

Connector

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*Recycling Council
of Alberta*

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Photograph by: Str, AFP, Getty Images, Vancouver Sun

Recycling Backlog Follows China's New Green Fence Policy

Recycling firms are seeing a backlog of recyclable materials, particularly plastics, after China decided it would no longer accept other nations' dirty plastics or potentially contaminated recovered materials. China's so-called 10-month Green Fence policy, which came into effect in February, has resulted in stricter scrutiny of foreign containers carrying everything from paper to metals and plastics when they arrive at Chinese docks.

If a load is considered to be at all potentially contaminated, the entire load is rejected on the spot and sent back, at what some say costs an estimated \$10,000 to \$18,000 per container. Plastic bags, lower-grade plastics, coloured plastics or materials with food residue are among the materials being turned back. In one case, bales of what were supposed to be mixed paper were rejected en route.

The move, part of China's attempts to boost the country's environmental performance, comes more than a decade after China opened its doors to the world with an insatiable appetite for recovered metals, plastics and fibre.

As a result, recyclers are focusing more on quality, as well as more domestic and North American markets. In the meantime, at least one program in Alberta has already discontinued mixed plastics collection as a result.

Source: Vancouver Sun

Connector

Published quarterly by the
RECYCLING COUNCIL OF ALBERTA
for the information of its members.

Publisher – Recycling Council of Alberta
Editor – Christina Seidel

Connector

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Recycling Enterprise Helps Entrepreneurs in Nicaragua

In the summer of 2012, Misa Robinson received a gift that changed her life as well as the life of a woman named Maria who is a teacher in Nicaragua.

Maria's husband, Jarington, works with Misa's husband in St. Isidore, AB, and gave Misa a bag woven with thread and pop can tabs. Misa loved the gift and launched a business / humanitarian project around the bags. The bags are sold under the name Handy™. The humanitarian project is named *Free From Poverty, One Woman At A Time™*, and works to help women in Nicaragua to provide income for their families.

At first, Maria had to purchase the pop can tabs, but is now getting most of her supply through a network of friends and the local bottle depot.

For more information, and to order Handy™ bags, visit www.handytm.com.



RCA's Summer Ambassadors are hitting the road again this summer... they will be promoting recycling programs at various events across the province!

Ontario's Waste Diversion Act Under Fire

There's no need for manufacturers and distributors to add recycling charges to their products as an extra eco fee at the cash register, Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley said as he promised new legislation to protect consumers. Companies don't add rent increases or the cost of new equipment as extra charges for their products, and they don't need to add eco fees as separate line items either, said Bradley.

The Ontario Progressive Conservatives called eco fees a tax grab, and said they would wipe out the recycling charges, shut down the "bloated bureaucracies" of the industry-led stewardship agencies and have government set targets for companies to meet.

The New Democrats said Ontario's recycling program is broken and needs better provincial oversight and firm targets to help eliminate as much as waste as possible in the manufacturing process.

The Liberal government came under fire when it was learned that eco fees for large-screen televisions would jump to almost \$40 on May 1 as the charges are adjusted to reflect the actual cost of recycling each product.

Even though he hates the eco fees, there's no guarantee the charges will disappear at cash registers after the new legislation is passed, admitted Bradley.

"We'll explore ways to protect the consumer, but I can't specifically say that yet because we have to go through with our ministry lawyers to determine just what can be done," he said.

Meanwhile, the Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) and Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) entered the foray by calling for new legislation that drives and achieves greater waste diversion. Prior to a new round of eco fees scheduled for May 1, 2013, the two organizations declared the current framework for producer responsibility in Ontario is fundamentally flawed and no longer workable. The current Waste Diversion Act (WDA) lacks accountability, transparency, oversight, and effective enforcement mechanisms.

OWMA and RCO call for a simplified and streamlined approach to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) that requires individual producers of products and packaging to be fully responsible for ensuring their materials are properly managed at end-of-life, with improved oversight that focuses on results. This approach provides producers the freedom and flexibility to drive recycling result at least cost to consumers.

The two organizations contend that embedding the following principles into new EPR legislation would ensure that Ontario becomes an environmental and economic leader in waste-related resource management:

- Focus responsibility on individual companies – get rid of agencies that allow producers to 'outsource' their costs and responsibility and allow them to do what they do best: innovate and compete.
- Restrict point-of-sale fees. Recycling costs are a new cost of doing business in Ontario and should be considered in the price of the product, not added at the checkout.
- Government should set the rules (standards, targets) and enforce them with penalties.

Source: RCO, The Canadian Press / TheSpec.com

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Think Green Success Story

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The Calgary Board of Education Exceeds Waste Reduction Goal

In March 2008, the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) committed to reducing its waste to landfill by 50% by 2012. The CBE community has worked hard to achieve (and exceed) this goal. Initially, the CBE engaged the services of CH2M Hill to help characterize the types and amounts of waste produced at typical schools in the district and to identify the CBE's existing practices and programs for solid waste management. The resulting data was analyzed and presented, and a waste management strategy was



 **Calgary Board of Education**

reduction and diversion programs: paper/co-mingled recycling, library books, textbooks donations and recycling, battery, wood, organics, fluorescent lights, scrap metal recycling, and ewaste.

In addition to participating in the above system-wide programs, students engage in their own waste and recycling projects and initiatives at a school level. Vermicomposting, year-end clean out/round up, garbage-free lunches, and behaviour campaigns are just some of the examples of school level initiatives.



developed to help the CBE reduce its overall waste production.

For the past 5 years, the staff and students at the CBE have been very intentional in their work by implementing various waste reduction programs to help achieve this goal. As of December 2012, the CBE's current rate

Through the implementation of its waste reduction and diversion programs, the CBE is consuming more responsibly, is sending less solid waste to landfill, and is saving money. By continuing to work on managing and reducing its waste, the CBE will affirm its commitment to helping staff and students be responsible stewards of the environment by contributing to its quality and sustainability.

submitted by Deborah Wehnes, Calgary Board of Education

Note: CBE will be speaking at the RCA's 2013 Conference

of waste generation is 162,176 kilograms per month, or 1.77 kilograms per student, per month. This is a reduction of 54% from 2007-08 levels. The CBE has exceeded its original target and will look at adopting a new target that aligns with the City of Calgary and imagineCalgary targets for waste reduction.

Currently the CBE's staff and students are participating in the following system-wide waste



Do you have a Waste Reduction Success Story?

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

2013 Rs of Excellence Awards Call for Nominations

The RCA is seeking nominations for its 2013 Rs of Excellence Awards.

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

Application is simple:

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

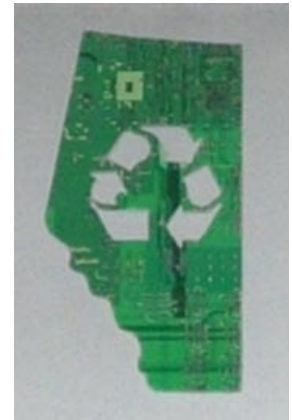
- Environmental impacts (i.e., quantified reductions in waste)
- Innovation and progressiveness
- Leadership
- History and track record
- Overall environmental commitment

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

You can use the electronic submission form at www.recycle.ab.ca/nominate, email the nomination to info@recycle.ab.ca or fax it to 403.843.4156.

Application deadline: August 11, 2013

Awards will be presented at the RCA's Waste Reduction Conference "The Greatest Recycling Show on Earth", October 2-4, 2013 in Calgary.



Gold Quill Awards for Roll With It Campaign

Last year, the Town of Cochrane Communications team won three International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Canada Silver Leaf Awards for Cochrane's launch of the 2011 Roll With It curbside waste and recycling pick-up campaign.

The Town is celebrating again, after learning the Communications team received three IABC Gold Quill awards for the Roll With It campaign, in the community relations, non-profit and multi-audience categories. Gold Quill is one of IABC's flagship programs designed to benchmark communication excellence worldwide. IABC is a global network of communication professionals committed to improving organizational effectiveness through strategic communication. Established in 1970, IABC serves more than 14,000 members in 70 countries and 100 chapters.

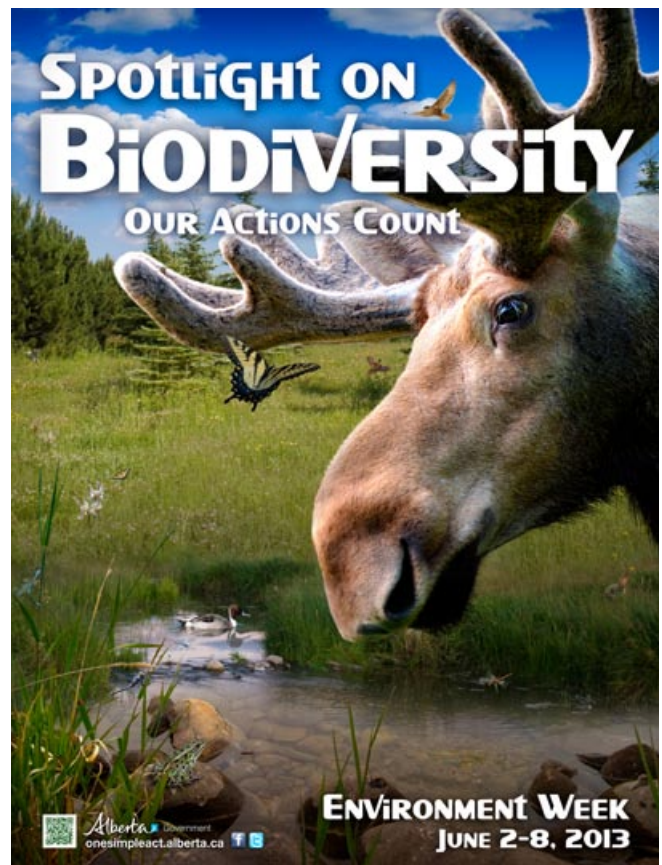
2013
GOLD
QUILL
AWARDS



The Gold Quill awards will be presented at the IABC World Conference in New York in June.

submitted by

Sharon Howland,
Town of Cochrane



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Member Profile

Trace Associates Inc.

Being an environmental consulting firm, Trace Associates Inc. (Trace) understands that business goals and environmental goals can be achieved simultaneously.

In this article, we hope to share some success stories that will encourage other members to look at ways to improve their own environmental performance. Trace's goal is to be an industry leader in waste reduction, which has also helped us improve our financial bottom line, has kept employees engaged, and made us a "greener" company.

One of the major strides Trace made to reduce waste-to-landfill was to remove under-the-desk garbage cans company-wide. Instead, all employees are given two small (<2 L) desk-top bins – one for garbage and one for compost. Garbage, compostables, and recycling are placed in centralized waste, recycling, and compost stations set up in each office. Our Lethbridge office is even home to a vermicomposting family of worms, affectionately known as "the Duggers." This system makes throwing things into the garbage more difficult than recycling or composting, and helps bring awareness to the amount of "true" garbage that employees produce in a day.

Of course, recycling / composting isn't enough – eliminating waste right up front is the key to a successful reduction strategy. To help choose the most environmentally and socially responsible supplies, Trace developed and uses a "Responsible Purchasing for Equipment & Supplies – Guideline Tool" that ranks purchase options based on metrics such as overall lifespan, percentage of recycled content, distance travelled from manufacture, and end-of-life options. This simple tool assists front-line purchasers and managers in considering environmental and social factors alongside those of cost, and educates staff on issues related to responsible purchasing.

Creating a green supply chain is also an important aspect of Trace's commitment to environmental protection. To that end, Trace exclusively uses 100% post-consumer recycled paper, made in a Canadian facility that is powered by biogas. Courier services are evaluated based on their environmental programs and ability to demonstrate environmental responsibility. Office renovations are completed with the minimal amount of demolition, and unneeded office supplies or equipment are donated to local charities.

Finally, Trace is a firm believer in learning through information sharing. Our Environmental Event Reporting

system provides easy-to-read feedback relating to environmental incidents and near misses, and also recognizes positive actions by staff. These reports are shared with all staff, and with clients where appropriate.

All in all, the success of our waste minimization program can be attributed to management commitment and employee engagement / involvement at all levels. We encourage other RCA members to consider both the business and environmental aspects of your decisions, and you too should see an improvement in your financial and environmental bottom line.

For more information on Trace, contact our Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator, Tami Rothery, at 403.217.3747 ext. 213.

submitted by Tami Rothery, Trace Associates Inc.



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Member Profile

Propane Busters - Someone New to Call!

During this summer, many private and municipal waste management services will once again be the recipients of discarded single-use camp stove fuel canisters. This creates visions of waste managers in storage yards across Alberta scratching their heads and wondering how one can really be sure these canisters and their residual propane contents are handled responsibly. A new service is now being offered to those who like to see hands-on proof that best disposal practices are applied.

Alberta entrepreneur Jeff Sands has started providing a mobile service that guarantees safe and proper handling of camp stove canisters. This newest member of RCA can set up in a small corner of your facility, working out of a customized trailer with equipment which meets health and safety requirements. Residual propane in the canisters is safely captured in a carefully designed manifold system. The canisters are then compressed and punctured in one stroke by a hydraulic press. As a result, compact recyclable metal is salvaged while avoiding the release of propane to the atmosphere through direct venting or flaring. The captured propane is used to fuel a generator and power some of the trailer's electrical equipment.

Propane Busters manages a collection site's liability and workplace health and safety concerns by carrying required permits and insurance certifications as well as providing a trained operator. This process removes any doubt about whether this potentially hazardous item is being handled according to best practice.



This spring, the Town of Banff offered Propane Busters an opportunity to test the system on an inventory of about 5000 canisters. This trial resulted in changes to the original design of the propane collection manifolds and the crush-puncture mechanism that allowed more canisters to be processed faster. With these changes, Jeff believes processing cost is about \$1.25 per canister. Most municipal waste managers Jeff has talked to consider this a very competitive price considering that the service comes to your yard and offers documentation and visual confirmation of best practices. Propane Busters will be working with the Lake Louise-Yoho-Kootenay field Unit of Banff National Park to safely process canister inventories in Lake Louise and Radium Hot Springs. Negotiations to provide service in other Alberta municipalities are underway.

submitted by Peter Duck, Bow Valley Waste



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Alberta Tightens ID Requirements for Scrap Metal Transactions

Alberta has passed Bill 201, the Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act, that requires scrap metal dealers and recyclers to record information about the identity of individuals selling recycled metal. Dealers and recyclers must report to police if they have reasonable grounds to believe they are in possession of stolen material. However, they are not required to retain the information they collect from customers for more than one year. The bill will be in force once the necessary regulations have been written.

Source: Recycling Canada

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council a Certified Green Business

The Institute for Green Business Certification (IGBC) announced in April that the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC) has passed a comprehensive "green audit" and achieved the Institute's "Green Business Certification" standards.

The Institute for Green Business Certification (IGBC) is the first international organization of its kind to certify businesses' environmental practices. The Green Audit evaluates a business in 10 categories including: waste reduction, recycling, reduction in office material usage, purchasing, energy saving, water conservation, pollution prevention, reduction in chemical usage, proper handling of pollutants, and reduced emissions. IGBC's certification process has been used by medium to large companies around the world – and small companies now have access to IGBC's internet-based certification process.

For more information about IGBC, visit www.gbcertified.ca. For more information contact Joanne Fedyk, SWRC, at 306.931.3242.



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First Ever Joint Obsolete Pesticide and Animal Health Products Collection in Manitoba a Success

Manitoba farmers returned almost 75,000 kilograms of obsolete pesticides and 340 kilograms of food animal medications for safe disposal last year in a first-of-its-kind joint collection program. CleanFARMS, a national industry-led agricultural waste stewardship organization, has run an obsolete pesticide collection program twice before in the province, but last year it partnered with the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) to include food animal medications for the first time.

Farmers were invited to participate in the program, at no charge, by dropping off their obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides and food animal medications over a three-day period at 20 collection sites throughout the province in October.

Funding for this program was also provided by the Manitoba Conservation Sustainable Development Innovation Fund (SDIF) and the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Agricultural Sustainability Initiative (ASI) Fund.

Since 1998, when the collection program was launched, Manitoba farmers have returned almost 220,000 kilograms of obsolete pesticides. After collection, the pesticides are taken to a licensed waste management facility where they are safely disposed through high-temperature incineration.

The CleanFARMS obsolete pesticide collection program is part of the plant science industry's commitment to responsible life-cycle management of its products.

Vancouver Moves to Double Food Scraps Recycling

As of May 2013, food scraps from all homes and duplexes in Vancouver are now being picked up weekly, as part of a plan to double organic waste collection this year. Food waste accounts for 40% of household garbage.

Garbage pick-up will go down to once every two weeks, while green bins will be picked up weekly starting on May 1 in a program that will be rolled out over ten weeks. City staff is still looking at how to include condos and apartment buildings in the food scraps recycling program.

Meanwhile, the City will also spend \$5.4 million to build a new facility to compost an estimated 50 tonnes of organic waste a year.

The changes are part of the ongoing expansion of Vancouver's residential food scraps recycling program introduced in April 2010, and the next step towards the Metro Vancouver ban on all organic material going to the landfill by 2015.

Source: CBC News

New Tool to Reduce Restaurants' Environmental Impact

The Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association is proud to offer a new program to help restaurants reduce their impact on the environment and improve their bottom line. CRFA Conserve is a new online tool specially designed to help restaurants learn about sustainability best practices for the foodservice industry.

The program features tips and over 60 how-to videos by experts that teach Canadian restaurant operators how to reduce their environmental footprint. Conserve will give restaurateurs the tools they need to reduce their energy and water use and cut down on waste. By using the best practices on the Conserve site, restaurateurs can also save money. Operators can design their own personalized programs and create a checklist specifically for their needs.

For more details on the program, visit <http://www.crfaconserve.ca/educationprogram/>

Source: CRFA

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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

Newfoundland and Labrador E-Waste Program Set to Launch This Summer

The Multi-Materials Stewardship Board has approved the industry-led electronic waste stewardship plan for the management of certain electronic wastes in the province. The plan, managed by EPRA Newfoundland and Labrador, is set to launch on August 1, 2013.

Nineteen permanent collection facilities will be established throughout the province by the end of the first year of operation, and annual collection events will be implemented in an additional 31 communities by the end of the second year. EPRA Newfoundland and Labrador will also launch a province-wide public education and awareness campaign to encourage program engagement and participation among consumers and businesses.

The program covers desktop and portable computers, display devices, printers, scanners, peripherals, fax machines, personal, vehicle and home audio and video systems, non-cellular phones and answering machines. Fees range from 45 cents for personal audio and video equipment to \$42.50 for display devices greater than 29 inches in diagonal screen size.

Source: Recycling Canada

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Toronto Falling Short on Recycling Goal

Toronto has fallen short of a waste-diversion goal it set several years ago, though City officials say residential households are doing an admirable job of recycling.

The City had set a goal of diverting 70% of its residential waste from landfill by 2010. At this point, however, the diversion is hovering around the 50% mark. Single-family homes have much higher recycling rates, at 64%, whereas the multi-residential buildings are at only 25%.

Source: CBC News

Innovative Waste Reduction Certification Program to Recognize Environmental Excellence for Ontario Businesses

The Recycling Council of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment have announced the province-wide unveiling of 3RCertified, a voluntary program for the Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (IC&I) sector that recognizes organizations that take a leadership position in waste reduction and diversion.

3RCertified evaluates the various ways an organization manages solid waste using pre-established criteria. Certification is then awarded at one of four levels based on the total number of points earned following on-site, third-party evaluation. 3RCertified helps business better understand their waste diversion and disposal performance, and helps better track and measure performance against goals.

3RCertified is a voluntary program for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the program aims to standardize and enhance waste minimization practices through a comprehensive analysis of the entire life-cycle of material management – from procurement to final destination. Organizations that take part can benchmark their performance year-over-year and against their peers, share best practices, and showcase their commitment to excellence in waste reduction and recycling by achieving official 3RCertified status. For more information, visit www.3RCertified.ca or contact Cedric de Jager, Communications Manager, Recycling Council of Ontario at cedric@rco.on.ca or 416.657.2797, ext. 6.

Source: RCO

Follow RCA on Twitter

@3RsAB

WDO Redesigning Municipal Datacall

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) will redesign the Municipal Datacall, Ontario's comprehensive database for residential garbage.

Since 2003, municipalities have used the Municipal Datacall to submit data to WDO on their waste diversion activities, with a particular focus on Blue Box tonnes recycled and Blue Box Program operating costs. The system also tracks such statistics as tonnes of garbage collected through residential collection programs, tonnage of organics, electronics, household hazardous waste and other recyclables such as scrap metal. The information forms the basis for Blue Box funding decisions.

The redesigned system is intended to be faster and easier for municipalities while providing more accurate and more useful data to WDO. The new system is meant to be operational in 2014.

Contact: William Mueller, Waste Diversion Ontario, 416.226.2573, williammueller@wdo.ca.

Source: Recycling Canada

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Two Years After Launch of Recycling Program, Most Batteries Still Wind Up in Landfills

An estimated 600,000 kilograms of batteries are dumped in landfill sites every year in Metro Vancouver, despite a landfill ban and a provincial battery-recycling program put in place two years ago.

Call2Recycle, a non-profit organization established in 2010 to facilitate free battery recycling at specified drop-off sites, has been tracking return rates and has found substantial gaps between the number of batteries sold and returned. About 2.5 million kg of batteries were sold in BC in each of 2010 and 2011, according to Call2Recycle's 2011 annual report, which was submitted to the provincial Ministry of Environment. Yet only 356,063 kg were collected by the agency in 2011, accounting for just over 14% of batteries sold, but still a significant increase over 2010's 139,613 kg – about 6% of all disposable and rechargeable batteries sold in the province.

Although the return rate for batteries is a fraction of those sold, Call2Recycle's 2011 annual report points out the recycling program achieved 93% of its goal collection that year, which was set at 381,690 kg. By 2014, the target is 1,088,560 kg, or 40% of all batteries sold in BC.

Several regional districts, including Metro Vancouver, have implemented landfill bans since Call2Recycle was launched, but getting consumers on board has been difficult.

Source: Vancouver Sun

Target® Seeks LEED Certification for All 2013 Canadian Store Locations

As part of Target's long-term commitment to sustainable business practices, the company announced it is pursuing Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification for all Canadian stores opening in 2013. Design plans include conserving energy and water, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting waste sent to landfill, among other features. Target's approach to environmental sustainability is integrated throughout the business, from how stores are built to the products on the shelves.

Target is among the first organizations in Canada to be part of the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Volume Program, which streamlines the certification process for multiple buildings of a similar type. This will make Target a leader among Canadian mass retailers when it comes to LEED buildings.

Target sites will be renovated for a period of six to nine months prior to opening. An investment of more than \$10 million will be spent remodeling each location, including LEED preparations, to ensure a true Target brand shopping experience for Canadian guests.

Source: Target



WHY LANDFILL DRYWALL WHEN IT CAN BE RECYCLED BACK INTO NEW DRYWALL...

GREEN BUILDING PRACTICES

Green building is growing in momentum. Everything from recycling construction waste to greener building products is becoming more common. LEED is a huge driving force behind this movement towards greener buildings.

NWGR supplies documentation to the LEED Certification board confirming that all drywall waste entering our Calgary facility is being 100% recycled.

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MISSION 2030: Zero C&D Waste to Landfill

Mission 2030, launched February 2013 at Evergreen Brickworks in Toronto, is the Construction Resource Initiative's first "call to action for the whole industry to eliminate construction, renovation and demolition waste to landfill by 2030." CRI, a Canadian non-profit group based in Ottawa, Ontario, was created in 2011 and is a partner in the United Nations Environment Programme – Global Partnership on Waste Management. Mission 2030 suggests that steps should include "a fundamental re-thinking of how resources are used; promoting integrated design methods, minimal life-cycle impact-based decisions and an immediate focus on the low-hanging fruit of the generally accepted waste hierarchy, while planning for the future."

Among the tools needed are Specification Guide / Templates, Preferable Product Guide, Waste Management / Reduction Guide, guides to relevant standards, regulations, codes, certifications guide, interactive networking, a library for study cases, life cycle information, research and Green-washing Prevention Guide.

Evergreen Brickworks is a restoration of an old brick manufacturing plant from the mid 1800s, a good illustration that buildings can be adapted rather than torn down.

Source: Gallon Letter

Note: CRI will be speaking at the RCA 2013 Conference

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Certifying Zero Waste

Businesses committed to generating zero waste now have a way to prove it with a new certification program.

The US Zero Waste Business Council, the non-profit organization that encourages and assists businesses seeking to divert 90% of their waste from landfills and incinerators, has launched the first zero waste business certification program in the US. The announcement comes with the issuance of certifications to three Whole Foods Market stores in San Diego County, California. The three stores earned the certification after being audited by the council, proving that they successfully reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

The trio of stores achieved the bronze level of certification and can earn the platinum level by increasing diversion, implementing upstream policies and getting total participation from team members, vendors and customers.

Source: Resource Recycling

Australian Deposit System Ruled Illegal

A Federal Court judge has ruled that the Northern Territory's container deposit scheme is illegal under Commonwealth law. Drinks companies Coca-Cola Amatil, Schweppes Australia and Lion Pty Ltd launched legal action against the program, saying the NT's legislation breached federal law because it required different production processes for the same product in different states and territories, and that the associated refund acted as a new tax and could hurt sales. The scheme, called Cash For Containers, forced bottlers to pay a 10-cent refund to customers who returned containers to approved depots. More than 35 million containers were returned in its first 12 months. The judge rejected the Territory's argument that the legislation was exempt because it was aimed at reducing environmental harm.

The decision has angered environmental groups, with Greenpeace suggesting Coca-Cola used "bullying tactics" to fight the scheme, which was introduced in the Territory by the former Labor government at the start of last year.

The fight got interesting when Clean Up Australia chairman Ian Kiernan led a small group of environmental activists including Greenpeace CEO David Ritter and Total Environment Centre chief Jeff Angel in trying to dump 4,000 beverage containers at Coke's Sydney headquarters.

The containers had been collected on Clean Up Australia day on the weekend, and were a symbol of the litter which would accumulate if Coke overturned the NT recycling scheme. Coke didn't think much of the reminder, calling in eight members of the New South Wales police to block the small band of high-profile protesters. Ironically, police threatened to arrest the group for littering if they left the beverage containers at Coke's North Sydney headquarters.

Following the decision, Territory Chief Minister, Terry Mills, said the fight was not over and that they would ask the beverage industry to voluntarily continue the container deposit scheme, and that the Territory will also seek an exemption through COAG (Council of Australian Governments).

A similar scheme has operated in South Australia for many years and is not under threat because it has an exemption in the Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act.

Source: ABC News, The Australian, news.com.au

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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

Tetra Pak Recycling Rose by 10% in 2012

Global recycling rates for used Tetra Pak cartons increased by 10% in 2012. According to Tetra Pak's Sustainability Report 2012, globally, around 3.6 billion more Tetra Pak packages were recycled in 2012 than in 2011, helping the company make progress towards its 2020 environmental targets.

Further, it was found that the top countries for recycling the cartons were Luxembourg and Belgium (with recycling rates of more than 80%) followed by Germany, where recycling rates were above 70%.

The firm set itself environmental goals in 2011, focusing on three areas: recycling, sustainable products and environmental footprint.

- recycling: double the global recycling rate for used beverage cartons by the end of the decade to 40%;
- sustainable products: develop packaging based on 100% renewable materials and increase the supply of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper board available for use in Tetra Pak packages to 100%, with an interim target to achieve 50% in 2012;
- environmental footprint: cap climate impact across the value chain at 2010 levels by the end of 2020.

Detailed results will be included in the Sustainability Update to be released later this year.

Source: Resource Magazine

Connecticut Passes First US Mattress EPR Bill

The Connecticut House of Representatives, and the State Senate have voted to pass the nation's first-ever extended producer responsibility (EPR) bill for mattresses. This historic law will require mattress manufacturers to finance and manage a mattress collection and recycling program.

Connecticut government officials estimate that municipalities across the state manage over 175,000 discarded mattresses each year. Despite the fact that up to 95% of the materials that compose mattresses can be easily recycled – including steel, cotton, and foam – most mattresses in Connecticut are currently shipped to out-of-state landfills or waste-to-energy facilities.

Once signed into law, mattress manufacturers and renovators will be required to fund and manage a single stewardship organization that will provide free collection and recycling services to municipalities, which include storage containers for municipalities to aggregate mattresses at transfer stations. The program will be financed by a fee paid by mattress producers, passed onto retailers, who in turn pass it on to consumers at point-of-sale.

In December 2012, bill supporters collaborated with the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the mattress manufacturer trade association, to prepare consensus language that became the final bill. ISPA recognized that a collaborative approach could eventually establish model legislation for other states to follow.

Source: Product Stewardship Institute

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Sort System Helps San Jose Triple Commercial Recycling Rate

A revamped recycling system for businesses in San Jose, CA, has tripled the city's commercial recycling rate. In its first six months, the city's new single-hauler system with two-container material sorting prompted a recycling increase from 22% to almost 70% among the 8,000 businesses affected by the change.

San Jose officials have signed a 15-year deal with Republic Services Inc. to handle recycling services for the city's businesses beginning July 2012. The city's former system was non-exclusive, meaning businesses could arrange waste and recycling services with any of several city-approved haulers. Without a guaranteed customer base, haulers were typically reluctant to invest in infrastructure to process recyclables, leaving many businesses – especially small ones – without access to recycling services.

Under the new system, businesses are provided a two-container wet/dry sort program. One bin collects “dry” items like plastics, cans and bottles; the other holds organic waste and soiled paper, which is eventually composted by Zero Waste Energy Development, a new company formed by two local haulers. Businesses that produce a lot of a particular material can add an additional bin.

Officials worked with businesses when investigating potential recycling systems and chose the two-sort system in part because businesses reported not having room for many separate bins.

San Jose has one of the best residential diversion rates in the US among large cities, currently at about 60%. The new single-hauler system is part of the city's effort to bring commercial diversion in line with its long-term diversion goals.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

New York to Pilot Food Waste Collection

During his final State of the City address, Mayor Bloomberg announced a plan to implement food waste collection.

The mayor said, “As we recycle more plastics, we'll also tackle New York City's final recycling frontier: food waste. We bury 1.2 million tons of food waste in landfills every year at a cost of nearly \$80 per ton. That waste can be used as fertilizer or converted to energy at a much lower price. That's good for the environment and for taxpayers. This spring, we'll launch a pilot program to collect curbside organic waste from single family homes in Staten Island, for composting. If it succeeds, we'll develop a plan to take it citywide.”

Source: Gothamist

First Apartment Building in New York City Starts Compost Program

The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and a local real estate agency announced that an apartment building on Manhattan's West Side will be the first in the city to receive regular food waste collection for composting.

The Helena apartment building became the first to offer organics collection to all its residents after receiving such a positive response to a pilot program. There are 600 units in the complex, which are rented by The Durst Organization. DSNY will be collecting organic material from the building five days a week, according to the report.

Animal waste, liquids, foam items and plastics labeled compostable or biodegradable are not allowed in the food waste bins, according to the news release. All the organics collected at the Helena complex will be taken to a local DSNY composting facility.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Recology Test in San Francisco: Throw Out Less Trash, Save on Bill

A new “Pay Per Setout” service offered by San Francisco's garbage collection provider, Recology, allows customers to decide how many weeks they want to set out their black garbage bins for pickup.

The pilot program began in August 2012 and is designed to give households an incentive to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

As The City moves toward a “zero-waste” goal for 2020, the cost structure of collecting trash is changing and Recology is experimenting with new ways to charge for service. Recology is currently requesting a 21.5% hike on residential trash bills to account for rising labor and fuel costs, but as Pay Per Setout expands, San Franciscans will have the opportunity to cut their costs by moving more of their waste to the green compost and blue recycling bins.

The program is simple: Recology places a tag on your black bin; if you skip your weekly pickup, you receive a 10% discount on your monthly bill. The program requires waste service once a month, and customers can cut their bills by as much as 30% by leaving their black bins in the garage the maximum three out of four weeks allowed.

Source: SF Examiner

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Recycling Access for HDPE, PET Containers Crosses Key Threshold

For the first time, recycling access for two broad segments of packaging is sufficiently widespread to label these containers “recyclable” without the need for additional qualification or disclaimer.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) announced at the Plastics Recycling Conference that recycling access for HDPE rigid cups, tubs, and containers and PET trays, clamshells, and cups has crossed the 60% threshold allowing brandowners that use those packages to label them as recyclable per US Federal Trade Commission’s guidelines.

The ACC, working with Moore Recycling Associates Inc., said in the report that critical mass for recycling non-bottle rigid plastics was reached in large part due to a “substantial increase in the number of communities that are now collecting many types of rigid plastics in addition to bottles.”

US consumers with local access to recycle all non-bottle rigid plastics rose from 40% to 57% between 2011 and 2012.

58.4% of US consumers are currently able to recycle rigid PP containers locally, making them the next likely class of rigid plastics to approach FTC’s “recyclability” threshold.

Source: Plastics Today

Proposed Laws Would Require ‘Not Recyclable’ Labeling on Biodegradable Plastic Containers

Laws proposed in North Carolina and Alabama could require containers made from biodegradable or compostable plastic to be labeled non-recyclable.

The recently proposed laws would prevent any plastic containers, including beverage bottles, sold or distributed in those states from being labeled compostable, biodegradable or degradable unless the container is also clearly marked “not recyclable, do not recycle.”

In Alabama, the proposed law would also require containers to comply with the Federal Trade Commission’s Green Guides before claiming to be compostable, biodegradable or degradable.

All three bills are currently in committee. If passed, they would go into effect July 1, 2014.

The proposed laws would cover resins containing degradable additives, as well as compostable bioresins like polylactic acid. They aim to prevent contamination of the plastics recycling stream and protect what has become a robust and growing industry in the Southeast, said regional recycling experts.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

No recycling bin? Bring it home!

If you’re at an event, facility or business that doesn’t have a recycling bin for your empty drink container, bring it home and increase your refund on your next trip to a bottle depot.

If every Albertan returned just one more container each month to a depot, over 40 million more containers would be recycled annually. So bring it home Alberta!

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American Chemistry Council Says Polystyrene Ban Would Be Costly

The American Chemistry Council, who has already come out against a proposed ban on polystyrene foam in New York City, said a study shows the measure could cost city businesses, consumers and taxpayers an estimated \$91.3 million a year.

According to the study, produced by research firm MB Public Affairs on behalf of the American Chemistry Council, the ban would nearly double food service product costs for businesses.

City agencies currently spend almost \$12 million a year on polystyrene food service items, the report said. Switching to the lowest priced alternative would cost the city an additional \$11 million a year, including \$8 million for the Department of Education alone.

Restaurants in the city will see a \$57 million increase in costs, according to the report.

In addition to the economic impacts, the study found that the ban could produce unintended environmental consequences.

Many common polystyrene alternatives are not recycled and are often heavier and larger in volume, taking up more space in landfills, according to the report.

For instance, paper products, the most common foam alternative, can't be recycled in New York City when used in food service, the study said.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

European Group Urges Designers to Focus on Plastics Recycling

European Plastics Recyclers (EuPR) will launch new guidelines for plastic packaging recycling next year, claiming that today's packaging designs are threatening the EU recycling targets.

"Packaging design today is focused mainly on maximizing performance," the association said in a statement. "Careless design often leads to incomplete emptying of a package and what about different combinations of polymers / materials which are incompatible for an efficient recycling process?"

EuPR says designers should put recyclability equal to other performance criteria, which will help divert waste and encourage countries to fulfill EU recycling targets.

It is therefore launching RecyClass, a guide to the recyclability of any plastic package, at the Interpack trade show in Düsseldorf, Germany, next year.

The guide, which is being tested in several European countries at the moment, will classify packaging on a scale of A to G – seven classes comparable to EU energy efficiency classes, says EuPR.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

New Returnable Package Saves Herman Miller \$46,000/yr

Herman Miller has long been known for the classic industrial design of its office furnishings, as well as for its commitment to sustainability. Operating under a mandate to "design and build a better world," the manufacturer is not only passionate about the ergonomics and earth-friendly features of its products, but also of its operations, as well. Recently, a team engineered a new reusable packaging solution for the transport of a chair component from the supplier to the assembly line that has resulted in considerable sustainability advantages, as well as measurable savings in time and cost.

Until that time, the part had been shipped to Herman Miller in corrugated boxes that were sometimes bundled or stretch-wrapped with additional film. Boxes were reused several times before being recycled, while other materials were disposed of. The solution required considerable handling by operators both stocking the line and assembling the chairs.

By switching to the reusable solution, the company has gained the following outcomes:

- Saved 63 minutes/day in handling of the parts; this equates yearly to 266 hours
- Is using 4,300 fewer boxes, saving 24,645 lb of corrugated/year
- Achieved a combined material and labor savings of \$46,000
- Eliminated the need for two warehouse skid locations
- Eliminated movement of heavy boxes from skid to roller conveyor by a material handler, and eliminated need to cut the boxes open with a knife
- Eliminated handling of boxes by part supplier

Due to these impressive results, the Reusable Packaging Association (RPA) awarded Herman Miller the 2012 Excellence in Reusable Packaging Award.

Source: Packaging World

Europe's Recycling Rate at 35%

Austria, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Switzerland each enjoy recycling rates of more than 50% while Romania, Turkey and Bulgaria recycle only 1% or less of their waste, according to a new study of recycling in Europe released by the European Environment Agency.

Overall, Europe's recycling rate stood at 35% in 2010, compared with 23% in 2001, according to a news release from the agency. The European Union has mandated 50% recycling rates for all member nations by 2020.

England (12% to 39%) and Ireland (11% to 36%) more than tripled their recycling rates from 2001 to 2010.

View the complete report at <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-municipal-solid-waste>.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Owens-Illinois and eCullet are going "Glass to Glass"

Owens-Illinois and eCullet are launching a new joint venture called Glass to Glass that will build new cullet sortation facilities in the US. As part of the venture, eCullet, a glass processing company, will supply O-I, a glass container manufacturer, with a new source of recycled material.

According to O-I spokesperson Beth Peery, the companies are currently looking at establishing the first facility as part of the venture in the Portland, Oregon area.

Peery said that O-I was attracted to Portland because the company already has a glass manufacturing facility in the city and because the state's container deposit program already provides the firm with a steady stream of recyclable glass.

"The majority of the recycled glass O-I uses is from the 10 bottle bill states," she said.

According to Peery, eCullet has been a long-time supplier to O-I. The new joint venture, said Peery, is expected to provide O-I with more high-quality recycled glass from eCullet's proprietary sortation technology. Peery said that the joint venture will also supply O-I with glass collected through single-stream curbside recycling. She said that eCullet has the technology that will effectively sort and clean this material so that it can be used to make new glass bottles and jars.

Source: Resource Recycling

Clothes Recycling Goes Curbside as Demand Rises

Clothes recycling is going curbside in more US towns as global prices rise for the used apparel, shoes and linens that Americans often toss in the trash.

Since September, more than a dozen local governments – in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington state – have begun curbside pickup of textiles, often in special bags next to recycling bins. New York City has put clothing collection bins in nearly 250 apartment buildings in the last two years.

Businesses, too, are placing collection bins in parking lots and gas stations. In the last year, The North Face, H&M and other retailers have begun using in-store bins to offer customers store vouchers for donating clothes – whatever the brand, and sometimes, whatever the condition.

The nation's robust recycling industry is increasingly targeting clothes – even those that are stained, ripped, mismatched or out-of-fashion. Companies and non-profit groups are partnering with cities eager to reduce landfill costs. They pick up the clothes, sell or reprocess them into wiping rags and other goods, and sometimes return revenue to the municipality.

Source: USA Today



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- Helmi Ansari [PepsiCo Foods Canada]

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News

With Tighter US Rules, Battery Recycling Goes to Mexico

US recyclers have some of the world's top technology for safely breaking apart lead-acid batteries to smelt the lead for reuse. But American recycling plants are closing or standing idle.

Plants in Mexico are not – and the country has won a leg up for a reason: Its lead emissions standards are one-tenth as stringent as US standards. The result has been a surge in the trade of used batteries across the border.

The regulatory gap has left Mexico at risk of becoming a “pollution haven,” according to a commission that investigates environmental issues under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Canada's standards are also lower than those in the United States but not nearly as lax as Mexico's.

Even as recycling has become the norm, the United States has seen huge consolidation of lead smelting and refining. In a little more than four decades, the number of smelters in the US has fallen from 154 to 14.

Source: Richmond Times Dispatch

Daughter of WM Garbage Truck Driver Wins ‘American Idol’

The latest winner of American Idol, Candice Glover, is the daughter of a Waste Management Inc. driver, John “Ricky” Glover, who works as a commercial front-load driver for the company's Hilton Head, South Carolina, operations.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Drunk on Power – Whisky to Energy

There's a new WTE in town: whisky-to-energy.

This is not the sort of whisky-fueled, capricious “energy” you see Friday nights at 2 a.m. It's technically still waste-to-energy. But that waste is coming from the stills that produce some of the world's most famous whiskies.

A group of Scottish distilleries has opened a power plant that produces electricity and heat from the by-products of the whisky-making process.

Spent grains and pot ale, the residue left in a still after distillation, will be burned for energy and made into a concentrated fertilizer, respectively.

Whisky is a giant industry in Scotland, and its production takes a lot of energy. The WTE facility, located in Speyside, home of famous The Glenlivet single malt, will process waste products from 16 of the area's 50 distilleries.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Southeast Regional Workshop a Success

With a wide range of topics such as the opportunities for diversion within the construction and demolition sector, the challenge of agricultural plastics, educating the public about reuse, mixed plastic and expanded polystyrene recycling, opportunities to manage organics through composting and issues and opportunities to advance recycling and waste reduction in Alberta, there was something for everyone at the Recycling Council of Alberta's latest regional workshop in Medicine Hat.

Participants from all over Alberta were able to listen, learn, and engage in meaningful discussion around these topics during the one day workshop on April 23. An overall theme that emerged from the workshop was that finding local solutions is an important part of improving recycling and waste reduction in our province. While overall, provincial direction can aid in moving forward, one-size-fits-all solutions are hard to come by. Each region deals with its own challenges and opportunities, and as a result solutions that are tailored to each region's unique circumstances are key to success.

Facilitating this type of important dialogue within the province is something that the Recycling Council of Alberta is committed to, and will continue to support. Stay tuned for details about the next Regional Workshop!



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Coming Events

Pathways 2 Sustainability (P2S) Conference, May 29-31, 2013, Calgary, AB, www.pathways2sustainability.ca

"Fostering Sustainable Behaviour" Community-Based Social Marketing Workshops, with Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, June 10, 2013 (introductory) and June 11-12, 2013 (advanced), Calgary, AB, www.register.cbsm.com

"Rags to Riches", SWANA Northern Lights 2013 Annual Conference, June 19-21, 2013, Edmonton, AB, contact: 306.227.8183, www.swananorthernlights.org

4th Annual Resource Recycling Conference, August 27-28, 2013, Louisville, KY, contact: 503.233.1305 x 117, www.rrconference.com

"Sea of Opportunity", 72nd Annual Convention of the Canadian Association of Recycling Industries, June 20-22, 2013, Halifax, NS, contact: 905.426.9313, www.cari-acir.org

4th Annual Resource Recycling Conference, August 27-28, 2013, Louisville, KY, contact: 503.233.1305 x 117, www.rrconference.com

Annual Alberta Recycling Conference 2013, hosted by Alberta CARE, September 4-6, 2013, Slave Lake, AB, contact: 1.866.818.2273, www.albertacare.org

11th Annual E-Scrap Conference & Tradeshow, September 11-12, 2013, Orlando, FL, www.e-scrapconference.com

Conference on Canadian Stewardship, September 17-18, 2013, Toronto, Ontario, www.canadianstewardship.com

"The Greatest Recycling Show on Earth", 2013 Recycling Council of Alberta Waste Reduction Conference, October 2-4, 2013, Calgary, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, info@recycle.ab.ca

Waste Reduction Week in Canada, October 21-27, 2013, www.wrrcanada.com

Coast Waste Management Association Annual Conference 2013, October 23-25, 2013, Victoria, BC, contact: 1.866.386.2962, www.cwma.bc.ca

Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo, November 20-21, 2013, Montreal, QC, contact: 403.589.4832, www.cwre.ca

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

Market Updates

	Per Tonne	Trend
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	45-50	↓
Cardboard (loose)	25-30	↓
Office Pak (loose)	55-70	↓
Mixed (loose)	10-15	↓
Magazines (loose)	0-20	↔
News (loose)	20-35	↓
Plastic		
HDPE Natural (baled)	150-450	↔
HDPE Coloured (baled)	-100 to 250	↓
Clear PE Film (baled)	100-200	↓
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↔
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	100	↔
White Goods	100	↔

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