

Connector

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*Recycling Council
of Alberta*

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Changes to Alberta's Tire Recycling Program

Alberta Environment and Alberta Recycling are making adjustments to the province's tire recycling program. With the continued goal of keeping tires out of landfills, the Alberta government is expanding the province's tire recycling program to include industrial and off-road tires. Changes will better reflect the costs of collecting, recycling and processing tires, and help sustain the tire recycling program.

There is no increase to the existing fee on car, pickup truck, and other light-duty vehicle tires, which represent approximately 80% of the tires in Alberta. As a result, the average Albertan consumer is not directly affected by the changes.

Until 2006, the technology to process industrial and off-road tires was not widely available. Since then, with the introduction of new technology, 22,000 tonnes of off-road tires have been processed.

Recycling fees are a fraction of the cost of the tires. For example, the typical maximum cost of medium off-road tires with rim sizes between 24 and 33 inches can be as much as \$6,000 per tire, while the recycling fee will be \$100 per tire.

Changes to the environmental fees will come into effect on April 1, 2011.

Each year, more than four million tires are collected for recycling from municipal

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Connector

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continued from title page

landfills and tire and vehicle dealers. These tires are processed and made into recycled material and products used in Alberta, Canada, the US and overseas. More than 60 million tires have been recycled since the program began in 1992.

For more information, contact Betty Gray at 1.888.999.8762.

Editor: These changes represent a much-needed enhancement to the program to more accurately reflect costs. However, the observation that recycling fees are a fraction of the cost of the tire would have also applied to agricultural tires, which successfully dodged their stewardship responsibilities yet again.

Environmental Fees for Tires

Category of Tire	Maximum Fee
Medium Truck tires Tires with rim sizes greater than 19.5", including semi-trailer transport trucks, buses and trailers.	\$9 (previously \$4)
Industrial/Off-the-Road (OTR) Tires (except farm tires) Tires used on industrial vehicles or equipment not licensed for highway use. a) Small OTR tires, with rim sizes to and including 24" b) Medium OTR Tires, with rim sizes greater than 24" c) Large OTR Tires, with rim sizes greater than 33"	\$40 \$100 \$200
All Other Tires (except farm tires) Including but not limited to: a) Passenger car and light truck tires, all other tires for vehicles licensed for highway use b) All-terrain vehicle tires, forklift tires, skid-steer (bobcat) tires	\$4 (no change from previous) \$4

Need Help This Summer? Hire a Recycling Ambassador!

Do you need help with specific tasks or projects this summer? Look no further – RCA's Recycling Ambassadors can help.

The RCA hires a group of university/college students from May through August. The students travel throughout Alberta delivering projects, such as public information events, surveys, waste



audits and other field research, while gaining valuable experience that assists them in their education and career pursuits.

Project duration can vary from one day to 4 months. Recycling Ambassadors bring an environmental, marketing or technical background, combined with a keen interest in applying their educational experience, as well as the support of the RCA administration and Board.

If you have a project that may benefit from the involvement of the RCA's Recycling Ambassadors, email info@recycle.ab.ca or give us a call at 403.843.6563 to discuss your requirements and budget.



Recycling Council
of Alberta

Stats Can Report Shows Alberta Still Tops in Waste Generation

According to the latest report from Statistics Canada, the waste management industry in Canada handled just over 34 million metric tonnes of waste in 2008. This amount translates into approximately 1,031 kilograms of waste per Canadian. Of this total, the quantity of waste sent to public and private waste disposal facilities was 25.9 million metric tonnes, practically unchanged since 2006.

The remaining 8.5 million metric tonnes was sent for recycling or composting, up 9.7% from 2006.

About one-third of waste for disposal came from residential sources, while the other two thirds came from non-residential sources.

The amount of residential waste disposal fell by 4.0% to 8.5 million metric tonnes in 2008. Meanwhile, the amount of non-residential waste rose by 1.8% the same year, at 17.3 million metric tonnes.

The quantity of waste sent for disposal fell in most provinces (but not Alberta)

Between 2006 and 2008, the quantity of waste sent for disposal increased in three provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Saskatchewan saw the biggest increase in the amount of waste disposal, with an 8.3% change from 2006 to 2008. On the other hand, New Brunswick had the biggest decrease in the quantity of waste disposed, with a 6.3% decline.

On a per-capita basis, Alberta sent the most waste for disposal in 2008 – the equivalent of just over 1.1 metric tonnes per person. Conversely, Nova Scotia sent only 378 kilograms per person for disposal. The high per-

capita disposal rates in Alberta were largely the result of non-residential waste disposal. In terms of residential waste, per-capita disposal in Alberta was close to the national average.

Waste diversion: Largest increase in electronics

Nationally, the quantity of materials diverted from disposal for recycling or composting increased by about 10% from 2006 to 2008. Electronic waste recycling saw the biggest increase (115%). This was followed by plastic materials, which rose by 40%.

Local governments spending more on waste management

Local governments spent approximately \$2.6 billion on waste management in 2008, up from \$2.1 billion two years earlier.

Provincially, municipalities that spent more money per capita on waste management reported diverting greater amounts of waste per person.

Source: Statistics Canada

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Think Green Success Story

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Organics Recycling at U of A

The University of Alberta diverted over 103 tonnes (226,000 pounds) of organic waste from landfill in 2010! This includes food waste from Lister Centre, Students Union Building and other food service vendors across campus. In addition to the food wastes, branches, leaves and other organic materials resulting from grounds maintenance tasks are included as part of this program. This diverted waste is equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from 27 passenger vehicles over one full year!

A unique part of this program is the arrangement with our composting facility. Once the organic waste is processed into Grade A compost, the University receives one tonne of compost in return for each tonne of organic materials brought to the compost facility. The compost is then used to enhance the soil in flower and shrub beds



across Campus.

Our program has grown and will continue to be successful through the cooperation and involvement of Buildings & Grounds Services, the Students Union, Ancillary Services, and our corporate partners Aramark, Waste Management and Cleanit Greenit. The University is committed to providing a sustainable campus today and into the future and has plans to expand the organics collection program to allow all students & staff across campus to participate in the near future.



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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"Recycling Means Business"

2011 RCA Conference Announcement

The Recycling Council of Alberta is pleased to announce its 2011 Waste Reduction Conference "Recycling Means Business", to be held October 5-7, 2011, at The Westin Edmonton (note the new dates).

The conference will feature a wide variety of topics and sessions, and potential speakers are welcome to submit ideas for presentations on a range of topics, including progressive business and commercial waste reduction initiatives, zero waste, food waste diversion, entrepreneurial success stories, the local food movement and other innovative programs and technologies.

A wide choice of sponsorship opportunities to suit all budgets will also be available this year.

Potential speakers and sponsors are invited to contact the RCA at 403.843.6563 or info@recycle.ab.ca.



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Baler Twine Goes Closed Loop

Thanks to the environmental commitment of Bridon Cordage, used baler twine is being recycled back into twine at their recycling facility in Albert Lea, Minnesota. This may well represent a great opportunity to have twine generated in western Canada.



Bridon Cordage is a major manufacturer of a full range of twine and rope for industrial applications, including the agricultural sector. They operate plants in Albert Lea and Saskatoon. Terry Van Kampen, Vice-President of Manufacturing for Bridon, is part of the Agricultural Plastics Advisory Committee established by the RCA. Van Kampen and

his colleagues have been working towards recycling for over 10 years and in the past two have obtained ISO 14001 accreditation and approval for recycling, and moved to

full production. They are currently receiving product from across the US and are also interested in product from Canada.

The RCA advisory committee is currently assessing the viability of shipping twine from "Feedlot Alley" in southern Alberta. Like every other product we recycle, the key to a successful program is a clean and consistent product, dry, and prepared and shipped in a way that the recycler can handle. Twine can be shipped loose in a walking floor trailer, or, if properly prepared, baled product is also acceptable. Handling the product loose is the option being considered for feed lot collection.

There are definite challenges around maintaining low levels of contamination and maximizing payload. Shipping cost is a key consideration. Fortunately, Bridon does contribute toward freight in addition to paying for the product.

For more information, contact Dave Whitfield, Waste Reduction Specialist for Alberta Environment at 403.297.8255 or Les Wieland, Utility Services Supervisor for Lethbridge County at 403.732.5333.

Agricultural Service Boards Pass Resolution on Ag Plastics

At the Alberta Agricultural Service Boards 2011 conference, a resolution was passed on the disposal of agricultural plastics asking Alberta Environment and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development to research and to then implement practical and environmentally responsible options for the disposal of plastics used for forage (twine or bale wrap) and grain (grain bag) storage.

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Henry Ford – The First Investment Recovery Practitioner?

Henry Ford abhorred waste of any kind and once remarked, “What we call waste is only surplus and surplus is only the starting point for new uses.”

By-products at Ford’s River Rouge facility in the 1920s and 30s were waste materials that arose as a consequence of primary production – that with further processing (and expense) could be sold profitably outside the company. These activities were, in fact, separate non-automotive businesses where the firm made an ongoing commitment to market the materials.

For example, in making coke from coal for the Rouge blast furnaces, Ford also produced coke oven gas, tar, ammonium sulphate and benzol. By design, the first two items were used as fuels in various operations around the Rouge. Ammonium sulphate, a fertilizer, and benzol, a fuel that could be mixed with gasoline and used in internal combustion engines, were sold to the public.

The production of iron from iron ore, limestone, and coke also yielded blast furnace slag. To eliminate the cost of disposing of 125 tons of this a day, Ford simply built an enormous Portland cement plant at the Rouge. The plant had the capacity to produce 1,000 barrels a day, with Ford using about a quarter of the cement in its own construction activities, selling the balance on the open market.

After the company purchased a half million acres of timberland on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in the early 1920s, Ford built an extensive wooden parts and by-products processing operation at Iron Mountain, about 100 miles from its forests. Using “every part of the tree except the shade” as historian Tom McCarthy puts it, the Iron Mountain facility produced \$11,000 worth of value every day from mill waste. The value of this waste would translate to about \$45 million annually in 2010 dollars.

Sawdust, underbrush, branches, wood chips and cull lumber were turned into charcoal “briquettes”. For years the charcoal was sold only through the Ford dealerships.

The Model T contained about 225 board feet of hardwood for frames and floorboards. Roughly 40% of the weight of green lumber was water, which increased the cost of freight. So instead of following the usual practice of cutting boards from logs, letting the boards dry, and then cutting parts from them, Ford cut the 20+ wooden parts for the Model T directly from the logs



and then dried them in 58 drying kilns. This step allowed Ford to cut more parts from each tree, reducing waste by 35%-50%. The operation then converted the much-reduced remaining scrap wood into charcoal and methyl alcohol, as well as numerous other chemical by-products marketed to the public.

Salvage – the term that Ford plant engineers and publicists used then for what people in the late 20th century eventually called recycling – generally involved waste materials reclaimed from the manufacturing process for re-use inside the company without substantial further processing beyond collection and separation by material type. Ford also sold salvaged materials outside the company – a reported \$4 million in 1924, for example.

At the Rouge, the most important salvage activities involved metals. After the advent of the closed, all-steel body in the mid-1920s, the amount of metal in automobiles increased. Since so many Rouge departments produced scrap metal, the General Salvage Department assumed responsibility for reclaiming it and maintained storage areas for ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The plant’s salvage system collected and returned more than 600 tons of steel ‘home’ scrap to the furnaces each day. Ford salvage people also collected and re-used copper, brass, aluminum, zinc, lead, tin, babbitt, cadmium, mercury and silver.

This article is adapted from Thomas McCarthy’s “Henry Ford, Industrial Conservationist? Take-back, waste reduction and recycling at the Rouge”; Progress in Industrial Ecology–An International Journal, Vol. 3, No. 4. Other source material derived from Greg Grandin’s FORLANDIA, The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford’s Forgotten Jungle City, 2009.

Source: Asset 2.0

Thanks to former RCA Board member, Wendy Luther, for suggesting this article be included in the Connector.



CANADIAN NEWS

BC to Launch Stewardship Program For Small Appliances

The BC Small Appliances stewardship program will begin on April 1, 2011 in accordance with the program plan filed by the Canadian Electrical Stewardship Association (CESA). The Electronics and Electrical Product Category (Schedule 3) in the Recycling Regulation includes a category for small appliances.

Product Care worked with Canadian Appliance Manufacturers Association, Canadian Hardware and Housewares Manufacturers Association and Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers in the development of the stewardship program plan which has been approved by the BC Ministry of Environment. The Canadian Electrical Stewardship Association (CESA) has been created to be responsible for the stewardship responsibilities of its members.

The program will be funded by environmental handling fees remitted to the association by its members based on product category and sales in BC. In the coming months, CESA will establish and operate a collection system across BC to collect the end-of-life program products. A Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for collection site services is being distributed to potential collection sites. Please see the Approved Program Plan and the BC Recycling Regulation for more information.

Source: cesarecycling.ca

Editor: This development begs the question when Alberta's Electronics program will expand to include Phase II products.

Call2Recycle Appoints New Director and Board in Canada

The organization announced in December that it has appointed Joe Zenobio as executive director of Call2Recycle Canada, along with a reconstituted board of directors. A new office has opened in Toronto as well.

Call2Recycle began collecting household batteries in British Columbia and Ontario earlier this year.

RBRCC, the non-profit that operates Call2Recycle Canada, has appointed a new board of directors to oversee its Canadian operations. The new RBRCC board members include Nick Aubry, Sony Canada; Kent Hatton, Energizer Canada Inc.; Alan Moyer, Panasonic Canada; Susan E. Nieuwhof, Proctor & Gamble Canada; Gary Van Heerwaarden, Rayovac; and Carl Smith, President and CEO of Call2Recycle.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Businesses See Gold in Metro Vancouver's Garbage

Metro Vancouver's plan to divert up to 70% of garbage from the landfill by 2015 is creating business opportunities for companies in the trash industry.

Massachusetts-based Harvest Power is about to begin construction of a US\$12 million anaerobic digester in Richmond it claims will be the first high-efficiency system in North America that produces renewable energy from food and yard waste. Harvest was attracted to Metro Vancouver's policies on landfill diversion, in particular its source separation of organics.

Although some municipalities in Metro Vancouver divert more waste from the landfill than others, the region's solid waste management plan, launched last July, calls for the diversion of 70% of the all solid waste away from landfills by 2015.

In 2015, the region will have a ban on food scraps entering transfer stations from any residence, business or facility.

Source: Business in Vancouver

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- ❖ *How much eWaste do they currently have that has not yet been processed?
How long have they had this material?*
- ❖ *Method of packaging - cost of labor of this method.*
- ❖ *Schedule of pickup - how many days after the request is submitted will they pick up?*

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News

Sleep Country Launches Mattress Recycling Program in Western Canada

With the launch of Sleep Country's mattress recycling program in Western Canada, it is estimated that more than 150,000 mattresses and box springs will be reused or recycled annually – with more than 59,000 bed sets provided to families in need.

When Sleep Country delivers new mattresses or box springs to its customers, they offer to take the old ones away. These mattresses are evaluated and gently used ones are given to families in need through Sleep Country Canada's Donated Bed program, which has been in operation for more than 16 years.

When mattresses and box springs are deemed too worn for reuse, Sleep Country pays a fee-per-piece to a recycling depot to break them down to their base components. All elements, including cotton, metal, polyurethane foam, wood, polyester and other fabrics, are sold to salvage companies for reuse.

The new recycling mattress depot in Langley services British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Another depot serving customers in eastern Canada is located in Toronto.

Source: Canwest Publishing Inc.

World Water Day is March 22.

I commit to conserving water by...

(How will you finish this sentence?)



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Alberta

Ottawa to Consider Biweekly Garbage Collection

Ottawa should pick up garbage once every two weeks according to the chair of the city's new environment committee, instead relying more on the green bin composting program.

Biweekly garbage collection was debated by council two years ago, but the majority voted against the move because they worried about diaper and pet feces smells – neither of which are allowed in green bins.

Ottawa's sister city, Gatineau, Que., has already made the switch to biweekly solid waste collection. Gatineau launched its composting program in May, and scaled back its garbage collection to every two weeks on Jan. 1, 2011.

"We don't talk, we act," said Alain Riel, the chair of Gatineau's environment committee. "Do we have to change our manners? Or course. So we gave people six months to adapt, before changing to collection every second week."

Ottawa city staff is scheduled to present a report on the topic in the spring, but the garbage collection schedule won't change until at least 2012 when the existing contract with garbage collectors expires.

Source: CBC News

Toronto's Bag Fee in Danger?

Only a few weeks after taking office, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has said he is planning to move forward with a plan to eliminate the city's five-cent plastic bag fee. Ford campaigned on an anti-tax platform (*ed: where have we heard that before?*). The first of its kind in a large Canadian city, the plastic bag bylaw has been in place since June 1, 2009. It requires all retailers to charge customers a nickel for each single-use plastic bag they request.

However, some retailers and recyclers are urging the mayor to keep the fee in place. The Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors said the fee has been a success at cutting plastic bag use by 71% in its members' stores. The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers oppose the fee.

Part of the issue is that retailers are not required to disclose how much money is collected or how it is spent. Some supermarkets have linked the program to new environmental campaigns. For example, Loblaw Cos. Ltd., has committed to give \$1 million a year for three years to the World Wildlife Federation. The Canadian Plastics Industry Association, which says the bags cost between a penny and a penny-and-a-half, estimated earlier this year the program had raised \$15 million for retailers.

Three provinces – Ontario, BC and Alberta – all have voluntary bag reduction programs that commit retailers to reducing bag use by 50% within five years – a far cry from the 71% reduction reported within a year and a half of the fee being implemented in Toronto.

Source: PPSReview and Toronto Star

Green Bins Reduce Garbage

The success of the clean green collection program in New Westminster has been immediate, with City residents generating far less garbage now that they can throw grass clippings and kitchen waste into one large bin.

In September, prior to the program being implemented October 1, New West residents living in single-family homes left 367 tonnes of garbage out for curbside collection. In October, the amount dropped to 188 tonnes. For November, residential garbage was 231 tonnes.

At the beginning of October, New Westminster introduced automatic garbage pickup to single family homes in the city. Each home was supplied with a 120 litre tote bin for garbage and a 240 litre bin for green waste.

The city still uses blue boxes with different coloured bags for recycling items made of paper, plastic, tin, aluminum and glass (although a commingled bin for recycling will likely be added to the city's program in early 2012).

Before the program started in September, 39 tonnes of green waste was collected for the month at the city's recycling depot. But in October and November, green waste collected through the automated system totalled 229 tonnes and 263 tonnes, respectively.

With the success of the residential program, the city is now setting its sights on multi-family housing. An organic waste collection program will be introduced as a pilot project starting in 2011. Five different apartment buildings are lined up to take part in the project and the company Waste Management is responsible for the collection.

In addition, businesses will be offered garbage tote bins for automated collection by the city in 2011.

Source: New Westminster News Leader

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Paper Giant Emerges From Bankruptcy

AbitibiBowater Inc., the world's largest newsprint maker with 23 pulp and paper mills and 30 wood products facilities located in the US, Canada, South Korea and the UK, has reorganized and emerged from creditor protection in both Canada and the US.

In April of last year, the company entered into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the US, as well as similar protections in Canada, mostly due to dipping sales in the struggling newspaper industry. In response to that changing market, the company has turned its attention towards its top-performing facilities, which has meant idling, or closing, nearly 4 million tons of paper capacity on an annual basis, a 41% reduction for newsprint, and a 32% reduction for commercial printing paper. Wood products capacity was reduced by 21% over the same period.

Source: Resource Recycling



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Green Roofs to Cap Coca-Cola Vending Machines In Tokyo

Japan for Sustainability

reports that Coca-Cola launched “green roof” vending machines in September of last year. The company expects to reduce the unit’s surface temperature by attaching green sheets containing a combination of a kind of moss known as “sunagoke” and artificial turf onto the top of the machine. The green sheet adapts to weather conditions, as the moss stops growing during dry periods in summer and the snowy season in winter. The

lower temperature should reduce energy consumption by improving cooling efficiency. The machine also incorporates a heat pump that operates with a refrigerant that contains no hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The pump warms some beverages with the heat produced by cooling other beverages. Tokyo’s Coca-Cola Bottling Co. has installed two of the vending machines in a fashionable area in Tokyo, where the community is promoting the conservation of trees lining the city street. The company will donate a portion of sales proceeds to a local environmental foundation. As well, Coca-Cola and several bottling plants began installing solar panels on some of the company’s vending machines in March of last year.



Copyright Coca-Cola Japan Co.

Source: PPSReview and japanfs.org

Earthquake Waste to be Recycled

A year after Haiti’s catastrophic earthquake, two researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) have found a potential solution for some of the wreckage. Institute researchers have traveled to Port-au-Prince to gather samples of typical concrete rubble and sand types to determine if they can be recycled into new concrete, and discovered that much of the concrete rubble could be recycled, which could be a big help in a country short on cash for new materials and with little landfill space.

Source: Resource Recycling

EPA Releases Municipal Solid Waste Report

The US Environmental Protection Agency has released its annual report on municipal solid waste in the United States.

Based on data collected between 1960 and 2009, the 2009 Municipal Solid Waste in the United States report says the country generated 243 million tons of MSW in 2009 – 8 million fewer tons than the previous year. Not including composted materials, over 61 million tons of this volume were recycled in 2009, yielding a recycling rate of 33.8%.

Paper and paperboard made up the largest slice of the waste stream, accounting for 28.2% of all MSW before recycling. Over 62% of the 68.4 million tons of paper and paperboard generated in 2009 was recovered for recycling. Paper product generation reached its high point in 2000, according to the report, with approximately 88 million tons produced that year. Paper product generation has declined since then, while recovery rates have continued to climb.

Food scraps and yard debris accounted for 14.1% and 13.7%, respectively, of MSW before composting. Food scrap waste generation was estimated to be 34.3 million tons in 2009, in addition to 33.2 million tons of yard debris. The report said estimates of the volume or percentage of material composted for the two streams varied, but was generally improved versus 2008.

Plastics made up 12.3% of all municipal solid waste before recycling. Plastics represent one of the most rapidly growing areas of the MSW stream. Nearly 30 million tons of plastic packaging, containers, products and other items were generated in 2009, compared to just 390,000 tons in 1960. Of last year’s totals, only 7.1% were recycled. The report acknowledged that this number is not representative of all types of plastic, signaling out PET bottles and jars, which had a 2009 recycling rate of 28%, and HDPE bottles and containers, which had a recycling rate of 29%.

Metals (ferrous and non-ferrous) accounted for 8.6% of all MSW before recycling in 2009. Over 7.2 million tons of the nearly 21 million tons of metals generated were recycled, yielding a recycling rate of 34.5%. Both MSW generation and recycling tonnages have increased substantially since 1960.

Finally, glass items were 4.8% of all MSW before recycling. Slightly more than 11.7 million tons of glass products made their way into the MSW stream in 2009, of which, 3 million tons (25.5%) were recycled.

Source: Resource Recycling

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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

City of San Francisco First Local Government to Legislate EPR

The San Francisco County Supervisors have voted to support the world's first EPR ordinance. They appear to be the first local government in the world that has attempted in legislation to tell manufacturers of a product they must share in the responsibility for End of Life management.

The ordinance would require any person who produces a drug offered for sale in San Francisco to participate in an approved drug stewardship program for the collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources.

Source: California Product Stewardship Council

San Jose Bans Plastic Bags

The 10-1 City Council vote in December made San Jose the largest city in the nation to implement a ban on plastic bags. Starting in 2012, single-use plastic bags will be allowed only in restaurants. Stores will have to charge 10 cents for a paper bag, although shoppers on public assistance won't have to pay.

In California, San Francisco, Oakland and Palo Alto, among others, have passed bans, while Sunnyvale, Fremont, Marin County, Santa Clara County and others are considering similar laws. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger encouraged the State Legislature to pass a state-wide ban before he left office.

Source: Mercury News

The Story of Electronics

From the makers of *The Story of Stuff* comes the latest offering: *The Story of Electronics*, an eight-minute overview of the health and environmental impacts of shipping end-of-life electronic waste overseas. Filmmaker Annie Leonard reviews the life cycle of electronics and calls for extended producer responsibility to encourage better product design.

<http://storyofstuff.org/electronics/>

Source: PPSReview

Scotland Gets Tough on Garbage

The Highland Council, a large local government in northern Scotland, has strongly recommended that the Scottish Government impose fines on households that put rubbish in recycling bins collected by local authorities. Reducing waste has been a high priority for the council, and, in support of its plan, has pointed out that in England people can be fined for putting garbage in the wrong bin. The Scottish Government is currently putting together its Zero Waste Plan, and it's unclear what will become of the Highland Council's proposal.

Source: Resource Recycling



Helping municipalities achieve their organic waste diversion goals.



Small Kitchen bags for under the counter organics containers*



Tall Kitchen bags for large Green Bins and tall kitchen containers



Accepted for use in municipal jurisdictions across Canada including:
Prince Edward Island, Montreal – Quebec, Durham Region, Halton Region, Peel Region, York Region, Simcoe County, Niagara Region, Hamilton – Ontario, Brandon – Manitoba, Strathcona, Spruce Grove, Cold Lake – Alberta, Regional District of Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley (ie Ladysmith) – BC

Please contact Glad Canada for additional information (905) 595-8357

*Replacing Small Green "See through" 52ct Plastic Bags that have been discontinued.

Have A Heart: Recycling Pacemakers in the USA

University of Michigan researchers are asking people to donate their loved ones' pacemakers when they die. About 100,000 Americans have a pacemaker implanted each year. When that person dies, the pacemakers, which can last up to 10 years, are usually discarded as medical waste or buried with them. As part of Project My Heart—Your Heart, the researchers are asking families and funeral home directors to mail the recovered pacemakers to them for sterilization and “recycling” in developing nations. Currently the FDA forbids the reuse of pacemakers within the US. FDA regulations also make it difficult for funeral home directors to mail in collected pacemakers for reuse, as they may be considered medical device distributors if they do so. Michigan researchers are in the process of seeking FDA approval to ship, export and implant the pacemakers to remove any legal concerns. Once approval is gained, the Detroit-based World Medical Relief Fund will send the pacemakers to hospitals in the Philippines and Vietnam.

Source: PPSReview

Recycling in Nigeria

Scavenging has become so common in Lagos, Nigeria, that recycling banks are being set up to collect recyclable materials. The Lagos Waste Management Authority has initiated a public-private partnership for residents of the growing West African city who can now make money by collecting and cashing in on discarded recyclables. The Lagos Independent reports that Lagos produces 9,000 tons of waste daily, 18% of which is recycled. In order to meet its goal of boosting its recycling rate to 35% by 2012, the state government plans to establish 1,000 recycling banks in the next 24 months.

Source: Resource Recycling

Two Cups Clay + One Cup Milk = Styrofoam?

Discovery News reports that researchers have found blending clay, water and the milk protein casein and then freezing the resulting slurry creates a 98% bio-based product that has the same properties as expanded polystyrene foam. Tests conducted by the US Department of Agriculture found that almost one-third of the material broke down after 45 days in industrial compost conditions. Aeroclay Inc. is now looking at ways to bring the new product to market.

Source: PPSReview

UK Paper Recyclers Voice Concern Over WtE

Paper recyclers have raised concerns that efforts by the government to encourage and subsidize the production of energy from waste may damage recycling rates.

The comments came from David Workman, director-general of the Confederation of Paper Industries, who was speaking at a December 2010 meeting of the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group (APSRG) in London, England. He raised concerns that the British government's policies to incentivize energy from waste projects could encourage potentially recyclable waste to be used for energy instead. In particular, he pointed to lower-quality material which was collected commingled and sorted in materials recycling facilities. He said this was an issues for various materials, not just paper.

Source: letsrecycle.com

GM Goes “Landfill-Free”

52% of General Motors facilities worldwide are now landfill-free, meaning that all waste generated from their normal operations is reused, recycled or converted into energy, according to a statement released by the company. The motor giant now has 76 of its 145 plants designated as landfill-free, which is part of the company's two-year old goal to make half of its plants produce virtually no waste by the end of 2010. GM's approach involves looking for ways to first reduce waste, and then recycle whatever waste is generated. In 2010, the company has recycled or reused 2.5 million tons of waste materials at its plants worldwide.

GM has also directed its efforts toward developing a closed-loop system, by recycling its waste into materials used in new products made by the firm. For instance, plastic caps and shipping aids are converted into radiator shrouds for the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups at the plant. Tires from vehicle performance testing are shredded and used in the manufacturing of air and water baffles for a variety of GM vehicles. Paint sludge is also turned into plastic material, used for shipping containers durable enough to hold Chevrolet Volt and Cruze engines, among others.

Source: Resource Recycling

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Coming Events

11th Annual Pesticide & Ag Plastics Stewardship Conference, presented by the Pesticide Stewardship Alliance, February 13-15, 2011, San Antonio, TX, contact: 765.494.1585, www.tpsalliance.org/conference

Environment Business 2011, presented by ESAA, February 15-17, 2011, Edmonton, AB, www.environmentbusiness.ca

Plastics Recycling 2011, presented by Resource Recycling, March 1-2, 2011, New Orleans, LA, contact: 503.233.1305 x 117, www.resource-recycling.com

Compost Matters! Workshop hosted by the Compost Council of Canada, March 8, 2011, Airdrie, AB, contact: 1.877.571.4769, info@compost.org

Free **Compost Marketing Workshop** with Ron Alexander, sponsored by the Alberta Government, March 9, 2011, Airdrie, AB, contact: 780.427.5830, natasha.page@gov.ab.ca

Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Challenge Conference, March 10, 2010, Burnaby, BC, www.metrovancouver.org

The 26th International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management, March 27-30, 2011, Philadelphia, PA, contact: 610.499.4042, solid.waste@widener.edu

Residential Recycling Conference, presented by Waste & Recycling News and Republic Services, March 29-31, 2011, Nashville, TN, www.residentialrecyclingconference.com

Action! 2011 ISRI Convention and Exhibition, April 5-9, 2011, Los Angeles, CA, www.isriconvention.org

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council's **Spring '11 Waste Minimization Forum**, April 7-8, 2011, Saskatoon, SK, contact: 306.931.3242, www.saskwastereduction.ca

BioCycle Global 2011, the International Conference on Composting, Renewable Energy and Organics Recycling, April 11-14, 2011, San Diego, CA, contact: 610.967.4135 x 33, www.jgpress.com/global2011

"People, Policies, Persuasion and Payoffs" 2011 Waste – The Social Context Conference, hosted by the Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence, May 8-11, 2011, Edmonton, AB, contact: 780.496.7316, www.ewmce.com

Waste Expo 2011, presented by Penton Business Media, May 9-12, 2011, Dallas, TX, contact: 708.486.0744, www.wasteexpo.com

"Climate for Change", SWANA Northern Lights Chapter Conference, May 30 - June 1, 2011, Saskatoon, SK, contact: 780.496.5614, www.swananorthernlights.org

"The Green Economy: Ready, Set, Grow!" 37th Annual RCBC Zero Waste Conference, June 8-10, 2011, Whistler, BC, www.rcbc.bc.ca/events/annual-conference

The Compost Council of Canada's 21st Annual National Compost Conference, September 19-21, 2011, Charlottetown, PEI, contact: 416.535.0240, info@compost.org

Conference on Canadian Stewardship, September 20-21, 2011, Halifax, NS, contact: 250.495.4592, www.canadianstewardship.com

"Recycling Means Business" 2011 RCA Waste Reduction Conference, October 5-7, 2011, Edmonton, AB, contact: 403.843.6563, www.recycle.ab.ca/conference

Waste Reduction Week in Canada, October 17-23, 2011, www.wrwcanda.com

"Plastics Recycling and Sustainability on my Mind." GPEC 2011, hosted by the Environmental Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, October 17-19, 2011, Atlanta, GA, contact: 1.800.798.1241, www.4spe.org/conferences/gpec-2011

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

Market Updates

	Per Tonne	Trend
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	100-125	↓
Cardboard (loose)	75-80	↑
Office Pak (loose)	100-125	↑
Mixed (loose)	25-40	↑
Magazines (loose)	25-60	↑
News (loose)	60-85	↑
Plastic		
HDPE Natural (baled)	300-500	↔
HDPE Coloured (baled)	0-300	↔
Clear PE Film (baled)	170-300	↔
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↔
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	90	↑
White Goods	75	↑

Prices reflect surveyed averages (F.O.B. buyer) at the time of publishing and are subject to market fluctuations. Individual prices may vary according to material quality, volumes and contractual arrangements. Please contact your buyer to update prices at time of shipping.