

Connector

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*Recycling Council
of Alberta*

www.recycle.ab.ca



RCA Brings the World to Jasper

The RCA's 2012 waste reduction conference "Wide World of Waste" is truly bringing the world to this year's conference venue, The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, with an impressive array of speakers from across the globe.

Included in this year's line-up are the following international speakers:



Jim Evanoff brings 32 years experience with the US National Park Service.



While in Yellowstone National Park, he was the Environmental Protection Specialist for the Park, where he managed many of Yellowstone's environmental programs. Jim continues to provide guidance to other national parks for achieving sound environmental stewardship, and is known for his entertaining and informative presentations.



Robert Haley will be sharing some of the successes that have led San Francisco, where he is Zero Waste Manager for the Department of the Environment, to be recognized as one of the highest-performing diversion programs in the world. Robert also brings recycling experience from the County of Hawaii.



Nia Owen is joining us from the UK, where she is an expert in European waste policy and legislation, having delivered a range of projects for Zero Waste Scotland, Welsh Government, and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

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Connector

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Cascades Recovery Inc., City of Calgary,
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Kellie Walters will be gaining the most air miles, as one of Australia's leading sustainability practitioners. After spending 15 years in key government sustainability roles, she now heads the Australian NGO, Zero Waste Australia.



Not to be outdone, Carey McIver, who hails from Nanaimo, will be sharing her experiences on two FCM-funded missions to Ghana,



West Africa, to develop a solid waste management plan for the City of Sunyani. On behalf of Environment Canada, Carey has also



attended workshops with government representatives in Chile and Colombia, and will compare the waste management practices in these very diverse locations.

RCA Call for Directors

Do you think more needs to be done to reduce waste?
Would you like to influence recycling policy in Alberta?
Do you get inspired working with other
enthusiastic people on meaningful
resource conservation-related projects?
Then the Recycling Council of Alberta
needs you!

If you want to be part of Alberta's
strongest waste reduction voice, the RCA is looking
for individuals like you who bring strong skills and
a history in the recycling industry, and are interested
in joining our Board of Directors. Download a
description of what's involved in being a RCA director here.

Directors of the Board for the 2012/2013 term will be elected at
the RCA's Annual General Meeting on October 4, 2012 in Jasper.

Interested individuals should contact Jason London (President)
at jllondon@bcmb.ab.ca, Sharon Howland (Vice President) at
sharon.howland@cochrane.ca, or the RCA office at 403.843.6563
or info@recycle.ab.ca.



Donate Prizes or Merchandise

The Recycling Council of Alberta invites you to donate items for our
Wide World of Sports golf tournament and/or Highland Games welcoming
reception contest. This year's conference will also feature a silent auction,
and we would greatly appreciate any items you would be
interested in providing.

Please send a quick email to info@recycle.ab.ca if you
would like to donate items. The items can be dropped
off at our registration desk, which will open at 9:00 a.m.
on Wednesday, October 3, at the Jasper Park Lodge.
All donations are very welcome!



America's Food - What a Waste!

Americans are throwing away 40% of food in the US, the equivalent of \$165 billion in uneaten food each year, according to a new analysis by the Natural Resources Defense Council. In a time of drought and skyrocketing food prices, NRDC outlines opportunities to reduce wasted food and money on the farm, in the grocery store and at home.

NRDC's issue brief *Wasted: How America is Losing Up to 40% of Its Food from Farm To Fork to Landfill* analyzes the latest case studies and government data on the causes and extent of food losses at every level of the US food supply chain. It also provides examples and recommendations for reducing this waste.

Key findings include:

- Americans trash 40% of our food supply every year, valued at about \$165 billion;
- The average American family of four ends up throwing away an equivalent of up to \$2,275 annually in food;
- Food waste is the single largest component of solid waste in US landfills;
- Just a 15% reduction in losses in the US food supply would save enough food to feed 25 million Americans annually;
- There has been a 50% jump in US food waste since the 1970s.

The causes of losses in our food system are complex, but there are notable problem areas. At the retail level, grocery stores and other sellers are losing as much as \$15 billion annually in the US in unsold fruits and vegetables alone, with about half of the nationwide supply going uneaten. In fact, fresh produce is lost more than any other food product – including seafood, meat, grains

and dairy – at nearly every stage in the supply chain.

But consumers are also a major contributor to the problem, with the majority of food losses occurring in restaurants and household kitchens. A significant reason for this is large portions, as well as uneaten leftovers.

Wasted food also translates into wasted natural resources, because of the energy, water and farmland necessary to grow, transport, and store food.

Europe is leading the way in reducing food waste. In January 2012, the European Parliament adopted a resolution to reduce food waste 50% by 2020, and designated 2014 as the “European year against food waste.” In the UK, an extensive five-year public awareness campaign called “Love Food Hate Waste” has contributed to an 18% reduction in avoidable food waste. And 53 of the leading UK food retailers and brands have adopted waste reduction resolutions.

For more information:

- Read the full issue brief here:
<http://www.nrdc.org/food/wasted-food.asp>
- NRDC's weekly blog series on food waste:
http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/dgunders/not_eating_away_at_our_resource.html
- NRDC food waste fact sheet:
<http://www.nrdc.org/living/eatingwell/saving-leftovers-saves-money-resources.asp>

Source: MSW Management



Would You Like a Plastic Bag With That? AESRD Releases First Plastic Bag Distribution Annual Report

In 2008, Albertans took home more than 741 million plastic bags, which translates into 215 bags each for every man, woman and child.

Since committing to the Alberta Plastic Bag Distribution Reduction Strategy in 2010, Canada's major grocery and retail, independent grocers and drugstore associations have reduced their plastic bag distribution by 20.5%, to just over 589 million bags.

Industry attributes its progress to a variety of factors, including in-store incentives that encourage reduction

and recycling, the increased availability – and fashionability – of reusable bags, greater consumer awareness, and changing consumer behaviour.

The ultimate goal of the strategy is a 50% reduction by 2013.

Source: AESRD Blog



Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



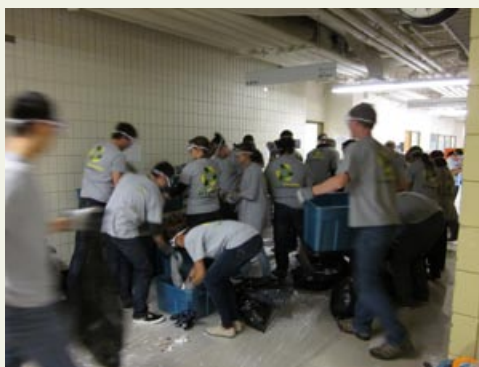
Taking Action on Waste at the University of Alberta

The University of Alberta has been working to reduce the volume of landfill-bound waste it generates for almost four decades as part of its efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of our institution, our city, and our planet. The University's comprehensive recycling program includes paper, cardboard, beverage containers, plastics, glass, light metals, and organics as well as several other

specialized streams. In 2011, the program diverted over 1050 tonnes (or 32%) of our total waste from landfill.

The University has adopted the goal of increasing waste diversion to 50% by 2015. As part of these efforts, Facilities and Operations recently initiated two new projects in collaboration with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence.

The Waste Audit Methodology Project seeks to refine the way the University measures its waste by developing a custom audit process. This process will take into account challenges associated with seasonal variations, highly specialized and diverse waste streams, the size and scope of the University's operations, and the relative lack of comparable data within the institutional, commercial and industrial (ICI) sector. This project will develop a process for annual audits, which alternate



between general waste audits and more specialized in-depth assessments of particular buildings or waste

streams. For 2012, the project team will focus on organic waste, which constitutes almost 60% of the University's waste stream.

The second project, the Organic Waste Utilization Project involves the exploration of options for treating the University's organic waste in an environmentally responsible manner, including composting, wet or dry anaerobic digestion,

and thermal conversion.

In addition to meeting institutional diversion targets, the University of Alberta uses its waste management system as an opportunity to contribute to other aspects of its environmental and education mandates. For example, Facilities and Operations encourages student participation in waste characterization procedures as part of their formal coursework. Last fall, students enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering's Solid Waste Management course were recruited to undertake an in-depth audit of a university building and provide recommendations for diverting additional organic waste to facility managers. This partnership demonstrated how university facilities can be used to provide experiential learning opportunities and serve as living laboratories in the practical application of student course work.

Through these projects and other continuous efforts, the University of Alberta hopes to serve as a model of excellence in waste management in the ICI sector well into the future.

For more information, please contact:

Len Sereda, Director
Energy Management & Sustainable Operations
len.sereda@ualberta.ca
Facilities and Operations
University of Alberta

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.

St. John's Recycling Program Wins Award

The City of St. John's *Curb It* recycling program has been named winner of the 2012 Gold Communication Excellence Award given by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA).

The award recognizes excellence in the creation and implementation of communication tools to inform target audiences about new or existing solid waste management programs, projects or organizations.

The communications plan, developed by city staff in concert with the marketing firm The Idea Factory, has helped the recycling program achieve success. The program achieved a participation rate of more than 70% in its first year, surpassing the targeted 40% goal. It has also successfully diverted more than 8 million pounds of recyclables from the landfill in its first year, and boasts a low contamination rate (from non-recyclables being

incorrectly included with recyclables in blue bags) of 3%.

This is the fourth award the *Curb It* recycling program has won since it began in October 2010, including two international awards. For more information, visit www.curbitstjohns.ca.

Source: *The Telegram*



From Plastic Bottles to the Olympic Stadium

The new uniforms worn by Canada's track and field athletes at the London Olympics were the perfect marriage between aerodynamic efficiency and sustainability, claims manufacturer Nike Canada.

The Nike Project Swift apparel was subjected to more than 1,000 hours of wind tunnel testing, yielding a dimpled design (much like a golf ball) that reduced

wind resistance. In testing, the new kit was found to be 0.023 seconds faster over 100 metres than the 2008 version. In addition, each uniform used an average of 82% recycled polyester fabric and up to an average of 13 recycled plastic bottles. Not only that, but they looked pretty good, too!

Unfortunately, the advantage wasn't only Canada's. Nike's Project Swift clothed many of the top track athletes at this year's Olympics.

Source: *Recycling Canada*



PHOTO: Nike and Athletics Canada unveiled Team Canada's 2012 Track and Field Uniforms with athletes Justyn Warner (100m & 4x100m), Phylicia George (100m Hurdles) and Sarah Wells (400m Hurdles) courtesy of Nike Canada Ltd.



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BC Receives Highest Score on Inaugural EPR Canada Report Card

EPR Canada, a not-for-profit group that monitors the rate at which Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments are adopting legislative measures to make producers pay for managing the waste generated from their post-consumer products and packaging, has released the results of its inaugural report card.

EPR Canada published the score each government got in its first Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Report Card, which evaluates federal, provincial and territorial EPR policies and programs in place or pending by the end of 2011.

The scores for each jurisdiction are:

BC	A-
Alberta	C
Saskatchewan	C-
Manitoba	B-
Ontario	C+
Quebec	B-
New Brunswick	C-
PEI	C+
Nova Scotia	B-
Newfoundland & Labrador	C-
Canada (federal gov't)	F

The only jurisdiction to receive a failing grade is the federal government; the only jurisdiction not to respond to the questionnaire this year is Nunavut.

As a result of the unique challenges faced by the

territories, EPR Canada chose not to allocate a score this year to the Yukon or the Northwest Territories,

both of which submitted completed questionnaires. Both, however, show progress toward putting EPR programs in place.

The team of EPR Canada judges rated each government's performance based on responses their departments of environment provided to a questionnaire that EPR Canada sent to each Environment Minister earlier this year.

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) defines extended producer responsibility as a policy approach in which a producer's responsibility, physical and/or financial, for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle, shifting it away from municipalities and regional waste authorities. It also encourages producers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products.

The 2011 Report Card is the first of several annual ratings that EPR Canada plans to produce and publish on its website, www.eprcanada.ca



Become Involved in Your Recycling Council: Join a Committee Today

Are you interested in influencing the direction and future of the Recycling Council of Alberta? Then we urge you to join one of the RCA's committees. The four committees are: Leadership & Advocacy; Communications; Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI); and Small & Rural Communities.

The RCA's working committees normally meet every other month, five times a year. Lunch is always provided. All RCA members are welcome to participate in the committees, thereby helping to shape the organization and also network with other members.

The next committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2012, in Red Deer. Any RCA member interested in finding out more about committees is welcome to attend. More details on the committees, as well as past meeting notes, are available

at www.recycle.ab.ca/committees. Email, or call us at 403.843.6563 to join the committee of your choice.



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2012 Summer Ambassadors

The RCA's Recycling Ambassadors were back in action again this summer, completing a wide range of projects throughout the province. From setting up educational booths at rural car shows and sorting through used pesticide containers to compiling reports on backyard composting and conducting waste audits, these ambassadors have been kept very busy and have brought their own individual strengths and plenty of enthusiasm to the RCA this summer. Read on to get to know them a little bit better!

Adam is a returning ambassador, in his fifth year of a double major in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Alberta. Once he finishes up his degree, he plans to go to NAIT to pursue a diploma in Geomatics Engineering. This summer, he was working with the Beverage Container Management Board on a number of research and survey projects. He enjoys reading, writing, working with computers, and listening to music.



Leanne is currently working towards her second degree in Environmental Studies and Sociology at the University of Victoria. Her main environmental and social interests revolve around food systems and food sovereignty, and how these systems and processes affect the environment and society. Working for the RCA has fuelled her desire to create a better world to live in and has taught her so much about different programs and methods to reach goals in sustainability.



Marci just finished her degree in Neuroscience at U of C and will be starting a MD in medicine this upcoming school year at UBC. She has enjoyed working in a position outside of her field of study as it has provided her with a different kind of learning experience. She especially enjoys going to events and interacting with a wide variety of people, promoting a good cause.

Melissa was drawn to the ambassador program for its public relations and marketing flare in being able to

provide public education throughout the province. Melissa is currently pursuing a PhD in Sport Administration at the University of Northern Colorado, but hails from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. She has a passion for sport, coaching, leadership and social media.



Morgan is currently going into her fourth year at the University of Alberta studying Environmental and Conservation Sciences. Her position at the City of Leduc has allowed her to learn more about recycling, waste reduction and environmental issues in Alberta – all things which she is very passionate about. It has also given her the chance to interact with the public, further encouraging the protection of our environment.

Rachel is about to enter her fourth and final year at the University of Victoria, doing a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Geography and a minor in Environmental Studies. Rachel's term with the RCA has not only been a great experience to contextualize what she is studying in a professional setting, namely resource management, but it has further strengthened her belief that the environment should be a top priority in order to achieve a sustainable future. Her other interests include traveling and ice hockey.



Sarah was an Ambassador in 2010, but has returned to the RCA this summer as the Ambassador Coordinator. She is pursuing a degree in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, concentrating in Sustainability and Water Resources Management. She is passionate about the outdoors, and loves hiking, canoeing, cycling and travel.

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

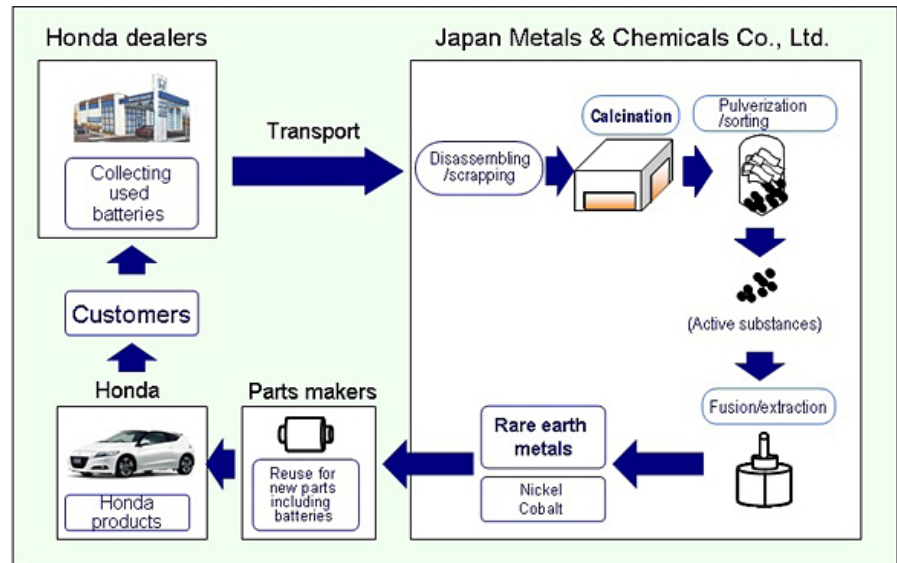
Visit **Alberta's Recycling Hotline**
at www.recyclinghotline.ca
or phone 1.800.463.6326

Honda Plans to Reuse Rare Earth Metals from Hybrid Batteries

In what it is calling an industry first, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. will extract rare earth metals from used hybrid batteries. The company said it will be working with Japan Metals & Chemicals Co. Ltd., to extract the metals as part of a mass-production process at a recycling plant. The process will allow the company to extract more than 80% of the rare earth metals in the nickel-metal hydride batteries.

The company said in a statement that it will strive to reuse extracted rare earth metals not only for nickel-metal hydride batteries, but also a wide range of Honda products. The batteries will come from Honda dealerships around the world.

Source: Waste & Recycling News



courtesy Honda Motor Co. Ltd.



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Contact your local Depot and find out how to make your recycling project the next **Alberta success story!** In the last 15 years Albertans have returned more than 10 billion beverage containers to depots throughout the province. Not only does this divert tons of valuable materials from our landfills, it also enables the energy efficient fabrication of dozens of everyday products.

Community groups, charities, municipalities, institutions and businesses are encouraged to contact their local Depot for more information about available grants for new beverage container recycling infrastructure. Innovative programs like the **Recycling Infrastructure Program (RIP)** enable Depot Operators to work within their communities to place new beverage container collection infrastructure in previously under-served locations. Over 63 communities in Alberta have already benefitted from new RIP infrastructure in the last year.

Find a Depot at: albertadepot.ca

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News

Calgary Folk Fest Diverts 80% of Waste

Organizers of the Calgary Folk Music Festival say they are thrilled to have met and exceeded goals to divert the majority of waste created by festival-goers.

In 2010, the festival diverted 30% of its waste from the landfill and doubled that number to 60% last year. This year, the target was to divert 75% of the waste from the landfill by encouraging recycling and composting. The estimate of actual diversion is 80%, and included 1900 kg of compostables collected on Saturday, and over 3000 kg on Sunday.

City of Calgary Alderman Druh Farrell said she would like to see city officials work with festivals throughout Calgary to set and meet environmental targets.

Source: Metro News Calgary

Paper Industry Supports Landfill Ban for Cardboard

Canada's paper packaging industry wants the Ontario government to ban old corrugated boxes from landfill. Quebec is moving to ban them from landfill next year and the industry wants Ontario to do the same, says PPEC executive director, John Mullinder. A provincial ban would demonstrate political leadership and is legally required to cover both private and publicly-owned landfills, he says. "It's a win-win for everybody, but mainly for the environment."

The council estimates that banning old corrugated containers (or OCC) from Ontario and Quebec landfills would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 85,000 tonnes (or the equivalent of taking 15,000 vehicles off the road).

A provincial ban on OCC would also extend the life of existing Ontario landfills by up to two and a half years, delaying costly measures to find new, always hard-to-site landfills as the current ones rapidly fill. PPEC estimates Ontario and Quebec municipalities will achieve operational cost savings of between \$12 million and \$18 million from such a ban.

The industry relies heavily on recycled materials (mainly old boxes) to make new boxes, with a national average 82% recycled content. Maybe a provincial ban together with a shipping-to-landfill charge at a transfer station is the answer," says Mullinder, "but somehow we have to make landfilling these perfectly recyclable materials more costly, and recycling them more sustainable. We want those boxes."

For more information, contact John Mullinder, PPEC, at 905.458.0087 or ppec@ppec-paper.com.

Source: PPEC Press Release

Auditor General Criticizes Alberta Health System's Waste Management

There are weaknesses in the Alberta Health System in managing medical waste, the province's Auditor General Merwan Saher said in a report released earlier this year.

The health system has not assigned responsibility for oversight of the management of medical waste at all sites that generate the waste and the health system has not fully standardized medical waste procedures across its sites.

The auditor general also concluded that the health system does not have adequate controls to ensure waste disposal services have been performed before it approves vendor invoices for payment, the report says.

The Alberta Health System should establish systems to oversee the disposal of medical waste and pursue more opportunities to reduce waste and recycle more, the report concluded. The RCA may be able to help in this regard, as its annual conference Wide World of Waste features a speaker who will outline the healthcare recycling program from the Lower Mainland.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

New Report Offers Update on Battery Recovery in Canada

"Managing Canada's Waste Batteries," a recently-released study from CM Consulting, offers a detailed look at the various battery collection and recycling programs in Canada. By the end of summer, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec all will have mandatory collection and recycling programs for portable batteries.

"Our findings show that programs for primary (non-rechargeable) batteries saw gains in the weight collected for recycling, with Ontario collecting the highest number of batteries on a per capita weight basis (2.79 ounces), followed by British Columbia (2.22 ounces). Manitoba, in its first year of operation, collected 0.39 grams of primary batteries per capita," said CM Consulting principal and author of the report, Clarissa Morawski.

The full report is available at www.cmconsultinginc.com.

Source: Resource Recycling

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Toronto Bans Plastic Bags

Toronto has become the first major city in Canada to ban plastic shopping bags in a surprise city council vote that the mayor denounced as “ludicrous.”

Mayor Rob Ford, who predicted the ban will face a legal challenge, had asked city council to scrap Toronto’s contentious five-cent levy for plastic shopping bags. Council supported the mayor and voted to scrap the tax – but then also agreed with a last-minute motion to ban bags outright, beginning January 1.

Marion Axmith, a spokeswoman for the Canadian Plastics Industry Association, warned that the move would kill jobs in Toronto and said the industry would consider all its options.

On the other side of the debate, Emily Alfred from the Toronto Environmental Alliance said the ban is a sign the city is moving in the right direction. “It sends a clear signal Toronto wants to be an environmental leader,” she said.

The ban, which was supported by a vote of 27-17, calls for the city “to prohibit all City of Toronto retail stores from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags, including those advertised as compostable, biodegradable, photodegradable or similar.”

Source: The Globe and Mail

Regina Moving Forward on Curbside Recycling Program

The City of Regina’s works and utilities committee has approved an administration plan that rewrites Regina’s garbage bylaw, to include a mandatory recycling service.

Paper, plastic, glass and tin cans are among the items people will be able to put into their individual recycling carts. The city wants to see less discarded material ending up in its landfill.

While garbage collection is paid for out of the general tax revenues, recycling will be paid for by the user.

The city says it hasn’t yet set a rate to be charged to families, but according to an administrative report, the cost for its “enhanced” residential waste service is estimated at \$220 to \$240 per household per year. The average household already pays \$110 a year, so the additional charge for recycling would be about \$110-130 a year, according to the city.

Source: CBC News

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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.

CertainTeed Gypsum uses our recycled gypsum in their drywall manufacturing process, giving their gypsum board the highest recycle content in the Calgary market.

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News

EnviroHansard Launched

Lawyers and law students from the Ecojustice Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Ottawa have created a new tool to help you stay informed about environmental debates in the House of Commons.

The Ecojustice Environmental Hansard is an easy-to-use website that collects, organizes and distills federal political dialogue on our environment. With entries searchable by date, Member of Parliament, topic or text content, the Ecojustice Environmental Hansard makes Parliamentary debate accessible and transparent to the Canadian public, researchers and environmental community. The website is non-partisan and a useful tool for anyone interested in sustainability and the environment.

You can check out the Environmental Hansard website at www.envirohansard.ca.

Source: Gallon Environment Letter

Hospital Saves \$300K with Recycling Program

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario said it has saved and is reinvesting close to \$300,000 a year thanks to a program that recycles, sterilizes and reuses electronic sensors.

The hospital spends millions a year on disposable devices, and while some products cannot be reused or recycled out of infection or other health concerns, the hospital looked at where it might be able to eliminate waste.

It found one such item in the 27,000 disposable oxygen sensors – attached at the fingertips of patients – staff use to monitor vital signs. In the past, the hospital has thrown them out after each use. The company in the US that makes the products agreed to collect, sterilize and return the sensor for re-use. Management was shocked when they saw how much they were saving through the program.

The hospital said it's looking for other places to save money and said the program proves there are ways to streamline healthcare spending.

Source: CBC News

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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

New Group Forms to Encourage Recycling of Food-Service Packaging

The Foodservice Packaging Institute has formed a Plastics Recovery Group with the intent of making it "the catalyst to propel recovery of used plastic foodservice packaging in North America."

The Plastics Recovery Group is the second group FPI has recently formed to address recycling. Last year it formed the Paper Recovery Alliance to focus on recycling paper foodservice packaging.

The initial 19 members of the plastics group include Cascades Inc., Command Packaging, Dart Container Corp., Dyne-A-Pak Inc., Fabri-Kal Corp., Genpack Corp., Havi Global Solutions, NatureWorks LLC, Pactiv Corp., Solo Cup Co., American Styrenics LLC and BASF SE.

The group intends to support new pilot projects throughout the value chain, test the economic viability of existing and future initiatives, and work closely with other organizations focused on plastics and packaging recovery.

To boost the recovery and recycling of plastics foodservice product, the plastics group plans to work to develop the necessary collection infrastructure, expand the end use markets for recovered materials, educate and engage consumers to increase recovery, and strive to develop collaborations with government officials.

Source: Waste & Recycling News



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Merger of Recycling Groups Moving Forward

Two major North American recycling organizations, the National Recycling Coalition Inc. and Recycling Organizations of North America Inc., have begun the final steps in consolidating the organizations.

Boards from each organization met jointly and created a working group to handle the details of the merger, according to a report from the National Recycling Coalition. The new organization will be called the North American Recycling Coalition.

The consolidation is intended to create a "coalition that is stronger, more effective, strategic, can leverage more resources, lead national dialogue, and create positive change with North America's current materials management system," according to the report.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Hawaii Looks to Battery Deposit

Lawmakers in Hawaii have proposed a deposit-return system for the state's household batteries. If approved, the bill before the government would see packagers, manufacturers and importers pay 5 cents per household battery. These fees would fund redemption centres or reverse vending machines to take back the used batteries. Consumers would pay a refundable 10 cents per battery, similar to the system in place for bottles purchased in the state. If passed, fees from manufacturers would be levied starting October 1, 2012, with roll-out of the deposit portion starting in January 2015.

Source: PPSReview

Super Hero Recycling

Waste Management Inc. worked with the San Diego Convention Center to ensure that more recyclables were diverted during this year's Comic-Con convention.

The Houston-based solid waste management company recycled more than 98 tons of materials at last year's event.

"Our goal is to transform Comic-Con attendees and vendors into environmental heroes," said Jason Rose, area vice president for Waste Management, in a statement. "As Comic-Con is one of San Diego's biggest annual events, this is a great opportunity to come through for our environment by recycling as much as possible while at Comic-Con and then taking that mindset home once the event is over."

The convention center installed a second baler to handle old corrugated containers. This allowed Waste Management to make fewer trips to its El Cajon recycling center.

Comic-Con began July 12 and ran for four days.

Source: Waste & Recycling News



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Germany Urged to Set Up Deposit Scheme for Phones

A German advisory body has recommended the introduction of a mandatory deposit and refund scheme for mobile phones and computers to increase the collection of used equipment and reduce use of metallic raw materials.

The suggestion is one of several recommendations in a report submitted by the German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU) to new environment minister Peter Altmaier. The report put a strong emphasis on resource efficiency.

Other recommendations to Mr. Altmaier include reducing food waste by 50% by 2025, in line with a European Parliament resolution adopted in January 2012, and introducing a tax on saturated fatty acids to reduce the impact of meat consumption on climate change. The Danish government introduced such a tax last year.

The OECD also made a number of policy recommendations to the German government. The country will need more cost-effective policies to achieve its environmental objectives, it said. For example, the OECD recommends higher taxes for company cars and extending road tolls to light duty vehicles.

Source: ENDS Europe

End of Life Legislation for Mattresses in California

On May 31, the California Senate passed extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation for discarded mattresses. Under the bill, which needs approval by the California Assembly before becoming law, manufacturers and retailers must pay for the collection and disposal of discarded mattresses. This cost may be passed on to consumers, or manufacturers can opt to pay the state a fee for each mattress sold in California.

The International Sleep Products Association has been fighting this legislation, calling instead for the development of a national approach to mattress stewardship. Other states have considered mattress EPR programs. The Connecticut General Assembly adjourned for the year without passing used mattress recycling legislation that was on the table, and Rhode Island's government recently defeated similar legislation.

Source: PPSReview

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California Hits Record Low Waste Generation

Californians reduced the amount of waste they throw away to a record low of 4.4 pounds per day in 2011.

The state's Department of Resources Recycling Recovery (CalRecycle) calculated the figure, referred to as the per capita disposal rate, by taking the total amount of trash disposed of at home and in workplaces and dividing it by population.

The rate is a modest improvement over 2010 and is the lowest since disposal reporting began in 1989. It is also down 1.9 pounds from the peak of 6.3 pounds per resident, per day in 2005. The overall state "diversion rate equivalent" stands at 65%, meaning nearly two-thirds of the 86 million tons of waste generated in the state last year was kept out of landfills. The Golden State currently has plans to raise the diversion rate to 75% by 2020.

According to CalRecycle, the amount of waste generated by Californians could rise as the economy picks up.

Source: Resource Recycling

San Francisco Retains Franchise Control

Voters in San Francisco have rejected a proposal that would have forced the city to competitively bid garbage and recycling services. Proposition A, which would have split waste and recycling services into five different areas (residential collection, commercial collection, materials recovery and processing, operation of a transfer facility and disposal or conversion of residual solid waste) and required the contract for each area to be bid, was defeated by more than 53 percentage points – 76.6% to 23.4% – according to the city's Department of Elections.

San Francisco-based Recology has exclusive rights to collect waste and recycling in the city and has never competitively bid for the contract. This is the third time voters have rejected a measure to alter the way the city's garbage and recycling is collected. In 1993, 76.3% of voters rejected a similar amendment; 64.5% of voters rejected another amendment in 1994.

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

Bridgestone Aims for 100% Sustainable Material in Tires

Bridgestone Corp. is developing new tire technologies aimed at developing tires made from 100% sustainable materials. The company is diversifying the regions in which it produces natural rubber and expanding the range of reinforced plant fibres it uses. The tire maker is researching use of the guayule plant and the Russian dandelion for producing natural rubber.

Furthermore, in order to replace fossil fuel resources with renewable materials, it is working to develop synthetic rubber, carbon black, and rubber compounding agents that can be created from biomass materials. Bridgestone said it also has initiatives in place to contribute to the globally agreed target for carbon dioxide emissions reduction.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Planes, Trains, and Boats?

RTP Co. has introduced recycled aircraft-grade carbon fiber into compounds that deliver high performance at lower levels than conventional carbon fiber.

In a special compound, RTP of Winona, Minnesota, uses scrap carbon fiber from Boeing Co.'s production of components for its 787 Dreamliner aircraft. RTP worked with the new Aircraft Fleet Recycling Association to adopt the recycled fiber into its new compound.

The first user of the recycled carbon fiber compound is boating paddle producer Werner Paddles of Sultan, Washington. Werner found that high levels of virgin carbon fiber in compounds made its paddles visually unattractive. The company wanted a black compound that would provide a smooth finish that would denote high quality while providing high performance, and found the recycled material easier to process, and the cost differential insignificant.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

European Agency Approves Recycled Content for Food Packaging

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has declared safe the use of recycled plastics in food-contact applications where the recycled resin has been sourced from 10 recycling processes, the first time it has released such a formal opinion.

In all cases, these technologies grind waste plastics into small flakes, which are decontaminated and then reprocessed into plastics for use in food packaging. EFSA has declared these to be safe where the resulting plastic is not made up of more than 5% PET collected from non-food consumer products "and these processes are operated under well-defined conditions," it said.

The agency is continuing to assess other plastics recycling practices and will insist that after its work is done, "recycled plastics used in food packaging, food containers and other food contact materials should only be obtained from processes which have been assessed for safety by EFSA and authorized by risk managers."

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Film Recycling Project Offers Agricultural Breakthrough

A European Commission-funded project designed to solve problems relating to the recycling of used agricultural film recently completed a research and development program linked to the prototype testing of a new cleaning device which has cut contamination by 65% – on the farm or at a collection hub – without the need for washing.

The project has identified how new technology can assist in an area of recycling that has historically high levels of contamination and helped bring together parties

across Europe together to share and develop best practice. It also offers logistical software that can help optimize the efficient collection of used film by agents.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Europe's PVC Recycling Program a Success

As part of Europe's polyvinyl chloride (PVC) recycling program, Vinyl 2010, more than 260,800 tons of post-consumer PVC waste was recycled in 2010, according to a press release from GBI Research, a market analysis group that recently conducted a study on the global PVC industry.

The European Union has also launched a second recycling program, Vinyl Plus, to boost PVC sustainability. PVC is commonly used to make pipes, electrical wiring insulation, packaging and automotive products.

Global demand for PVC has been on the rise over the last decade, according to the report. GBI Research expects energy efficiency drives will push that demand even higher, reaching 49,534,145 tons in 2020, the press release indicates.

In 2011, the bulk of PVC was used in the construction, packaging and electrical sectors, according to the press release. The automotive, agriculture, footwear and other sectors made up about 25% of global end-use demand.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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European Parliament Passes Zero Waste Resolution

The plenary of the European Parliament has voted in favour of a resolution which reaffirms the initiative of the European Commission to bring residual waste close to zero, gradually introduce a general ban on waste landfill, and phase out – by 2020 – incineration of compostable or recyclable waste. This resolution reaffirms the EU's long-standing support of the waste hierarchy in its policy approaches.

The resolution also supports favouring recycling and highest value-added and resource-efficient products, such as bio-based products and industrial materials, over bioenergy. It also urges the Commission and the Member States to remove the obstacles to a functioning European market in recycling and reuse, and to stimulate such a market by fostering the demand for and availability of recycled materials and by-products, through measures which should include the development of stringent end-of-waste criteria and economic incentives.

The resolution can be read at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2012-0161&language=EN&mode=XML#title7>

Source: ZWIA

UK Antiwaste Group to Fund Waste Prevention Plans for Businesses

Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has launched a further financial package to help increase business resource efficiency in England. The fund aims to increase waste prevention and boost re-use.

Businesses developing “new opportunities that prevent waste or use less product to deliver a service” can apply to the Waste Prevention Loan Fund, which offers loans of between about \$155,000 and about \$1.55 million.

The aim of this fund is to offer finance to companies who cannot raise green investment cash from more traditional sources. Examples include incentivizing customers to return products for re-manufacture, re-use or recycling. In addition to the loan fund, WRAP can help companies identify alternative finance partners who are better placed to understand new business opportunities.

For more information, visit WRAP at www.wrap.org.uk.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Germany Introduces Recycling Law that Gives Municipalities Control over Recycling

A new recycling law that could allow German municipalities to take over the collection of recyclables from private recycling and waste management companies is a source of concern for many recyclers in that country, who fear the law could put many small and mid-sized recycling companies out of business. Several private recycling companies say the German law could steer recyclables away from the traditional recycling infrastructure toward incineration as an alternative disposal method for municipalities. As a result, according to critics of the law, the country's recycling rate would not grow beyond its current level.

The new law grants municipalities exclusive access to recyclables collected from households, giving the public sector the potential to create a monopoly, critics say. Private sector recyclers would have access to the recyclables at the discretion of the public waste management authorities.

Under the law, more recyclables could be incinerated by municipally owned entities. The Federation of German Waste, Water and Raw Materials Business Association (BDE) claims the law could reclassify more than 80% of German waste incinerators as recycling facilities.

The BDE and the Federation of German Steel Recyclers and Waste Management Companies (BVSE), a German association of recycling companies, say the new law is a direct violation of the European Union's Waste Framework Directive and the Waste Shipment Regulation. The framework specifies the following waste management hierarchy: prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, energy recovery and finally disposal.

Source: Recycling Today

Bulgaria to Increase Plastic Bag Tax by 233%

The Bulgarian government has decided to increase the tax on both locally-made and imported plastic bags distributed in the country's retail outlets, according to various reports in the local media.

To date, the Bulgarian tax has been imposed on single-use plastic bags with a thickness of up to 15 microns, but with the latest legislation, the country's government is extending the fee to all kinds of plastic carrier bags.

Under the plan, the levy on plastic bags will be increased by 233% from 9 cents (BGN 0.15) to 22 cents (BGN 0.35) starting in October. In 2013, the tax will be further increased to 28 cents (BGN 0.45), and in the following year, it will be capped at 35 cents (BGN 0.55).

Local observers say that the latest move is likely to stimulate demand for bioplastic resin in the Bulgarian market, as compostable and biodegradable bags are not subject to the tax.

Following a proposal put forward by the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment in early 2011, the plastic bag tax was introduced in October 2011. The government said it aimed to reduce Bulgaria's plastic carrier bag consumption from its then level of about 1.2 billion units per year and mitigate its negative impact on the environment.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Office Depot Store to Show EPEAT Label on Products

An Office Depot store in Portland, Oregon, is the first in the country to display products with the Electronics Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) EcoSense label, the organization said.

The new label identifies products with gold, silver or bronze rating systems based upon various environmental criteria considering the entire life-cycle of the product.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Apple Reverses EPEAT Decision

In a complete reversal, Apple announced in July that it will no longer pull its products from the EPEAT registry. In an open letter posted on the company's website, Senior Hardware Engineering VP Bob Mansfield acknowledged the public disappointment in Apple's earlier decision to abandon the green electronics rating system and said that as of today, all eligible products will be relisted on the EPEAT registry.

The company's earlier decision to abandon the ranking system sparked wide-ranging public criticism, as well as a backlash from many large purchasers of IT products, such as the federal government, state and local governments, and other large companies and organizations that have EPEAT requirements as part of

their procurement policies.

In attempting to diffuse the controversy, Apple had pointed to many of its energy use, materials use and emissions improvements included in the products. The company still maintains that revisions to the IEEE 1680.1 standard, which EPEAT is partially based on, are needed.

A statement on EPEAT's website welcomed the decision by Apple, and acknowledged the company's concern that the program wasn't fully recognizing some of the environmental advancements Apple was making in its products. The IEEE 1680.1 standard is currently being revised by stakeholders, and the update may look into areas such as chemical use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: E-Scrap News

E-Waste EPR Now in Effect in India

India's e-waste management and handling rules came into effect in May 2012. Under the rules, manufactures and retailers are responsible for collecting and disposing e-waste in an environmentally sound manner. They must also promote the program to help increase awareness of e-waste recycling.

Source: PPSReview

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China Creates E-Waste Fund

In China, producers and importers of electrical and electronic equipment will have to pay into a new fund meant to subsidize the cost of handling scrap electronics, reports Clean Biz Asia. Handled by the Ministry of Finance and five other government departments, the fund will be used toward environmental protection.

According to the news website, subsidies will be offered for the “responsible recycling” of e-scrap as part of the initiative. However, the website casts doubt on how effective this new measure will be for a country that has been on the receiving end of much of the world’s end-of-life electronics:

“The country is, however, the final destination of around 70% of the world’s annual 500 million tons of e-waste, which is smuggled through the country’s main ports. While any attempt at creating a more circular economy is a step forward, it is hard to see how China’s new e-waste fund is going to improve that particular problem.”

Source: Resource Recycling

Beijing Introduces Recycling Banks that Pay Subway Credits for Bottles

Beijing’s vast army of plastic-bottle scavengers will get an automated rival when the city introduces its first reverse vending machines that pay subway credits in exchange for returned containers. More than 100 recycle-to-ride devices will be installed in an attempt to reduce the environmental impact of the informal bottle collection business and improve the profits of the operator, which works in an industry thought to be worth billions of dollars.

Donors will receive between 5 fen and 1 mao (about 1p) on their commuter passes for each polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle they insert into the machine, which then crushes them to a third of their original size and sorts them according to colour and type.

The firm introducing the machines currently processes 50,000 tons of bottles a year, most of which it buys from informal collectors who roam the city’s streets looking for discards, which they pack on to carts and bicycles. With the machines, they hope to collect directly from the public and generate extra revenue from government subsidies and sales of advertising shown on the machine’s screens.

Waste-trade experts are sceptical that the business model will work in China, which already has a vast and highly competitive PET recycling industry. Nobody knows the numbers of collectors, but estimates range from 500,000 to 20 million.

Source: The Guardian

Notice of AGM

The Recycling Council of Alberta’s
Annual General Meeting
will be held on

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at 12 noon at
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California Lawmakers OK Bill to Force Car Washes to Use 60% Recycled Water

A bill that forces new car wash facilities in California to use at least 60% recycled water has been sent to the governor for signature.

Assembly Bill 2230 requires car wash facilities permitted and constructed after January 1, 2014 to include a water recycling system. An amended version of the bill passed the Senate on August 20 and the Assembly two days later.

In a letter to the newspaper Los Feliz Ledger, Assemblyman Mike Gatto, the main sponsor of the bill, said water recycling technology has advanced to the point that there is little difference between the recycled water and water from the tap.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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Guinness Record for Recycling

Roseville-based Sims Recycling Solutions said it set a certified Guinness World Record for recycling on this year's Earth Day, April 22.

Sims said the official "most consumer electronics recycled within 24 hours at multiple venues" mark was set as a result of collection events it organized in seven states, including California.

The company said five locations met the Guinness World Records' standard – Sacramento, Long Beach, Dallas, New York and West Chicago. In those cities, Sims said, about 80 people collected 80,000 pounds of e-waste for recycling.

In April, Sims also organized international collection events in Austria, Belgium, England, Germany, India, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Sims is owned by Sims Metal Management, the world's largest publicly listed metal and electronics recycler.

Source: The Sacramento Bee



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Coming Events

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

Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Conference 2012 September 14, 2012, Vancouver, BC, www.metrovancouver.org

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

"Give Back to the Earth... Compost!" 22nd Annual National Compost Conference of the Compost Council of Canada, September 19-21, 2012, Montreal, QC, contact: 1.877.571.4769, 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

"Barking up the Right Tree" Fall '12 Waste Minimization 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

SWANA Training Week & SWANA Certification Exams October 9-11, 2012, Regina, SK, www.swananorthernlights.org

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

"EPR - The (R)Evolution Continues", Coast Waste Management Association Conference, October 24-26, 2012, contact: 1.866.386.2962, www.cwma.bc.ca

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



October 15 – 21, 2012

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www.wrwcana.com

Market Updates

	Per Tonne Trend	
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	45-55	↓
Cardboard (loose)	30-35	↓
Office Pak (loose)	50-75	↑
Mixed (loose)	10-20	↑
Magazines (loose)	0-5	↓
News (loose)	25-35	↓
Plastic		
HDPE Natural (baled)	140-500	↑
HDPE Coloured (baled)	60-300	↑
Clear PE Film (baled)	140-250	↑
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↔
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	105	↓
White Goods	105	↓

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