: CIWM Journal Online

Arizona Bans Plastic Bag Bans

From the bizarre environmental regulations archives, Arizona has passed a ban on plastic bag bans. Yes – you heard right.

The bill is the handiwork of Republican State Senator Nancy Barto, who is concerned that future “excessive regulation” on bags and other disposable containers that could stifle economic growth.

The ban on bans doesn’t stop at just bags, either. The law also will stop local governments from putting any restrictions on bottles, cans, and boxes.

Alas, Arizona consumers aren’t making smart decisions when it comes to plastic bags. Few shoppers bring reusable bags with them when they shop, and less than 5% of the state’s single-use bags are recycled.

From the state’s aggressive action on this issue, you might assume that several local governments had already implemented bag bans of their own. On the contrary, just one town in the state had previously passed a bag ban: Bisbee, Ariz.

Considering that bag restrictions weren’t even popular in Arizona, the ban on bans is clearly more of a reaction to other states’ successful transitions to a greener way of shopping.

Source: Care2.com

Pressure on Kraft’s Capri Sun Pouches

A consortium of environmental groups is taking another run at Kraft Foods Group Inc. in an effort to make the food and beverage company take more responsibility for its Capri Sun packaging waste.

It was just about a year ago that a new campaign, called Make It, Take It, launched with an eye towards the well-known kids’ drink pouch. The pouch has been in the crosshairs of environmentalists for years because of its recycling difficulty.

Capri Sun pouches represent a challenge to traditional recycling systems because they contain layers of plastic and aluminum. The Make It, Take It campaign claims only an estimated 2% of the pouches are recycled.

Kraft has developed a long-standing Capri Sun pouch take-back program through TerraCycle Inc. of Trenton, NJ. That effort has recycled more than 200 million pouches, although that represents a small portion of the pouches sold.

Source: Plastics News

How Can California Reach its 75% Recycling Goal?

California has released an extensive report on the state’s recycling activity and infrastructure as it looks to hit a 75% recycling rate goal by 2020.

According to the report from California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), Californians recycled and composted roughly 50% of the waste they generated in 2013. That rate, while one of the highest in the nation, has remained essentially flat since 2010.

California’s statewide recycling rate goal, established in 2011, is the highest in the country. Florida has also set a 75% recycling rate goal for 2020 but counts various practices outside the traditional recycling arena, including waste-to-energy, as recycling.

Of the 73 million tons of material generated in California during 2013, about 27 million tons were recycled. An additional 9.6 million tons were composted.

Based on permitting documents, CalRecycle estimates about 1,400 recycling facilities are located within the nation’s most populous state. The state’s 161 materials recovery facilities are operating at only 42% capacity.

California manufacturers absorbing the state’s recycled feedstock supply, however, are essentially at their limit with recycled glass, paper and plastics.

Without sufficient domestic demand, exports account for the majority of California’s recycling activity, the report shows. Of the 27 million tons of material the state recovered, 18.6 million tons were exported, most often to China, South Korea and Taiwan. California’s domestic recycling industry could stand to add 58,000 jobs if the state cut out exports altogether, while another 25,000 jobs would be created for neighboring states.

Source: Resource Recycling

San Francisco Safe Drug Disposal Bill Passes

The City of San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a landmark bill that requires pharmaceutical companies that sell medications locally to finance and manage the collection and safe disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources.

San Francisco's extended producer responsibility (EPR) law for pharmaceutical take-back, creates a long-term solution for the disposal of both over-the-counter and prescription medications.

The new law makes it mandatory for pharmaceutical companies to provide for the convenient and safe collection and disposal of drugs, while promoting such product stewardship programs to their wholesalers, retailers, and local residents via outreach and marketing campaigns.

The passage of this ordinance comes after a multi-year fight for pharmaceutical EPR in the City.

Source: Product Stewardship Institute

The Launch of Reloop

March 25th marked the official launch of Reloop, the first pan-euro organization specifically focused on issues relating to waste prevention, reduction, and recycling that represents industry, government, and environmental organizations at the European Union level.

Reloop aims to work as a platform for advances in policy that create enabling conditions for circularity across the European economy.

The purpose of their coming together was to collectively consider the best approach for ensuring that reusable packaging systems become part of what's needed to achieve the mutual goal of a circular economy.

Clarissa Morawski, Reloop's Managing Director, said she was encouraged to see that "so many delegates from different sectors were united in their vision for the need to move to a more circular economy – one which not only supports environmental protection, but guarantees more jobs and a boost in the economy".

Source: reloopplatform.eu

Royal Decree Sets Reuse Targets for Electronics

The Spanish government has implemented targets for electronics manufacturers to reuse electronic products. This is in addition to the already existing recycling targets. The new decree requires manufacturers to prepare electronics for reuse. Spain has thus become the first country in the European region to set a target for electronics reuse.

The Royal Decree directs retailers to accept electronics scrap free-of-cost when the customer purchases an equivalent new item. Also, retailers with floor area exceeding 4,300 square feet are required to accept smaller size electronics scrap without requiring the customer to purchase equivalent new goods.

Source: Scrapmonster.com

Apple Now Accepts Android Trade-Ins

Apple will now accept Android, Windows and other non-iOS smartphones as part of its Reuse and Recycling Programme. Customers can now take their old or unwanted handsets to Apple stores and receive an immediate valuation. They are then given the option to receive store credit toward a new iPhone or iPad. The service is also available online.




Apple requires the smartphone must be able to turn on in order to fit the programme's requirements. Should the handset not qualify for credit, it will be recycled responsibly on the customer's behalf.

Source: The Telegraph



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News

Acoustic Insulation from Orange Tree Waste

Homes may one day benefit from improved acoustic insulation with an orange flavor after researchers in Spain managed to turn waste material from orange trees into high-performance acoustic insulation. The new material is more environmentally friendly to produce and an improvement in terms of acoustic insulation compared to conventional laminated gypsum boards.

The new boards are created from orange tree trimmings, which are collected from the fields and put through a defibration (or “digestion”) process, before being combined with polypropylene.

While some companies have shown interest in the product, it is still too early to determine if or when it will be commercially available.

Source: Asociación RUVID / Gizmag

A Call to Change Recycling Standards as 3D Printing Expands

The 3D printing revolution has changed the way we think about plastics. Everything from children's toys to office supplies to high-value laboratory equipment can be printed.

Current labeling schemes, however, are not detailed enough for 3D printed recycling. Plastic is not just plastic; there are many kinds, and specific polymers behave in specific ways – which makes a big difference for 3D printing.

The seven categories of plastics recycling is the catch-all group and means little as a label. Most widely used and conventionally produced plastics fall into the first and second categories – the same groups that cover plastic water bottles and milk jugs. These can be recycled for 3D printing, but the two most common plastics for 3D printing are PLA (polylactic acid) and ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene). Although they're distinctly different, being lumped with so many others in the seven categories makes it difficult to reuse these plastics in 3D printing.

To overcome these issues, Joshua Pearce, researcher at Michigan Technological University and his team developed a new resin code identification system based on the Chinese codes. They focused on polymers that could be recycled in 3D printing and made the system expandable to accommodate innovations in printing and plastics.

Source: Phys.org

New Nonstick Coating Could Reduce Waste

Glue sticking to the inside of a tube or bottle can be both annoying and wasteful.

LiquiGlide, a company started by a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and one of his graduate students, has come up with a solution: a coating that makes the inside of the bottle permanently wet and slippery. The glue quickly slides to the nozzle or back down to the bottom.

Elmer's Products Inc. had signed an exclusive licensing agreement for the use of such coatings in glue containers.

The technology could have major environmental payoffs by reducing waste. Tests by Consumer Reports in 2009 found that much of what we buy never makes it out of the container and is instead thrown away.

Essentially, the lubricant binds more strongly to the textured surface than to the liquid, and that allows the liquid to slide on a layer of lubricant instead of being pinned against the surface, and the textured surface keeps the lubricant from slipping out.

Dr. Varanasi, a professor of mechanical engineering at MIT, did not set out to solve the problem of clingy glue and mayonnaise. Rather, he was thinking of larger-scale industrial challenges, like preventing ice formation on airplane wings and allowing more efficient pumping of crude oil and other viscous liquids.

The company is exploring the industrial applications originally envisioned, including coatings for petroleum storage tanks and pipelines. That could not only reduce the energy needed to push materials through the pipes, but also speed cleaning of tanks, with fewer chemicals.

Source: New York Times

Classifieds

For Sale

- **Two 60" Vertical Balers** - \$4,500 each (FOB Alberta)
 - Harmony / GPI, model: M60-MD, two 4" Cylinders, 208 volt / 5 HP, on castors / wire guides, dealer said: good condition
 - Electraulic Systems Ltd, model: ES-12207, 220 volt - 600 volt (step-up transformer included), 10 HP, 6" Cylinder, dealer said: cylinders just reconditioned in the last 60 days
- Contact: Grant Harrington, gh@west-can.com, 403.329.1713

The Future Water Bottle Is an Edible, Gelatinous Blob

In the future, rehydrating on the go might not mean chugging from a bottle, but inhaling a gelatinous, edible blob that looks like water floating on the space station.



Skipping Rocks Lab in London has devised a method for home cooks to whip up servings of water encased in algae-based gel. People consume the squishy balls by biting them and sucking out the liquid or – if they have great gag reflexes – swallowing them like oysters.

The H₂O orbs are called Ooho! Though they might raise eyebrows, the globs have an honorable and pressing purpose: to battle the worldwide epidemic of plastic pollution.

Ooho! uses the culinary technique of sphereification, where the water is encapsulated in a double gelatinous membrane. The final package is simple, cheap, resistant, hygienic, biodegradable and even eatable. Ooho! is licensed as creative commons so everyone could make them in their kitchen, modifying and innovating the “recipe.”

Preparing these things at home also has a climate benefit; it doesn't involve the fossil fuels and CO₂ emissions of the bottle-manufacturing process.

So if you don't mind looking like a sea turtle feasting on jellyfish, grab your alginate and calcium salts and whip up a batch of quivering, thirst quenching orbs today.

Source: *The Atlantic Citylab*

Illegal E-waste Mountain is Growing

Up to 90% of the world's electronic waste is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Computers and smart phones are among the ditched items contributing to this 41M tonne e-waste mountain, which could top 50M tonnes by 2017.

Exporting hazardous waste from EU and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member States to non-OECD countries is banned. However, UNEP says thousands of tonnes of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries.

African and Asian countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, China, Pakistan, India, and Vietnam are turning into illegal e-waste hubs, bypassing the legitimate global waste and recycling market that is thought to be worth \$410bn a year.

UNEP warns the growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides are all having significant environment and economic impacts.

Countries are also losing out on significant amounts of resources, such as rare earth metals, copper and gold, while the conditions in which the products are dumped can be extremely hazardous to health.

UNEP wants counties to strengthen national legislation and enforcement of e-waste legislation as well as working to increase the recovery of valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products.

Source: *The Guardian*



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ADAM MINTER - author of *Junkyard Planet*

SESSIONS

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- Standards, Accountability
- Sharing/Reuse Economy
- EPR World Stage
- Organics Diversion
- Markets and Innovation
- EPR and Business

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Registration, exhibit or sponsorship info: www.recycle.ab.ca • www.canadianstewardship.com

Recycling Council of Alberta

Conference on Canadian Stewardship

Coming Events

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2015 Annual Conference and Trade Show, June 5-8, 2015, Edmonton, AB, contact: 613.907.6303, www.fcm.ca

"ICI Waste Diversion Systems", 2.5 day course by the Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence, June 10-12, 2015, Calgary, AB, contact: 780.969.8421, ewmce.com/event-1902766

ICI Organics Workshop **"Put Your Business to Work on Reducing Food Scrap Waste"**, presented by the Recycling Council of Alberta in partnership with The City of Calgary, June 15, 2015, Calgary, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, <http://bit.ly/ICIOrganics>

RCA & SWRC Regional Workshop in Cypress Hills, waste reduction workshop presented by the Recycling Council of Alberta and Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council, June 25, 2015, Cypress Hills, SK, contact: 403.843.6563, <http://bit.ly/CHworkshop>

Municipal Waste Seminar **"Waste Management: The Easy Way"**, hosted by Advanced Enviro Engineering Ltd / Cleanit Greenit Composting System, June 25, 2015, Edmonton, AB, contact: 780.488.7926, www.advancedenviro.ca

"Inventing the Future of Solid Waste Management", WASTECON 2015 hosted by SWANA, August 24-27, 2015, Orlando, FL, www.swana.org

E-Scrap 2015, September 1-3, 2015, Orlando, FL, e-scrapconference.com

Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA) presents **An Evening with Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE**, September 9, 2015, Edmonton, AB, www.esaa.org

Alberta Recycling Conference 2015, hosted by Alberta CARE, September 9-11, 2015, Woodlands County, AB, contact: 780.980.8089, www.albertacare.org

25th Annual National Organics Recycling & Compost Conference, hosted by the Compost Council of Canada, September 16-18, 2015, Gatineau, QC, contact: 1.877.571.4769, www.compost.org

Resource Recycling Conference 2015, September 28-30, 2015, Indianapolis, IN, rrconference.com

"Under the Big Top", 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, <https://conference.recycle.ab.ca>

RemTech 2015, hosted by the Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA), October 14-16, 2015, Banff, AB, contact: 780.429.6363 x 223, www.esaa-events.com

Earth Matters Conference 2015, hosted by the Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) and partners, October 15-17, 2015, Canmore, AB, contact: conference@abcee.org

Waste Reduction Week in Canada, October 19-25, 2015, www.wrrcanada.com

REFOR15, BioCycle's 15th Annual Conference on Renewable Energy From Organics Recycling, October 19-22, 2015, Boston, MA, BioCycleREFOR.com

2015 Coast Waste Management Association (CWMA) Annual Conference, October 21-23, 2015, Victoria, BC, www.cwma.bc.ca

Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo, co-located with the **6th Annual Canadian Waste to Resource Conference**, November 4-5, 2015, Montreal, QC, www.cwre.ca

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.

Market Updates

	\$ Per Tonne	Trend
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	50-60	↑
Cardboard (loose)	30-40	↑
Office Pak (loose)	75	↓
Mixed (loose)	10	↑
Magazines (loose)	25	↑
News (loose)	20-25	↓
Plastic		
HDPE (baled)	190 to 350	↑
Mixed #1-7	-120 to 0	↑
Clear PE Film (baled)	100 to 325	↑
Coloured PE Film (baled)	-100 to 0	↑
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	60	↑
White Goods	60	↑

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