

# Connector

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Recycling Council  
of Alberta

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## RCA 2013 Waste Reduction Conference: The Greatest Recycling Show on Earth

The Greatest Recycling Show on Earth was held in Calgary October 2-4, 2013 at The Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary.

Events kicked off with golf at the D'Arcy Ranch, and tours of the ECCO Recycling & Energy Corporation MRF and DIRT Environmental Solutions. After a stimulating opening plenary session, delegates joined their Ranch teams for some fun stampede events, including roping, barrel racing, quick draw and chuckwagon racing.

This year saw a wide array of high quality speakers, with topics ranging from China's Green Fence policy to social marketing and waste reduction at special events. Calgary's mayor Naheed Nenshi set the stage for the caliber of keynote speakers presented, including Mark Lichtenstein from the Center for Sustainable Community Solutions in New York, and Helmi Ansari of PepsiCo Foods Canada. Overall, the quality of speakers ensured that no-one left the event uninspired, with several poignant memories that saw even the odd tear on the toughest cheek.

The Thursday evening banquet featured the Rs of Excellence Awards and year-in-review sponsor tribute, as well as our opportunity to say au-revoir to our good friend Dave Whitfield, who has been with us since the beginning. The evening wrapped up with the country tones of PEAR, and even line dancing lessons for those less

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# Connector

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## Connector

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*continued from title page*

experienced, but still keen, dancers.

Friday dawned to the Palliser version of a Stampede breakfast, served up by some of our sponsors, who proved to be both entertaining, as well as culinary.

Based on response, this could become an annual event.

All-in-all, a great event, from the point of view of the RCA's triple bottom line event evaluation: education, networking, and fun!

We look forward to seeing you all in Lake Louise next year. Mark your calendars for October 1-3, 2014.



## The GREATEST RECYCLING SHOW on Earth



# New Ideas for Glass

Since The City of Calgary successfully launched its residential Blue Cart program and switched to no-sort recycling in 2009, Calgarians have been recycling more than ever. While The City has been able to market the nearly 70,000 tonnes of paper, plastics and food cans collected every year from the Blue Cart program, community recycling depots and commercial operations, approximately seven per cent of the material collected is co-mingled glass, which has required additional investigation.

The City of Calgary has been faced with the same glass marketing challenges as many other Alberta and North American municipalities. With low demand for unsorted post-consumer recycled glass, The City needed to look beyond traditional markets. The City investigated other suitable options, including use as an aggregate replacement in road construction - a widespread use of recycled glass in other cities. Some of the glass was used in two applications to test its usefulness as an aggregate replacement.

The City contracted out the crushing and screening of the glass, which was successfully completed using conventional aggregate processing equipment. A five millimeter specification was used to limit the amount of contamination, retain versatility of the material and create a beneficial gradation for aggregate applications. From there, a 10 per cent glass blended aggregate was incorporated into the sub-base and base gravel for the Spyhill scalehouse project in 2012 and the East Calgary scalehouse project in 2013. Positive feedback was provided by both contractor companies involved in the construction.

In addition, some of the glass collected through Calgary's recycling programs has been used by a blasting abrasives (sand blasting) company. As opposed to conventional blasting abrasives, recycled glass offers several advantages. It has a comparable cleaning rate, is inert, non-flammable, non corrosive, crystalline silica

free, and contains no ingredients that are harmful to the environment. Therefore, recycled glass addresses human health concerns about silicosis and environmental implications found with other materials.

That being said, the process is not without its challenges. Blasting abrasives have stringent gradation requirements, and need to be clean, dry and dust-free. Processing is not inexpensive, but the costs of color-sorting post-consumer container glass can be avoided since this application is not color sensitive. Overall this process can handle the variability in post-consumer glass, particularly from a co-mingled collection method, making it suitable for the material generated by The City of Calgary.


Recently, the communities of Edson and Hinton have also successfully marketed their glass as a blasting abrasive, shipping approximately 120 MT to a concrete company in Quesnel, British Columbia. This opportunity was economically viable for these communities because the company was already delivering to companies in Edmonton and could ship the glass in its back hauls.

*Submitted by Parnell Legg & Anne Auriat*



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# Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



## Goal: Net Zero Waste Campus

The University of Calgary has a campus size of over 200 hectares containing a community of 1,800 faculty, 2,900 staff and 31,000 students. Within this dynamic environment there is a varied range of diversion and waste challenges. These challenges include limited space for diversion and waste infrastructure, dynamic usage patterns of space, and special waste disposal dependent on building usage.

The University developed a Recycling and Waste Management Plan in 2012, which parallels the City of Calgary's goal of 80% diversion by 2020. This is then exceeded by the Eyes High goal of a Net Zero Waste Campus – <http://www.ucalgary.ca/eyeshigh>

U of C's Institutional Sustainability Plan can be found at <http://bit.ly/iBv8z7>

The University reached 43% diversion in 2012-2013 fiscal (excluding Construction, Demolition and Hazardous Waste). The target suggested through the University's Recycling and Waste Management Plan was 50%.

- Begun development of Recycling and Solid Waste Management Plan in 2010
- The University's Recycling and Waste Management Plan completed in 2011

Indicator	2005 Baseline	2009 Update	Target		
			2012	2015	2020
Annual volume of waste generated in metric tonnes <sup>1</sup>	4,776 (FY 2005/2006)	4902	2600	2150	1040 <sup>3</sup>
Percent of waste diverted from landfill <sup>1</sup>	35%	39%	50%	65%	80%
Percent of construction and demolition waste diverted from landfill <sup>2</sup>	Less than 5%	71%	75%	80%	80%

<sup>1</sup>Not including construction and hazardous waste

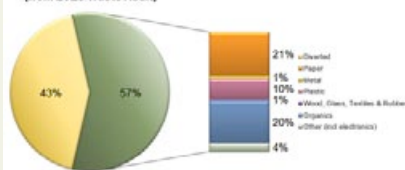
<sup>2</sup>All projects

<sup>3</sup>Based on increase to 35,000 FTE students, and 80% diversion target

To determine what materials the institution should focus on to meet or exceed the 2015 target of 65%, the University carried out a Waste Audit.

The audit found that of the waste sent to landfill from the buildings audited, 94% could have been diverted through existing recycling programs.

2013 Landfilled Waste Composition (from 2013 Waste Audit)



Eight options were identified in the Waste Audit that would support the UofC targets

1. Increase Awareness of Current Recycling Programs
2. Employee Education
3. Review the Organics Recycling Program
4. Review the Paper Recycling Program
5. Review Signage for Waste and Recycling Bins
6. Review Housekeeping Policies
7. Reevaluate Available Purchasing Options
8. Eliminate All Stand-alone Waste Receptacles

Based on the results, the institution is focusing on organics and paper diversion. The two combined comprise 73% of the materials still being sent to landfill. If the materials were diverted, the University would exceed 84% waste diversion.

Other initiatives that will help to meet the U of C's diversion goals include:

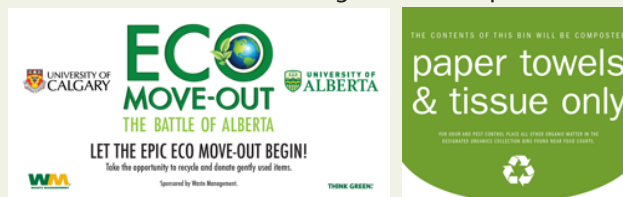
Creation of a new Waste and Recycling Signage Standard:



Elimination of all stand-alone waste receptacles through standardized infrastructure:



Increasing Awareness of Current Recycling Programs, i.e., via Sustainability Videos: [http://bit.ly/UofC\\_Sustainability](http://bit.ly/UofC_Sustainability)  
Initiation of Pilot and New Programs on campus:



submitted by Anglea Brightwell,  
Recycling & Waste Manager, University of Calgary

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.

# LoveToRecycle.ca + The Community Champions Program = Perfect Match !

LoveToRecycle.ca launched on October 21<sup>st</sup>, in time for the start of National Waste Reduction Week. Taking a page out of the eHarmony or match.com playbook, the new online resource room matches organizations that want to recycle their beverage containers with the many compatible recycling resources and services available in Alberta. The site was developed by the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC), together with input from the Alberta Bottle Depot Association and the Beverage Container Management Board. Following the results of an industry-commissioned landfill audit and extensive barrier research, LoveToRecycle.ca is a resource aimed at the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sectors, and is the first initiative of its kind in Canada.

A key feature of the site allows visitors to search within a list of "Haulers" – organizations such as Depots, other businesses or charities – who offer beverage container pick up services. Users can also search from lists of bin/bag suppliers, use an Impact Calculator to learn

how recycling beverage containers helps the environment and gain access to information about grant programs like the Community Champions Program.

LoveToRecycle.ca includes information about grant programs funded by the beverage container recycling industry of Alberta, including the Community Champions

Program (CCP). CCP offers a uniquely positive approach to building participation in beverage container recycling by providing charities, business or and municipalities with coaching and up to \$20,000 for new

indoor or outdoor recycling bins. The program aims to make "out of home" beverage container recycling more convenient. The CCP program will close for the year on November 30<sup>th</sup>, but will re-open on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Interested organizations are encouraged to visit [www.abcrc.com/community-champions](http://www.abcrc.com/community-champions) to apply.

For more information about LoveToRecycle.ca and the Community Champions Program contact Laya Mihalicz, Marketing Coordinator, ABCRC, at [lmihalicz@abcrc.com](mailto:lmihalicz@abcrc.com) or 403-264-0170 ext. 234.

The logo for Love to Recycle, featuring the words "Love to Recycle" in a white, cursive font inside a blue, cloud-like shape.

## Way to go Alberta!

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**80 million tires**

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

**Alberta recycling**  
[www.albertarecycling.ca](http://www.albertarecycling.ca)



electronics



paint



tires

# Recycling Council of Alberta Honours 2013 Waste Reduction Winners

The Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) unveiled the winners of their annual Rs of Excellence Awards at their annual conference held in Jasper. Deserving businesses, organizations and municipalities were honored for their outstanding contributions to waste reduction, recycling and resource conservation in Alberta. Awards were presented to the following recipients in their particular category.

## Building Operations Award: Bentall Kennedy Mock Waste Assessments



Bentall Kennedy worked with Green Calgary to trial mock waste assessments in four of their Class A office buildings in downtown Calgary. This was undertaken to provide education to

building tenants and as a form of tenant engagement.

A day's worth of waste was collected and saved from each building on the day prior to the mock waste assessment. Depending on the volume, all, or a portion of the waste (at least 50%) was taken to a busy area within the building lobby or plus 15 area and placed as a demonstration to tenants of the amount of garbage collected per a day in their building.

Along with this, a display was set up with data from the previous waste assessment conducted at each building, including data such as their current diversion rate, waste composition, composition of recycled materials and calculated potential recycling rate.

These mock waste assessments proved to be quite successful with 200 individuals approaching the display to speak with Green Calgary and Bentall Kennedy staff. Valuable information was collected from tenants, ranging from concerns, confusion and recommendations for improvement of current programs.

For more information on Bentall Kennedy's green initiatives, please visit <http://cr.bentallkenedy.com>



The Rs of Excellence Awards are made from recycled steel and recycled circuit board.

## Waste Reduction Service Award: BluPlanet Recycling



BluPlanet Recycling Inc. is a Calgary-based multi-family and commercial recycling solutions provider. Since commencement of operations in 2009, they have become the largest provider of commingled recycling in the city with over 15,000 multi-family residences and over 200

businesses using their services today. They are a member of the UNEP Climate Neutral Network, proud member of the Vibrant Communities Calgary Living Wage Leader Program, active member of the Respect for Earth and People (REAP) association, and in 2011 became Calgary's 4th business to become a registered Benefit Corporation (B-Corp), who set one of the highest standards for business social and environmental sustainability in the world.

Additionally, BluPlanet operates several partner programs with local not-for-profit organizations to raise funds through refundable beverage container and clothing donation programs. In 2013, they expect to divert over 1000 tonnes of materials from Calgary landfills and have expanded their service offering which, besides the core group of recyclable materials, also includes electronics, paint, batteries, compact fluorescent light-bulbs, organic composting, large-volume cardboard and a new fluorescent tube recycling service. In short, their goal is to be the recycling service provider in Canada with the most comprehensive and valuable offering available.

It has always been a paramount goal of BluPlanet to maintain a solid triple-bottom line (even before they knew what that meant). Their growth and success as a company is measured by how well they serve the community and environment, as much as financial gains.

## Special Event Award: Calgary Folk Music Festival



Calgary Folk Music Festival (CFMF) has a number of sustainability efforts such as: encouraging cycling to and from the festival, recycling materials from cardboard to organics, providing tree seedlings to participants to offset the carbon



emissions created by the festival, using compostable cutlery and dishware festival-wide, making the festival disposable water bottle free, and the well-known Festival Plate program.

Since 2010, CFMF has been working hard to decrease the amount of waste going to landfill and increase its diversion rate. In 2010, the festival had a diversion rate of 30%, followed by 58% in 2011, 74% in 2012 and 86% in 2013.

CFMF Environment Crew volunteers are very dedicated to lightening the environmental footprint of this popular event through constant supervision of waste stations, and even sorting through bags of waste and recycling in order to decrease the amount of contamination in all of the streams.

Through a combination of initiatives (plate recycling program, recycling stations and compost collection) CFMF was able to divert 86% of waste produced during the 2013 festival to reuse, recycling and composting facilities. The CFMF waste diversion rate has increased by over 45% since 2008, when the CFMF began measuring the total waste produced at the Festival.

### Retail Award: Park Place Shopping Centre



Park Place Shopping Centre is a regional shopping centre located in downtown Lethbridge, Alberta. The building is operated by Primaris Management Inc., whose approach to sustainability is fourfold, comprising

the establishment of internal policies and adherence to industry standards; sustainable procurement; conservation of energy and water; and recycling of materials.

Under the direction of Primaris' corporate social responsibility, Park Place aims to not only reduce the impacts of business on the natural environment, but to positively contribute to both the local city of Lethbridge and global humanitarian efforts. The mall's unique approaches to waste management and recycling have yielded quantified reductions in waste, including:

- Approximately 100 pounds of scrap metal reused to create functional and stylish benches to furnish the common area
- Approximately 1.11 metric tonnes (MT) of organics composted onsite each year for use in the mall's rooftop garden, where a 75-pound capacity composter is used to process pre-consumer organic waste generated by food service retailers. The mall donates the garden's yield to Harbor House, a local crisis unit for women and children involved in family violence
- Approximately 550 MT of concrete salvaged for use

in a local habitat restoration project

- Approximately 57.3 MT of electronics directed toward environmentally-safe disposal through two electronics recycling drives
- Approximately 116 MT of cardboard, wood and metal, as well as 13,699 cans and bottles recycled through a fundraising event (Green for Haiti)
- Approximately 2,230 pounds of textile waste diverted from landfills through a fundraising event (Jeans for Teens)

### Zero Waste Award: PepsiCo Foods Canada



PepsiCo Foods Canada (PFC), including manufacturing plants in Taber and Lethbridge, has

been working for many years to reduce the waste sent to landfill. PFC set a goal to reach near zero landfill (NZLF) status, which is defined as sending less than one percent of the company's waste to landfill.

To achieve this, the company created a NZLF project which aims to reduce or eliminate the use of non-reusable and non-recyclable materials in all PFC facilities, reduce waste to landfill from PFC operations to near zero, and transform waste disposal costs into material revenues. PFC programs designed to divert production waste from landfill include:

- Waste oil used to make biofuel
- Food waste used as animal feed
- Potato starch recovered and sold
- Packaging cartons reused several times and then recycled into new cartons
- Waste packaging film recycling
- Cardboard recycling
- Damaged pallets recycling
- Plastics and metal recycling

Although diverting waste away from landfill is an excellent starting point, PFC felt that physically reducing the amount of waste produced and eliminating the use of non-recyclable materials would be the logical next step in the NZLF journey. As such, PFC employees are continually working on improving processes to reduce resource consumption and use more environmentally-friendly materials. PFC has had tremendous success with its journey to near zero landfill program. From 2012 to present, PFC has diverted more than 99% of its waste away from landfill sites. That equates to approximately 70,000 tons of waste diverted away from landfills annually.

# University of Alberta to Digest Organics

Submitted by Jessie Kwasny

Digest this: UAlberta will divert 1,500 tonnes of organics waste from landfills every year while creating a supply of heat, power and compost, thanks to a partnership with the City of Edmonton.

Imagine turning 1,500 tonnes of kitchen scraps into a renewable energy source and in the process raising the bar on waste reduction.

That's a lot to digest – literally and figuratively – thanks to a new partnership between the University of Alberta and the City of Edmonton's anaerobic digestion facility. Located at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre, the anaerobic digester will use micro-organisms to convert organic waste into a biogas that provides a steady supply of heat and power. The leftover "digestate" is then processed into compost.

The digester was one of eight projects that received funding from the Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation. The partnership will help the U of A reach its waste reduction targets, including diverting 50% of all solid waste away from landfills.

In total, the anaerobic digester facility will divert 40,000 tonnes of organic solid waste from the landfill each year. By avoiding landfill methane emissions and using biogas for heat and power instead of other fossil fuels, the facility is expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by almost 200,000 tonnes over 10 years. In addition to advancing waste management in the region, this partnership presents unique opportunities for teaching, learning and research at the U of A.

Over the last decade, the U of A has made steady progress in waste diversion. Waste audits – often



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
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conducted with the help of students as part of their studies – show the U of A has improved its sustainability by moving from 22% waste diversion in 2005 to 32% in 2011 and 37% today.

About 60% of the university's waste is organic, which prompted exploring technologies such as anaerobic digestion. Once operational in 2015, the digester facility will help the U of A reach its 50% landfill diversion target by processing kitchen trimmings collected from CAB,

Lister Centre and other dining areas on campus. Over the longer term, the university will continue to enhance existing recycling programs and look at post-consumer organic waste.

See more at <http://bit.ly/DigestOrganics>

Source: University of Alberta

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## ALBERTA NEWS

### Greenhouse Gas Fund Supports Waste Management Initiatives in Alberta

The Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation is providing \$10 million to the City of Edmonton for the construction of an organic waste processing facility. The funding will be used to help build an anaerobic digestion facility (ADF) to process 40,000 tonnes of organic waste per year, supplementing the 125,000 tonnes already processed annually by the Edmonton Composting Facility.

The ADF will produce compost and bio-gas that will be used to generate renewable energy in the form of electricity and heat. The total cost of the facility will be approximately \$30 million. The University of Alberta is a partner in the project and has contributed almost \$1 million.

The Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation is funded by major emitters of carbon in Alberta and is part of the province's greenhouse gas reduction strategy.

Other funding recipients include:

- GrowTEC farm scale anaerobic digester (AD) that will showcase the viability of waste diversion and renewable energy generation using commercialized small (farm) scale AD technology.
- The Drayton Valley Aspen Integrated Resource Recovery Facility project to convert residual municipal waste into solid fuel pellets as an alternative fuel source to Alberta coal power plants.

*Source: Recycling Canada*

### Alberta Looking for Options for Swan Hills

Alberta is still hoping that someday it will make money out of its Swan Hills hazardous waste treatment plant. The province has released a Request for Expressions of Interest from the hazardous waste industry, "for the purposes of exploring the nature and extent of the industry's interest in participating with the Province in the future direction of the Swan Hills Treatment Centre (SHTC) and to obtain input that may guide subsequent steps in this process."

Swan Hills was a state-of-the-art treatment centre when it was opened in 1987 and remains the only facility in Canada authorized to treat all forms of high concentration PCBs as well as ozone depleting substances.

The opportunity closes on December 13, 2013. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/SwanHills>

*Source: Recycling Canada*

### Aquatera Moves to New Method for Recycling Propane Tanks

Aquatera has made an innovative change in the way it will dispose of Grande Prairie's used propane tanks. It announced a new contract with Propane Busters Inc., a Calgary-based company with a more eco-friendly approach.

Aquatera learned about the group in this newsletter.

Propane Busters works with a closed-loop recycling system to remove the leftover gas and gives it away to other units or propane-containing devices. The leftover cylinder is then punctured and flattened so metal recyclers will accept it.

Before the swap, Grande Prairie's propane tanks were picked up by another company and shipped off to Red Deer for flaring. Now, Propane Busters will visit Grande Prairie several times a year to collect its tanks and remove the gas.

Residents are still asked to drop off their propane tanks at the Aquatera Eco Centre (10431-106 Ave., Grande Prairie), as they will be stored until the company's next visit.

For more information, visit [www.aquatera.ca](http://www.aquatera.ca).

*Source: Daily Herald Tribune*



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# News

## CANADIAN NEWS

### Saskatchewan Expands Used Oil Collection Regulation

Saskatchewan has replaced its Used Oil Collection Regulations with the Used Petroleum and Antifreeze Products Collection Regulations. The new regulations increase the number of petroleum products that can be recycled to include antifreeze, antifreeze containers, diesel exhaust fluid containers and diesel fuel filters. Used oil, used oil filters and used plastic oil containers are already eligible for recycling in Saskatchewan. The size of containers for recycling also increases from 30 litres to 50 litres to reflect changes in packaging.

The move was championed by the Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corporation, which operates the province's approved product management program for used oil, used oil filters and related products on behalf of industry.

Under the new regulations, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers can collect and recycle these additional petroleum products through the SARRC program. The changes come into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

*Source: Recycling Canada*

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



### Ontario Bill Would Level Playing Field for Recycled Aggregate

A Bill that would level the field for recycled aggregate has passed second reading at the Ontario legislature and is now before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. Bill 56, the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act, is a Private Member's Bill, something that seldom finds its way to a legislative committee. However, this Bill has some solid backing, including the Ontario Road Builders' Association, the Aggregate Recycling Ontario the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association.

Bill 56 would prohibit public sector agencies from refusing to consider a bid for construction work or from refusing to enter into a contract for construction work for the sole reason that the work can or will be performed using aggregates that are not newly produced. It would address a bias within the construction industry against recycled aggregate, but would not prevent the rejection of recycled aggregate for legitimate (e.g., performance-related) reasons.

Currently, many public sector organizations stipulate in tender documents that only 100% primary aggregate will be considered.

*Source: Recycling Canada*

### Newfoundland and Labrador Approve Recycle My Cell

The Recycle My Cell program, which had been in operation as a voluntary service since 2009, recently received the green light from the NL government to become its official recycling program for cell phones. The program will be managed by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA).

Working wireless devices collected through the program are repaired, refurbished and resold, while inoperable devices are recycled in Canada. Proceeds of the program are directed toward a host of charities. Many major electronics companies, including LG, Samsung and BlackBerry, have joined the cause as program partners.

The Recycle My Cell program is expected to complement Newfoundland and Labrador's recently launched e-scrap program, which does not accept cellular phones for collection.

Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador looking to recycle their wireless devices can access an online directory of the nearest drop-off locations through the program website. Residents who do not have access to a drop-off location can receive a pre-paid shipping label to mail in their devices.

*Source: Resource Recycling*

## Metro Vancouver Moves Forward With Waste Flow Bylaw

Despite opposition from waste haulers, Metro Vancouver council is a step closer to enacting a ban on exporting waste outside city boundaries. On October 3, Metro Vancouver's zero waste committee voted 6-2 in favour of the proposed waste flow bylaw.

If enacted, the bylaw would ban haulers from using outside waste locations such as the Abbotsford transfer, where some haulers pay \$70 per tonne to dump rather than \$107 per tonne charged by Metro Vancouver at in-region transfer stations.

In a description of the proposed bylaw, the City states that "Certain haulers are currently delivering some residential and institutional, commercial, and light industrial (ICI) waste to disposal facilities other than Regional Facilities (Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver transfer stations and disposal facilities). If action is not taken, and some commercial haulers continue to bypass Regional Facilities, it is likely that the Region will not be able to achieve the diversion targets set out in the Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan. Control over tipping fees, disposal bans and material prohibitions are critical tools to reduce waste and ensure recyclable materials are diverted from disposal."

Some within the waste industry suggest that the proposed bylaw would create a monopoly within Metro Vancouver.

But the bylaw is backed by recycling companies that claim Metro Vancouver's source separation policies have been a bonus. Without the imposition of flow control rules, the recyclers argue that the separation policies would be undermined.

Metro Vancouver previously imposed bans on dumping various recyclables.

*Source: Solid Waste & Recycling*

## Canada's First Human Waste-To-Fertilizer Conversion Facility

Saskatoon can now lay claim to Canada's first facility for turning human waste into a slow-release fertilizer that can be sold to growers across North America. The facility will be operated at Saskatoon's wastewater treatment facility in partnership with Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies Inc. to produce about 300 tonnes of fertilizer each year.

According to Saskatoon's utility services department, the new process will improve pipe flow, reduce the risk of phosphate mineral depletion in the plant, and draw minerals from the system to enhance the plant's capacity.

Ostara says its process will remove 75% of the phosphorus and 10% of the nitrogen from the wastewater stream before they accumulate in the facility's equipment.

The project totaled \$4.5 million, but the city's fertilizer sales are expected to offset that cost.

*Source: Solid Waste & Recycling*

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## New National Stewardship Group Looking to Harmonization

The recently-formed Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance aims to harmonize packaging and printed paper stewardship programs across the country, beginning in 2014. For member organizations, it will also provide a single back-office, providing administrative services and support that are currently duplicated province by province.

CSSA is a steward-owned not-for-profit organization founded by some of the country's leading retail and packaged goods companies, including Loblaw, Walmart, Metro, Unilever, Procter & Gamble and Coca-Cola. Its ultimate goals, according to its website, are "to advance the harmonization of EPR programs nationwide, and advocate for a nationally harmonized approach to EPR policy and regulations." CSSA's current members are MMBC (British Columbia), MMSW (Saskatchewan), MMSM (Manitoba) and Stewardship Ontario.

More information is available online at [www.cssalliance.ca](http://www.cssalliance.ca).

*Source: Recycling Canada*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### China Pushes Hard on Domestic Recycling Industry

The Chinese government may institute several programs that will force changes on the domestic recycling industry.

According to forest-products information service RISI, the Chinese environment ministry has issued draft rules that would curtail the illegal importation of recyclables. The agency wants to stop the practice whereby licensed importers resell paper, plastics and other materials to non-licensed Chinese consuming plants.

In addition, the draft regulations call for antiquated recycled paper and paperboard mills to either clean up their operations or shutter their mills. One area of concern is groundwater pollution created by the outdoor storage of recovered paper bales. The regulators also want to close all recycled pulp lines at smaller mills that produce less than 11,000 tons per year.

The news comes at the same time as indications that heightened quality standards brought on by Operation Green Fence may become the norm for the country's recycling industry moving forward.

*Source: Resource Recycling*

### Russia Breaks 'Zero Waste' Olympic Pledge

As a centerpiece of its Olympic bid, Russia trumpeted a "Zero Waste" program that promised the cleanest games ever, saying it would refrain from dumping construction waste and rely on reusable materials. But, The Associated Press found that Russia's state-owned rail monopoly is dumping tons of construction waste into what authorities call an illegal landfill, raising concerns of possible contamination in the water that directly supplies Sochi.

The finding shows how little Russia has done to fulfill its ambitious green pledges. Its \$51 billion budget for the Olympics contains no provisions for treating construction waste.

Russian Railways is not alone in dumping illegal waste. Other illegal dumps dot the Sochi area.

Despite the "Zero Waste" pledge, a decree signed last May by then-Prime Minister Putin repealed a set of waste-related measures such as the construction of recycling facilities from the national Olympic preparations plan, leaving responsibility to the city administration. In January, Sochi officials issued an official strategy on waste treatment that cast aside plans for recycling waste and ruled that burning unsorted trash is the "most forward-looking" solution.

There's only one small recycling plant for household waste in Sochi. It processes about 150 tons of glass a year – and no industrial waste. Waste treatment facilities elsewhere in Russia typically take in hundreds of thousands of tons of waste every year.

Rashid Alimov, coordinator of the toxic waste program at Greenpeace Russia, says "the Zero Waste program is not being implemented in Sochi." He said Sochi authorities are interpreting "Zero Waste" to mean getting waste out of sight.

*Source: Houston Chronicle*

### Recycling Rate Increase 'Insufficient' for EU Targets

Increases in England's recycling rate will be "insufficient" to meet the 50% by 2020 EU recycling target according to UK's Environment Department (Defra) in the wake of the news that England's recycling rate has climbed just 0.2 percentage points in 2012/13.

Local authority recycling statistics published by the Department indicate England's recycling rate increased to 43.2% in 2012/13 from 43% in 2011/12. Defra notes in its statistical release that the rate at which recycling is currently increasing will not enable the UK to meet its target to recycle 50% of waste by 2020 as set out under the European Union's revised Waste Framework Directive. This target may be subject to change as a review of waste targets is currently being undertaken at EU level.

Defra noted "much variation" across English council's performance with 73 out of 352 authorities achieving over a 50% recycling rate.

*Source: letsrecycle.com*

## EU Moves to Make Countries Tackle Plastic Bag Waste

European Union member states will be encouraged to tax or even ban plastic bags under proposals to tackle the tonnes of plastic waste that enters the water system and kills wildlife.

Some countries, such as Denmark, have greatly reduced the use of plastic bags by introducing mandatory charges. The recent initiative aims to spur all 28 EU states into action.

The proposals, if adopted by member states and the European parliament, would require EU nations to cut their use of the thin plastic bags given away in shops. But they fall far short of an EU-wide ban. It would be up to EU countries to decide how to limit use by introducing taxes, national targets or possibly bans.

In Denmark, where plastic bags are taxed, use of thin plastic bags has dropped to an estimated four bags per person each year, the lowest in the European Union, compared with 466 per person in Poland, Portugal and Slovakia.

In total, an estimated 98.6 billion plastic bags, mostly of the thin kind that are rarely reused and escape most easily into the environment, were placed on the EU market in 2010 according to the Commission.

*Source: The Guardian*

## Crop Film Recycling Scheme Starts in Germany

A group of plastics film producers have joined an agricultural waste recycling scheme in Germany started by the country's plastics packaging association.

Biofol Film, BSK & Lakufol Kunststoffe, Manuli Stretch Deutschland, Polifilm Extrusion, RKW SE and Trioplast Vertriebs, along with waste disposal group RIGK, are part of the nationwide recovery system for crop plastics called Erntekunststoffe Recycling Deutschland (ERDE).

The ERDE system, which was founded in July, will support the recovery of silage stretch films, net replacement films, underlay films and silo hoses starting from 2014. The member companies will contribute to funding the system.

ERDE said cooperative and private retail markets, along with agricultural technology companies in Germany, will become involved in the system by creating collection points. Supply agencies and farmers can take used films to these collection points. They will receive a bonus for returning the used films, which can be redeemed against their next purchase of film.

RIGK will organise the collection, recording and recycling of the used crop materials, and will also train the workers at the collection points. ERDE said one of its goals is to increase the amount of high quality film waste that is recycled.

*Source: European Plastics News*



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## New Report on US Recycling Rates Reveals Poor 20-Year Track Record

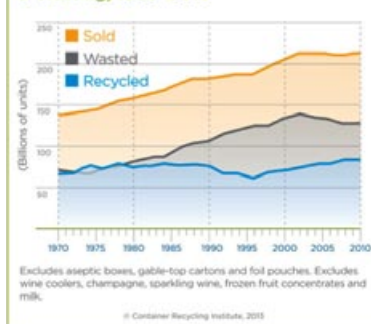
The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) has just released its signature report on container recycling rates and trends in the United States. Based on more than two dozen data sources, from the beverage market to US census tables, "Bottled Up: Beverage Container Recycling Stagnates (2000-2010)," shows that sales of disposable beverage containers have grown dramatically – up by 22% from 2000-2010 – with per-capita consumption soaring by 8% over the same period. Yet even as beverage sales increased, the rate at which we recycled the empty containers declined.

Of the 243 billion beverage packages sold in the US in 2010 – glass bottles, plastic bottles and aluminum cans as well as foil pouches, gable-top cartons and other non-traditional containers – 153 billion were either landfilled, littered or incinerated. This put the national wasting rate for 2010 at 63%, a nearly 10% increase over 2000, when the wasting rate stood at 59%, and a whopping 20% jump since 1990, when our non-recycling rate for containers stood at approximately 52%.

The report suggests numerous reasons for this imbalance, among them the surge in bottled water sales (up more than 400% since 2000) and sales of beverages consumed away from home.

The failure to recycle nearly two out of every three containers has monumental environmental impacts. As the report notes, every beverage container that

U.S. Beverage Sales, Recycling & Wasting, 1990-2010



is not recycled must instead be replaced with a new container made from virgin raw materials. Extracting and processing these materials requires far more energy – and generates more pollutants – than making containers from recycled feedstock.

For example, if the 153 billion containers wasted in 2010 had been diverted back to the manufacturing stream, the US could have saved the equivalent of 203 trillion BTUs of energy – enough to power nearly all the homes in the cities of Los Angeles and Chicago combined.

This level of recycling would also have eliminated the release of 11.6 million tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission – that's roughly one-fifth of total GHG represented by America's municipal solid waste, and equivalent to taking nearly 2.3 million cars off the road.

As the report shows, the 11 US states with container deposit laws in 2010 consistently recycled 66% to 96% of the containers covered under their laws, whereas the average recycling rate for all beverage containers in non-deposit states was just 30%. Even though deposit states represent only 28% of the US population, in 2010 they accounted for 46% of all containers recycled during that year.

Finally, the report emphasizes that failing to recycle these containers has economic consequences as well as environmental ones. Between 2000 and 2010, for instance, the scrap value of our wasted beverage containers exceeded \$22 billion. And that's not counting the economic impact of tens of thousands of domestic jobs that, according to an earlier CRI report, would be generated by a national container deposit. The report can be downloaded at CRI's website.

For more information, contact Susan V. Collins, CRI President, at 310.559.7451, or [scollins@container-recycling.org](mailto:scollins@container-recycling.org)

Source: Container Recycling Institute

## ISRI Says Allowing Recyclers to Unlock Devices Will Unlock Reuse Market

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) has come out in support of legislation that would allow US recyclers to unlock electronic devices, including cellphones, and return them to the market for reuse.

According to ISRI, the US is the only country that prohibits recyclers from unlocking electronic devices and returning them to market for reuse. This restriction, the organization contends, is holding recycling firms back.

While there is no vote currently scheduled for the bill, if passed it would alter US copyright law to protect recyclers and refurbishers from being prosecuted for permanently unlocking electronic devices to be resold and reused. It would also allow consumers to unlock their own devices and switch carriers if they so choose.

Of ISRI's 1,700 members, more than 400 are US electronic recyclers.

Source: E-Scrap News / Resource Recycling



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## Mayor Seeks to Ban Food From Landfills in New York City

The Bloomberg administration hopes to introduce legislation requiring hospitals, hotels, universities and other large-scale producers of food waste to make it into something useful rather than just send it to landfills or incinerators, sources told Crain's New York Business, a sister publication of Waste & Recycling News.

A bill could be introduced soon, but it would not take effect until at least 2015, and only then if food-waste processing facilities could handle the enormous quantities of food that institutions throw away. Food waste accounts for a third of the city's more than 20,000 tons of daily refuse.

Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts have already adopted bans on sending commercial food waste to landfills, though it is too soon to know if they are effective because their trigger mechanisms have yet to kick in: Until sufficient processing capacity is available, businesses are off the hook.

But waste-handling companies are actively adding this capacity: Waste Management has at least three dozen organic processing plants in the US and has investments in others, such as Harvest Power, which turns yard trimmings and food waste into energy, soil, mulch and fertilizer at 28 sites across North America.

The Bloomberg administration and the City Council have already announced pilot projects for residential food-scrap composting, a small but growing trend throughout the country. More than 100 restaurants in New York City have signed a pledge to halve the quantity of food waste they send to landfills, but the bill being developed by the administration represents a leap from voluntary programs to mandates for commercial establishments.

Restaurants and other small-scale producers of food waste might not be covered by the legislation being contemplated, but the law could accelerate the construction of processing plants, thus lowering the cost of environmental food-waste disposal for establishments of all sizes.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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# News

## New Ag Plastic Recycling Center to Open in California

Command Packaging, a US manufacturer of reusable shopping and restaurant bags, plans to open an agricultural plastic recycling center in Salinas in the heart of farming country in California's Central Valley.

Encore Recycling, with a new 130,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility, plans to eventually recycle virtually all of California's discarded agricultural plastics, which currently end up in landfills, said Pete Grande, CEO of Command Packaging and Encore Recycling.

The facility is scheduled to begin operations in October, producing raw product that will be used to manufacture reusable bags for the grocery industry. The operation will help meet the need of California's ag industry, which uses and discards 100 million to 150 million pounds of plastic annually.

Agricultural plastic includes such things as fumigation film, mulch film, drip tape, arbor covers, film for hoop houses, and processor film, some with only a one-season use.

Encore Recycling will begin recycling plastic from a small group of specified but significant charter clients and grow its capacity quickly. The company doesn't plan to charge ag clients to accept the material, but that could change, Grande said.

Much of the state's ag plastic used to go to China for recycling, but with a change in China's environmental policies, it no longer accepts plastic unless it is cleaned first. At that point, it is already partially processed and there's no economic benefit to ship it to China, he said.

For more information, visit [www.commandpackaging.com](http://www.commandpackaging.com) and [www.encore-recycling.com](http://www.encore-recycling.com).

*Source: Capital Press*

## California Mattress Recycling Bill Becomes Third in the Country

On September 27, 2013, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a producer responsibility bill for post-consumer mattresses that calls for manufacturers to create and manage a mattress recycling program. The signing of SB 254 makes California the third US state to address the end-of-life management of mattresses through product stewardship policy.

Under the provisions of the law, mattress manufacturers are required to create and manage a single mattress recycling organization that will provide recycling services to municipalities free of charge. The program will be financed by a visible state mattress recycling charge, or "eco-fee," which will be collected from consumers at point-of-sale. The mattress recycling organization must submit a plan detailing the operations of the program to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) on or before July 1, 2015.

Similar to laws passed in Connecticut and Rhode Island earlier this year, the stewardship organization will be required to establish performance goals for the first two years of the program, and to report on program results. Only manufacturers who participate in the program will be permitted to sell mattresses in the state.

*Source: Product Stewardship Institute*

## Johnson & Johnson Takes on Recycling in the Bathroom

Taking its recycling campaign to "the smallest room in the house," Johnson & Johnson has launched Care to Recycle, an online educational initiative aimed at increasing recycling of bathroom items.

Through its Tumblr site at [caretorecycle.com](http://caretorecycle.com), the company is sharing tips, videos and blog posts encouraging Americans to recycle bathroom items typically thrown in the trash, including empty shampoo bottles, toilet paper rolls and magazines. According to the website, the company will also begin providing recycling reminders on select Johnson & Johnson packaging.

A Johnson & Johnson-funded study by Shelton Group indicated that while 70% of Americans recycle, just 20% say they recycle bathroom items. In addition, 40% of study participants admitted to recycling no bathroom items at all.

*Source: Resource Recycling*



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## Interface Joins Initiative Turning Marine Plastic “from Waste to Wear”

Innovative carpet-tile manufacturer and environmental pioneer Interface has announced its participation in “Healthy Seas, a Journey from Waste to Wear” – a new initiative designed to address the growing environmental problem of marine waste. Interface is the first flooring company to participate in this global program, founded by yarn manufacturer Aquafil, conservation group ECNC Land & Sea Group, and Dutch manufacturer Star Sock, as part of Interface’s long-term ‘Mission Zero’ sustainability goal.

The issue of marine waste is vast. According to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), there are approximately 640,000 tons of abandoned fishing nets in the oceans, accounting for one-tenth of all marine litter. These discarded nets can remain in the sea for centuries, continuing to catch or injure marine life such as fish, dolphins, turtles and marine birds (known as ghost fishing). The Healthy Seas initiative aims to provide a solution by bringing together businesses, NGOs, divers, fishermen and other stakeholders to recover the fishing nets and recycle them into ECONYL® yarn that can be used for a wide range of textile products, including

carpets, swimwear, underwear, high-tech clothing and sportswear.

The Healthy Seas initiative will commence with a series of pilots in Europe. Work is already underway in the North Sea, where more than 20 tons of nets have been collected so far. The next phase of activity will recover and recycle nets from the Adriatic Sea (Italy, Slovenia and Croatia) and the Mediterranean Sea (Spain). An education program is also planned to discourage fishers from abandoning their nets and promoting responsible disposal of used nets.

Interface is working on a number of waste-to-resource initiatives of its own, including the like-for-like recycling of old carpet tiles into new carpet products through its breakthrough ReEntry™ 2.0 process, and the creation of a community-based supply chain for discarded fishing nets in partnership with The Zoological Society of London. Called Net-Works™, this innovative project delivers socio-economic benefits in poor coastal communities while providing recycled content for new Interface carpet tiles.

Source: Sustainable Brands

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# Coming Events

**Webinar: Green Halo for Recycling Council Members**, Light House Sustainable Building Centre invites recycling councils and their members to a special webinar series exploring C&D waste diversion policy and a new tool for tracking and reporting on C&D wastes called Green Halo, December 9, 2013, 11 AM Mountain Time, Register at [greenhalorecycling.eventbrite.com](http://greenhalorecycling.eventbrite.com)

**"Compost: Nature's Way to Grow!"** 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and Tradeshow of the US Composting Council, January 26-29, 2014, Oakland, CA, contact: 301.897.2715, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

**"Agricultural Plastics Recycling"**, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual TPSA Conference, hosted by The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance, February 4-6, 2014, San Diego, CA, contact: 314.849.9137, [tpsalliance.org](http://tpsalliance.org)

**Environment Business 2014**, professional development courses presented by ESAA, Feb. 10-12, 2014, Edmonton, AB, contact: 780.429.6363 x 223, [www.environmentbusiness.ca](http://www.environmentbusiness.ca)

**2014 Plastics Recycling Conference**, presented by Resource Recycling, March 11-12, 2014, Orlando, FL, contact: 503.233.1305 Ext. 117, [www.plasticsrecycling.com](http://www.plasticsrecycling.com)

**"It's a Green World After All"** GPEC 2014, March 12-14, 2014, Orlando, FL, contact: 989.832.5555 x 638, [www.sperecycling.org](http://www.sperecycling.org)

**2014 SWANA Landfill Symposium and Landfill Gas Symposium**, March 24-27, 2014, Monterey, CA, contact: 301.585.2898, [www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org)

**GLOBE 2014**, 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference & Trade Fair on Business & Sustainability, March 26-28, 2014, Vancouver, BC, contact: 1.800.274.6097, [2014.globeseries.com](http://2014.globeseries.com)

**29<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management**, March 30 - April 2, 2014, Philadelphia, PA, contact: 610.499.4042, [www.solid-waste.org](http://www.solid-waste.org)

**"Resourceful Solutions from Sea to Sea"**, SWANA's 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Waste Resource Symposium, April 2-4, 2014, Richmond, BC, contact: 301.585.2898, [www.swanabc.org](http://www.swanabc.org)

**2014 Earth Matters Environmental Education Conference**, hosted by ACEE, April 24-26, 2014, Canmore, AB, contact: 403.286.9485, [www.abcee.org](http://www.abcee.org)

Waste Re-Forum 2014 **"Solving the Puzzle Together"** joint conference hosted by SWANA's Northern Lights Chapter and SWRC, May 7-9, 2014, Regina, SK, [www.saskwastereduction.ca](http://www.saskwastereduction.ca)

**"Closing the Loop: Preventing Waste Through Sustainable Enterprise"**, 2014 Recycling Council of BC Conference, May 28-30, 2014, Whistler, BC, contact: [ben@rcbc.ca](mailto:ben@rcbc.ca), [www.rcbc.ca](http://www.rcbc.ca)

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

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

**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)

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

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

## Market Updates

	Per Tonne	Trend
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	60-100	↑
Cardboard (loose)	40-50	↓
Office Pak (loose)	50-60	↓
Mixed (loose)	10-15	↓
Magazines (loose)	10-50	↑
News (loose)	50	↑
Plastic		
HDPE (baled)	195	↓
Mixed #1-7	-100	↓
Clear PE Film (baled)	150	↑
Coloured PE Film (baled)	50	↑
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	100	↔
White Goods	100	↔

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