

Connector

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*Recycling Council
of Alberta*

www.recycle.ab.ca



RCA Celebrates 25th Anniversary

This year is a special year to the Recycling Council of Alberta. We turn 25!

The organization was founded in 1987 by a group of individuals interested in promoting recycling in Alberta. Since that time, the RCA has blossomed into one of the most vibrant environmentally-based organizations in Canada, and has fostered a number of important and exciting programs and initiatives, while helping to develop waste policy in the province. Faces have changed through the years, but throughout this evolution, the RCA has been led by a wide range of industry and community leaders who have served generously on the Board of Directors and focussed committees.

So, now it is time to celebrate our achievements! The RCA is planning a number of festivities throughout the year, including the 2012 Waste Reduction Conference "Wide World of Waste". We will also be collaborating with our friends at the Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA), which also turns 25 this year, to organize some joint events to commemorate this milestone.

We invite all members and friends to help share in our Silver Anniversary! Leave us a note on our Facebook page – let's get this party started.

Connector

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c/o Recycling Council of Alberta
Box 23, Bluffton, AB T0C 0M0
Tel: 403.843.6563 Fax: 403.843.4156
info@recycle.ab.ca
www.recycle.ab.ca
facebook.com/RecyclingCouncilOfAlberta

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Denmark Plans Zero Waste Hotel

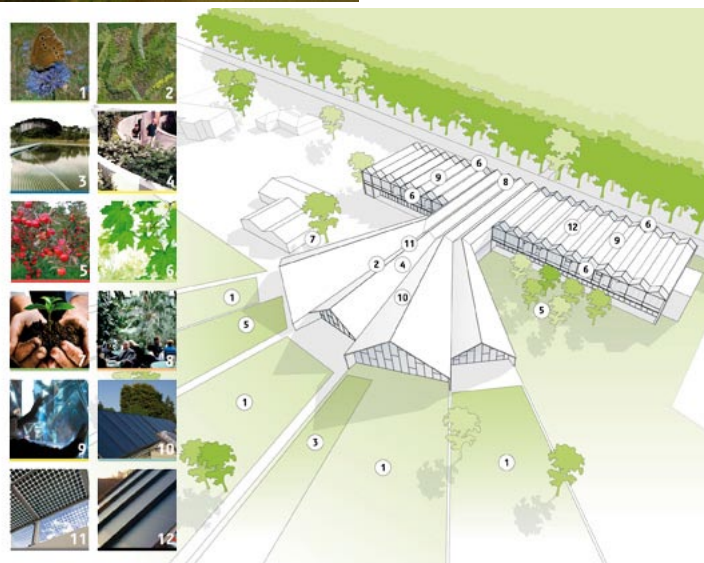
A design firm in Denmark has developed plans for a green hotel that will reportedly produce zero waste. Designed by 3XN, an architecture firm in Copenhagen, the Green Solution House is a conference center and hotel that will sit on the island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea. The building is designed to be regenerative; meaning it restores, renews, or revitalizes its own sources of energy and materials.

In accordance with the principles of Cradle 2 Cradle, all materials used in the fan-shaped building are either fully recyclable or biodegradable. Hence, it is a building design that takes on the ambition to eliminate the concept of waste.

Eliminating waste means that everything must be part of a circulation. Thus, the building is designed for disassembly and constructed of defined recyclable materials. Solar energy is producing the energy consumed in the building, rain water is collected and water used is biologically cleaned and reused. Integrated green houses produce organic fruits and vegetables for the hotel restaurant. Further, the daily material flows from running the center are either recycled or composted.

The center is a project under continuous development. Hence, the building will always introduce the newest sustainable solutions on biodiversity, materials, energy, water, and waste.

Sources: *The Daily Activist*, *3xn.dk*



"Wide World of Waste" 2012 RCA Conference Announcement

The Recycling Council of Alberta is pleased to announce its 2012 Waste Reduction Conference "Wide World of Waste", to be held October 3-5, 2012, at The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

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 international success stories, economic impacts of recycling initiatives, zero waste, education/promotion, organics diversion, 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.



Too Much to Do and No Time to Get it Done? Hire an RCA Ambassador!

Do you have little odd jobs that never seem to get done, yet not enough work to hire someone to help you out? The RCA Summer Ambassadors could be just what you are looking for.

The RCA hires a group of university / college students from May through August. These 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 as little as one day to

several weeks – full or partial days. RCA 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 the Board.

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



Think Green Success Story

Feature sponsored by



First Canadian Load of Twine Shipped to Closed-Loop Recycler

Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission (MVRWMC) continues to lead the way on agricultural plastics recycling with the first shipment of agricultural twine (38,900 pounds) loaded on Feb. 7 for delivery to Bridon Cordage in Minnesota, where it will

be recycled back into new twine in a unique closed loop recycling process that makes Revolver Twine, a recycled twine produced by Bridon Cordage. This is the first time Bridon Cordage has accepted twine for recycling from a Canadian source, and we hope this is the first step in the development of an ongoing recycling program for twine in Alberta. All indications are that it could be, since Bridon Cordage is very pleased with the quality of the load they received, and they are looking forward to the next load.

MVRWMC has been collecting agricultural plastics now for several years, and Mountain View County promotes the practice each year through a highly effective incentive program that pays \$100 to the first



100 Mountain View County residents delivering a minimum of 100 kg of ag plastics. This program has resulted in the recycling of approximately 20,000 kg of ag plastics per year.

Farmers wanting to collect twine can get clear collection bags

from their local transfer station or the County office. Once the bags are full and tied off, they are delivered to the Olds Transfer Site. A large amount of twine is also collected from Barr-Ag Hay Processors, who separate and collected the twine as part of their operations.

Don Reid of MVRWMC and Dave Whitfield of Alberta Environment deserve the kudos for making this shipment of twine possible. We will be eagerly awaiting the feedback from Bridon Cordage on the quality of material they are receiving. One future step the RCA is undertaking is to demonstrate the closed loop process by returning Revolver Twine to some of the farmers who participated in the collection program.



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.

Medicine Hat and Surrey Launch Apps for Waste and Recycling

It was only a matter of time until Apps were developed for waste. Surrey, BC, now has a free smartphone app called “my-waste” for iPhone, iPod Touch and Android mobile devices. The app includes information on collection dates, materials accepted for recycling, composting, disposal, drop-off depots and rates, among others. Personalized alerts such as collection day reminders or service change notices due to a holiday can also be set up.

At the same time, Medicine Hat's Solid Waste Utility announced a free app that allows users to set up regular reminders for garbage and yard waste collection, and much more. Residents can now view Medicine Hat's collection schedules and waste management information at their fingertips, anytime they want. Also using the “my-waste” platform, Medicine Hat's app

lets mobile device users view a full range of waste management information currently on the City's website and the annual Waste Management Calendar. Residents can check collection set-out information; identify materials and locations for recycling drop-off; look up landfill disposal rates and more.

There are currently versions of the app for iPhone/iPad, Android and the Blackberry Torch. An app for the new generation of smartphones RIM will launch is planned for mid 2012.

For further information on the Medicine Hat app, contact Ed Jollymore, at 403.529.8176.

Sources: City of Medicine Hat, Waste & Recycling News



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RCA Membership Survey Results

In the fall of 2011, the RCA commissioned Metroline Research Group Inc to conduct a survey of its membership. The objective of this survey was to gain an understanding about member perceptions regarding the programs, plans and directions of the RCA.

Between November and December, 86 members responded to the questionnaire developed and conducted by Metroline. The results of this survey represent approximately one-quarter of the RCA membership.

Looking at the demographic of the respondents, 79% had been an RCA member for over 4 years while 21% had been a member for 3 years or less. Municipal, provincial, and federal government members made up 28% of the respondents. Not-for-profit organizations (21%), small business (19%) and corporate (17%) made up the majority of respondents, while individual and institutional memberships totalled 15% of respondents. Those completing the survey included waste reduction / recycling business owners / managers, government employees, directors, consultants and individuals. Of these, 31% were either RCA Directors or sit on an RCA Committee.

The members were asked to rate a series of questions from one to ten. Comments were also solicited to offer insight into areas for improvement for the RCA.

A few highlights of the survey include:

- 60% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the RCA 8 or higher, while the average score was 7.5. There were no scores below 3.
- Three-quarters of the respondents ranked 7 or higher when asked how likely they were to recommend RCA to friend or colleague.
- A significant number of respondents were very satisfied with networking opportunities; however some felt they were limited due to their inability to travel to conferences and meetings.
- 78% were satisfied with the learning opportunities provided by the RCA.
- Almost 80% of the respondents indicated satisfaction with the programs offered by the RCA.
- Although 80% of respondents were satisfied with the RCA's available resources, the remaining 20% were not always aware of what programs and resources were available.
- The respondents most appreciate the opportunities provided by the RCA to meet and connect with each other, the information they receive through the newsletter, website and by attending RCA events.
- Few respondents provided any suggestions for new programs or resources. Those that did included development of an online forum for member

discussions / general public questions, online programs / courses / seminars / webinars, and more lobbying / political influence.

- 40% of respondents indicated there are some areas where better knowledge or training would help support their goals. A number of training topics were provided from how to motivate the public to trends / options in recycling. A number of front-line training topics were also suggested.
- Other suggestions for improvement included spending more time contacting members to gain greater understanding of their business issues, which would allow the RCA to better represent them.

So while the respondents to this survey indicated an overall satisfaction with the RCA, there is still room for improvement. After reviewing the survey results, the Board of Directors has decided to make a more concerted effort to get out and meet with the membership. Regional meetings will continue to be held throughout the province in 2012. Additionally, there will be visits to individual members to hear their issues, so don't be surprised if the RCA comes knocking on your door.

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Cascades

From Waste to High-End Shoes

Michigan entrepreneur Elizabeth Katzman has carved out a footprint that is equal parts stylish, cruelty-free and low-carbon. Katzman, a lawyer turned stay-at-home blogger turned shoe designer, recently launched a vegan-friendly line of footwear to fill a gap in the marketplace she says exists for fashion-forward animal lovers and eco-conscious consumers.



Her faux leather is an environmentally friendly synthetic that emits no volatile organic compounds and is said to be biodegradable over time, while the ultra-soft faux suede is created



from run-off waste recovered in the manufacture

of plasma TVs. Both of her faux leather and suede collections are handmade in a small

shop in California, and available on her website at www.elizabethskindcafe.com. A portion of the proceeds from every sale benefits PETA and 1% for the Planet, a global environmental initiative.

Katzman is looking for a new manufacturer and intends to introduce additional styles, including seasonal designs and a men's sandal.



Source: Waste & Recycling News



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News

WM Launches Construction Waste Diversion Tracking Tool

Waste Management Inc. has launched what the company is calling a *Diversion and Recycling Tracking Tool* to help measure green performance during construction, renovation or demolition projects.

Dubbed DART, the online service is available across the United States and Canada, the company said. DART monitors construction and demolition debris recycling, tabulates diversion rates and provides documentation to support Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building certification.

More information about DART is available at www.wm.com/DART.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Waste Management to Open C&D Recycling Plant in Toronto

Waste Management Inc. plans to open a facility in Toronto this fall to process construction and demolition (C&D) waste. The facility was purchased in late 2011 and will undergo substantial upgrades. The company said in a news release the total investment will be \$16 million, and the facility will create 20 new jobs.

The semi-automated single-stream recycling plant will process an estimated 87,000 metric tons of C&D material in the first year. The facility will be equipped to sort materials, so contractors and developers won't have to source separate them.

The facility will serve western and southern parts of the greater Toronto area. In addition, the company has introduced an online tool, called DART, that will help building planners, contractors, architects and owners measure their C&D recycling, calculate diversion rates and provide documentation to support Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Source: Green Building Elements

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Central Alberta Company Pleads Guilty to Burning Prohibited Debris

The Provincial Court of Alberta has handed Smith's Service (Lougheed) Ltd. a \$20,000 penalty after the company pleaded guilty to willfully conducting an activity without approval.

The incident occurred near the Village of Lougheed on July 22, 2010. The company burned a large pile of garbage – estimated to be 9 metres wide by 18 metres long and about 2 metres high – on its property. The pile included metal, plastic, Styrofoam, wire, oil filters, aerosol paint cans, as well as a refrigerator. These items are prohibited debris and it is an offense to use an open fire to burn the materials without obtaining approval from Alberta Environment and Water.

The penalty includes a creative sentence that directs more than \$16,000 to a project that will supply sealable bins with secondary containment to the 12 waste transfer sites in Flagstaff County, so residents can properly dispose of their household hazardous wastes year-round. The remaining funds will be paid as a fine.

To view Alberta Environment and Water's recent compliance and enforcement actions, visit <http://environment.alberta.ca/0942.html>.

Source: Government of Alberta

CleanFARMS to Develop Agricultural Plastic Program in Ontario

A new service for farmers who want to safely get rid of plastic agricultural waste, including bale wrap, will be piloted in 2012 in Ontario's Lake Simcoe watershed by CleanFARMS, a national, industry-led stewardship organization.

According to recent research, farmers in Ontario generate more than 14,000 tonnes of non-nutrient based waste on their farms each year. While there are stewardship programs in place for some agricultural waste products, there are many products for which no recycling options exist.

CleanFARMS has already determined that the processing capacity exists in North America. The challenge will be in crafting an efficient collection and delivery system that also minimizes contamination. That, and finding the money to keep the program going.

Funding for this program comes from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs through the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. The Canadian Animal Health Institute and industry have pledged additional cash and in-kind contributions.

However, when a full program rolls out, it will need a more secure funding mechanism. Funding could conceivably come from the sale of collection bags to the farmer. Another option is industry funding



Questions to ask any new potential eWaste Recycler

- ❖ *How many years experience do they have with municipal collection sites in Alberta?*
- ❖ *Do they have any references for current Municipal customers?*
- ❖ *What machinery is used to process and environmental impact of same?*
- ❖ *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

through a stewardship model. Often, when industry proposes a stewardship program, it is an effort to remain a step ahead of regulations. In the case of agricultural plastics, CleanFARMS recognizes that regulations may be necessary. By developing the program's architecture beforehand, it hopes to be in a much stronger position to shape those regulations when they are written.

For more information contact Barry Friesen at 416.622.9771 or friesenb@cleanfarms.ca.

Sources: CNW Group / Yahoo! Canada Finance,
Recycling Canada

Quebec Paper Mill Shuts Down

White Birch Paper Co., which produces newsprint containing up to 50% recycled content, has temporarily ceased production at its Stadacona paper mill in Quebec City. The shutdown began December 9 at the plant that produces newsprint, directory paper and recycled paperboard, the company said. The company claimed operations were unsustainable in the current cost environment.

Source: Waste & Recycling News



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Allied Appoints General Manager

Mr. Ken Scott has been appointed general manager for Allied Paper Savers. Ken can be contacted at Ken.scott@can-cell.com

Ontario Backs Down on Incandescent Bulb Ban

Ontario's Energy Minister Chris Bentley confirmed that the province is scrapping a five-year-old promise to make it "lights out" for incandescent bulbs in 2012 by banning stores from selling them.

He blamed a recent federal government decision to delay new energy efficiency standards for light bulbs until January 1, 2014, when it will become illegal to import inefficient incandescent lighting across the country.

Postponing the incandescent ban for two years will make it harder for the province to meet its energy conservation targets. The new compact fluorescent bulbs use less than half the electricity of incandescent bulbs.

Ottawa changed its plans to "allow for innovations in technology" and to improve recycling options for energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs, which last far longer and use less electricity than incandescents, but contain mercury.

Source: Toronto Star

Canadian Company Building Tire Recycling Facilities in China

Winnipeg-based Blue Diamond Technologies Ltd. has signed a deal with Hangzhou, China-based Insigma Technology Co. Ltd. to build up to 13 tire recycling facilities throughout China. The joint venture, which will have initial funding of \$8 million and include exclusive rights to Blue Diamond's patented "micro-erosion" tire recycling technology, was expected to complete incorporation in January 2012.

The first plant, a 60,000-sq.-ft. facility in Hangzhou, is planned to begin operations during the fourth quarter of 2012 and will produce crumb rubber, steel and fiber from scrap tires. With China generating 300 million scrap tires annually, the joint venture facilities are assured of a steady flow of raw material, the company said.

Both companies expect the other 12 facilities to be built rapidly after the first plant becomes operational. The Chinese government is offering public incentives to supplement initial investments in the venture, according to Blue Diamond.

Source: Tire Business / Waste & Recycling News

Wondering Where to Recycle Your Stuff?

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

Plasco Heads Home

The Central Waste Management Commission (CWMC) has decided that it has insufficient waste in its control to continue negotiating exclusively with Plasco Energy Group for technology to divert waste from landfills and convert it into energy. The nine municipalities on the CWMC decided that it could not guarantee enough garbage to feed the proposed 200-tonne-a-day plant that was to use plasma technology to convert garbage into a syngas that could be used to generate electricity. The size of the project, to be built in Red Deer County near Penhold, had changed over time. First proposed as a 300-tonne-a-day plant, it was later scaled down by a third. However, in the end even that smaller plant proved too big.

In a statement, Plasco agreed that, based on current volumes, their technology was not the right size. The project also failed to receive the government funding it was seeking. Company officials said the project depended on lining up millions in federal government Green Infrastructure Fund cash. The amount being sought changed over time from \$24 million or so to \$17 million, but no funding announcement ever came.

Instead, Plasco will be establishing its first commercial plant in Ottawa, where it has been running a test plant. Ottawa city council approved a 20-year contract in December to process a minimum of 109,000 tonnes of garbage a year.

Source: Red Deer Advocate

Ottawa Council Overwhelmingly Endorses Plasco Deal

Ottawa city council has signed off on a long-term contract to have Plasco Energy Group dispose of garbage with its “plasma gasification” process.

The vote at a meeting in mid-December was 22-1, with only Councillor Diane Holmes of Somerset ward dissenting. She’s concerned Plasco’s demonstration plant by the city’s Trail Road landfill hasn’t proven it can handle enough garbage consistently to justify building a facility three times as large – and conversely, that if Plasco’s process works too well, that it’ll distract the city from recycling and diversion efforts. It has emerged in the 10 or so days of debate over the contract that the longest the plant has run at a time is six days, including scheduled maintenance shutdowns, and has consistently processed about 56 tonnes of garbage a day in that time.

The attitude that carried the day was perhaps best expressed by College Councillor Rick Chiarelli, who declared that the “risk to taxpayers from this deal is virtually nonexistent ... if it turns out it fails, we’re back to where we are now.”

Source: Ottawa Citizen

Way to go Alberta!

You’re some of the best recyclers in the world...

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8 million litres of paint

70 million tires

Keep up the good work!

For more information on Alberta’s recycling programs, visit www.albertarecycling.ca



News

Newfoundland and Labrador's First Industrial Composter Installed at Memorial University

The Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) government's Multi Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB), in partnership with Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic, has launched the first industrial composting initiative of its kind in NL.



The new industrial composter at Memorial University's Grenfell campus in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Through this initiative, an industrial-scale composter has been installed at Memorial University's Grenfell campus in Corner Brook.

Once operational, the composter, which can manage up to 100 metric tonnes of organic waste annually, can help Memorial University's Grenfell campus and College of the North Atlantic divert 20% of their total waste from landfills.

The technology has applications for hospitals, restaurants, farms, supermarkets, and other players who generate significant volumes of organic waste.

To help finance the capital costs, training and education associated with the industrial composter, the MMSB invested \$100,000 through the Waste Management Trust Fund. Once the composter is successfully up and running, the MMSB will look to add other clients, including the Western Health Authority.

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

McDonalds Bans Reusable Coffee Mugs

More people in PEI are shunning paper coffee cups for reusable mugs, but one major fast food chain in that province insists customers use the store's disposable ones.

While most independent coffee houses and coffee giant Tim Hortons allow reusable mugs and even offer discounts, McDonald's doesn't permit them.

McDonald's said it is trying to protect their customers from contamination. "We can't control the cleanliness of the cup that's been through the drive-thru or the restaurant, so this is the main reason why, for the moment, we prefer serving coffee in our cups," said Jason Patuano, spokesman for McDonald's.

But other operators said hygiene is not an issue.

Source: CBC News

Editor: Just in case you needed another reason not to patronize McDonalds.

Composter Helps Vancouver Business Reduce Waste

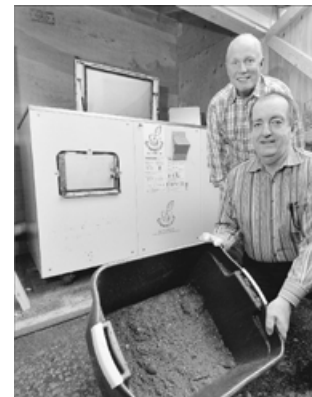
The dumpster behind Trafalgar's Bistro and Sweet Obsession bakery has been replaced with a City of Vancouver residential garbage can. But the two eateries can't even fill that anymore.

Until a few months ago the dumpster had to be emptied three or four times a week at a cost of almost \$1,000 per month and the contents were just sent to the landfill. The two food businesses were already recycling just about everything, but not their organic waste.

So owners Lorne Tyczenski and Stephen Greenham invested \$25,000 in a GreenGood Composter that covers about the same amount of floor space as a chest freezer. The machine processes the waste from both businesses and produces 240 kg of compost each week. The product is collected by Inner City Farms, a cooperative that farms people's front and back yards for food.

Glass, metals and plastics are sorted inside while a recycling container outside takes the paper and cardboard. Between recycling and composting, Trafalgar's and Sweet Obsession each week put less than one bag of garbage at the curb for pickup between them.

GreenGood Composters range in size from residential units smaller than a bar fridge to industrial units the size of a minivan. For more information, visit www.greengoodcomposter.com.



Trafalgar's Bistro co-owners Stephen Greenham (front) and Lorne Tyczenski say the system - and recycling - has helped them reduce their waste by about 98%. Photograph by: Ian Lindsay, PNG, Vancouver Sun

Source: Vancouver Sun

Cascades Makes Toilet Paper from Cardboard Boxes

Cascades Tissue Group expects to cut the overall environmental impact of recycled bathroom tissue through a new product that contains fiber from recycled cardboard boxes. The new Moka brand bathroom tissue is the first of its kind and is available for the away-from-home market, the company said.

Consisting of 100% recycled fiber, the unbleached product includes 20% recovered corrugated containers and 80% post-consumer fiber. The mix results in a beige appearance. A life-cycle analysis "revealed a reduction in overall environmental impact by at least 25%" when compared to Cascades' other 100%-recycled fiber bathroom tissue, the company said.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Environment Canada Fails to Set Recycling Example

The federal government overstated its public estimates from last summer about the costs of recycling by 10 times as it defended a decision to dump hundreds of top quality workstations in favour of new furniture at an Environment Canada building under renovations, newly released correspondence has revealed.

Although the Public Works and Government Services Department told Postmedia News in July that recycling furniture at the Place Vincent Massey building in Gatineau, QC, would be 20% more expensive than buying new workstations, internal correspondence from the same period reveals the department's most recent figures pegged the cost of recycling at \$1,000 cheaper per workstation than buying new, not including delivery, installation and additional fees.

Overall, the department estimated that those additional costs would make the total price of recycling about 2.33% higher than buying new, but it never made this information public until responding to an access to information request made by Postmedia News. The newly released information doesn't provide a breakdown of the department's estimate of additional fees, related to the recycling option, that would make it more expensive.

But it includes a letter sent to Environment Canada by furniture manufacturer Haworth touting potential savings of \$500,000 or 17% by recycling 800 workstations, that, at the same time, would divert 64,000 cubic feet of landfill.

Public Works Minister Rona Ambrose defended her department's decision, suggesting that the calculation of a 20% difference between buying new versus recycling was probably reached at the time of the decision.

Source: Postmedia News

Editor: Notwithstanding economics, you would think Canada's environment agency would have a procurement policy that favours recycling.

Ontario's Waste Diversion Efforts Criticized

The Ontario government has a lot of work to do to enhance its waste diversion efforts, according to a report by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO).

"Engaging Solutions: Annual Report 2010/2011", tabled by ECO's Gord Miller in the Ontario Legislature, finds that the Ontario government is not doing enough to reduce waste in the province.

It notes that the MOE has developed several solutions to cut waste, such as imposing a surcharge on waste that is sent to landfill and requiring retailers to take back products at their end-of-life. Yet, the Ontario government has taken little action to implement these solutions, says the report.

This lack of action can be attributed to, among other things, the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* failing to make waste reduction and reuse a priority, says the report. As a result, the province's overall waste diversion rate in 2008 was only about 23%, well below the 60% target that was set for

that year.

To improve Ontario's waste record, the report recommends that the MOE follow through on its many proposed waste diversion solutions to ensure that they are implemented. The MOE should also better educate the public and industry on the implications and importance of extended producer responsibility, steward fees and other waste reduction initiatives.

The report is available at www.eco.on.ca/uploads/Reports-Annual/2010_11/Final-English-Bookmarked-2010-AR.pdf

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

Langley Chosen for Recycling Pilot Project

The City of Langley has been selected to help test a new curbside collection system which will lay the groundwork for recycling procedures across the province.

For three months, beginning on February 7, a total of 800 households in Langley City will be asked to include all plastic bags, and plastic overwrap (used to wrap paper towel, toilet paper and cases of beverages) as well as foam packaging, such as takeout food containers, egg cartons and supermarket meat trays, in their curbside recycling.

By May 2014, a program for recycling the plastics and foam will be mandatory throughout BC, and a proposal to accomplish that must be submitted to the Ministry of Environment by November 19 of this year.

In February, starter kits will be dropped off at the 800 test homes. They will include instructions about what to include and how to separate it, as well as a supply of clear bags.

Once the three-month test is complete, collection procedures will return to normal.

The technology already exists to recycle both the light plastics and foam for re-manufacturing. As part of the pilot, the collected materials will be shipped to a plant in Richmond, where they will be reduced to pellet form. Plastics will find new life as foundation drains and black plastic garbage bags, while foam can be made into wood-look picture frames and architectural moldings.

Source: Langley Times



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Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council Offers Product Design Guidelines

The Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council (HPRC) has concluded work on a set of guidelines that offer useful product and packaging design considerations for improving the recyclability of disposable plastic products. The Design Guidelines for Optimal Hospital Plastics Recycling takes a look at product and packaging design features that inhibit post-use recycling potential and makes design recommendations that could enhance product recyclability.

Understanding that product recyclability fits into a broader context of product functionality requirements, hospital operations and economic viability, these guidelines identify and articulate desirable design practices and less desirable design practices. Examples of desirable design practices include eliminating multiple material types used within one discrete product, avoiding paper tapes or labels attached directly to products, allowing for post-use identification and removal of product residue and minimizing the use of pigments in products.

HPRC intends to begin implementation of the guidelines within its member companies in 2011, as eight of its eleven current members have healthcare product design and manufacturing operations. The complete Design Guidelines for Optimal Hospital Plastics Recycling document is available for download at www.hprc.org.

These guidelines were developed based on findings from a pilot study jointly conducted by the Cleveland Clinic, Engineered Plastics and Waste Management. This pilot study evaluated the recyclability and best practices of pre-patient operating room plastic waste. The resulting guidelines have a very specific application and are intended to supplement existing plastics packaging and sustainability efforts in healthcare.

The HPRC is a private technical coalition of industry peers across healthcare, recycling and waste management industries seeking to improve recyclability of plastic products within healthcare. HPRC is made up of eleven brand leading and globally recognized members including Baxter, BD, Cardinal Health, DuPont, Eastman, Engineered Plastics, Hospira, Johnson & Johnson, Kimberly Clark, Philips and Waste Management.

For more information visit www.hprc.org.

Source: Recycling Product News

Reverse Vending Machines for Light Bulbs

A recently released reverse vending machine is allowing light bulbs and old batteries to be recycled in Europe. London-based Revend Recycling Ltd. and Norway-based Repant ASA designed and developed the machine that gives discount vouchers or other rewards to customers taking back their light bulbs, similar to taking back bottles and cans.

Increased demand for recycling of light bulbs, international changeover to CFL and LED domestic light bulbs and the recycling of domestic batteries was one of the major reasons the two companies designed the machine.

Swedish-based furniture manufacturer IKEA will implement the machines at its stores in the UK, Germany and Denmark.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

MIT Rolling Out Reverse Vending Machines

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is home to a new reverse vending machine that uses social media, real-time analytics and gaming to encourage more recycling.

Greenbean Recycle Inc., a software technology company, is the maker of the machines that accept deposit and non-deposit glass, plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

In the first three months, according to a news release, MIT's Greenbean machine has recycled more than 14,000 containers.

Immediately after putting the recyclables into the machine, users get information on the environmental benefits of their recycling efforts, numbers of kilowatt-hours of energy saved and a running tally of the number of containers they have prevented from entering landfills, according to a news release. Current stats from MIT's machine are also publicly available on Greenbean's website.

Students who recycle containers with deposits can get a refund straight into a PayPal account, MIT's student ID cash or sent as a donation to charity.

Greenbean said the machines will first be placed in colleges and universities in bottle bill states, with future expansion planned for stadiums, airports and condominiums.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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IKEA Switches to Paper Pallets

Swedish retailer IKEA is replacing wooden pallets with a paper variant that's lighter, thinner, and



Conventional (left) vs. paper pallet

– the company says – cheaper to use. IKEA, which uses 10 million pallets to ship goods from suppliers to its 287 stores in 26 countries, will cut transport costs by 10% in the move. The new corrugated cardboard design can support the same load as timber, but at two inches high, the paper pallets are one-third the height of wooden ones, and they're 90% lighter, at 5.5 pounds. This means IKEA can fit more goods into each shipment. The pallets, assembled on-site by most of IKEA's 1,200 global suppliers, will be used only once before being recycled.

Sources: Bloomberg News, Resource Recycling

Waste Management Unveils New Waste Collection Vehicles

Waste Management, Inc. has launched a pilot program that will introduce Rotopress waste collection trailers for the first time in North America to improve the flexibility of its waste collection operations. The pilot program will first rollout in Houston, Texas, followed by pilot projects in other cities.

Waste Management anticipates the program to provide greater operational flexibility and reduce trips, fuel use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lower maintenance costs. Benefits include greater payload, decoupled chassis, increased maneuverability, decreased odour and leakage, and increased driver comfort.

Rotopress, manufactured by Faun, a German manufacturer of waste disposal vehicles, has been in operation across Europe for more than 80 years.

Source: Solid Waste & Recycling

Cornell Researcher Finds More Benefits of Vermicompost

Researchers at Cornell University recently found that microbes in vermicompost can help prevent a pathogen whose mobile spores infect crop seedlings and causes them to wither shortly after germination. The researchers said certain composts can suppress diseases, but it is still unknown which of the thousands of microbes in healthy compost are responsible for suppressing which diseases.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Only in West Virginia – Deer Carcass Composting

The 2011 deer hunting season in West Virginia once again featured a deer carcass composting program for hunters. The Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority sponsored the free program, which was in its second year. It takes hides, bones or any other waste material from legally harvested deer at a recycling centre. This time, the program was also open to deer meat processors. The program was designed to help decrease the number of illegally disposed deer carcasses along area roadways, creeks and streams.

The 2010 pilot program collected about 2,000 pounds of deer carcasses.

Sources: Waste & Recycling News and hedgesvillewv.us

US Waste Generation Back on the Rise, Says EPA

Waste generation in 2010 climbed for the first time since 2007, the US EPA said in its recently released annual report.

In the report, the EPA said Americans generated 249.86 million tons of municipal solid waste in 2010, up 6.2 million tons – or 2.5% – from the 243.7 million tons generated in 2009. The national recycling rate is also on the rise, with Americans recycling or composting 34% of their waste.

Of the waste generated in 2010, 54.3% of it was landfilled, 34% of it was recovered through recycling or composting and 11.7% of it was turned into energy through a waste-to-energy facility.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

China's Waste Regulation Impacts Plastic Recycling Industry

Plastics scrap imports through China's Guangzhou customs fell by more than 80% last fall, as local customs tightened the enforcement of a newly implemented regulation on solid waste import. Beijing issued the new regulation earlier in 2011, aiming to better control waste imports by regulating non-recyclable waste that was finding its way into China, and polluting the environment. The regulation aims to effectively prevent "disordered flow" of solid waste and smuggling, and is putting the plastics recycling industry under pressure, as it may significantly reduce imports once the strict enforcement practice is extended to all customs across the country.

Source: Plastics News / Waste & Recycling News

Puma Examines Environmental Profit and Loss

Last November, Puma, the sport-lifestyle company, made corporate reporting history by issuing the first-of-its-kind Environmental Profit and Loss Account (E P&L) detailing its financial impact on ecosystems to the tune of 145 million Euro (\$196 million) in 2010.

The undertaking was complex, collecting and validating figures along the global company's expansive supply chain in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), water use, land use, air pollution and waste.

The Puma E P&L and associated methodology were developed with the support of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Trucost PLC. Through the process, Puma determined that its supply chain is responsible for 94% of its total environmental impact, and that more than half of all environmental impacts are associated with the production of raw materials (including leather, cotton and rubber).

In terms of raw materials, Puma has introduced a product called Re-Suede made for the environmentally-conscious consumer. Comprised of 100% recycled polyester fibers, produced by a chemical recycling process that reduces both the energy consumption and carbon dioxide emission by 80% compared to the production of virgin materials, the recycled polyester is scrap waste from manufacturing processes that is repurposed to create the synthetic material. This effort is in line with Puma's goal of manufacturing 50% of the international collections using more sustainable materials by 2015.

The company plans to do an E P&L on an annual basis and to use the figures from the reports to distinguish between "good and bad suppliers in terms of their impact on ecosystem services." As a company, Puma is already working toward sustainability goals to reduce carbon, waste, energy and water use by 25% by 2015.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Recycled Snowboard Obstacles



(AP Photo/
Breckenridge Ski
Resort, Aaron Dodds)

Ski resorts started incorporating recycled objects on the slopes as challenges for snowboarding jumps, slides and other maneuvers. Empty oil drums, satellite dishes, propane tanks, a fiberglass horse and even old cars are becoming the newest challenges that have popped up in terrain parks for snowboarders.

*Sources: Waste & Recycling News,
KVAL.com*

Hilton Partners for Reuse

Hilton Worldwide has found another way to give its surplus and gently used items a second life. The hotel chain is the latest firm to partner with Good360, a non-profit that channels product donations from companies to charities.

Non-perishable goods likely to come from Hilton properties could range from furniture, bedding and appliances to office equipment.

While it's relatively easy to find takers for still-usable tech equipment, like computers, it can be difficult to identify organizations that will accept other used goods, such as towels and sheets. Through its partnership with Good360, Hilton can send a variety of items to the non-profit, which makes the goods available to charities that will welcome them.


Other firms that work with Good360 include The Home Depot, HP, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Williams-Sonoma, Disney and H&M. Good360, originally founded as Gifts-in-Kind in 1983, has distributed more than \$7 billion worth of donated products to charities and schools over the past 28 years, according to the non-profit.

Source: GreenBiz



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Seattle Bans Plastic Bags, and Sets Fee on Paper Bags

Seattle City Council voted unanimously in December to ban plastic grocery bags and charge a 5-cent fee on paper bags. The ban is scheduled to go into effect July 1.

Three years ago, Seattle city officials became the first in the nation to approve a fee on paper and plastic bags, instituting a charge of 20 cents for each bag provided by many retail stores. But before the 2008 fee took effect, the plastic-bag industry led a petition drive that forced the issue onto a citywide ballot. In August 2009, in the midst of the recession and after the industry spent \$1.4 million on the campaign, Seattle voters rejected the fee.

Arguments persist about the environmental drawbacks and benefits of each type of bag. One reason the Council was allowing paper bags was because the city has one of the highest rates in the nation for paper bag recycling, about 85%, while it recycles only about 13% of the 292 million plastic bags distributed in the city. Under the ban, plastic bags could still be provided for produce and bulk grocery items.

Washington's State Legislature is now also considering a statewide ban. The Northwest Grocery Association, which supported the Seattle ban, said it prefers one standard across the state rather than a patchwork of local ordinances.

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, D-Burien, has introduced a bill in Olympia to ban plastic bags and impose a 5-cent fee on paper bags. Two Seattle legislators, Democratic Reps. Jamie Pedersen and Reuven Carlyle, signed on as sponsors. The bill will get its first hearing before the House Environment Committee on January 20.

The plastics industry has successfully opposed attempts to enact statewide bans in California and Oregon.

Sources: *The New York Times*, *The Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*

Santa Clara County Moving Towards a Styrofoam Ban

City leaders from across Santa Clara County, California, voted unanimously to move toward a regional ban on Styrofoam and other expanded polystyrene (EPS) food containers. The Cities Association of Santa Clara County voted 10-0 in January to encourage its 15 city and town councils to adopt policies banning the unsustainable food containers at all city facilities and events.

The association's decision is also meant to spur the region's cities to launch public education campaigns about the plastic material's harmful effect on local waterways and marine life. Cities will also be encouraged to consider outlawing all EPS food and drink containers at businesses that sell food within their city limits.

Source: *Bay City News*

Hawaii's Big Island Bans Plastic Bags

The Big Island joined its neighbors, Kauai and Maui, in passing legislation prohibiting local businesses from distributing single-use, carryout plastic shopping bags.

Taking effect in 2013, the new regulations will allow stores to sell plastic bags to customers for an additional year to clear out their inventory of shopping bags.

Source: *Earth911*

Reusing Pacemakers is both Recycling and Charity

Daniel Mascarenhas, a cardiologist from Pennsylvania, began sending used – and cleaned – medical supplies back to his home country of India for use since the early days of his career. He's sent catheters and stint balloons that have reached their expiration date.

In 2003, he expanded the concept to pacemakers from dead Americans. A pilot to reuse 121 used pacemakers in patients in Mumbai, India showed that roughly half had enough battery life to be implanted into patients, and no significant complications such as infections or device failures occurred during the study period.

A new pacemaker would cost a patient in India \$2,200 to \$6,600, which often exceeds the annual income of many patients there. The cost to implant the recycled pacemaker is only about \$400.

The most difficult part is actually getting the pacemakers, said Mascarenhas. Funeral homes often don't want to do the procedure because there is nothing in it for them. According to the study, surveys of morticians in Michigan indicate that nearly 19% of dead people possess a cardiac device and 85% of the devices are buried with them. The majority of those that are removed are discarded as medical waste, the study says.

While there is already a system to donate organs, the doctors would like to see it expanded so that people could express their wish to donate pacemakers and defibrillators.

Source: *Waste & Recycling News*

More Afterlife Recycling

On a similar note, for almost 15 years, a Dutch company called OrthoMetals has been recycling post-mortem surgical implants from bodies that have been cremated.

The company collects the metals from cremation facilities, sorts them, and then sells them back to the recycling market (not reuse). OrthoMetals recycles more than 250 tons a year from cremations, and tries to give 70-75% of what it brings in back to the crematoria for charitable purposes.

OrthoMetals is now working with crematoria in more than 15 countries, including the United States.

Source: *PRI's The World*

San Francisco Compost Hits Milestone

It's hard to imagine in this age of Iron and Top Chefs, that a San Francisco chef would be so excited about the ingredients you throw away, rather than cook. But Scoma's chef Kelly Bennett is downright excited to tell you all about his restaurant's garbage.

"We've taken people from all over the world on tours to visit our dumpster," said Bennett, standing next to the aforementioned receptacle.

On November 22, 2011, a bin of Scoma's organic leftovers was celebrated by the City of San Francisco as the symbolic one-millionth ton of compost collected. Bennett said Scoma's Restaurant launched its compost program eight years ago and now recycles 95% of its waste. Food scraps ranging from pepper stems to lobster shells mingle in the restaurant's green bins. "We thought we'd need a little green can and a big black can," said Bennett. "It turned out after three days we had it completely backward."



Scoma's Chef Kelly Bennett shows off the restaurant's composting compactor.

San Francisco-based Recology started collecting food scraps and plant materials from residents and businesses in 1996. Yet it wasn't until San Francisco made composting mandatory in 2009 – the first US city to require residents and businesses to sort their food waste – that the program truly took off. Residents have to separate the waste into three categories: trash, recycling and green waste. Recycling and composting is free while the trash fee depends on the size of the collection bin.

San Francisco is currently recycling and composting 78% of its garbage – with a zero waste goal set for 2020. Recology currently collects 600 tons a day in food scraps and plant material. Most of it is composted and then sold to wineries in Sonoma and Napa for use in vineyards.

Sources: NBC Bay Area, Waste & Recycling News

Ohio Parks Report Less Littering After Removing Trash Cans

Ohio's state parks are saving money by removing trash receptacles, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources reported.

The department has removed 372 trash receptacles from state parks in the last three years as part of its "Carry In, Carry Out" program. Officials say they are seeing less trash on trails because people are motivated to take care of their own waste, saving the department \$65,000 by not having to dump trash.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

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Reverse Vending for Mobile Devices

The EcoATM machine is a fully automated phone recycler that lets users drop off old mobiles – then pays for them in cash. It's a cupboard-sized machine with a big touch screen and metal tray where you can place your old phone or MP3 player. EcoATM already has some machines in California, but is rolling out across the US soon.

The first machine accepts mobile phones and MP3 players – a new version will also accept Galaxy Tab devices, iPads, Kindles and Nooks. Users put a gadget in its tray, then the machine identifies the item using a camera, matching it up against a database of 4,000 different gadgets. The machine then offers the user a cable to plug into the to-be-recycled device, and checks if it's still in working order electronically – EcoATM promises it will not steal data from the devices. Once its analysis is complete, the machine provides a quote on the spot, based on what a network of hundreds of electronics-recycling companies are willing to pay for the gadget. If the user accepts the quote, the EcoATM spits out cash.



Source: Daily Mail

Apple Extends iPhone and iPad Recycling Program to UK, France, and Germany

Last August, Apple expanded its recycling program in the United States, rewarding customers with Apple gift cards when they send in their used iPhones and iPads for recycling. Now, the technology giant is extending the program even further by launching a similar initiative in the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

According to its German website, Apple will not offer payment in the form of an Apple gift card, but rather as cash deposited into customers bank accounts in exchange for returned devices. These same rules apply for the programs in France and the UK.

The Cupertino, CA-based company encourages recycling efforts in many countries through its own programs as well as via third-party organizations. Details are available on Apple's recycling program website.

Source: 9to5mac.com

Film Biz Recycling Finds Uses for Old Show Props

Film Biz Recycling's Gowanus, NY-based reuse center accepts props from TV shows, commercials, theater productions and runway events that took place in New York. The center, with nearly 90 tons collected this year, has received items from commercials for major companies like Target, JCPenney and the Westin hotel chain to sitcoms such as 30 Rock. The non-profit group doesn't charge for dropping off materials, and 60% of what comes in is redistributed to local charities. The rest is sold through its Prop Shop to fund the store, which the center calls a "resale boutique."

The center also features the Re-Gallery that showcases work from artists, including some who work directly out of the center. The artists get to use the shop space and materials, while Film Biz receives a portion of their sales in a partnership where "everybody wins."

Source: Waste & Recycling News

US Army Base Sets Zero-Landfill Goal

Fort Hood officials want to reach zero-waste status by 2020. The Texas site is home to 50,000 US Army soldiers and has a population of 80,000 to 100,000. Currently, 56% of its waste is sent to a landfill.

Outreach efforts will be funded by revenue from Fort Hood's recycling center, which processed about 10 tons of paper, plastic bottles, scrap metal and aluminum cans last year, and generated \$1.7 million. Money leftover after salaries, physical improvements and repairs at the center will fund the advertising campaign for the Net Zero initiative, an Army-wide sustainability program.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

New York Plans Bigger Recycling Effort

The Bloomberg administration has set a goal of doubling the amount of garbage New York City diverts from landfills over the next five years.

The plan calls for increasing the proportion of residential and other waste diverted from landfills to 30% by 2017 from 15% now. By meeting a target of 30%, the city would keep 550,000 tons of garbage out of landfills each year.

The city's Department of Sanitation currently sends 3 million tons of solid waste to landfills annually, administration officials said.

The plan envisions opening two sites this year to compost yard waste and revitalizing recycling from residences and institutions. The effort also calls for increasing the number of recycling receptacles in public spaces to 1,000 by 2014 from about 600 now.

Source: The New York Times' Green Blog

TD Bank Aims to Go 'Paper Neutral'

TD Bank Group has announced a commitment to become "paper neutral" within its North American operations by the end of 2012.

The bank says the paper neutrality goal is two-pronged: first, TD aims to cut its paper use by 20% by 2015. Second, it will introduce a forest conservation program to offset the paper it does use.

Over the next year, TD will expand and enhance its paperless banking options and other online services for customers, and will introduce initiatives to reduce the amount of paper used by employees.

For the paper "offsets," the bank will partner with the Nature Conservancy of Canada on a program to enlarge and protect areas of threatened forest habitat across the country.

In 2010, TD announced it was participating in paper manufacturer Boise Inc.'s paper recycling program to divert paper waste from landfills. The Boise Closed Loop System guaranteed that at least 1,500 metric tons of paper from TD's operations in Canada and the US would be diverted from landfills and used in the production of recycled office paper, which the bank buys for use at its operations.

Source: Environmental Management & Energy News

Market Research Forecasts the Solar PV Recycling Market

MarketResearch.com has announced the addition of the new report "Solar Module Recycling – A Necessary Step to Maximize Environmental Benefits of Solar PV Industry" to their collection of Energy market reports.

With the annual number of solar Photovoltaics (PV) installations rising, there is a growing need for processing PV waste in the coming years. The waste generated by end-of-life modules in 2025 is expected to be approximately 24,855 tons. This waste is expected to further increase to 1,161,173 tons by 2035.

For a watt of PV module treated in the recycling unit, \$0.58 in recycled value is expected to be generated in 2025. With a 100% collection rate, 278 MW of end-of-life modules are expected to be recycled in 2025. Due to the rising trend of annual installations during the period from 2000 to 2010, it is expected that the end-of-life modules will increase to 17,000 MW by 2035, whilst the per-watt recycled product value of these modules is expected to reach \$1.21. The major factors driving this trend are the rising annual installation trends during 2000-2010, the expected increase in recycling rates of module materials, as well as the market price variations of these materials.

For more information, visit www.marketresearch.com/GlobalData-v3648/Solar-Module-Recycling-Necessary-Step-6748827/

Source: Marketwire / MarketResearch.com

Recycling Boosts Economy, Creates Jobs, Says EU Report

Europe's adoption of a suite of waste reduction, stewardship and recycling policies over the past decade has proven beneficial to the economy, according to "Earnings, jobs and innovation: the role of recycling in a green economy," a report released last year by the European Environment Agency.

Recycling is the fastest growing sector among the largest European eco-industries, showing a compound annual growth rate (2004 to 2008) of 8.3%. Recyclables are an increasingly important export commodity, fuelled mostly by demand from booming Asian economies and increasing commodity prices. The growing demand has been met by higher recovery rates for valuable commodities within the EU.

The report also points to recycling's role as a job-creator, saying that "a growing body of evidence indicates that the recycling industry generates more jobs at higher income levels than landfilling or incinerating waste. Recycling has roughly twice the economic impact of burying the same amount of materials in the ground."

The report also raises the need for new recycling technologies, not only to increase the recovery rate for commonly collected commodities, but also to help reduce the supply risk for critical raw materials. The report focuses on 14 of those commodities, mostly exotic metals, that are critical for future economic growth. Collection and recovery rates for these commodities are very low. New programs and technologies can help mitigate the economic risks of high demand and short supply.

A copy of the report may be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/7vrg5ak>.

Source: Recycling Canada

Grand Canyon Bans Sale of Bottled Water After All

The National Park Service is prohibiting the sale of plastic water bottles at the Grand Canyon National Park – just a little more than a year after the plan was halted after Coca-Cola Co. voiced concerns about it. The ban will take effect within the next 30 days.

Plastic bottles make up about 30% of the Grand Canyon's waste stream and are the largest source of garbage found inside the canyon. The Grand Canyon has installed 10 water-filling stations on the canyon's South Rim and three on the North Rim, as have nearby hotels and restaurants.

The ban applies only to bottle water. Retailers at the park can sell soda and juice in plastic bottles and visitors can still bring them.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

News

TerraCycle Launches Waste-to-Profit Facebook Game

The Trash Tycoon Facebook game that launched in September 2011 challenges players to find and recycle trash that can be used to make eco-friendly products that translate into game money and points. Its sponsors include TreeHugger and CarbonFund.org, as well as TerraCycle.



tools like worms for composting, players are shown the kinds of useful products that can be made from recyclable goods.

Just like TerraCycle's real-world product placement advertising in which it utilizes wrapper logos to contribute to product design as with its Skittles Eco Kite and Target ReTote, the Facebook game will also feature sponsorship by showing trash wrappers with various brand logos, according to Guerillapps.

Source: CNET News

Petainer's 'Greenest Ever' Refillable Bottle

Plastics packaging technology specialist Petainer has developed a PET refillable bottle, claiming to "further improve the sustainability of what is already one of the most environmentally friendly forms of beverage packaging."

The new bottle is manufactured using more than 25% post-consumer "one-way" recycled PET. The company cites the same performance characteristics as for a refillable bottle made entirely from virgin material.

Nigel Pritchard, group chief executive of Petainer, said: "The bottles are eco-friendly because they use up to 90% less virgin material per filling. Introducing post-consumer recyclate means that the bottles now require less energy and other resources to manufacture. They are also economical in the traditional sense because the environmental benefits translate into lower costs. As the cost of PET resins inexorably increases, the economics

of refillable bottles using recycled material become even more compelling."

Petainer is working with bottled water companies, carbonated drinks producers and brewers across Europe to get the refillable bottles adopted. They are returned to the retailer by the consumer once emptied, then sent to the beverage manufacturer for washing and refilling.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Small Japanese Town Maximizes Recycling

Kamikatsu, Japan, a small town of 2,000 residents on rural Shikoku Island, has taken waste separation to new heights. In 1995, the town



only sorted out glass and cans. In 2003, the town passed a "Zero Waste" ordinance, and in 2005, the program expanded to 34 separate recycling streams. With the exception of three public holidays a year, residents can bring their recyclables from the early morning until after midnight, where they can sort their unwanted waste with the guidance of a city employee.

Garbage collection centers located throughout the town host 34 different waste bins. Above each yellow or blue bin is a poster that describes what can be disposed in each separate crate. Categories include cans, bottles, cardboard, aerosol cans, cigarette lighters, disposable chopsticks, books and textiles.

Reuse is also an important aspect of Kamikatsu's waste diversion campaign. Unwanted goods are stacked on shelves so that other locals can take them home if they have a use for them. Local women apply their sewing techniques and turn unwanted textiles into chic handbags, sandals or even dolls. As for food scraps, each home has a composting bin, a requirement of residents since 1991.

Kimikatsu's leaders believe that the town's finances, not to mention the local environment, are better off with this current sort, recycle and reuse system.

The city also runs a program that collects waste from elderly residents who are not up to the task of carrying their trash to the recycling center for a small fee. The responsibility for disposing and separating the trash falls on residents: Kamikatsu has no garbage trucks. Volunteers have an enormous role in ensuring that the town's recycling program runs smoothly, and their efforts have resulted in a clean place to live with no landfill or incinerators.

The overall goal for Kamikatsu is to achieve zero waste by 2020. With its recycling rate well over 90%, this rural hamlet is well on its way.

Source: Earth911

U of C Gets Their SustainabilityON

In its efforts to become a zero waste campus, the University of Calgary is expanding recycling infrastructure by rolling out 3,500 new bins ranging from small organics collection bins for staff lunchrooms to multi-stream units in high-traffic areas.

The campus population is also being encouraged to take part in the annual SustainabilityON Waste and Responsible Purchasing campaign between now and March 31, by thinking about what they buy and how they can help reduce the amount of waste the university generates. Some of the actions being promoted include:

- Buy fair trade coffee and bring a reusable mug for discounts at campus vendors.
- Buy used at the warehouse-sized garage sales held every Friday in the General Services building.
- Receive Dining Centre discounts by purchasing meals in a reusable container.
- Become a member of the Dining Centre's Eco-Container Exchange program to purchase meals in a reusable container. Participants receive every 10th meal free.
- Purchase green office supplies, furnishings, and laboratory products from preferred vendors who offer competitive pricing for campus business units.
- Order apparel through the Bookstore, which ensures that factories and third-party factories of suppliers meet the minimum standards of basic labour rights set forth by the International Labour Organization. These same standards are met on gifts and apparel sold at the Medical Bookstore, Stuffs Convenience Store, Art Store and Lofts.
- Receive preferred pricing on EnergyStar and EPEAT certified electronics at the campus Microstore.

To help measure the collective impact of their actions, the university will also participate in the inter-university challenge RecycleMania alongside 600+ other North American post secondary institutions from February 5 to March 31.

To fuel the competition internally, a Photocopier Challenge and a 200-gram Challenge will be spearheaded by SustainabilityON Coordinators across campus.

Get more information at www.ucalgary.ca/sustainability.



UNIVERSITY OF
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SustainabilityON
U of C - Stepping Up Together



MacEwan Student Centre received the first of 64 new organics and recycling units which will be rolled out across campus. Photo by Justin Brown

Classifieds

Jobs

- Recycle-Logic, a recycling company based in Red Deer, is seeking an individual to manage all aspects of their day-to-day operations. Consideration will be given to candidates who have:

- A Business degree or a minimum 5-7 years progressive management experience
- 3-5 Years of operations experience
- Minimum 5 years sales and marketing experience
- Minimum 5 years experience with trucking operations

This position requires a person who can ensure and promote workplace safety, Safety Program Training, and has experience writing procedures. Recycle-Logic offers a competitive salary and opportunity for growth as well as an attractive benefits package. Applicants that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be contacted. Please submit your resume to Sales@recycle-logic.com

- Lac La Biche County is hiring for the full-time, permanent position of **Manager of Solid Waste Services** (Competition Number: 11-MGSW-32-GWC). Visit www.lacbabichcounty.ca/careers for further details. Competitions will remain open until successfully filled. Interested candidates are invited to forward their resumes in strict confidence to hr@lacbabichcounty.com.

Coming Events

Alberta Recycling Spring Seminar 2012, hosted by Alberta CARE, Feb. 29 - March 2, 2012, Banff, AB, contact: 1.866.818.2273, www.albertacare.org

27th International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management, March 11-14, 2012, Philadelphia, PA, solid.waste@widener.edu

"The Clean Up: Disasters and the Aftermath of Waste", 2012 SWANA Northern Lights Chapter Conference, March 12-14, 2012, Brandon, MB, contact: 780.496.5614, www.swananorthernlights.org

GLOBE 2012, 12th Biennial Conference & Trade Fair on Business and the Environment, March 14-16, 2012, Vancouver, BC, contact: 1.800.274.6097, www.globeseries.com

2012 Plastics Recycling Conference, March 20-21, 2012, Atlanta, GA, contact: 503.233.1305 Ext. 118, www.plasticsrecycling.com

C&D World 2012 Exhibition and Conference, March 25-27, 2011, Nashville, TN, www.cdrecycling.org

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Conference, April 15-19, 2012, Las Vegas, NV, www.isriconvention.org

BioCycle West Coast Conference, April 16-19, 2012, Portland, OR, www.BioCycleWestCoast.com

"Bringing About a Titanic Shift", SWRC Spring '12 Forum, hosted by the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council, April 19-20, 2012, Regina, SK, contact: 306.931.3242, www.saskwastereduction.ca

SWANA Canadian Symposium, April 22-25, 2012, Niagara Falls, ON, www.swanacanada.org

WasteExpo 2012, May 1-3, 2012, Las Vegas, NV, www.wasteexpo.com

"The business of green: what's in it for me?", 15th Annual Alberta Sustainable Building Symposium, hosted by the Alberta Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council, May 3, 2012, Calgary, AB, contact: 403.244.8971, www.asbs2012.ca

Community-based Social Marketing Workshops (Introductory and Advanced), with Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, May 9-11, 2012, Calgary, AB, www.cbsm.com

"Recoverable Resources: Re-Inventing Recycling", Recycling Council of British Columbia Annual Conference, May 23-25, 2012, Whistler, BC, www.rcbc.bc.ca

21st Annual Emerald Awards Ceremony, June 6, 2012, Calgary, AB, www.emerald.foundation.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Market Updates

	Per Tonne	Trend
Glass		
Coloured	0	↔
Plate	0	↔
Paper		
Cardboard (baled)	60-65	↓
Cardboard (loose)	40-50	↑
Office Pak (loose)	66-80	↔
Mixed (loose)	17-20	↓
Magazines (loose)	17-35	↓
News (loose)	35-40	↓
Plastic		
HDPE Natural (baled)	125-500	↑
HDPE Coloured (baled)	60-300	↑
Clear PE Film (baled)	140-250	↑
Coloured PE Film (baled)	0	↓
Metal		
Steel Food Cans (baled)	50	↑
White Goods	50	↑

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.