

# Connector

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*Recycling Council  
of Alberta*

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## Edmonton Opens C&D Waste Recycling Plant

Edmonton has opened a construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling facility at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre. The \$4.3 million facility uses mechanical and manual sorting to separate loads of mixed material.

Construction and demolition waste makes up about one quarter of all municipal solid waste sent to landfills in Alberta, according to Alberta Environment. At the same time, it's estimated only 10-15% of such waste is currently recycled.

The recycling facility can process 100,000 tonnes of mixed construction and demolition material per year, and is expected to recover up to 70% of the material for recycling.

To qualify as a mixed load, at least 75% of an individual load must be made up of wood, metal, drywall, asphalt/concrete, asphalt shingles, cardboard and paper. The 2012 rate for mixed construction and demolition loads at the EWMC is \$60 per tonne versus \$75 per tonne for other commercial waste.

*Source: CBC News and City of Edmonton*

# Connector

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## Connector

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# An Organic Recycling Success Story

submitted by Matthew Goebel,  
Klondike Disposal & Recycling

At Masterfeeds Edmonton, 2011 was a banner year for the company and their waste diversion efforts. In prior years, their organic waste was being hauled as waste to the local landfill. This product was part of their “food chain safety program” and consists entirely of organic material. Klondike Disposal & Recycling created a method to divert this product from landfill to a licensed organics processing facility.

Bevon Raycraft, the Plant Manager for the Edmonton, states: “This really adds to our stewardship program. We recycle as much as we can, including bags, but this program is now diverting more than 10 metric tonnes per week. Klondike Disposal delivers peace of mind by collecting this organic material, delivering it to a bona fide organics facility and tracking my volumes. I really appreciate that this waste stream is something I do not need to worry about.”

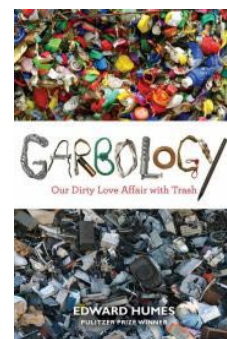
Klondike specializes in waste diversion using strategies that reduce costs for all clients. Each diversion program is developed specifically for individual clients' unique situations. Our focus is on delivering cost savings, which make diversion programs sustainable, by recapturing value for discards and reducing carbon footprints. Increased interest in the wood and aggregate recycling programs continues to draw new customers into the world of organic diversion.

# New Book Examines Our Addiction to Garbage

A new book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward Humes chastises us for our wasteful habits and examines whether waste is good for the economy. In his book, “*Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash*,” the author discovers that trash is the biggest thing we make, our largest export and among our most expensive municipal services, exceeding that of fire protection, parks and recreation, libraries and schoolbooks.

He stands atop Los Angeles' 500-foot-tall Puente Hills landfill, which is taller than most of the city's high rises, and can see where the 7.1 pounds of trash per day each of us generates ends up and wonders “Isn't there a better way?” It ought to be easy, the biggest category of waste, more than 30% of what Americans buy but then immediately throw away, is packaging and containers. All of it is theoretically recyclable, but most of it ends up buried in landfills anyway.

“*Garbology*” completes a trilogy of environmental books that began with the ecological heroes of “*Eco Barons*,” followed by the business sustainability revolution chronicled in “*Force of Nature*.”



Source: Waste Business Journal

# EPR Canada Launches Report Card

A relatively new organization – EPR Canada – has launched a new measure to study the extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs burgeoning in every province across Canada. EPR programs are an effort to have waste producers pay for the end-of-life management of the consumer products and packaging they put into the marketplace.

The measure announced by EPR Canada is the launch of a Report Card to evaluate the policies which support these programs. This first-of-its-kind environmental Report Card will be made public and posted on the EPR Canada website, [www.eprcanada.ca](http://www.eprcanada.ca).

EPR Canada has assembled a panel of the leading experts in the field in Canada to review each government's response and to score their performance. The results of these scores will be released at an open public event this June and then posted on the EPR Canada website.

The project is internally funded by the founding members of EPR Canada. It is expected that a Report Card will be prepared each year for the next five years.

EPR Canada was formed in the fall of 2011 as a not-for-profit association of like-minded individuals who have been involved with producer responsibility programs across Canada since the inception of EPR in the country a few years ago. The seven founding members are profiled on the website. The goal of the association is to help ensure the continued growth and improvement of EPR policies programs and practices across Canada.

For further information please contact Duncan Bury or Geoff Love or write to [info@eprcanada.ca](mailto:info@eprcanada.ca) or visit [www.eprcanada.ca](http://www.eprcanada.ca).

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

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# Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



## Alberta Company Receives Construction Innovation Award

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) has recognized A & B Concrete Pumping (2007) Ltd. with the prestigious Excellence in Innovation Award at the CCA's 94<sup>th</sup> annual conference on March 14 in Savannah, Georgia. The award was given to acknowledge the A & B Concrete Washout Program – a unique program that eliminates concrete waste left behind on construction sites from concrete pumps in the Edmonton area.

The A & B Concrete Washout Program was created in response to growing concern and attention from home builders and general contractors alike, with issues spanning from the environment to general site cleanliness and congestion. Historically, the waste from the concrete pump washout was left on site, to be hauled away to landfill. Studies have shown that between 25-35% of solid waste in Canadian landfills comes from the construction industry, and approximately one quarter of that waste is concrete. In response to this concern, the Concrete Washout Program was developed, providing a solution to this vast amount of waste, and an option for concrete recycling. With the Concrete Washout Program, the concrete pumps use the same process for traditional washing out, but with a bag underneath the hopper. The unique bags are designed with straps – to secure them to the hopper of the pumps, and hooks – to enable retrieval of the bag, which contains the concrete waste. The bags are picked up, weighed, and stockpiled for recycling. Thanks to its innovative Concrete Washout Program, A & B Concrete Pumping is able to offer a complete recycling program, as once an adequate stockpile of bags is amassed, the clean concrete will be crushed and sold as a by-product, leaving almost no concrete waste.



This program is a first for the Alberta construction industry, and gained recognition at the Edmonton Construction Association (ECA) Awards of Excellence

Gala in 2011, winning the Sustainable Construction & Innovation Award, along with the award for Manufacturer and Supplier of the Year.

"We are extremely proud to be recognized by the CCA for our Concrete Washout Program," said Jason Mercier, General Manager of A & B. "It was an honor to be recognized at a local level through the ECA Annual

Awards this past fall, but this takes things to another level for us. Our program is something that our team has put a lot of work into developing over the past four years. We are proud to offer an economical solution to an issue for all sectors of construction whether it is Commercial, Residential or Industrial based."

### About A & B Concrete Pumping

A & B Concrete Pumping is a custom concrete pumping company operating in the Edmonton, Barrhead, Fort McMurray, Regina and Saskatoon construction markets. They are always looking for other ways to incorporate concrete pumping related ideas, and effectively solve the issues facing their customers, bringing new technologies and ideas to the Canadian concrete pumping industry, and the construction industry as a whole. With over thirty years of experience, they are "Western Canada's Concrete Pumping Professionals." For more information, go to [www.abconcretepumping.com](http://www.abconcretepumping.com).

*Source: Canadian Construction Association*

*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.*

# Recycled Plastic Bridges

The Town of York, Maine, is having a bridge built in a historic area using state-of-the-art recycled plastic materials. The town purchased STRUXURE Composite Infrastructure beams, pilings and boards – all made out of 100% recycled plastic materials – from New Providence, NJ-based Axion International Inc. for the 26-foot by 15-foot bridge over Rogers Brook, which is adjacent to the York River.

Construction on the project wrapped up in December and it bears a list of achievements: the first recycled plastic vehicular bridge in Maine and the first plastic bridge used in a public highway application in the US.

The town paid \$70,000 for the materials and \$25,000 for construction. The town decided to go with plastic because it requires no maintenance and is environmentally friendly.

Axion's STRUXURE products also have been used for bridges at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Peeblesshire, Scotland. Its clientele spans the globe, including South America, Mexico, Australia and Europe.

Axion has also announced the completion of Europe's first recycled plastic bridge. The plastic bridge was prefabricated

in the United States at Axion's plant in Portland, PA and was transported to Scotland via container ship. It now spans the River Tweed at Easter Dawyck, near Edinburgh, Scotland and forms part of the historic John Buchan Way. The plastic bridge, which consists of three spans, is approximately 12 feet wide by 90 feet long and was used to replace an old steel beam and timber deck road bridge. The bridge was shipped in six sections (two per span), and due to its pre-fab design the entire construction project (including dismantling of the old wood and steel bridge) was completed in under two weeks. In fact, the erection of the new plastic bridge itself, took only four days within that timeframe.

To view pictures of the finished plastic bridge, how it was shipped and assembled by teams of engineers in

Scotland, as well as the fabrication process for Axion's proprietary composite building materials, please visit [www.trilogy-capital.com/autoir/axih\\_autoir.html](http://www.trilogy-capital.com/autoir/axih_autoir.html)

For additional information, please visit [www.axionintl.com](http://www.axionintl.com)

Sources: Waste & Recycling News and Business Wire



# 'Catch and Release' Trailer Brings Instant Mardi Gras Bead Recycling

It's like a Carnival float in reverse. Arc Enterprises' new "Catch and Release" float doesn't throw beads and baubles to parade-goers – the decorated trailer provides a place for revelers to pitch their surplus beads and baubles at the end of the parade.

The Arc trailer, festooned with bull's-eyes and a clown-face target, made its debut Feb. 5 at the tail-end of the Little Rascals parade in Metairie, where revelers pelted it with about 1,000 pounds of throws. The throws end up at the Arc Enterprises headquarters on Labarre Road in Metairie, where they are resold to float riders.

The trailer, which also followed the Alla and Morpheus parades this year, is one of two new Carnival recycling efforts that Arc Enterprises is participating in this season. The other is a pilot parade-route recycling project spearheaded by VerdiGras, a nonprofit organization dedicated to, as the name suggests, the greening of Carnival.

This year, VerdiGras and Arc collaborated to put

recycling bins along a six-block stretch of St. Charles Avenue from Amelia to Eighth streets during the Krewe of Pontchartrain parade which follows the traditional Uptown route.

Arc's purple and yellow bins, which were donated by the Thomas and Farr Insurance Agency and the New Orleans Hash House Harriers running club, will collect throws, while VerdiGras bins, donated by Phoenix Recycling, will collect paper, plastic and aluminum. Volunteers will man the bins and sort the beads and other refuse, said Holly Groh, a volunteer with VerdiGras, which hopes the project will also raise awareness.

Source: NOLA.com



Rusty Costanza/The Times-Picayune

# Gary Anderson: 'I designed the recycling symbol'



So, who really designed the mobius loop recycling symbol? Now, we are pleased to answer this commonly-asked question. The following story is reprinted unedited as told to Katie Engelhart, published in FT Magazine.

I studied engineering at the University of Southern California at a time when there was a lot of emphasis in the US on training young people to be engineers. It was in the years after Sputnik and the philosophy was that America was in danger of falling behind the Russians in the technical arena. That said, I eventually switched to architecture. I just couldn't get a grasp on electronics. Architecture was more tangible.

I got my bachelor's degree in 1971 and stayed on to do a master's. It was around that time that I saw a poster advertising a design competition being run by the Container Corporation of America. The idea was to create a symbol to represent recycled paper – one of my college requirements had been a graphic design course so I thought I'd give it a go.

It didn't take me long to come up with my design: a day or two. I almost hate to admit that now. But I'd already done a presentation on recycling waste water and I'd come up with a graphic that described the flow of water: from reservoirs through to consumption, so I already had arrows and arcs and angles in my mind.

The problem with my earlier design was that it seemed flat, two-dimensional. When I sat down to enter the competition, I thought back to a field trip in elementary school to a newspaper office where we'd seen how paper was fed over rollers as it was printed. I drew on that image – the three arrows in my final sketch look like strips of folded-over paper. I drew them in pencil, and then traced over everything in black ink. These days, with computer graphics packages, it's rare that designs are quite as stark.

I think I found out I won the competition in a letter. Was I excited? Well, yes of course – but not that excited. I guess at that point in life I had an inflated sense of self-importance. It just seemed like, of course I would win! There was a monetary prize, though for the life of me I can't remember how much it was... about \$2,000?

When I finished my studies, I decided I wanted to go into urban planning and I moved to LA. It seems funny, but I really played down the fact that I'd won this competition. I was afraid it would make me look like a graphics guy, rather than an urban designer. I didn't

even mention it on my résumé. Also, the symbol itself languished for a while. I remember seeing it once on a bank statement, but then it disappeared.

Six or seven years after graduating, I was living in Saudi Arabia. I'd got bored and responded on a lark to a teaching job I saw advertised in The New York Times. One summer, I flew to Amsterdam for a holiday. I'll never forget: when I walked off the plane, I saw my symbol. It was on a big, igloo-shaped recycling bin. And it was bigger than a beach ball! I was really struck. I hadn't thought about that symbol for years and here it was hitting me in the face.

That was a long time ago. Since then, I've received a PhD and worked for a few corporate firms. At the moment, I run the Baltimore branch of a small company that does work for the Department of Defense, which is odd because I was very anti-military when I was young.

With respect to the environmental movement, I'll admit that most of my career has been more focused on paying the bills. But I got my green design certification; so while I'm not the world's expert, I do my part. It can get frustrating though, in my work, to come up against environmental regulations. Don't get me wrong; it's good that we have

them. But as my father used to say, there's more than one way to skin a cat. When things get too codified, it stifles innovation.

I feel much closer to the recycling symbol now than I used to. Maybe this design is a bigger part of my life's contribution than I had thought but still, I'd hate to think that my life's work is defined by it. There's more to me than the recycling symbol.

*Source: Financial Times (ft.com)*



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# Chicken-“Powered” Waste Reduction Program

Residents of a Belgian town are to be offered chickens as part of a campaign to reduce household waste.

The town of Mouscron has 50 pairs of chickens that it will distribute to families with sufficient space to keep the birds in their gardens. Those who take part in the scheme must agree not to eat the chickens for at least two years, or to give them away. Local officials are stressing



that applicants could gain a supply of free, fresh eggs.

The town council's environment department is building on the success of a previous distribution of chickens, officials told Belgium's La Dernière Heure. The aim of the project is to publicise alternative methods of waste

management.

Residents included in the project will be given basic instruction on chicken-keeping.



A French village has also proposed giving two chickens to each household in order to cut down on organic waste. Officials in the village of Pince in north-western France say the chickens should each consume 150 kg of rubbish per year. It is hoped that as well as reducing waste, the chickens will help families save money by providing eggs.

“To begin with it was a joke, but then we realized it was a very good idea,” mayor of Pince, Lydie Pasteau, told France 3 TV. “It will also reinforce community links: just as people look after their neighbours’ cats and dogs while they’re away, they’ll also look after the chickens,” she said.

*Source: BBC News*



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## Tsui T'ina Landfill Shuts Down after Fire

In response to concerns that were raised over a landfill fire on the Tsui T'ina reserve southwest of Calgary, Chief Sanford Big Plume ordered the landfill shutdown until an environmental report can be completed. The fire burned for three days, sending acrid smoke across south Calgary and prompting Alberta Health Services to issue an air quality advisory.

The Chief insisted there is nothing toxic at the site, saying it is designated as a 'clean-fill' site for organic waste and materials from demolished buildings. Building debris came from demolitions at the Abbeydale School, Crowchild Inn, Ernest Manning School and Calgary Stampede. He added that the landfill is fully permitted by Ottawa but a review of the permit has been delayed by procedural issues.

Source: CBC News

## Feds Fund Ag Waste Conversion Pilot Plant

The federal government is investing \$970,000 into new technology that promises to convert agricultural waste materials into high-value commercial products. The money will help the University of Alberta establish a pilot plant to demonstrate a new process known as Lipid to Hydrocarbon technology.

The technology converts agricultural waste into fuels, chemicals and solvents. These by-products can then be used to enhance a variety of commercial applications, ranging from jet fuel, gasoline and diesel fuel to specialty solvents for canola oil extraction facilities and specialized chemicals used in oil and gas drilling operations.

The project is being led by the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, which has been working to create and design the technology for the past nine years. The pilot plant will be located at the University of Alberta's Agri-Food Discovery Place.

The federal funding is from Western Economic Diversification Canada. The Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency is also supporting the development.

Contact: Michel Proulx, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta, 780.492.8127.

Source: Recycling Canada

## Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

Visit **Alberta's Recycling Hotline** at [www.recyclinghotline.ca](http://www.recyclinghotline.ca) or phone 1.800.463.6326

## Paint Stewardship Comes to Newfoundland and Labrador

BC-based Product Care Association has partnered with Newfoundland and Labrador's Multi-Material Stewardship Board (MMSB) to launch the province's paint stewardship program. Product Care will operate the program and integrate it with similar programs in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

All consumers, including individuals, commercial painters, businesses and governments of all levels can return their paint products to any collection site, free-of-charge, regardless of the brand or where purchased. All household paints, including interior and exterior latex, enamel and oil-based consumer paints, deck coatings and floor paints, varnishes and concrete and masonry paints, along with the cans they come in, are among the products that are accepted at a network of depots that currently numbers 30, but that will grow to more than 50. Collection sites will be a combination of permanent return collection facilities such as paint retailers, Green Depots, small enterprises and mobile collection services.

Where possible, paint will be recycled by a reprocessing plant in Quebec. The recycled product is marketed in Canada under the brand name Boomerang Recycled Paint. There are at present no suitable recycling options for oil-based paints, and they will be diverted to energy recovery (incineration). Metal and plastic containers are recycled.

Levies to fund the program were applied to brand owners beginning May 1 based on the quantity of paint each brand owner sold into the Newfoundland and Labrador market. Though Product Care manages three paint stewardship programs in Atlantic Canada that share the same processing plant, they do not incur the same fees. Brand owners in Newfoundland and Labrador will bear the costliest fees of the three: 30 cents for cans of 100 ml to 250 ml and for aerosol paint cans of any size; 50 cents for cans of 251 ml to 1 litre; \$1.10 for cans of 1.01 litres to 5 litres; and \$2.50 for cans of 5.01 litres to 23 litres.

Source: Recycling Canada



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## New Stewardship Program for Manitoba

Product Care announced a new industry stewardship program for fluorescent bulbs and household paint in Manitoba that began May 1, 2012. This announcement marks phase one of a new initiative. Phase two begins October 1, 2012 when the program expands to cover items such as pesticides, flammable liquids and propane cylinders.

Until now, the province of Manitoba has funded and managed the recycling of hazardous household goods through the Green Manitoba agency. As with other similar programs, retailers will charge consumers a fee at purchase to fund the program.

Manitobans will be able to take advantage of the new program at more than 50 collection sites operated by Product Care members such as Home Hardware, Rona and Canadian Tire throughout the province in 30 municipalities.

*Source: Winnipeg Free Press*

## New Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Plant in Ontario

Ontario Lamp Recyclers Inc. recently announced the grand opening of its new lamp recycling facility in Toronto. The plant, with a capacity of 12 million lamps per year, has four separate Certificates of Approval / Environmental Compliance Approvals from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment specifically for the treatment of lamp waste.

Fluorescent and other lamps are processed to separate the mercury vapour and mercury-rich phosphor powder from the clean and recyclable glass and metal end caps. The mercury-bearing materials are treated off-site and reintroduced into the lamp manufacturing process. The plant maintains a negative atmosphere discharging treated air pursuant to an air emissions ECA.

For more information, contact Martin Hassenbach at 647.992.5267 or martin@ontariolamp.com

*Source: Solid Waste & Recycling*

## Toronto's Recycling Program Reports 20% Residuals Rate

According to City managers, Toronto's residuals rate in its recycling program is approximately 20%. The city is trying to reduce the contamination rate before costs escalate. Common items that are often mistakenly placed in blue bins are clear plastic food containers, like clamshell containers for produce; plastic toys; scrap metal; and propane cylinders.

Under the city's blue bin program and green bin programs, about 47% of Toronto's residential waste was diverted from landfill in 2010. The blue bin program has a 94% participation rate, and in 2010, residents recycled 147,236 tonnes of waste through the program.

*Source: CityNews.ca*

## Agencies Launch Rival Recycling Apps

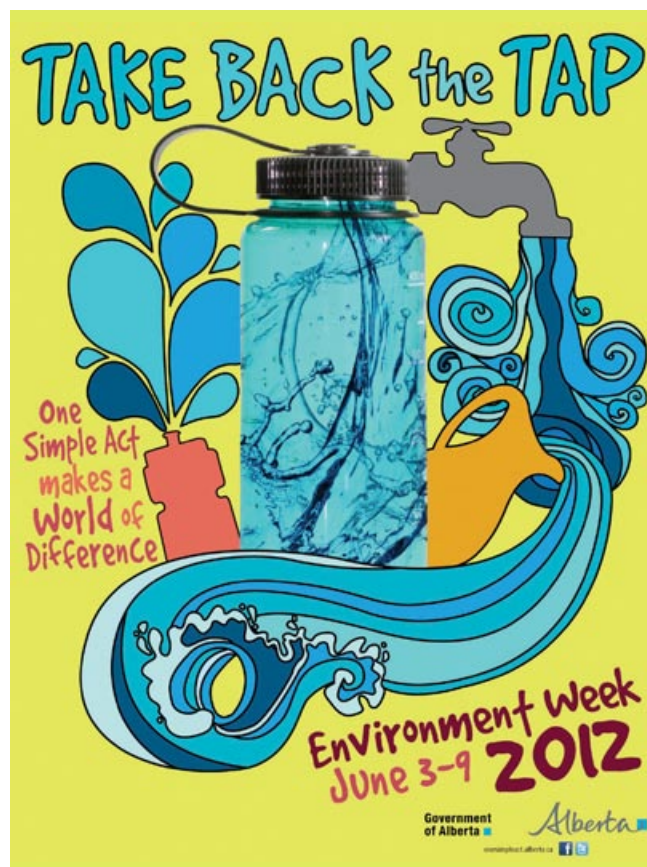
Metro Vancouver and the Recycling Council of BC have launched dueling recycling apps that offer mobile search for depot locations, but also raise questions about why two agencies devoted to reducing waste didn't coordinate their efforts.

Metro launched its WeRecycle iPhone app a few weeks after the Recycling Council unveiled its own BC Recyclepedia app, which also covers the rest of BC.

Both agencies say their apps – which are free – cost little to no money to develop. RCBC's was volunteer-developed in partnership with the Society for Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC). Metro's was developed in-house at no unusual cost by staff who previously launched apps for regional parks and sources of local tap water.

Both apps draw from web databases run by Metro and RCBC, allowing smart phone users to search for depots that accept various recyclables and then display them on a map or by proximity to the user. Users can quickly find out the location of the nearest depot that will accept anything from dead batteries and unused paint to old furniture or electronics.

*Source: Maple Ridge News*



## Go Green Funding Supports Saskatchewan Recycling Programs

Recycling programs in Saskatchewan will receive a total of \$1.5 million from the province's Go Green Fund.

"The development of a province-wide paper and packaging recycling stewardship program continues to be a priority for this government," Environment Minister Dustin Duncan said. "This funding will help sustain existing paper and fibre recycling programs until the Multi-Material Recycling Program is implemented."

The \$1.5 million is being provided to the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) and the Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan (ARWMAS) based on their estimated recycling volumes. The three organizations will distribute the money as grants to their recycling affiliates.

A province-wide Multi-Material Recycling Stewardship Program is expected to be implemented in the near future.

For more information, contact Barb Barootes at 306.787.6595 or [barbara.barootes@gov.sk.ca](mailto:barbara.barootes@gov.sk.ca).

## Saskatoon Approves Curbside Recycling Contract

Saskatoon City Council has approved a \$25.5-million, seven-year contract with Loraas Recycle – setting the stage for a universal curbside recycling program that begins next year.

Under the program, some 66,000 homeowners will pay about \$4 a month for a commingled bi-weekly collection service for recyclables in 96-gallon blue carts.

Single-family home residents will receive rubber carts that they can fill up with pop bottles, milk cartons, newspapers, tin cans and other recyclables.

Details of a City-sponsored recycling program for apartments and other multi-unit housing will involve Cosmopolitan Industries, and are still being worked out.

The contract with Loraas starts in January 2013, but the program might not launch until the spring of that year, according to the City.

*Source: CBC News and News Talk 980 CJME*

## Port Coquitlam Recycling, Organics Collection Outpacing Garbage

Port Coquitlam residents are increasingly using their recycling and green bins rather than throwing their waste in the garbage, according to a city staff report. The amount of recycling tonnage collected in 2011 was up 4.3% over 2010, while green waste tonnage increased 6.3%. Regular garbage increased by only 3.1%.

In 2011 garbage made up 37.7% of the overall waste stream, while green bins accounted for 37.8% and recycling made up 25.5%. The city has been promoting its "How's Your Waste-line" campaign, encouraging residents to use their recycling and green waste bins.

The fact that recycling and green collection is increasing at a greater rate than garbage could be in part attributed to several initiatives launched by the city in 2010. A dozen schools in Port Coquitlam now receive green and blue cart service and the kitchen scraps program has expanded to include eight multi-family residents.

*Source: Tri-City News*

## Nanaimo Council Members Consider a Ban on Water Bottle Sales

People may soon have to bring reusable water bottles into Nanaimo, BC, facilities. City council members are considering the elimination of plastic water bottle sales in all civic spaces to help cut down on plastic waste and privatization of water.

According to advocates pushing for the change, people would still be able to purchase water bottles from stores and fill up reusable containers at water stations and drinking fountains. The ban is meant to cut down on plastic garbage and recycling costs and preserve water as a public resource, they say.

There could be a cost to the ban with lost revenue and renegotiations with vendors, but employees with Vancouver Island University say it's negligible for the city compared with the affect on environmental sustainability. The university began its own ban on water bottle sales this September, and estimate they will lose between \$13,000 and \$16,000 a year in commissions. There was also initial backlash from plastic bottle manufacturers, which asked administration to recall the policy.

A staff report will go back to council about the possible ban.

*Source: Nanaimo Daily News*

## Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

Visit **Alberta's Recycling Hotline**  
at [www.recyclinghotline.ca](http://www.recyclinghotline.ca)  
or phone 1.800.463.6326

## Recycling Aggregates Promoted in Ontario

Eliminating large piles of concrete and asphalt removed from demolition sites and road reconstruction projects by reusing these materials is the immediate focus of a newly formed Ontario organization. Aggregate Recycling Ontario (ARO) launched its campaign to encourage the use of more recycled aggregate in infrastructure projects.

The organization says nearly 3 million tonnes of recyclable concrete, asphalt and aggregate that have been recovered from GTA (Greater Toronto Area) construction sites now sit in piles to be processed. Although the Ontario government, through the Ministry of Transportation, and some municipalities, have been leaders in using recycled aggregates for years, many municipalities' specifications do not allow recycled aggregates to be used in construction projects. This despite the fact that, processed properly, these aggregates meet all performance requirements and provide a suitable alternative to primary aggregates, which come directly from pits and quarries.

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

Source: Recycling Product News

## FCM Backs Toronto Soil Recycling Plant

Toronto's waterfront revitalization is one of the largest brownfield redevelopment projects in the world, involving 800 hectares of former industrial land. A key part of the plan is the construction and operation of an in-situ soil recycling facility.

A Green Municipal Fund (administered by Federation of Canadian Municipalities) contribution will offset \$350,000 of the cost of an analysis of the environmental, social and health benefits of the in situ soil recycling approach versus conventional disposal. That analysis has been completed and shows a significant cut in greenhouse gas emissions through recycling, as well as several social economic benefits.

Waterfront Toronto is now proceeding with plans for a full-scale soil recycling plant, operated by North York-based Green Soil Inc.

For more information, contact Tari Stork, Waterfront Toronto, 416.214.1344, [tstork@waterfronttoronto.ca](mailto:tstork@waterfronttoronto.ca).

Source: Recycling Canada

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## Trash 2 Cash Challenge Pilots Bi-weekly Collection

Residents of Alta Vista Ward in Ottawa were invited to participate in a garbage-reducing challenge for 5 weeks, starting April 16. To participate, residents switched to bi-weekly garbage pickup, complete a weekly survey, and submit photographic evidence of participation. Everyone who completed the challenge was entered into a draw for \$1000 off their property tax.

The challenge is intended to promote the switch the City of Ottawa is making in November to biweekly garbage pick-up. This pilot will help residents to discover that the transition will not be difficult, while the survey responses will provide invaluable feedback on how the experience plays out.

*Source: The Hume Blog*

## UN Urged to Define 'Zero Waste'

Environmental advocates from Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) have collaborated on a zero-waste resolution proposal, and hopes to get the resolution accepted by the United Nations during the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which begins June 20 in Rio de Janeiro. The alliance is listed as an observer of the conference and is waiting to hear if the UN will take action.

The resolution was reviewed by numerous ZWIA member groups, including Zero Waste UK, Zero Waste Europe, Zero Waste Italy and Zero Waste Australia, and received unanimous approval.

The 566-word resolution declares, among other things, that voluntary recycling goals haven't cut waste enough.

Other key points include:

- The placement of materials in waste disposal facilities such as landfills and WTE plants causes damage to human health, wastes natural resources and/or transfers liabilities to future generations.
- Landfills are the largest manmade source of methane in the United States and contribute significantly to global warming.
- Reduced waste and increased reuse, recycling and composting could help reverse climate change.
- Some communities assume the financial cost of collecting, recycling and disposing of increasingly complex and toxic products and packaging, which is an unfunded mandate.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Toyota Expects Prius Batteries to End Up at Scrap Yards

As the first generation Toyota Prius hybrid cars begin to hit 11 years old, the number of used hybrid batteries showing up in the waste stream is expected to skyrocket in the coming years, officials from Toyota said.

The car manufacturer wants to collect those batteries so they can be recycled, said Toshi Fukui, a manager of Toyota Tsusho America, a subsidiary of the car manufacturer. He said Toyota wants to set up a hub-and-spoke system so when an aged or destroyed Prius comes to a scrap yard, the smaller facilities could remove the batteries and send them to a local hub, where Toyota could collect them for demanufacturing.

"We're really concerned about the safety issue," Fukui said. "Even a dead hybrid battery may have over 200 volts inside, which can cause serious injury or death." He said scrap yards shouldn't attempt to disassemble the batteries or shred them.

By 2025, Toyota expects that 300,000 batteries will be returned per year, with the vast majority of them not being taken to a local Toyota dealership. Toyota is committed to making sure the hazardous parts of the batteries are not harming the environment, and the precious metals inside are reused.

Toyota has partnered with Toxco Inc. to demanufacture and recycle batteries in North America. Todd Coy, vice president of battery operations, said Toxco has three permitted facilities in North America: one in California, Canada and Ohio. A second Ohio plant is under construction.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Toilets Recycled With Cement in Washington

At least 400 toilets were recently used as aggregate in sidewalk cement, also known as "poticrete," in Bellingham, Washington, about 25 miles south of the Canadian border.

The commodes came from a low-income housing project that was being renovated by the Bellingham Housing Authority. The final mixture contained about 20% crushed porcelain thrones by volume and represents about five tons of material diverted from a landfill and into a sidewalk. Crushing the toilets cost about the same as using virgin aggregate from regional gravel pits, according to the city.

The sidewalk is part of the six-block Meador Kansas Ellis Trail Project in the city's downtown, with 250-square-yards of what it dubs "poticrete." The remaining concrete incorporated recycled crushed concrete aggregate for a total of about 80 tons of recycled concrete.

The project earned a Silver Certification from the Greenroads Foundation – a nonprofit, third-party organization that recognizes sustainable roadway projects and promotes sustainability education for transportation infrastructure.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Vermont EPR Bill Dies

A controversial bill in Vermont that would require makers of packaging and printed materials to pay for the collection and recycling of their products has been snuffed – for now.

House Bill 218 would have established what might have been the most far-reaching extended producer responsibility program in the US, requiring makers of packaging and printed products to finance the recovery, recycling and transport of these materials once consumers had discarded them.

Collection plans, under the bill, would have needed a public outreach component and to achieve a minimum 60% recovery rate within five years. The proposed legislation would have expanded Vermont's current EPR framework, which currently encompasses electronics and mercury-containing materials.

Environmental and recycling advocates treated the legislation as an attempt by the beverage industry to repeal the bottle bill, which they viewed as a cherished and effective recovery mechanism that the Container Recycling Institute says has pushed recycling rates of covered containers to 85%.

The American Forest & Paper Association also opposed the bill. A statement from the industry group points out that the recycling recovery rate for paper is already above the 60% mandated by the legislation, which would have subjected paper makers to EPR fees and requirements. The association also has plans to drive that rate even higher, without using EPR mandates.

*Source: Resource Recycling*

## Furniture Recycling Fee Pushed by Metro

Metro Vancouver wants the province to make furniture retailers add a recycling fee to the price of each mattress or couch they sell. Local cities say a fee at the point of purchase is needed to battle the illegal dumping of mattresses since the regional district banned them from landfills and started charging a \$20 fee to recycle the ones that arrive at transfer stations for disposal.

Three local recyclers processed more than 100,000 old mattresses last year that were diverted to them after the new regulations kicked in.

Metro solid waste department manager Paul Henderson said the region has previously asked the provincial government to consider imposing a recycling fee on new mattresses and large furniture items such as couches. The charge would eliminate the need for a disposal fee and hopefully end most of the illegal dumping.

He said it would follow in line with BC's other product stewardship programs that impose fees to ensure recycling of home electronics and old tires.

*Source: Maple Ridge News*

## ISPA Supports National Legislation on Mattress Disposal, Recycling in US

Meanwhile to the South, the International Sleep Products Association says a national solution is needed to address the growing problem of mattress disposal, and it is now in the process of developing one. ISPA officials are preparing to propose federal legislation that would help create a national program for recycling used mattress components.

The program would be supported by a fee for mattress recovery collected on mattresses sold at retail and remitted to the Mattress Recycling Council, a new non-profit, volunteer-led group. Those fees would be dedicated to funding legitimate mattress recycling operations and would be used for the oversight, management and administration of a national recycling program, ISPA said.

*Source: FurnitureToday.com*

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## New York May Ban Hardcover Books From Landfills

A proposal in the New York Assembly would ban hardcover books from disposal in solid waste landfills or by incineration.

Assembly Bill 9574 would also force every municipality in the state to establish a program to recover, redistribute, reuse or recycle hardcover books within two years of the bill's passage. Municipalities may establish joint programs with other municipalities or contract a third party to handle the program.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Study: Millennials Care Less About The Environment

Contrary to widespread belief, high school seniors and incoming college freshmen care less about conserving energy or taking personal action to help the planet than previous generations, according to a recent study that analyzed 40 years of research.

Since the baby boomer generation, there has been a significant decline among young Americans' interest in saving the environment, according to the study "Generational Differences in Young Adults' Life Goals, Concern for Others and Civic Orientation, 1966-2009," published in March by the American Psychological Association.

According to the study, millennials thought less about social problems, showed less interest in government, made less effort to conserve energy and expressed less interest in taking "green" actions to protect the environment, either personally or through the government. In addition, "becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment" decreased, from 33% for boomers to 20% for millennials. 51% of millennials said they made an effort to cut down on electricity use to save energy compared to 68% of boomers in the 1970s.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## California Recycling Plant Opens to Make More Plastic Bottles

Gov. Jerry Brown visited Riverside, California, to attend a ground-breaking ceremony at what promises to be one of the largest plastic recycling plants in the country. The facility aims to decrease new plastic bottle production, as well as the export of plastic to China.

At full capacity, the 250,000-square-foot CarbonLITE plant will operate round the clock, and recycle up to 2 billion plastic bottles a year into new bottles.

*Source: 89.3 KPCC, Southern California Public Radio*

## Recycling T-Shirts Made of Recycled Plastic

At the end of their life, polyester garments made from plastic bottles can't be tossed in with regular plastic recycling. It's a problem that Rethink Fabrics, manufacturer of recycled bottle T-shirts, is trying to work out. By spinning the bottles into a type of polyester, Rethink and companies like Patagonia (which sells recycled polyester fleece) move plastic from landfills into closets.

To truly keep bottles out of landfills and oceans, Rethink is developing a program with national retailers, which it hopes to start next year, to collect the "plastic shirts" and recycle them into new shirts.

To be recyclable, garments must be 100% polyester (virgin or recycled), including stitching and tags, and any printing needs to be water-based or heat-transfer print. Shirts that are not 100% polyester or that have plastisol designs can be problematic for the equipment and can't be recycled.

*Source: Bloomberg Businessweek / SFGate.com*

## Olympic Hoops Jerseys to be Made From Recycled PET

When LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and Co. hit the courts to represent the US during the 2012 London Olympics, they'll be sporting uniforms made from plastic bottles.



Nike recently announced that Team USA's jersey will be made with 96% recycled polyester, according to Nike's website. The Nike Hyper Elite Basketball uniform is made by using an average of 22 recycled plastic bottles per uniform, the company said. The basketball shorts feature 100% recycled polyester.

Using recycled PET plastic bottles, Nike said, designs superior performance apparel. Reclaimed, discarded plastic bottles are melted down to produce new yarn and converted into fabric to create the apparel. The process saves raw materials and reduces energy consumption by an estimated 30% compared to manufacturing virgin polyester, Nike said.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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at [www.recyclinghotline.ca](http://www.recyclinghotline.ca)  
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## Virginia Company Uses Poultry Feathers in Plastic

Virginia compounder Eastern Bioplastics LLC has found a new, untapped raw material source – poultry feathers. The Harrisonburg, Va., start-up is about to commercialize technology to mix plastics with some of the three billion pounds of leftover chicken and other poultry feathers in the United States to make what it says will be a cheaper, lower carbon footprint material for a range of applications.

“It’s a byproduct, and unlike some other bio-resins that are out there on the market, ours is the only one that doesn’t belong in the food chain,” said President and majority shareholder Sonny Meyerhoeffer. “Nowhere in the food chain is it used other than for animal feed or pet food, and it’s currently being pulled back from the pet food industry.”

The new material will mix polypropylene or polyethylene with poultry feathers, with up to 50% feathers by weight. Unlike some wood fibers, the feathers bind well to plastic because they are a keratin protein, similar to hair or nails, and can potentially produce a stronger and lighter material, the company said.

*Source: Plastic News*

## Institute Critical of EPA’s Altered Recycling Rate

When the US EPA was looking for ways to improve its annual Municipal Solid Waste Characterization study, the Recycling Container Institute suggested the agency change the way the PET recycling rate was calculated.

Instead of using the rate of PET materials recovered for recycling, the EPA should use the percentage of PET that was actually recovered, Susan Collins, the group’s executive director told the agency. The utilization rate, then, wouldn’t include contamination such as caps, plastic wraps and lids.

Initially, when the study was released, EPA agreed and went with the 21% utilization rate, according to the National Association for PET Container Resources, for 2009. But last month, the EPA backtracked, revising the report to use the recovered rate and raising the national PET recycling rate to 29.2%.

In a statement, the EPA said the methodology was originally changed to be more precise, but was later changed back to be more consistent with how other materials are handled in the report. Collins said she is hopeful that the EPA will take some time to fix all the recycling rates so that it uses the actual utilization rates, as it did with aluminum several years ago.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

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## Hawaii Bans Open Burning of Garbage

It's now illegal for residents of Hawaii's islands to burn trash in their yards.

It has been prohibited on Oahu since 1973, and the Department of Health announced April 8 that rules were altered to ban backyard burning elsewhere, according to the Associated Press.

Violations could lead to fines of up to \$10,000, the AP reported.

With improved trash services, recycling and composting offerings, state officials say burning waste in yards is unnecessary.

Agricultural burning is allowed with a permit.

*Contact: Waste & Recycling News*

## Protests Kill Alabama Recycling Bill

A bill that would have blocked most local governments from offering recycling services appears to be dead for this session of the Legislature, but it seems certain it will be resurrected by its backers.

House Bill 274 stirred alarm across Alabama from cities and counties that offer more than curbside residential recycling. Officials said the bill, had it been enacted, would have made many public recycling programs financially unsustainable and would have increased the cost of recycling for everyone.

The bill would have prevented any city or county from offering recycling and related services to commercial and government customers where two or more companies exist that could provide the same service.

*Source: TimesDaily.com*

## China Going for 50% Industrial Recycling Rate

The Chinese government plans to significantly increase the amount of industrial solid waste the nation recycles.

China's current five-year plan, a far-reaching policy meant to guide the country's economic growth – and the 12<sup>th</sup> adopted since the People's Republic was founded in 1949 – seeks to double the amount of such waste recycled compared to the previous plan, reports China Daily.

The Chinese government aims to recycle 7 billion tons of industrial solid waste between 2011 and 2015. As part of the plan, which was introduced in late 2010, the government intends to reclaim a total of 23,333 hectares of land previously used for industrial waste handling. If successful, by 2015 China will be recycling 1.6 billion tons of industrial waste annually, making for a recycling rate of 50%.

*Source: Resource Recycling*

## Waste Management Phoenix Open Meets Recycling Goals

Waste Management had a high goal for diverting more than 90% of the trash developed during the Phoenix Open away from landfills, but the company achieved that measure for the tournament held in early February 2012.



Since it started its sponsorship three years ago, Waste Management has upped the ante each year in terms of recycling and diversion. Along with the 90% diversion rate, the company also said it believes it will recover about 70% of the materials used in what became its “Zero Waste Challenge.”

Waste Management, based in Houston with large operations in the Phoenix area, provided numerous recycling stations (pictured above) and used solar trash compactors to lessen the number of trips trucks would take to dispose of the trash.

The company also helped to recycle water used in washing dishes for portable toilets, and even brought in First Solar Inc. to power its hospitality tent.

*Source: Phoenix Business Journal*

## Bishop Backs ‘Zero Waste’ Observance of Holy Week

Recycling, avoiding crass consumerism, and reducing trash are also fitting acts of penance during the Holy Week, a Catholic bishop said earlier this year.

“The serenity of Holy Week offers a unique opportunity for all to touch base with Mother Earth and face the truth that we live in a very much abused and sullied environment,” said Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, the head of the public affairs committee of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Iñiguez appealed to the faithful to use the Holy Week “to make amends” with Mother Earth. This can be done “with a conscious effort to live simply, do away with crass consumerism and go for zero waste,” he said.

Iñiguez echoed an earlier call from the environmental group EcoWaste Coalition for “zero waste” as Catholics throughout the country prepared to observe Holy Week.

The campaign, dubbed “Walang Aksaya Holy Days,” aims to reduce trash through responsible consumption and active reusing, recycling and composting during Holy Week.

His appeal is also a reiteration of a November 2008 pastoral letter from the Church that exhorted Catholics to “uphold the sanctity of life” and “eliminate wasteful consumption.”

*Source: Inquirer News*

## Greening the GRAMMYs

The Natural Resources Defense Council launched the GRAMMYs environmental initiative five years ago with Recording Academy of Music Arts and Sciences. Through this initiative, each and every procurement decision, and all operations, are reviewed with an eye towards reducing the event's ecological footprint. Some of the highlights from this year's initiative:

**Energy** – The entire production of the live broadcast of the 54<sup>th</sup> GRAMMY Awards (16 MWh) was being powered by 100% renewable energy.

**Food** – The GRAMMY Celebration featured reusable china and glassware. Most of the food serviceware used in the pre-telecast and for crew was biobased and compostable.

The menu for the GRAMMY Celebration included locally grown and produced meat, produce and cheese. All seafood was sustainably produced. Leftover edible food from the Celebration was donated to local food banks.

**Waste & Recycling** – Plastic, aluminum, bottles, and paper were collected for recycling throughout the weekend. Organic waste was removed for composting.

**Paper** – Invitations and tickets were handled electronically, while paper products were printed on paper containing 50-100% post-consumer recycled content.

**Décor** – Most furniture/set pieces on stage were rentals and reusable.

**Transportation** – The Recording Academy is sponsoring a ridesharing program for awards attendees.

The GRAMMY's embrace of environmentalism helps send a meaningful and urgent signal to other businesses that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, environmental criteria must be part of every business decision.

*Source: Huffington Post*

## Anheuser-Busch InBev Closes in on 99% Recycling Goal

Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) said it is getting closer to meeting its 99% recycling rate goal by the end of this year.

By eliminating material losses, improving packaging efficiencies and determining cost-effective alternative uses for raw materials and by-products, the Leuven, Belgium-based beer manufacturer said it is making progress toward its three-year global environmental goals set in 2009 as part of its Better World commitment, according to a news release. In 2010, AB InBev recycled 98.27% of its waste, up from 98.02% in 2009.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

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## Zero Waste Chocolate

The Hershey Company announced in February that three of its manufacturing facilities in Pennsylvania have achieved "Zero-Waste-to-Landfill" (ZWL) status as a result of the company's ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability through recycling and waste management. Two of the facilities are in Hershey, Pa., and the third is in Hazleton, Pa.

These plants recycle approximately 90% of the waste generated from operations and the remainder is converted to energy at nearby waste-to-energy incinerators located in Bainbridge, Pa., and Harrisburg, Pa.

The Hershey Company has a long history of environmental sustainability programs as part of its commitment to social responsibility. Company founder Milton Hershey started the company's first recycling center in Hershey in 1937, long before recycling and reducing waste were common practices. Last year, Hershey unveiled two sets of solar arrays at facilities in Hershey, Pa., that generate an estimated 318 MWh per year and will eliminate hundreds of metric tons of greenhouse gases each year. In 2009, the company committed to reducing its green house gas emissions by 15% by the end of 2011 based on 2008 emission levels and is on track to achieve this goal by the end of the year.

*Source: GreenBiz, MarketWatch.com and TriplePundit.com*

## Cascades Recovery Inc.

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## Walmart Reports on Global Responsibility

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has released its 2012 Global Responsibility Report, outlining the company's progress on its environmental and social responsibility goals. The report also includes information on the retail giant's efforts to increase recycling and reduce packaging.

In recent years, Walmart has sought to reorient its business operations so that they are both more environmentally sustainable and more cost effective.

Globally, Walmart hopes to reduce its packaging by 5% by 2013, a goal the company anticipates meeting. The report also notes that Walmart's suppliers have already found ways to reduce their packaging or substitute packaging made from non-recyclable materials to recyclable materials.

Additionally, Walmart aims to be "packaging neutral" globally by 2025, meaning that all of its packaging will be recyclable, reusable and made with recycled or renewable content.

But not everyone is cheering Walmart's pivot toward sustainability. The Institute for Local Self-Reliance, which has been critical of the retailer's environmental initiatives, has a response to the report titled "Top Ten Ways Walmart Fails on Sustainability" which argues that, while the company might have made some progress, it's still on the wrong track:

"Walmart's sustainability program does not address the issue of short-lived products and the resulting increase in landfill waste. Gains made by the company's much-publicized store waste reduction program and its initiative to reduce energy use in its supply chain – a program implemented in only 1% of the Chinese factories that supply Walmart's stores – are miniscule compared to the volume of pollution and trash created by the expanded pace of consumption that Walmart fosters."

*Source: Resource Recycling*

## Company Builds Business Around Reusing Cardboard Boxes

UsedCardboardboxes.com is looking to create a new market for used cardboard boxes. The company "rescues" (buys) truckloads of quality used boxes from large companies that might otherwise recycle them or simply throw them away. They bring the boxes back to regional distribution centers where they are inspected and sorted by size and shape. Boxes that meet strict requirements for quality, shape and strength are pre-packed (along with convenient accessories) and resold to customers all across the USA.

The company is currently launching facilities all over the US including Maryland and Indiana.

*Source: GreenBiz*

## Are Recycling Bins an Excuse to Waste More?

The presence of recycling bins seems to give people an excuse to use more resources, according to new research.

Researchers Jesse R. Catlin at University of California-Irvine and Yitong Wang at Tsinghua University in Beijing ran two experiments showing that people will use more recyclables if a blue bin is around. Their research appears in the *Journal of Consumer Psychology* in an article titled "Recycling Gone Bad: When the Option to Recycle Increases Resource Consumption."

In one experiment, 44 undergraduate students were asked to test scissors by cutting shapes in paper while sitting alone in a room with a ream of paper on a table. Half the students were in rooms with recycling bins and trash cans; the other half were in rooms with only trash cans. Researchers then measured the amount of paper the students discarded.

Those students in rooms with blue bins used almost twice as much paper as the students in rooms with only a trash can.

In the other experiment, the researchers placed blue recycling bins in a men's room on campus for 15 days and discovered that paper towel usage increased by half-a-paper-towel per visitor compared to usage for the 15 days prior when only a trash can had been in the restroom.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## McDonald's to Test Paper Cups for Hot Drinks

McDonald's Corp. might have found a recyclable replacement for its polystyrene foam beverage cups.

About 2,000 of the company's restaurants, mostly West Coast operations, will be testing a double-walled fiber hot cup in an attempt to phase out the usually landfill-bound foam cups, according to a news release. McDonald's said the objective is to assess customer acceptance, operational impact and overall performance.

The switch is in response to a shareholder resolution filed in 2011 by As You Sow, a non-profit organization that promotes environmental and social corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building and legal strategies.

As You Sow's shareholder proposal asked McDonald's to assess the environmental impact of different kinds of beverage containers and to develop package recycling goals, according to a news release. Nearly 30% of McDonald's shareholders who voted supported the resolution.

"This is a great first step for McDonald's, and we hope it will lead to a permanent switch to paper cups in all of its restaurants," Conrad MacKerron, As You Sow's senior program director, said in a statement. "Given the company's history of using high levels of recycled content in other food packaging, we hope that it follows suit with its cups and also establishes a robust recycling program for post-consumer waste left in its restaurants."

*Contact Waste & Recycling News*

## Starbucks Scales Back Reusable Cup Goals

Starbucks' original goal of having 25% of all drinks served in reusable cups by 2015, including mugs in Starbucks stores and customers' cups, has been reduced to a much humbler goal of 5%.

That compares to the 1.9% of drinks that were served in reusable containers at Starbucks' company-owned stores in the US, the UK, Canada and Ireland last year.

Starbucks said it changed the goals for two reasons. About 80% of the drinks Starbucks serves are "to go," so focusing on that crowd will have the greatest effect, said Jim Hanna, Starbucks' director of environmental impact. The use of in-store mugs also was harder to track than tumblers, he said. Because Starbucks offers a 10-cent discount to customers who bring their own tumblers, that can be tracked with a special discount key on cash registers.

Hanna also said serving customers in ceramic cups costs more because it increases the need for busing tables and washing dishes. Still, Starbucks wants more customers to use ceramic, he said. To that end, it's making mugs more visible in redesigned stores. Rather than hiding behind counters, mugs for in-store use will be visible from where customers order.

*Source: Chicago Tribune*

## Danone to Use Bio-Based PEF Water Bottles

Avantium, a research and development company based in Amsterdam, is partnering with Group Danone to produce bio-sourced water bottles. Danone Research and Avantium have entered into a joint development agreement to produce bottles made from polyethylene furanoate, a furanic polyester developed by Avantium to be a 100% bio-based, recyclable alternative to PET.

PEF boasts superior thermal, barrier and light-weighting properties compared to PET, according to Avantium. The company makes PEF using its YXY technology, a catalytic chemical process that converts carbohydrates into bio-based polymers, including an alternative to terephthalic acid. Using YXY technology, Danone and Avantium will focus on creating renewable materials using feedstocks that do not compete directly with food production. YXY can use a variety of feedstocks like grains, energy crops, lignocellulosic matter, waste streams, waste paper or agricultural residues.

This is the second major partnership for Avantium. In December, Coca-Cola Co. announced it was investing in the firm, and two other companies, in an effort to find a 100% bio-based version of its Plant Bottle.

Avantium currently operates a pilot plant in Geleen, the Netherlands, with the capacity to produce 40 tons of PEF for application development.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News.*

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## PLA Recycling Issues Remain in Spotlight

The recycling of polylactic acid (PLA) bioplastics has been in the spotlight more as bioplastics use increases, bringing with it concerns about bioplastics mixing with more commonly recycled plastics.

NatureWorks LLC marketing director Steve Davies has identified several obstacles facing PLA recycling, including identification, sortation, volumes, end markets and avoiding contamination of existing recycled streams.

To avoid contamination, Davies said that NatureWorks – the Minnetonka, Minn.-based firm that operates the world's largest biolastic plant, making PLA in Blair, Neb. – has been selling into markets where potential for contamination is minimal.

"We're targeting [applications] with little or no recycling," he said. "We haven't taken on any new bottle customers recently, and we're working to develop end markets for recycled PLA."

In 10 years of operation, NatureWorks has recovered about 25 million pounds of off-grade PLA resin and converted it back into lactic acid feedstock. That material then has been polymerized back into resin and resold.

French equipment maker Pellenc SA has shown that optical sorting technology can separate PLA from other plastics in a recycling stream.

*Source: Plastics News / Crain Communications Inc.*

## Zero Waste Law Passes In Scotland

In a decisive move that came about a month earlier than anticipated, the Scottish Parliament signed new Waste (Scotland) Regulations into law on May 9. The new regulations will require all businesses to source-separate paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass for recycling by December 31, 2013. Businesses that produce more than 50 kg weekly of food waste must separate it for collection by the same date. Smaller businesses, those producing between 5 kg and 50 kg of food waste each week, have an additional two years to comply with the organics recycling component of the regulation. Local authorities must offer a recyclables collection service and are required to begin to implement residential food waste collection by December 31, 2013, if it is not already standard practice, with full compliance mandated by December 31, 2015. In order to make Scotland's march toward zero waste a success, the government plans to invest nearly \$23 million in necessary educational programs, infrastructure and services.

For more on Scotland's new zero waste regulations, go to <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/category/subject/zero-waste-regulations>

*Source: BioCycle*

## Food Network Stars Make Meal From Unwanted Food

The Food Network's one-time special, "The Big Waste" recently saw Chefs Bobby Flay, Michael Symon, Anne Burrell and Alex Guarnaschelli divide into two teams, with only 48 hours on the clock to create a multi-course gourmet meal for 100 people. One rule: They could only use food that was unwanted, rejected or otherwise unsuitable for sale.

The chefs' hunt took them from grocery aisles to produce farms, and from orchard rows to garbage piles, as they attempted to find enough ingredients. Aesthetics is a common problem for produce, the chefs found. Food producers have high rates of waste due to visual issues like blemishes on produce.

Burrell visited one produce store that said it throws out about 14 garbage bags full of blemished produce per week. Guarnaschelli visited an egg farm, where around 2,000 eggs per year are discarded because they are too big or small. In America, the estimated number of wasted eggs is about 5 billion. One chef even went dumpster diving for ingredients. While digging through one supermarket's trash, Burrell and her guide found bags of perfect tomatoes, avocados, whole loaves of bread and bagels. Food coming from the garbage does pose health concerns. All of the food collected was inspected by Randy Worobo, associate professor of food microbiology at Cornell University, to make sure it was safe.

Restaurateurs, foodies and taste-makers made up the 100 banquet guests who decided which group of chefs did the best job at "turning waste into taste." In the end, Flay and Symon won; the chefs' trophies were miniature garbage cans. "It's very, very eye-opening," Symon said after the victory. "I tell you, when I go to the grocery store now, I'm going to buy the lonely apple with the spot."

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Meat Recycled for Animal Shelters

Dallas Business Journal featured the nationwide meat recycling program that Quest developed to help grocery store chains donate meat rather than throwing it in the landfill. The meat recycling program, which started in 2009, allows Quest's customers to donate meat to local animal shelters and provide rescued animal with high quality protein, while slashing down costs.

"Rather than pet food, Pride Rock feeds its big cats raw, non-processed meats, such as briskets, beef ribs, pork tenderloin," said Gary Holliman, the refuge owner. They eat better than I do."

"Our food bill went from over \$40,000 per year to the cost of labor and vitamins," said Holliman.

*Source: SFGate.com*



## More Restaurants Involved in Recycling

The number of restaurateurs implementing recycling programs into their operations is rising, the US National Restaurant Association research has found.

According to the association's Restaurant Operator Recycling Survey, roughly two-thirds, or 65%, of all operators questioned say they now have a recycling program in place at their restaurants.

The report found that 66% of full-service and 64% of quick-service operators recycle, and further determined that 67% of independent restaurateurs were more likely than 59% of franchisee/chain operators to have a recycling program at their establishments.

Regionally, 80% of restaurant operators in the Northeast and 77% in the West were most likely to say they recycle. In the Midwest, 63% of restaurateurs questioned said they recycle, compared with 46% in the South.

*Source: National Restaurant Association*

## India Court Compares Plastic Bags to Atom Bomb

The Supreme Court of India is urging India's central and state governments to ban plastic bags, in the interest of rights of the people and animals. The court said bags are choking lakes, ponds and urban sewers, creating a threat to the next generation that is greater than the atom bomb.

A two-judge bench gave its ruling on a petition filed by the Karuna Society for Animals, based in Andhra Pradesh, India. The non-profit group provides free medical care and shelter for sick, injured, abandoned and abused animals. The society has sought a ban on plastic bags in all municipalities. According to the organization, cows are attracted to food in trash bins and end up ingesting plastic bags.

The court said drains in the country are getting clogged by plastic waste. "Unless you demand a mechanism to put a ban on the use of plastics, it is not going to help," the court said.

*Source: PlasticsNews.com*

## Europeans Looking to Ban Free Bags at Checkout?

The European Commission (EC) looks set to recommend the banning of the free distribution of so-called single-use carryout bags. A Green Paper is expected next month that will lay out the details of the plan. The proposal to charge for all carrier bags could be law within two years, insiders say.

The EC, which carried out a three-month public consultation last year, dismissed the idea of a total bag ban because of the damage it could do to Europe's 300-plus bag manufacturers and their 20,000 employees. There were also concerns about the potential legality of an outright ban.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Edible Packaging Emerging

Monosol and WikiCells are two contenders in the soon-to-emerge edible packaging market. Monosol is closer to market, as it's already being used in detergent, pesticide and clothing applications, and has begun talks with food companies. However, its method of dispersal is getting wet, which precludes it being used in liquid applications, a sector where much of food packaging waste originates.

WikiCells examples include a tomato membrane containing gazpacho soup that can be poured over bread, an orange membrane filled with orange juice that you can drink with a straw, smaller grape-like membrane holding wine, and a chocolate membrane containing hot chocolate.

WikiCells consist of a natural food membrane held together by electrostatic forces and containing a liquid, emulsion, foam, or solid food substance possibly within an edible or biodegradable shell. They can be produced by consumers with a WikiCell Machine in a practically inexhaustible variety of membranes and forms and with a wide range of food and drinks. WikiCells use special membrane technology that permits the fabrication of thin delicious membranes with significant water diffusional resistance and adjoined shells that allow for stability of the WikiCells over long periods of time.

*Source: TriplePundit.com*



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# News

## Waste Management Back on Reality TV

The Houston-based solid waste management company was featured in the debut of a new television series, "The Pitch," at 9 p.m. Eastern time April 30 on AMC.

The unscripted show featured what the company calls an "intense competition between two advertising agencies for Waste Management's business."

"We participated in the show because it gives us the ability to teach people more about our brand than a traditional advertising campaign," said Dave Aardsma, chief marketing officer at Waste Management, in a statement. "It is a great way to explain how we help our customers extract the most value from all the materials we handle."

The show comes from Studio Lambert, which also created "Undercover Boss" and "Project Runway," two other shows that featured Waste Management, the company said.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*

## Safelite Unveils Windshield Recycling Program

Safelite AutoGlass, a windshield replacement company, has begun to roll out what it calls a wide-scale windshield recycling program.

The company estimates it will save 12-15 million tons of material from landfills every year. Columbus, Ohio-based Safelite began rolling out the program at a nearby recycling plant at the beginning of last year. It expects to have the glass recycling completed in the East Coast by the end of May. Expansion in the West Coast will begin after that, according to a news release.

Windshields have not been widely recycled in the past because it is difficult to separate the glass and inner poly vinyl butyral (PVB) layers. But developments have been made in recent years to make the process more feasible.

Recycled glass and PVB materials are turned into fiberglass insulation, paint and primer, solar cells, carpet backing and plastic products.

*Source: Waste & Recycling News*



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# Classifieds - Jobs

- The Drumheller & District Solid Waste Management Association is looking to hire a full-time, permanent **Recycling Supervisor**. Download the detailed job posting here (pdf format). Resumes may be submitted to Ms. Tammi Nygaard, Operations Manager at the Drumheller & District Regional Landfill, or fax to 403.823.1344, or mail to 703 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West, Drumheller, T0J 0Y3. Deadline for applications is June 1, 2012 at 4:30 pm.
- Are you an effective communicator who is passionate about waste reduction and educating others? If so, come and join the Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) and make a real difference to communities across Alberta! As the **Outreach Coordinator**, you will be responsible for developing and implementing the organization's outreach plan. You will create outreach elements targeted at various stakeholders, including educational institutions, municipalities, businesses and institutions. Responsibilities include:
  - Developing an outreach plan that integrates existing education projects with future initiatives in consultation with the RCA Board, Communications Committee, as well as stakeholders incl. AB Environment and stewardship organizations.
  - Developing implementation plans for outreach initiatives.
  - Securing project funding for education projects through sponsorship package preparation and partnership development.
  - Coordinating implementation of outreach initiatives as approved by the RCA Board.
  - Coordinating existing programs, i.e., the Summer Ambassador Program and Waste Reduction Week.
  - Assisting with delivery of other RCA projects, such as the annual conference, with a focus on outreach elements.

Candidates are expected to have a post-secondary degree in an environmental field with courses or experience in communications, marketing or education; or a degree in Communications, Marketing or Education, with a strong interest and background in environmental issues. The successful candidate will be responsible to the RCA Board of Directors, with direct supervision provided by the Executive Director. This is a full-time position, with a starting salary of \$40,000-\$45,000/year, commensurate with education and experience. A candidate with the ability to work from home who is located in the Calgary/Edmonton regions or central Alberta corridor, would be preferred. Interested individuals should apply by submitting a resume to [info@recycle.ab.ca](mailto:info@recycle.ab.ca) by June 18, 2012.



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# Coming Events

**Environment Week**, June 3-9, 2012,  
environment.gov.ab.ca/edu/eweek

**Grass Roots Recycling Network (GRRN) National Zero Waste Conference**, June 3, 2012, Rockford, IL,  
illinoisjointconference.com

**Organic Waste Treatment Technology for the Institutional, Commercial & Industrial Sectors**, a Technical Seminar brought to you by the Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence, June 4, 2012, Edmonton, AB, contact: 780.496.7316, www.ewmce.com

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Emerald Awards Ceremony**, June 6, 2012, Calgary, AB, www.emerald.foundation.ca

**Recycling Council of Alberta Regional Workshop**, June 13, 2012, Red Deer, AB, www.recycle.ab.ca/workshops

**"Options for Collecting and Composting Curbside Organics"**, Networking Luncheon hosted by the Coast Waste Management Association, June 15, 2012, Duncan, BC, www.cwma.bc.ca

**"Forging Ahead"**, 71<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the Canadian Association of Recycling Industries, June 21-23, 2012, Ottawa, ON, contact: 905.426.9313, www.cari-acir.org

**"Creating Value through Zero Waste"**, 1<sup>st</sup> National Zero Waste Business Conference hosted by the US Zero Waste Business Council (USZWBC), June 26-27, 2012, Costa Mesa, CA, www.uszwbc.org

**WASTECON 2012: Renewable and Sustainable Resources Right in Your Back Yard!**, presented by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), August 14-16, 2012, Washington, DC, contact: 1.800.467.9262, www.wastecon.org

**Resource Recycling Conference**, August 28-29, 2012, Austin, TX, www.rconference.com

**Alberta Recycling Fall Conference 2012**, hosted by Alberta CARE, September 5-7, 2012, Fort McMurray, AB, contact: 1.866.818.2273, www.albertacare.org

**2012 Corporate Recycling & Waste Conference**, presented by Waste & Recycling News and Republic Services Inc., September 10-12, 2012, Orlando, FL, www.crwconference.com

**2012 E-Scrap Conference**, September 19-20, 2012, Dallas, TX, www.e-scrapconference.com

**National Compost Conference of the Compost Council of Canada**, September 19-21, 2012, Montreal, QC, www.compost.org

**C&D Recycling Forum**, organized by Recycling Today Media Group, September 23-25, 2012, Long Beach, CA, contact: 1.800.456.0707, www.CDRecycler.com/forum

**SWRC Fall '12 Forum**, hosted by the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council, September 27-28, 2012, Waskesiu, SK, contact: 306.931.3242, www.saskwastereduction.ca

**"Wide World of Waste"**, 2012 Recycling Council of Alberta Waste Reduction Conference, October 3-5, 2012, Jasper, Alberta, contact: 403.843.6563, info@recycle.ab.ca

**2012 Paper Recycling Conference & Trade Show**, presented by Recycling Today, October 14-16, 2012, Chicago, IL, contact: 1.800.456.0707, paperrecyclingconference.com

**Waste Reduction Week in Canada**, October 15-21, 2012, www.wrwcana.com

**Coast Waste Management Association Conference**, October 24-26, 2012, contact: 1.866.386.2962, www.cwma.bc.ca

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)	55-60	↓
Cardboard (loose)	35-40	↓
Office Pak (loose)	45-65	↓
Mixed (loose)	10	↓
Magazines (loose)	10-40	↓
News (loose)	30-40	↓
Plastic		
HDPE Natural (baled)	150-400	↓
HDPE Coloured (baled)	25-250	↓
Clear PE Film (baled)	150	↓
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↔
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	125	↑
White Goods	125	↑

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