

Connector

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*Recycling Council
of Alberta*

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Alberta Proposes New Recycling Regulation

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development has announced a proposed new recycling regulation that will enable Extended Producer Responsibility, along with a number of other changes intended to reduce waste in Alberta, streamline Alberta's regulatory framework, and shift costs from taxpayers to those that produce and use products. The proposed new regulation will advance initiatives outlined in Alberta's waste strategy (Too Good To Waste), better align Alberta's approach with neighbouring provinces, and support developing extended producer responsibility programs as outlined by the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment (CCME).

Proposed changes to regulation include the following items:

1. Consolidate all eight of Alberta's existing recycling regulations (for beverage containers, used oil, tires, electronics and paint) under one regulation – the Designated Materials Recycling Regulation;
2. Remove specified environment fees from regulation while still ensuring consumer protection;

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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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continued from title page

3. Expand the electronics program to include new products such as small appliances, audio/visual equipment, telecommunication equipment and power tools;
4. Expand the used oil recycling program to include other automotive fluid containers and increase the current environmental fee on containers;
5. Enable extended producer responsibility (EPR) in Alberta;
6. Designate two materials that will require extended producer responsibility programs (packaging and printed paper, and household hazardous waste) with future coming-into-force dates.

Currently, Delegated Administrative Organizations operate programs for designated materials in Alberta. No changes are proposed for the existing programs aside from those described above for used oil and electronics. Enabling EPR will provide an additional tool, within a suite of tools, for addressing waste in Alberta.

Consultation on the proposed changes to Alberta's existing regulatory framework for designated materials recycling will occur this fall. To receive notice of the consultation launch, please send your contact information to Giselle.Beaudry@gov.ab.ca

Notice of AGM

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

Thursday, October 3, 2013
at 12 noon at
The Fairmont Palliser
in Calgary, Alberta.

All members are welcome to
attend and, among other items
of business, vote for your new
RCA board members.

Agricultural Plastics Update

Some of you have worked very hard to set up programs to collect and prepare grain bags for shipment to market, but encountered problems at delivery. Unfortunately, over the summer of 2012, the Hutterite Brethren colony that owns and operates the Crowfoot Plastics recycling facility near Hussar, made the decision to discontinue receiving agricultural plastics. As a result of that decision, Merlin Plastics, the plastics recycler that partners with Crowfoot, has committed to construct a processing line for agricultural plastic at its plant at Delta, BC. They anticipate start up by the end of 2013. Since announcing the decision to stop receiving product, the operators of Crowfoot have committed to continue to accept ag film until Merlin's ag plastic line is operational. Kevin Kernaghan of Merlin continues to be your contact (403.617.8171) and he will coordinate any deliveries to Crowfoot. In spite of the challenges, Kevin reports that plastic is continuing to be accepted at Hussar. It is important to verify price at time of shipment, because global markets for plastics are volatile. At the time of writing, the price for ag plastic films is \$100.00 per ton, FOB the plant.

The Hussar facility is not the only option for agricultural plastics. Some communities are also working with the recycler that handles their other recyclable materials. There may be others, but we know that Capital Paper in Calgary (403.543.3222) has been receiving both agricultural film and twine. As always, it is very important to communicate with the recycler before shipping to discuss quality control and handling.

Twine collection and recycling is continuing to grow. To our knowledge, four semi-trailer loads of twine have been shipped from Alberta to Bridon Cordage in Minnesota. Bridon has been very happy with the quality of material and is anxious to receive more. A number of communities are now distributing collection bags. CleanFARMS, the organization that operates the rural pesticide container collection program, has supplied bags to support a pilot project in Yellowhead County. A limited supply of CleanFARMS bags for both twine and film plastic are available to communities desiring to initiate a pilot for collection of these materials. Contact the RCA office for more information. We understand that

Alberta CARE is also offering bags for sale to communities that wish to collect twine.

Over the summer of 2012, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), conducted two surveys related to agricultural plastics. The first was designed to gather information from landfill operators and the second involved interviews with 660 producers to gain information on the volumes of agricultural plastics used, current practices, trends and attitudes. Results of the surveys are available on the ARD website at:

- [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14387](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14387) (producer)
- [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14390](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14390) (MWA)

A subsequent study was commissioned by CleanFARMS and ARD to further refine estimates of various agricultural wastes, including plastics. The final study results will be posted on the CleanFARMS website at www.cleanfarms.ca

If you have any questions please contact: Kevin Kernaghan, Chair, Rural and Small Communities Committee at 403.617.8171 or Christina Seidel, RCA Executive Director, 403.843.6563



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Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



Stampede Breakfasts Going Zero Waste

For over 10 years, Community Natural Foods (Community) has celebrated with our city during the Calgary Stampede by hosting an annual stampede breakfast. Our breakfast is not just any ol' run of the mill kind of breakfast, rather on multiple occasions we've been voted the best place to 'Snag a Stampede Breakfast' by Fast Forward readers. Our green and sustainable choices made at every step throughout the planning process align with Community's core values and together you have the perfect mix for an enjoyable yet sustainable Stampede breakfast.

A sustainable breakfast you ask? How is that possible when you're serving thousands of people?



Community's 2013 stampede breakfast drew a crowd of 1100 people all involved in making our annual breakfast the greenest breakfast

to attend in town. Here's a few of the things we did this year, with goals to build on and improve our actions even more for next year's breakfast:

- Asked attendees to bring their own reusable mugs, plates and utensils to eat their breakfast on.
- Provided wash stations for attendees to clean their mugs, plates and utensils before they left the breakfast.
- For those folks that didn't bring their own dishes we provide compostable drinking cups, plates and utensils.
- Established recycling and compost stations, which included collecting 7 bins of compost (est. weight 120 kg), 1 bin of plastic recyclables (est. weight 4 kg), and 3 bins of refundable recycling (est. weight 15 kg). In the end there was only a half a bag of garbage.

- All event promotional materials and signage wasn't laminated so that all materials created for the event can be recycled. Any Community promotional materials made available by attendees to take home are printed on 100% post-consumer material.



- Food prep, cooks, servers and clean up crews use reusable food prep equipment such as stainless steel (bowls, tongs, flippers, spatulas) and serving trays.
- Cloths rather than paper towels are used by the cooking and clean-up crews to wipe up spills.
- Used alternative energy providers like SkyFire Energy's mobile unit to provide power to our live band and all their equipment.
- The equipment SkyFire was unable to supply power for; Bullfrog power accessed from our stores supplied the rest.
- Organic pancakes and sausage are by nature earth friendly due to the processes and requirements for organic production.
- We ensured food being sampled or given out was in packaging that could be recycled.
- Juice, sugar and cream were served in bulk packaging to save waste from individual packaging.

by Chandra Morice,
Marketing Manager,
Community Natural Foods

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.

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Brian Keating, conservationist and host of television's *Going Wild*, installed 18 solar panels on the roof of his home and was the 100th Calgarian to be a part of the Home Solar program. (He has since added two more panels in 2013 for a total of 20.)

Since the launch of the program, ENMAX Energy has installed more than 500 kilowatts of micro-generation. With more families joining the program, and support



Calgary conservationist Brian Keating

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Hear more about the ENMAX Home Solar program at the RCA conference in October.

2010 Waste Industry Survey

After a long wait, Statistics Canada has released its 2010 Waste Management Industry Survey. The highlights of the survey include:

- Nationally, the amount of non-hazardous waste sent to private and public waste disposal facilities decreased 4% from 2008 to approximately 25 million tonnes in 2010. Quebec and Alberta saw the greatest declines in waste disposal, each decreasing by 6% from 2008. Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan had the highest increases over the same period, at 4% each.
- At 37%, residential waste accounted for slightly more than one-third of the total waste disposed in 2010. The disposal of residential waste decreased by 1% and the disposal of non-residential waste fell by 6% between 2008 and 2010.
- The amount of waste diverted to recycling or organic processing facilities decreased by 3% from 2008 to 8.1 million tonnes, or 236 kg per person in 2010. This decrease, which was the first since 2002, was fueled by an 11% decrease in non-residential waste diversion. In contrast, residential waste diversion increased by 5%. The largest increase in diversion was for electronic materials, at 60%.

Calculated on a per capita basis, the disposal of residential waste decreased by 3% to 271 kg per person.

The province with the highest per capita disposal rate remains Alberta at 1,052 kg per person per year.

In Alberta, 75% of disposed waste came from non-residential sources.

At 44%, slightly less than half of the diverted waste in the country came from non-residential sources, down from 48% in 2008.

Paper fibres made up the largest portion of all diverted materials at 40% (3.2 million tonnes), followed by organic materials at 27% (2.2 million tonnes), and metals at 12% (950,410 tonnes). The largest increase from 2008 was in the diversion of electronic materials, which was up 60% to 39,036 tonnes in 2010. There was also a 12% increase in the diversion of metal, a 5% increase in the diversion of plastics (313,036 tonnes), and a 1% increase in the diversion of glass (426,794 tonnes). There were decreases in the amounts of diverted construction, renovation, and demolition materials (down 9%), paper fibres (down 6%), organics (down 5%), and tires (down 4%) between 2008 and 2010.

Guest Editorial

Washing Machines of the World Unite

By Joanne Fedyk, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council

Recently, the Recycling Councils of BC, Ontario, Alberta and the SWRC sent a joint letter to Kimberly Clark expressing our dismay with how they market their Kleenex Hand Towels. One of their ads shows a paper towel dispenser in a household bathroom, comparing the disposable towels to a hand towel that is getting blacker as people wipe their (clean) hands on it.

Needless to say, disposable, single-use products are not popular with organizations trying to move us all toward sustainable living practices, especially when reusable alternatives are easily available. On the other hand, to your average corporation, disposable products are the best thing ever. Why sell someone a single towel or cloth that will last for years when you can sell them a roll of paper towel that they will use up, toss away and then need to go buy another? Enter disposable hand towels. It's not enough that we can't pick up spills from counters and floors anymore with a simple cloth, now we shouldn't even dry our hands with them (hands that we have just washed, by the way).

There used to be this household item called a rag. Often a repurposed towel or t-shirt, absorbent and eager to serve, the rag had a multiplicity of uses and was easily washed and ready to go back to work. No additional funds or trips to the store were required, just toss it in with the rest of the laundry and go. Now we have disposable paper towels for the kitchen, disposable hand towels for our bathrooms, and disposable mops for our floors. Rags (or cleaning cloths, if you prefer a less negative term) can be washed and reused hundreds of times. Their paper alternatives can be used ... hmmm... once ... and then they

end up in the garbage. They can't be recycled, though some communities may allow them to be composted if they have the appropriate facilities.

Somewhere along the line, corporations have tried to convince us that disposable cleaning products do a better job than reusable cloths. They are cleaner, or more sanitary, somehow. I think washing machines everywhere should be insulted. If they are capable of keeping our jeans and T-shirts clean, surely they are equally capable of cleaning tea towels, dishcloths and cleaning cloths?

There may be a place for disposable cleaning items (emphasis on may). But it's not in households with washing machines that can keep reusable options working for years. Washing machines of the world unite!

To see the letter sent to Kimberly Clark, and their subsequent response, see www.recycle.ab.ca/public-policy



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Greenwashing Continues to Provide Rationalization for Consumerism: Company Claims Green K-Cup

A Canadian coffee company is claiming to make single-serve brewing better for the environment. Canterbury Coffee Corp., a specialty coffee roaster based in Richmond, British Columbia, says it has developed a compostable and biodegradable coffee pod equivalent to Keurig Inc.'s K-Cup.

Canterbury's single-serve cup is made with 40% less plastic – it doesn't have a hard shell like traditional K-Cups – and the hard plastic ring uses a support structure that will compost in an anaerobic environment. Canterbury launched the compostable, biodegradable cups as part of its new organic, single-serve coffee, branded OneCoffee. The coffee itself is fair trade and organic, and the entire product is packaged in a paperboard box with zero-carbon offset.

According to Canterbury, the cup's entire structure is about 92% biodegradable. The only exception is the filter, made with a nylon weave to withstand the brewing process. The company is hoping to make the filter mesh with a biodegradable nylon alternative, like polyethylene furanoate, in the near future. The company is also searching for a biodegradable alternative to the plastic aromatic overwrap the cups are packaged in.

Largely through clever marketing, single-cup brewers continue to explode in popularity. About 12% of Americans currently own a single-cup brewer.

Keurig, a subsidiary of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc., has been searching for a way to combat claims of unsustainability. In 2011, the company started a pilot-scale take-back program for corporate customers, where coffee grounds are sent to a compost facility and the rest of the materials incinerated in a waste-to-energy plant. The company also sells a refillable K-Cup filter.

Canterbury shows its lack of understanding of the realities of waste management and recycling when it asserts that its cups will break down in an industrial composter, which is "the first step for most garbage collected in Canada's municipal waste streams" or "in a regular landfill environment". As industry experts well know, most garbage in fact does not undergo a composting process prior to landfill, and modern landfills do not promote biodegradation.

The OneCoffee launched in Canada recently, and the Canterbury cup is being marketed to specialty grocery chains that are interested in greener products.

Based at least partly on greenwashing and desires to rationalize convenience at the expense of the

environment, sustainable single-serve coffee is an ongoing trend. Canterbury suggests there will be more and more "sustainable" versions of the single-serve cup coming into the market.

Editor: The RCA and similar organizations will continue to work with suppliers and educate consumers to highlight the need to address waste reduction at source, rather than look to heroic methods to deal with the waste resulting from unsustainable practices.

Source: Waste & Recycling News



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 at <http://bit.ly/directorduties>.

Directors of the Board for the 2013/2014 term will be elected at the RCA's Annual General Meeting on October 3, 2013 in Calgary.

Interested individuals should contact Sharon Howland (President) at sharon.howland@cochrane.ca, Ian Traquair (Vice President) at ijtraquair@shaw.ca, or the RCA office at 403.843.6563 or info@recycle.ab.ca.



Waste Diversion at South Country Fair

Submitted by Jeff Crighton

Held the third weekend of July at the Fish and Game Park in Fort Macleod, the South Country Fair has become a fixture in the Alberta festival scene. The Fair is in its 27th year and is well known as a peace-oriented, eclectic mix of music, art, sun and fun. With the growth in the last ten years the increase in garbage has been exponential. Organizers of the Fair have made recycling at the Fair a key issue, and are looking at new methods to increase the diversion rate as much as possible.

This year, thanks to the generous donation from Progressive Waste Solutions and Haul-All Equipment Systems Ltd of two Recycle Ranger Recycling Trailers, a new system was proposed. The idea was to add another recycling barrel to the existing barrels for garbage and refundable beverage containers, and sort the recyclables collected in these barrels into the trailers. Unfortunately, our efforts had to be more aggressive, so guerilla tactics were in order.

Fair folk like to bag their individual campsite garbage, and then this bag, recyclables and everything else, is tossed into the garbage. Thus, to get at the plethora of recyclables, the individual bags had to be ripped open and sorted accordingly. A messy job to say the least.



This is my crew. L-r Wendy Baker, Connor Crighton, Chris Rogers, Cormac Crighton, Ahley Bartz. Missing Jeff Crighton (taking photo) and Grace Fawcett

We did achieve some diversion, 224 kg of OCC, 19 kg plastic and 12 kg of tin. Compared to the two forty-yard roll-offs of waste generated, our efforts barely scratched the surface. However, our efforts were not in vain. We did increase awareness of the issue dramatically. We also were able to develop a basis for an effective system to increase the diversion in the next few years. We also dramatically increased the buy-in factor for our volunteers.

Next year we are going to set up at least another crew and our goal is to have a guerilla squad hit the containers prior to the garbage runs. We are also going to have Recycling Ambassadors throughout the Fair educating campers and participants on our efforts and the methodology we encourage. We hope to provide better signage, better container identification, compost program, and do more recycling collection routes prior to garbage collection as previously mentioned.

We encourage Fair participants to sort their garbage prior to disposal, use the recycling containers and compost containers, and feel free to ask the ambassadors questions. Most importantly, use less, especially products from vendors that do not package food products in recyclable materials.

I would like to thank our volunteers and all the South Country Fair volunteers as events like this would never happen without them. Thanks to the executive committee of the South Country Fair for recognizing the importance of recycling and supporting our efforts. I am confident that now the ball has started rolling, we will achieve the diversion goals we have identified.



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CANADIAN NEWS

Edmonton Transit Traveling on Plastic

Edmonton's light rail transit system is now rolling over old milk jugs and plastic bottles. The city is replacing worn rail ties with Ecotrax, a new product made of 100% recycled products from US-based Axion.

The ties are marketed as being more resistant to wear and deterioration than conventional wooden ties. Given Edmonton's climate, with frequent freeze-thaw cycles, it is expected that they will significantly outperform wooden ties and be a cost-effective choice despite their premium pricing – approximately 30% higher than wooden ties.

Source: Recycling Canada

Municipalities Offer Potential Market for Compost

Alberta municipalities are potentially a significant market for compost, according to a recently released survey by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD).

AESRD conducted a survey of municipal governments in the fall of 2012 that showed that municipal operations provide significant opportunities for beneficially using large volumes of compost.

Only 36% of respondents were found to be top dressing existing greenspaces with compost. Only one-third mixed compost in topsoil prior to seeding, and only 28% of respondents reported using compost for erosion control. At the same time, more than half of respondents indicated plans to construct new greenspaces in the next two years, suggesting a significant opportunity to increase compost use. While more than one third of municipalities regularly use compost, few have formal municipal council decisions or operational policies supporting these practices.

The report identifies several key steps to improving the use of compost in municipal greenspaces. They include research into compost use by other jurisdictions, demonstration projects to verify the benefits of compost use, and quality standards to ensure that product is available to meet the needs of municipalities.

For a copy of the report, visit www.compost.org/English/PDF/Muni_compost_use_report_2013-06-25_FINAL.pdf.

Source: Recycling Canada

Calgary Council Approves Compost Plan

Calgary city council voted in May to borrow \$155 million to build a new composting facility. Calgary needs the facility to divert more material from its landfills and to deal with excess biosolids.

A majority of council agreed, voting in favour of a plan to build the composting facility and purchase 400,000 green carts for eventual city-wide pickup of organic materials, set for 2017, which will come with additional user fees currently estimated at \$6.50 per month.

Source: Metro News (Online)

Canadians Waste More than \$2.5 Billion in Fresh Produce Each Year

According to a new study commissioned by KitchenAid, the average Canadian home throws out \$190.94 worth of fruit and vegetables each year – for a national annual tally of more than \$2.5 billion. A few quick facts from the study, that surveyed 1501 Canadians:

- \$121: amount the average Canadian spends each week on groceries.
- \$40.80: What the average Canadian spends each week on produce, eating up 34% of the weekly grocery budget.
- \$49.70: What Canadians aged 18-34 spend weekly on produce, 26% more than Canadians aged 35-44 (\$39.40).
- 55% of Canadians are willing to pay a premium for fruits and vegetables if they are organic or locally grown.
- 10% of purchased fruit and vegetables get tossed in the trash each week by Canadians.

Source: Vancouver Sun

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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Household Composting in Canada

Over half of Canadian households (61%) participated in some form of composting activity in 2011, more than double the rate in 1994. Overall, 45% of all households reported composting kitchen waste and 68% of households with a lawn or garden reported composting yard waste.

In 2011, 63% of Canadian households that had composted their yard waste and 60% that composted their kitchen waste used a curbside collection system. The rest used a compost bin or pile or some other method to compost.

Households in Prince Edward Island (96%) and Nova Scotia (94%) were most likely to have composted. These rates reflect the presence of strict waste management regulations in both provinces. Households were least likely to compost in Quebec (42%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (43%).

The type of dwelling a household occupied was directly related to the rate of composting. Over 50% of households in detached or single dwellings reported composting their kitchen waste, compared with 22% of households living in apartments, reflecting the fact that many apartment dwellers can find it difficult to compost. Visit statcan.gc.ca for more details on the study.

Source: Statistics Canada

Eco Move Out 2013 Sees Significant Waste Reduction

As thousands of students packed their things and moved out of UAlberta's residences this spring, they participated in the second annual Eco Move Out.

Eco Move Out is a coordinated, residence-wide program co-hosted by the Office of Sustainability and Residence Services. The program was developed to provide opportunities for students to repurpose their unneeded belongings and ultimately divert waste from the landfill.

UAlberta's recycling system always collects paper and cardboard, glass and light metals, beverage containers and plastics. But during Eco Move Out, residents were asked to further reduce waste by placing non-traditional items to Eco Move Out bins for reuse or recycling – things like old clothing, electronics and non-perishable food.

From April 15 to May 3, a grand total of 8,585 kg of goods were either donated or recycled as a result of Eco Move Out 2013, for a total of 58% diversion, including:

- 5,698 kg of clothing and household items
- 2,154 kg of electronics
- 1,148 empty beauty products containers
- 352 kg of food bank donations

Source: University of Alberta Office of Sustainability

Arctic Co-ops Recycling Turns Empty Pop Cans Into Cash

In 24 of Nunavut's 25 communities, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd offers people a chance to drop their empty cans in recycling bins at the co-op stores. The ACL then offers the use of its shipping and supply system to take pop cans out of communities, utilizing shipping containers that would normally travel South empty.

The co-op has just entered the third year of its recycling program, which started after the Government of Nunavut concluded it could not cover a territory-wide program of its own. ACL funds the program in part through a 10-cent charge on disposable plastic grocery bags.

As an added incentive for communities to collect cans, ACL offers \$1,500 to any community-oriented non-profit groups who can fill a sealift container with aluminum cans. Groups choose what to do with the \$1,500 and how they collect the cans.

The program has seen steady success since its first sealift season in 2011, with a total of 19 sealift containers of aluminum shipped out of Nunavut, amounting to some 750,000 pop, beer and other aluminum cans.

The Hamlet of Arviat has demonstrated the greatest success at collecting pop cans, having filled six sealift containers since the start of the program. For a community numbering less than 500 residents, Kimmirut has shown the most impressive results, shipping out two containers' worth – or 80,000 cans.

Source: nunatsiaqonline.ca

Recycling Depot Takes Kitchen Fat

The Ridge Meadows Recycling Society depot in Maple Ridge, BC, now accepts kitchen fat, which it collects in a big vat to be later shipped off to be filtered, sterilized and either mixed back in with feed rations, or used as an ingredient in biodiesel fuel.

The program is for residents rather than restaurants, which already collect their grease and oil for processing by West Coast Reductions, which is also processing the grease collected from the recycling depot.

"We call ourselves the original recyclers. We started nearly 50 years ago," said Tim Gale, with West Coast. "We collect used cooking oil and are able to refine it and sell it back to local farmers who re-use its high calorific value. It's a closed-loop system."

Recycling society president Jon Harris said kitchen grease is the latest product that can be recycled because a company now has a market for the product.

Source: Maple Ridge News

ZooShare Awarded Contract to Sell into Ontario Electricity Grid

ZooShare Biogas Co-operative Inc. is very pleased to announce that it has received a Feed-in Tariff (FIT) contract offer from the Ontario Power Authority for its 500-kilowatt biogas plant, to be built at the Toronto Zoo in 2014. This represents a major milestone for ZooShare, which will be unique in North America for generating renewable electricity from zoo animal manure and food waste.

ZooShare is funding the project through the sale of bonds to Ontarians who want to help the environment, support the Zoo, and at the same time make a healthy return on their investment. The bonds pay 7% per year for 7 years, but purchasers need to be a co-op member to get them.

Each year, Canada's first co-operatively owned biogas plant will turn the Zoo's manure output and food waste from grocery stores around the Greater Toronto Area into enough clean, renewable electricity for 250 homes. Resulting emission reductions are equivalent to removing 2,100 cars from the road, and annual contributions to the Zoo will total at least \$50,000.

Source: Canadian Environmental Protection



Study Finds Messaging Matters when it Comes to Recycling

A new academic study on recycling behavior found that tailoring messages about recycling to one's political beliefs helps gain traction for increased participation in recycling programs.

The purpose of the study, "Getting Liberals and Conservatives to Go Green: Political Ideology and Congruent Appeals," was to see if targeted messaging to both sides of the political spectrum would increase participation in recycling and other environmentally-friendly behaviors.

The authors of the Journal of Consumer Research-published study found that different messages for self-identified liberals and conservatives mattered. In one part of the study, consumers were asked about their recycling intentions after reading various appeals. Consumers who identify as liberals were found to be more eager to recycle when the focus was on fairness, the general good and reducing harm. Meanwhile, consumers who call themselves conservatives were more likely to want to recycle when appeals to participate in recycling included phrases focusing on duty and authority and a "conservative's sense of in-group affiliation".

Source: Resource Recycling

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News

Electronic Waste Recycling Program Launches in Newfoundland

The Electronic Products Recycling Association, an industry-led organization, has launched an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) electronic products recycling program in Newfoundland and Labrador. Consumers and businesses can bring their old and unwanted electronics to a permanent drop-off centre throughout the province. For a complete list of locations and how to participate in the new electronic products recycling program, visit <http://www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/nl>

Source: Western Regional Waste Management

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Metro Vancouver Places Tight Restrictions on MRFs

Metro Vancouver has agreed to allow material recovery facilities to open in the area, albeit under tight regulations. Fears that allowing MRFs would ultimately reduce the quality of recovered materials and waste after years of persuading residents to separate their recyclables from garbage brought the district close to banning private firms from opening new MRFs, the Surrey-North Delta Leader reported. The region is moving toward preventing garbage from being shipped to out-of-region transfer stations.

Surrey, British Columbia-based Northwest Waste Solutions lobbied for MRFs, but said the restrictions planned for MRFs will make opening new ones prohibitively difficult, according to the article.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Canadian Paper Packaging Mills Near 80% Average Recycled Content

The average recycled content of paper packaging produced by Canadian mills for use in Canada is close to 80%, according to the industry's environmental council, PPEC. The council surveys the industry every two years and has been tracking recycled content since 1990. For 2012, the average stayed relatively constant at 76.4%.

"What we have seen over the years," says executive director, John Mullinder, "is an increasing mill reliance on recovered paper and board, whether from industrial or residential sources. Most packaging mills in Canada," he says, "now produce 100% recycled content material. Eight sites produce what we call a blend between recycled and virgin fibre, and three mills use only virgin fibre. Actually, virgin is a bit of a misnomer since these mills primarily use wood chips and sawmill residues that are left over from lumber operations as their feedstock, rather than fresh trees."

Domestic shipments of containerboard used to make corrugated boxes averaged 81% recycled content in 2012, while its lightweight cousin, the boxboard carton, averaged 70%. Kraft paper packaging averaged 35%. Click here for PPEC's background report: Understanding Recycled Content (and why requiring minimum levels is not the answer for paper packaging).

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

Source: PPEC

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Industry Looks to Harmonize Recycling Programs

A new initiative by major retailers and packaged goods companies aims to harmonize packaging stewardship programs across Canada. The Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance (CSSA) was incorporated in September 2012 by a group of retailers that includes Loblaw, Walmart, Metro, Canada Safeway and Sobeys, along with consumer packaged goods companies Kraft, Unilever, P&G, Coca-Cola and Maple Leaf Foods.

One of the key purposes of the new group is to deliver a shared administrative and customer service business infrastructure to producers and stewards of extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs and provincial producer responsibility organizations in Canada. Over the next six to 12 months, the corporation is looking to build out an infrastructure (SAP) system, and ensure service capabilities are in place via a provincial and national call centre.

Source: Canadian Grocer

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Decline in Recycled Paper Content of Tissue?

Declining graphic paper use may be beginning to affect the recycled content of tissue products.

Recovered paper industry members continue to report declining volumes of graphic papers (printing and writing papers, old magazines, etc.) due to growing supplanting of paper products by digital offerings, plus a slowing global economy. Meanwhile, some recycling industry analysts suggest we may be approaching the theoretical limit in so-called white paper collections in developed countries, including those in Europe and North America. At the same time, due to population increases, demand for tissue and toweling products continually rises.

With tissue and toweling being the main market for recovered white paper, the current situation where fiber supply is dropping but demand is rising is expected to lead to higher fiber prices, thus forcing tissue makers to boost the virgin-fiber content in some of their products.

Source: Resource Recycling



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China's Green Fence Influences Markets on Both Sides of the Border

Scrap recycling firms in North America and Europe aren't the only ones feeling the pressure from China's Green Fence. Many in China's informal recycling sector have resorted to illicitly trading recyclable commodities as the ongoing enforcement action takes its toll on material supplies.

An investigation by The Christian Science Monitor reveals that many of China's small, informal processors are finding operating conditions increasingly difficult. The crackdown on the import of scrap materials not meeting strict quality control and contamination standards has resulted in widespread shortages of material for these types of processors.

According to the Monitor, this may be by design. China's large informal recycling sector is notorious for processing scrap plastics and metals by hand, burning away contamination and dumping waste products in local water supplies. These informal recyclers typically buy cheap supplies of materials with high levels of contamination. By cutting off the supply of this material, the Chinese government is attempting to drive many of these processors out of business, eliminating future demand for cheap, low-quality material and encouraging the growth of a modern recycling infrastructure.

Late in 2012, a new political administration made the decision to enforce scrap material import regulations enacted several years earlier. Operation Green Fence is reportedly scheduled to run through November of this year, although many are convinced that the tougher standards are here to stay.

Source: Resource Recycling

New LEED Standards Create Controversy

The US Green Building Council has adopted a new version of LEED standards that has created push-back from the plastics industry. As originally drafted, the new version of LEED would have allowed buildings to score points toward certification by avoiding certain "chemicals of concern," such as PVC. The American Chemistry Council, the Society of the Plastics Industry Inc. and others argued that such arbitrary chemical restrictions would make LEED less of a positive force in the construction industry and more of a way to punish companies producing certain chemicals and products. As a result, the draft was changed, providing credit for using "good" materials, not avoiding "bad" ones.

The new program will launch during the Greenbuild conference in November 2013, but projects will be able to register under either LEED v4 or LEED 2009 until June 1, 2015, after which only LEED v4 will remain open.

In response, the American High-Performance Building Coalition was formed, with Washington-based SPI as well as the American Chemistry Council, the Vinyl Siding Institute, the Flexible Vinyl Alliance and the Vinyl Institute among its 27 charter members. AHPBC says USGBC develops its LEED standards with a disregard for science, without involving industry and without using a consensus-based approach.

According to the Green Building Council, the four levels of LEED building certification – certified, gold, silver and platinum, depending on the number of points earned after certain prerequisites are met – are focused on the performance of a completed construction project, not on specific materials or products.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Landmark PSA Campaign Launched in US

Keep America Beautiful (KAB) announced the national launch of a public service advertising (PSA) campaign targeted to motivate Americans to recycle every day.

In partnership with the Ad Council, KAB unveiled the multimedia campaign, titled "I Want To Be Recycled," that aims to raise awareness and ultimately provide the motivation to change the behaviours of occasional recyclers to everyday recyclers.

The "I Want To Be Recycled" campaign, which was created by the award-winning agency Pereira & O'Dell, strikes an emotional chord and motivates people to learn about the recycling process. The campaign reveals that everyday products, whether an aluminum can or plastic bottle among other products, have the potential to become something bigger when recycled.

Two television spots were released on July 9 – a 60-second ad that follows the journey of an HDPE milk jug that becomes recycled into a park bench and a 15-second ad that shows an aluminum can becoming part of the Baltimore Ravens' stadium. Those TV commercials will be supported by radio spots, out-of-home advertisements and an extensive digital campaign.

Visit www.iwanttoberecycled.org to view the varied educational assets of the campaign.

Sources: Keep America Beautiful, Resource Recycling

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Australian Hospitals Recycle PVC Medical Waste

A recycling program operating in two Australian states – Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) – has turned 33,000 pounds of hospital PVC waste into industrial hoses and non-slip floor mats. Australia's national PVC industry body, the Melbourne-based Vinyl Council of Australia, is collaborating with manufacturers to recycle commonly used PVC medical products, specifically tubing, intravenous fluid bags and oxygen masks.

VCA estimates plastics account for about one-third of hospitals' general waste, most of which is sent to landfill. Of that plastic waste, about 25% is PVC.

The PVC Recovery in Hospitals program has been tested in four hospitals since 2009, with Hospital staff members separating recyclable PVC products after use. They are collected by PVC recyclers that manufacture the waste into products.

VCA CEO Sophi MacMillan said the trials showed educating hospitals is vital if recycling is to be successful. VCA collaborated with hospital staff, recyclers, the NSW and Victorian governments and Sydney-based medical product manufacturer Baxter Healthcare Pty. Ltd. to create educational tool kits.

The program now operates in six hospitals and medical centers, including a dialysis center. Another

two hospitals are in the early stages of implementing the program and four more registered interest online after the tool kits were released.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Surgery is a Wasteful Business

London, ON, medical researchers conducted a waste audit of five total knee replacements performed by a single surgeon. The findings, published in the April 2013 edition of the Canadian Journal of Surgery, revealed that the five operations generated 66.7 kg of waste, of which 43.1 kg was solid waste destined for landfill. Only 9.6 kg of waste was recycled, consisting of blue sterile wrap and clear plastics. Extrapolating from those figures to the 47,429 knee replacements performed in Canada in 2008-09, the surgeries generated 408 tonnes of landfill waste.

The study also found that much of what is classified as biohazardous waste is in fact suitable for conventional disposal.

The research identifies several opportunities for waste reduction and cost saving that may be achieved if surgical staff were more aware of the volume and cost of waste during surgery. Hospitals may also be able to use their buying power to encourage manufacturers to be more efficient in their packaging, as many surgical supplies are overpackaged.

Source: Recycling Canada

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.

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Aveda Goes Full Circle to Recycle Cosmetics Packaging

Aveda, which prides itself on its high levels of organic and plant-derived ingredients, has introduced its Full Circle program to recycle its cosmetics packaging. Running in Aveda's 107 Experience Center retail stores in the US, the program will accept any Aveda packaging that isn't commonly accepted by local recycling services, including bottle caps, makeup brushes, tubes, pumps and certain bottles and jars.

In addition to collecting packaging, Aveda, part of Estee Lauder Companies, plans to work with its recycler, G2 Revolution, to funnel recycled materials back to suppliers to be used in new Aveda packaging. Many of Aveda's packages contain 100% recycled content, a few hold Cradle to Cradle certification and most of its plastic tubes are easily recycled.

Source: GreenBiz

US Recycling Numbers on the Rise, Says US EPA Report

Some 66.2 million tonnes of US municipal solid waste were recovered for recycling in 2011, up by 1.24 million tonnes over 2010 and 3 million tonnes over 2007, according to a new report from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The report Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2011 Facts and Figures shows that over 2007 to 2011, total municipal solid waste generation in the US slid by 2.4%, while the nation's total recycling stats increased up by 5%.

According to the report, paper and paperboard continue to be far and away the materials most recycled within the US MSW stream. In 2011, 45.9 million tons of paper and paperboard were recovered through recycling – that number represents nearly 66% of the total weight of paper and paperboard waste generated by Americans. Metals were the next most recycled material with 7.51 million tonnes (or 34.2%) of steel, aluminum and other nonferrous metals being recovered. 31.84 tonnes of plastics were generated in US municipal waste streams in 2011, with 2.65 million tonnes of those plastics (or 8.3%) recovered through recycling.

The EPA report shows that total municipal solid waste generation was 4.4 pounds per person, per day (a 6% decrease from 2007).

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

No More Chasing Arrows on Resin Identification Codes

An ASTM International plastics committee has announced a big change to the Resin Identification Code: the iconic chasing arrow symbol will be replaced by a solid equilateral triangle.



The Resin Identification Code – a number one through seven inside a three chasing arrows – appears on the bottom of plastic packaging.

The RIC was never intended to advertise a package's recyclability, only to identify resin content. But the chasing arrow symbol, which is often associated with recycling, confused consumers. By replacing the arrows with a triangle, the code "helps bring focus back to the systems core mission: resin identification and quality control prior to recycling," according to an ASTM news release.

There will be a transitional period in switching to the triangle, with the new symbol only required on new items; molds already in place won't have to be changed right now.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Austin Requires Food Waste Composting by 2017

After 16 months of tedious planning, Austin, Texas, is rolling out new legislation that will require all restaurants, grocery stores and other food businesses to compost food scraps by 2017. The legislation, which will change both composting and recycling requirements for businesses, is the latest step in the city's long-term goal to divert 90% of its waste from landfills by 2040.

The law builds on existing legislation that requires owners of multi-family properties or apartment buildings with over 75 units and office buildings larger than 100,000 square feet to provide recycling access to their tenants. Under the second phase of the ordinance, the recycling requirement will be extended to businesses of all sizes by October 2016.

The start of the Universal Recycling Ordinance went into effect October 1, 2012, and every year the threshold for property size goes down. On October 1, 2013, apartment buildings 50 units and above, and office buildings 75,000 square feet and above will require recycling. On October 1, 2014, 50,000-square-foot commercial properties of any type will be required to establish recycling.

The composting requirement for food establishments will also be rolled out on a tiered basis. The requirement kicks in for food establishments larger than 5,000 square feet in October of 2016, and for all restaurants and food-service establishments in October 2017.

Overall, the hope is that the recycling ordinance will have a positive effect on the Austin business community and at the same time, encourage sustainable development and infrastructure in the city.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

EPA, USDA Partner on Food Waste Challenge

The US Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the US EPA, launched the US Food Waste Challenge, which calls on farmers, processors, manufacturers, retailers, communities and government agencies to reduce wasted food.

Challenge participants report the activities they will undertake to reduce food waste, recover food for human consumption and recycle discarded food for other uses, according to the USDA website. The organizations have set a goal of 400 participants by 2015.

As part of its contribution to the Challenge, USDA will develop programs to reduce food waste in school meal programs and streamline procedures for donating misbranded meat and poultry products, the USDA blog indicates.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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Diversion Gap

Between Food Manufacturers, Retailers

Different operating environments between food manufacturers and retailers / wholesalers contribute to a nearly 40% difference in diversion rates between the industries, concludes a new study commissioned by the Food Waste Reduction Alliance.

The study, prepared by consulting firm BSR, analyzed self-reported data from 13 food manufacturers and 13 grocery retailers and wholesalers, representing roughly 17% and 30% of their respective industries by revenue.

In 2011, food manufacturers donated or composted 94.6% of the food waste they generated – mostly unused ingredients and scraps like peels and trimmings, the study found. Retailers and wholesalers, whose waste is largely finished food products, diverted 55.6% of food waste they generated.

Numerous locations and diverse product offerings create logistical barriers for recycling in the retail and wholesale sector, challenges not faced by manufacturers, which generate more food waste per location, the report indicates.

Where nearly three-quarters of manufacturers' diverted food waste was ultimately used for animal feed, retailers and wholesalers primarily donated or composted their food waste.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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South Korea Begins Charging Residents for Food Waste

Aimed at cutting nationwide food waste production by 40%, South Korea has introduced an aggressive pay-by-weight program that took effect in select communities at the end of 2012 and is being steadily introduced throughout the Northeast Asian country. While South Korea has had a pay-as-you-go system for years, this is the first time it will directly charge residents and businesses for the exact amount of food they throw away.

In addition to residents, the plan will affect restaurants, street-food carts and grocery stores.

Municipalities can choose one of three billing systems for the food waste system: introducing Radio Frequency Identification or RFID food waste bins, adhering bar codes to designated curbside food waste bins or purchasing specially designed garbage bags that are priced based on volume.

In Seoul, which implemented the program last year on a trial basis, food waste generation has dropped from 116,845 pounds per day before the system was implemented to 90,389 pounds per day earlier this year.

Source: Earth911.com

Arizona Judge Rules WtE Not Renewable

An Arizona county judge has ruled renewable energy credits should not be given to projects that burn trash to produce energy.

The July 16 ruling ended a lawsuit filed last September by the Sierra Club that challenged a decision by the Arizona Corporation Commission, a five-member group that regulates the state's utilities, that an energy-from-trash project qualified as renewable energy.

"This decision is good news for clean renewable energy such as solar and wind," Sandy Bahr, director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon chapter, said in the article. "Promoting polluting and dated technologies such as burning trash to produce electricity would be a step backward for Arizona's renewable energy programs."

Source: Waste & Recycling News



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Paper Company Opens Coffee Cup Recycling Plant

UK specialty paper company James Cropper has opened what it says is the world's first facility that will recycle disposable coffee cups and reuse the pulp to make paper.

Until now, the plastic content of cups has made them unsuitable for use in papermaking, James Cropper says. In the UK alone, the company estimates about 2.5 billion paper cups go to landfill.

Disposable cups are made up of between 90% and 95% high-strength paper with a 5% thin coating of polyethylene. After four years of development, James Cropper says its technology can not only recycle the fiber content in cup waste but also recycle the plastic coating. The recycling technology separates out the plastic incorporated in the cups leaving paper pulp that can be used in high-quality papers.

Source: Environmental Leader

Recycling of Farm Plastics Doubles in Ireland

Farmers working in co-operation with the Irish Farm Film Producers Group (IFFPG), which is the national farm plastics recycling scheme, have more than doubled the amount recycled in the last 5 years.

In 2012 alone, IFFPG collected more than 21,000 tonnes of farm plastics from farmers for recycling, with a further increase expected for 2013.

Farmers can now recycle their full range of farm plastics at drop-off centres, where plastics are segregated by material type.

Source: Independent.ie

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All donations are very welcome!



Nappy Recycling to Return to UK

New Zealand company Envirocomp has announced plans to open its first nappy recycling plant in the UK. The news follows the announcement by Canadian-backed firm Knowaste in late May that it had closed its 36,000 tonne per year capacity nappy recycling plant in the West Midlands, in order to search for new operating premises, having 'outgrown' the existing site.

Envirocomp, which is backed by international services company OCS plans to open a facility in Rochester, Kent, in the autumn. Waste for the plant, including disposable nappies, incontinence pads and feminine hygiene products will be sourced from hygiene waste contractor Cannon Hygiene.

The company's process uses in-vessel composting technology patented by New Zealand-based organics recycling specialists HotRot. It involves nappies and other absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) being shredded before being composted with green waste over a 14 to 16-day period. It then separates off and removes the plastic.

Compost produced from the process is then suitable for a range of non-food horticultural and agricultural purposes, while plastic waste will be treated via energy-from-waste (EfW) facilities.

Source: letsrecycle.com

Inner-Tube Recycling Patnership

Bicycle manufacturer Trek and outdoor retailer REI are partnering with a Seattle-based bag and accessory company in an effort to collect 1 million bike inner tubes by the end of next year.

To feed the recently formed "bike tube recycling network," REI, Trek and independent bike shops will collect tubes from consumers and then send them on to Alchemy Goods, which re-uses rubber to craft messenger bags, belts, wallets and other items. Alchemy says it collected around 100,000 used tubes a year ago but wants to boost that number significantly by 2014.

Alchemy will even accept patched tubes, saying such mends add "character" to the bags and other products the tubes end up in. In addition to old bike inner tubes, Alchemy collects seatbelts and used advertising banners for material use.

Source: *Resource Recycling*

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- Helmi Ansari [PepsiCo Foods Canada]

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Coming Events

"Feed the Soil", 23rd Annual National Compost Conference hosted by the Compost Council of Canada, Sept. 11-13, 2013, Toronto, ON, contact: 1.877.571.4769, www.compost.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

Wastecon 2013, presented by the Solid Waste Association of North America, September 17-19, 2013, Long Beach, CA, contact: 980.233.3789, www.wastecon.org

SWRC Fall Workshops, (same workshop offered in three different locations) Sept. 24 in Yorkton, Sept. 25 in Melfort, Sept. 26 in Swift Current, SK, contact: 306.931.3242, www.saskwastereduction.ca

Earth Bound 2013, Newfoundland & Labrador Organic Waste Conference hosted by Multi-Material Stewardship Board, September 26-27, 2013, St. John's, NL, contact: 709.753.0948, www.earthbound2013.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

Fostering Sustainable Behaviour, Community-Based Social Marketing Workshops with Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, October 7-8, 2013 (Intro), October 9-10 (Advanced), Vancouver, BC, <https://register.cbsm.com>

Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Conference

2013, October 16, 2013, Vancouver, BC, www.metrovancouver.org/zwc

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

"Sorting Out The Road Ahead" 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)	65-70	↑
Cardboard (loose)	45-50	↑
Office Pak (loose)	35-70	↓
Mixed (loose)	15	↑
Magazines (loose)	10-25	↑
News (loose)	25-45	↑
Plastic		
HDPE Natural (baled)	150-450	↔
HDPE Coloured (baled)	-100 to 250	↔
Clear PE Film (baled)	0-100	↓
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↔
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	100	↔
White Goods	100	↔

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