

# CWMA news

◀ Newsletter Of The Coast Waste Management Association ▶

*The Newsletter of  
The Coast Waste  
Management  
Association  
Volume 10 • Issue 4  
August 2008*

## CWMA Annual Conference



Plans are well underway for this year's CWMA conference, on **October 29 – 31, 2008** at the Crown Isle Resort in Courtenay, BC. The conference kicks off with a meeting for Regional District, Municipal and Ministry staff on Wednesday morning. All delegates are invited to join us on the tours of local waste and recycling facilities. There will be a reception at the Comox Art Gallery in the evening catered by the North Island Chefs Association who will be serving locally produced foods and drink. Thursday and a half day on Friday will contain an extensive program including panel discussions on Integrated Waste Management, Bio fuels, Plastics recycling, Stewardship Programs and much more. Our invited speakers include Eileen Berenyi of Governmental Advisory Associates and Jerry Powell of Plastics

Recycling Update. We hope that you will join us for two days of refreshing presentations, panel discussions and networking opportunities at this spectacular resort. Registration is available now on line at the CWMA website. [CWMA Events - 2008 Annual Conference](#)

## Training opportunities

CWMA are looking into the possibility of hosting a number of training seminars for your staff members. Topics up for discussion include WHMIS, TDG, spill response, forklift, aerial lift, H2S Alive, and First Aid Attendant training. The plan is to host the one day seminars at a number of locations within our membership catchment area so as to reduce the travel requirements for attendees. Attendees will benefit from the opportunity to network with their peers and receive the up to date certification required for their work. If this type of program is of interest to you or you have additional training needs that CWMA can provide, please contact the office by phone or email.

## RCBC Zero waste Conference



I recently returned from the RCBC conference held in Vancouver. What an excellent event it was. I was enlightened by many of the presentations and found the opportunity to network with others in our industry invaluable. I found the movie "the story of stuff" ([www.storyofstuff.org](http://www.storyofstuff.org)) along with the key note address by Annie Leonard very motivating. As leaders in our sector we need to develop opportunities as well as regulations which will facilitate the separation of recyclables from waste. Not only are the public good at this, they are used to doing it. In Kamikatsu, a small community in the hills of eastern Japan, residents have to compost all their food waste and sort other rubbish into 34 different categories. Closer to home, fast food restaurants in Halifax, NS, have installed multi-material recycling bins so that their customers sort the waste after they have finished dining, just as we all

do at home before loading the dishwasher. By making connections that people can easily relate to, we can facilitate the increased waste diversion we seek. By increasing and promoting communication between School districts, local governments, First Nations, business, non-government organizations, and the Provincial and Federal governments regarding the management of waste, our goals can be achieved. As CWMA members we need to get this information into the schools now so that the next generation will accept this as the normal way of life, and in turn we will see a substantial increase in our recycling rates.

### **Vinyl ban in Duncan**

In a move that brings municipal planners a step closer to working in conjunction with the waste management department, the City of Duncan have agreed to add a number sections to their Official Community Plan that will no longer permit the use of vinyl siding on buildings. Mayor Phil Kent explained that natural siding materials, such as fiber cement and locally harvested wood, help to achieve the lowest possible impact on the environment.

As vinyl is one of the more challenging materials for plastics recyclers to deal with, initiatives such as this one will have a significant and positive impact down the road.

### **Ban the bag?**

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

### **CVRD Zero Waste Events**



After many years of successful curbside recycling and waste reduction programs, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is now reaching out to event organizers. The CVRD is encouraging organizers to consider making their next event Zero Waste.

Already the Zero Waste initiative has garnered an enormous amount of support amongst both visitors and organizers, and has now become an integral part of many annual events in the Cowichan Valley. Whether your event is big or small, Zero Waste can work for you. Some local examples of events that have gone Zero Waste are:

- local fairs
- music festivals
- corporate events
- sports tournaments

The numbers don't lie when it comes to Zero Waste. Past events have shown dramatic waste reduction. In fact, many large festivals are already achieve a 65% waste reduction rate, which not only reduces the cost of garbage disposal but also provides close to \$500.00 in refundables to the event.

A typical Zero Waste set-up will have a number of large wheeled-totes with hinged lids on hand to use as receptacles for the various forms of waste. The number of totes required varies according to the number of visitors to an event.

All of the equipment available for loan can be adapted to the needs of the venue.

The Zero Waste resource guide takes the guess work out of making your next event Zero Waste by providing helpful tips on event promotion, purchasing, equipment set-up and disposal options.

What the CVRD Zero Waste Program has to Offer:

Let the CVRD Zero Waste Program take the guesswork out of making any event Zero Waste.

- A Resource Manual for holding Zero Waste Events, complete with tips on everything from purchasing, signage and disposal options.
- 4 Complete Recycling Centres, each centre contains
  - Organics recycling tote (all organic waste, including plate scrapings, used paper products, wooden stir sticks, meat, etc.)
  - Refundables recycling tote (e.g. pop cans and beverage containers)
  - Mixed Recycling tote (household recyclables, including clean paper, tin cans, etc.)
  - Garbage toteStations can be tailored to the needs of each event and are suitable for both small and large events.
- Individual signage for recycling totes and recycling centers

**Editors note. A colleague shared with me recently that there were no recycling containers at an Earth Day event held in his community. If event planners were required to**

**address waste and recycling needs as part of the permit requirements then this issue would no longer be over looked.**

### **Bag a bargain with German recycling**

"See over there", says the site supervisor, pointing to a vandalised container in the corner. "Thieves again. Took PCs and other electrical stuff."

The scene of the crime is not as you might expect some branch of PC World, or any retailer at all for that matter, but a recycling yard.

After reading that Britain is Europe's second worst recycler, I called in at my local Recyclinghof to discover whether we might learn anything from the Germans.

With a turnover of around €50 billion (\$78 billion CDN), waste management, and evidently waste theft, is serious business in Germany.

While Britain landfills around 75 per cent of its waste, Germans send virtually the same amount to the recyclers. And Bavarians do it with zest, each collecting an average 322 kilos of recyclable rubbish a year. Less than one per cent of the remaining waste ends up as landfill.

The separation of rubbish is not compulsory, yet recent surveys show 90 per cent of Bundesbürger enjoy sorting their household rubbish.

From my experience of sidestepping piles of bright yellow bags in our cul-de-sac on

designated collection days, that doesn't surprise me. One of my colleagues even takes time off work to sort the family's rubbish.

When I arrived in Germany 10 years ago I had little idea about recycling. Until one day, when I ignorantly threw into the "rest waste" an old hair-dryer, which was meant for the "recyclable bulk waste" bin.

Neighbours immediately put notes under my door and left a trail of polite yet firm "Verboten!" signs around the respective bins, pointing out my dumb deed.

Umweltsünden - "environmental sins" - are so rare in Germany that they make local news. My little faux-pas might not have attracted media coverage, but more serious cases, such as fly-tipping, certainly do.

Ever since 1991, when a recycling company called Duales System Deutschland was set up, people have been busily sorting their rubbish into four colour-coded bins.

The green one is for all packaging made of paper or cardboard. Boxes should be flattened and emptied of any plastic-wrapper contents. Plastic, please note, goes into the yellow bin, along with milk cartons, cans, polystyrene and aluminium.

Simple enough, so long as you don't stuff recyclables inside each other, like the yogurt cup inside the baked beans tin - that's verboten. Rinsing empty cans beforehand is a little more time-consuming, but most Germans cheerfully do so.

Strict laws mean shops in Germany have to take back bottles and cans for recycling, even those that they do not actually sell. So returning empties to the point of sale is a force of habit for Germans - and expats.

Most bottles have a green dot on them, which means the item is recyclable. Supermarket car parks generally have bottle banks for non deposit/return glass, which most burghers meticulously collect by colour beforehand, of course.



***Shops must take back cans for recycling, even those they don't sell***

After recycling all your packaging and biodegradables (they go in the Biotonne, or brown bin) there's hardly anything left over.

Unrecyclables land in the grey/black bin. The contents are of a generally smelly nature, including nappies, fish bones and meat scraps.

Unwanted household objects - old frying pans, ceramics and, yes, even hair-dryers, are most certainly not "rest waste". They're "recyclable bulk waste" remember, and this should be taken either to

the local recycling centre or left outside for periodical collection.

Interestingly, very little of this "bulk waste" actually ends up at the dump, since many second-hand dealers tour the neighbourhood, claiming whatever they like the look of. Unlike taking from the recycling yard this is lawful.

The majority of bulk gets loaded into private vans long before the municipal lorries arrive. While it's not streng verboten to simply bung everything into the grey bin, most Germans I talk to almost reel at the idea, like Anja and Christoph, who proudly show me their cellar, piled high with colour-coded bins.

On the wall hangs a chart with dates of each collection ringed with virtually every colour of the rainbow. There are half a dozen or so dates for every month and Anja seems able to recite each one off by heart.

The recycling ethic is inculcated from an early age in Germany. At kindergarten toddlers learn to sort waste into four categories.

Later on it becomes a cross-curricular topic, particularly in English lessons. I've lost count of the number of classes I've given on global warming, the dangers of deforestation and energy-saving tips.

Having not missed a single collection date and having remembered to take waste poisons and dangerous liquids to the local fire station for collection every fourth Friday, there's only one more thing to do: sell your very last piece of unwanted junk at the local

Trödelmarkt, or flea market.

Rummaging through chuck-outs at one such venue, I happen across an old put-up bed bearing an uncanny resemblance to the one I'd recently put out for collection.

Perhaps we can all learn a thing or two from the Germans.

Telegraph Media Group Limited - **Tim Howe**

***New CWMA members***

The CWMA would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members who have joined the association this year.

ABC Recycling Ltd.- Contact [Rick Coombs](#) (250) 286-3504

Asset Investment Recovery. Contact [Daryl Anderson](#) (250) 952-4675

BFI – Contact [Mike Tripp](#) (250) 652-4414

Electronics Stewardship Assoc of BC – Contact [Joyce Thayer](#) (604) 696-6077

SonBird Refuse & Recycling Ltd. – Contact [Chris Bird](#) (250) 726-4406

Tetra Pak Canada – Contact [Jaan Koel](#) (905) 780-6030

A rectangular box containing the logo for Recycle Systems. The logo features a stylized recycling symbol (three chasing arrows) to the left of the text "Recycle Systems". Below the logo is the tagline "Equipment for solid waste and recycling". To the right of the logo is the text "Sales • Parts • Service". Below this, there is a list of services: "• Harris Two Ram Balers", "• Selco Single Ram Balers", "• Mosley Parts", "• Conveyors/Sort Systems", "• Downstroke Balers New/Used", and "• Compactors/Containers". At the bottom of the box, it says "Western Canada's only factory authorized Harris/Selco Distributor" and "Recycle Systems • 888-453-9300 • www.recyclesys.com".

**Calendar of Events**

**Composting Council of Canada National Conference**

September 17-19, 2008 at the Château Mont-Sainte-Anne, QC

**Recycling Council of Alberta**

October 8 - 10, 2008 "Paint the Town Green" - 2008 Waste Reduction Conference Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alberta

**AMRC Fall Conference**

October 22 - 24, 2008 Queens Landing, Niagara on-the-lake, ON

**CWMA Annual Conference**

October 29 - 31, 2008 "Why Waste Energy" Crown Isle Resort, Courtenay BC

**Coast Waste Management Association,  
1185 Rolmar Cres, Cobble Hill,  
BC, V0R 1L4**

**Tel: 250-733 2213**

**Fax: 250-733 2214  
Toll-free: 1-866-386-2962  
Email: [info@cwma.bc.ca](mailto:info@cwma.bc.ca)**

**Web: [www.cwma.bc.ca](http://www.cwma.bc.ca)**

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