

CWMA news

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B.C. Expands list of regulated recyclable products

The government of British Columbia intends to add mercury-containing products such as light bulbs and thermostats to the provincial Recycling Regulation, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced that "Recycling waste and other discarded items protects both public health and the environment. After extensive consultations with industry and stakeholders, we have identified priority products to add to the Recycling Regulation, enhancing B.C.'s role as a leader in recycling initiatives."

In addition to adding mercury-containing items, an expansion to the existing list of recyclable electronic products is also being planned. This will allow the current list of recyclable electronics to go beyond televisions, computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards, printers and computer periphery, and cover products such as stereos, cellphones and other hand-held devices.

"We welcome this measure, which will divert mercury from landfills and keep it out of our rivers, lakes and fish," said Kathryn Molloy, executive director of Sierra Club B.C. "It is encouraging that the ministry is also considering solutions for a range of non-computer electronics that would address the impact of their cancer-causing compounds such as fire-retardants."



Bob Paul from the BC MoE talks about the new stewardship products at the CWMA luncheon

Some electronic devices contain toxic metals like mercury, lead and cadmium. If improperly disposed of, these potential pollutants, as well as the mercury contained in products such as light bulbs and thermostats, may end up in surface and ground water. Recycling items containing these harmful pollutants will substantially curb their negative impact on the environment. "This is a welcome and needed development," said Brock MacDonald, executive director of the Recycling Council of British Columbia. "Extended producer responsibility programs such as this one not only divert waste from landfills, they also shift the cost and the burden of managing the materials from municipal taxpayers to industry and consumers, where it belongs." Under B.C.'s Recycling Regulation, industry is responsible

for collecting and recycling any regulated products it manufactures or sells. It is expected that manufacturers will develop and implement their own product stewardship plans to comply with the latest additions to the regulation.

These plans should be ready for public consultation and further development in 2009. "B.C. residents have embraced our electronics recycling program," said Alda Nicmans, executive director of the Electronics Stewardship Association of B.C., a non-profit association comprising the major producers, wholesalers and retailers of electronic products in the province. "Since the program's launch in August 2007, over 4,200 metric tonnes of electronic waste have been safely recycled through reputable industries at depots and collection events throughout the province – meaning that these electronic products are no longer going to landfills or being illegally exported. We are looking forward to working with the ministry on the expansion of our successful program."

"Retail Council members are involved in more than 40 recycling programs across Canada, including electronics, oil, tires and paint here in B.C.," said Max Logan, British Columbia director of government relations for the Retail Council of Canada. "As the sellers of these products and the touch Point for consumers and manufacturers, we look forward to working with the B.C. government to develop new and expanded

recycling programs, and to help reduce our province's collective environmental footprint."

Industry-led stewardship programs facilitate material recovery and reuse, supporting the secondary processing industry and eventually eliminating these reusable recyclable materials from municipal landfills. There are currently nine industry groups in B.C. operating recycling programs for electronics, paint, oil, beverage containers, tires, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, gasoline, solvents and flammable liquids.

Visit www.recycling.gov.bc.ca to learn more about product stewardship in B.C.

Elementary School work hard to set example

"Reduce, reuse, recycle" has become a mantra at Koksilah Elementary School (SD#79 Cowichan Valley) as students and staff work hard to be a district example by cutting 600-700 bags of garbage a year.

Tuesday morning, teacher Kathy O'Donnell and four of her students Brenda Sylvester, William Rodriguez, Payton Seymour and Angelina Modeste talked about the way they have cut back on garbage by using their heads.

"I thought this would be a great program for Koksilah to undertake. We needed to find out how much trash we produce and then how much we could reduce. We also needed to build a system all schools might use to add to their efforts. We have to make it easy for both teachers and students" she said.

And they have.

"It's been both educational and successful," she said.

Koksilah has saved about three bags of garbage a day and recycling costs have been more than offset by cutting the cost of garbage pickup and the kids love being part of the solution, according to O'Donnell.

Brenda said she likes the idea that recycling can keep things out of the landfill.

Angelina said she was happy they were helping the environment.

"When it snows or rains hard in a landfill, the water can turn into a little stream and it's bad for fish as well as for us because we drink that water" she said.

The object of some of the recycling is to make soil for planting bulbs and vegetables and Payton and William helpfully carried small containers of soil back from their classroom to the school's two green "worm" compost bins, where hundreds of "red wriggler" worms were doing their good work.

Watching the worms hatch and change colour as they mature has been fun for the students, O'Donnell said.



Other food waste is collected in connection with Cowichan Tribes and such items as foil and plastic are also hauled away to recycle. Juice boxes are gathered and the money from them is used to help fund field trips, O'Donnell said, adding that the support of the school's custodian and district staff has been a great help in keeping the project going so successfully.

School Trustee Ann Andersen, who was on hand for the presentation Tuesday, said she would be taking the idea to the Board of Education with the aim of seeing similar programs established in every school.

Lexi Baines

Cowichan Citizen Staff

Metro Waste Paper Recovery earns supplier recognition, Richmond, (BC)

Catalyst Paper's Paper Recycling Division (PRD) has named Metro Waste Paper Recovery as the recipient of its 2007 Supplier of the Year award. Metro Waste is the only supplier to have earned this recognition for the third time. Metro Waste supplies PRD with recovered newspaper and excelled on criteria including: Paper Quality - supplying clean, dry paper; Reliability — consistently shipping at or above contract levels; Delivery ensuring safe truck loading and good bale integrity; and Service — including complete documentation and responsiveness.

"Metro is currently our largest supplier and we're pleased to once again name them our best supplier," said Doug McLeod, purchasing director for PRD. "A significant proportion of paper is recovered within close proximity to PRD which reflects the value of well developed curbside collection programs in cities and regional districts throughout British Columbia."

"Metro Waste, and other suppliers, share our commitment to efficiency and together we were able to increase our recovery rate and keep quality levels at better than the industry average," McLeod said.

Established in Ontario in 1979, Metro Waste has become a leading continental processor and marketer of recyclable paper and other secondary materials — handling more than one million tonnes annually. It operates five recovery facilities in BC. Details of Catalyst's recycled fibre use and other aspects of its sustainability performance are available in its just-released 2007 Sustainability Report which is

available at
www.catalystpaper.com

Expression of Interest to Operate a Return-it Depot in Victoria, BC

Encorp Pacific (Canada) is calling for proposals to operate a Return-It Depot in Victoria, BC. As with Vancouver, this region is presently underserved and may also be considered as an electronics recycling drop off collection site. Applicants are advised to check with the local Municipality in regards to the correct zoning for a Return-It Depot prior to selecting a building for their business plan submission.

Interested applicants should check the Encorp Pacific (Canada) website
<http://www.encorp.ca/cfm/index.cfm?It=104&Id=21&Se=34>
or email linda@encorpinc.com at Encorp for additional information.

CWMA Annual Conference



CWMA 2008 CONFERENCE

Plans are well underway for this years CWMA conference, set for **October 29 – 31, 2008** at the Crown Isle Resort in Courtenay, BC. An exciting program is being put together for delegates that will focus on integrated waste management and the impact the strategy has on global warming. The program will include;

Leading-Edge Themes
Regional District roundtables
Trade Show
Networking
Facility Tours

Look for more information to follow and check for updates at
<http://cwma.bc.ca/events.html>

Garbage truck caught doing 112 in a 60-zone

A garbage truck has been impounded and its driver faces charges in what is believed to be the first case of a commercial vehicle snagged by Ontario's new street-racing legislation.

"I don't think this guy is going to get the employee-of-the-month prize anytime soon," Const. Joanna van Mierlo of the Huron County detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police said Thursday.

An OPP officer clocked the truck speeding at 112 kilometres per hour in a 60 km/h zone Wednesday in the small town of Goderich, about 200 kilometres northwest of Toronto.

Police stopped the tractor-trailer-sized truck in a two-lane paved road in a small hamlet that they had chosen to target.

"We had identified a number of areas in the county to be problem areas," van Mierlo said. "As a result, this guy was pulled over during a direct speed blitz by our officer."

Van Mierlo said the truck belongs to a private garbage contractor and the driver was working at the time.

"I think this is the first commercial vehicle to get pulled over for street racing," she said. "It's pretty significant, considering large commercial vehicles have a harder time stopping on a dime."

The truck has been impounded for seven days and the driver's licence has also been suspended for a week.

Jacob Hovius, 58, of Clinton, Ont., faces one count of racing and one count of failing to inspect his motor vehicle.

Canwest News Service

Plastic Bags

Faced with a growing push in some jurisdictions to ban or limit use of plastic bags, some U.S. grocers in recent months have encouraged consumers to recycle bags or bring their own. At least one, the U.S. organic foods giant, Whole Foods Market Inc., plans to do away with the bags altogether.

Last April, Leaf Rapids, Manitoba, a community about 980 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg, became the first community in Canada to ban plastic bags. Last spring, councillors in Tofino, B. C., also voted to ban plastic bags. And in December, Manitoba's liquor stores said they would no longer offer customers single-use plastic bags once their current supply runs out.

San Francisco passed a bag ban that took effect in November. The only plastic bags now allowed for big grocers are made of compostable material. Similar regulations are being considered by cities across the U.S., though proposals in places like Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland, foundered last year.

According to a January Associated Press story, the United States lags behind many other countries globally in placing limits on plastic bags. Ireland and Germany levy fees for every bag handed out by stores, and several African nations have set thickness requirements that have effectively banned the flimsy thin bags that float in the air. Earlier this month, China, the world's fastest growing economy, banned free plastic shopping bags and encouraged people to use cloth ones instead.

"This issue is not going away. It is not necessarily going to take over the plastic bag market in a year or two, but it is indicative of a real

trend," said Allen Hershkowitz, director of the solid waste program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Source: Canadian Press

Calendar of Events

CWMA 2008 Annual conference
October 29 – 31, 2008 at the Crown Isle Resort, Courtenay, BC see <http://cwma.bc.ca/events.html>

RCBC Annual conference
June 25-27, 2008 Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites, Vancouver, BC see http://www.rcbc.bc.ca/events/annual_conference.htm

CWMA representation on Encorp Advisory Committee

At the beginning of May, Will Burrows, Executive Director of CWMA, was appointed to the Encorp Pacific (Canada) Advisory Committee. Encorp's governance structure includes an Advisory Committee consisting of stakeholder representatives from local governments, environmental organizations, institutions, small brand-owners, non-profit organizations and depots. The committee provides comments from their constituents to Encorp's Board of Directors on such things as budget, financial statements and consumer awareness campaigns.

Energy saving suggestion for Pick up of Waste Bins/Bags

"Two for T" (Two neighbors / trash)
Lucy Silva of Toronto Ontario forwarded CWMA the following great ideas for consideration by regional district and municipal staff;

Suggestion:
Have side-by-side homes place their bins/bags on a coordinated side so that, when the truck stops, it does "two" pick-ups at the same time.

Benefits:
Fewer stops, therefore less time to pick up.
Reduced fuel since there are fewer starts/stops on the road.
Significant dollars saved by, not only our city, but also others.
Homeowners are quite capable of "coordinating" the "pairing" of homes. While some may not be able to pair, the reduced stops are still significant.
Simple idea with lots of benefits!

In some cases, more than two can be grouped for even greater savings. Citizens can determine what works best in their own immediate area.

While a government-coordinated effort can move this along more quickly using their wide communication methods, citizens can go ahead and do this with their neighbors. Start with your own home and neighbors on both sides - - and also ask them to do the same. Here are some tips from the people that have already started:

I walked our street to see if there was a logical "pairing" with my home. There was and I then selected the house to my left to pair with. That meant that everyone else could then pair if they wanted to.

I labeled my bins/blue boxes with my house number so that I take my own back.

Once you have set this up, let me know other ideas/suggestions & I will incorporate them into my notes for others to consider. Let's all do our part to conserve energy!

Lucy Silva can be reached at;
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New Directors appointed at AGM

At the April 18, 2008 AGM, the following directors were elected to the board of CWMA;

- Anke Bergner – CRD
- Jacqueline Tudor-Jones – Metro Waste Paper Recovery
- Malcolm Harvey – Encorp Pacific (Canada)
- Reid Hudson – Steel Pacific Recycling

They join;

- Jerry Kupiak – Sun Coast Waste
- Michael Morrison – CVRD
- Drew Hadfield – ACRD

all who are serving their second year on the board.

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