



A WORLD
WITHOUT
PACKAGING
WASTE

PACKAGING POLICY & STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES: CANADA, USA & EUROPE

SUMMER 2017 | Vol. 5 Issue 1



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to PAC NEXT's first biannual Packaging Policy & Stewardship Program Updates for 2017. There has been much activity in the past six months, including updating the title of this report to reflect ongoing policy developments that affect packaging but are not limited to extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation.

Within Canada, efforts have been focused on consultative processes and stakeholder engagement as seen with the Recycle BC program for this fall as well as Ontario's current public consultation program for its proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework. Programs continue to expand its efforts to recycle and recover more while also controlling costs. Of course, dialogue on the circular economy and what it means for packaging is still very much topical (and also demonstrated in Europe) and will be the focus of this year's Conference on Canadian Stewardship in Montreal on September 27th to 29th.

In the U.S., there is a mixture of state recycling programs that are currently under threat, namely Florida, Georgia, Texas and North Carolina, but also new opportunities for container deposit programs in other various states such as Illinois and Virginia. On a local level, New York City has finally reached a decision to reinstate the expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam ban. This sends a clear signal to industry that the need to address EPS contamination concerns and to secure end markets is more urgent than ever.

On a promising note, there continues to be enormous engagement from the packaging community to help support recycling infrastructure development and innovation through funding channels such as the Closed Loop Fund.

I hope that you find this biannual update an informative and helpful resource!

Rachel Morier
PAC Packaging Consortium

CANADIAN NEWS

CSSA's Adjustment Policy affirmed by Stewardship Program Boards

Over the past year, some stewards and/or their consultants have expressed dissatisfaction with the Adjustment Policy administered by CSSA on behalf of Stewardship Ontario, Recycle BC (formerly MMBC), MMSW, and MMSM. The Boards of Stewardship Ontario, Recycle BC, and MMSW (the "Boards") have recently considered and affirmed their ongoing commitment to the Adjustment Policy. This [report](#) summarizes steward concerns and the Boards' responses.

CSSA's "Ready to Report" Webinar Materials available

CSSA held its annual reporting webinar in March of 2017. Webinar topics included the following: additions to the Guidebook and sector Tip Sheets; using updated Steward Lists to identify resident and voluntary stewards for each program; material category and sector-specific reporting tips; and collecting and submitting data for the WeRecycle Portal. The [materials from the webinar](#) are now available.



RECYCLEBC™

MMBC rebrands to Recycle BC

MMBC has changed its name to Recycle BC as part of an ongoing effort to better connect with the public, encouraging them to recycle more and to do so correctly. The organization is promoting the new brand with a challenge intended to get people to consider and discuss the importance of recycling.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/mmbc-changes-its-name-to-recycle-bc/>

Recycle BC calls for increased effort to keep recycling stream clean

Recent changes to paper/cardboard markets require all collectors (depots, curbside, and multi-family) to be extra diligent about the amount of contamination and cross contamination in the recycling stream. The majority of the paper/cardboard collected under the Recycle BC program is shipped to China and processed into new paper products. Recently, the Chinese government initiated a campaign entitled National Sword 2017, which aims to improve compliance with applicable regulations and to prevent contaminated waste from entering the country. Subsequently, the allowance for contamination and cross-contamination has decreased substantially. Entire shipments of paper/cardboard may be rejected if contamination rates are too high. Accordingly, Recycle BC will be increasing its communications with BC residents to ensure they understand the importance of keeping plastic bags out of curbside and multi-family materials.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/increased-need-keep-fibre-stream-clean/>

Four new communities join the Recycle BC program

Kamloops, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission have joined the Recycle BC program. The addition of these four communities is the start of a process to add more communities to the program in 2017. In July of 2017, 10 more communities (Grand Forks, Christina Lake, Eholt, Greenwood, Midway, Kettle Valley, Rock Creek, Westbridge, Beaverdell, and Carmi) are expected to join the program.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/residential-recycling-regional-district-kootenay-boundary-transitions-recycle-bc-july-1/>

Recycle BC to engage stakeholders in a consultation process

In November of 2017, Recycle BC will be engaging stakeholders in a public consultation process on the Recycle BC program. The consultation event will take place on November 15 and 16. During the consultation, there will be nine workshops for participants to attend. This consultation event will be Recycle BC's main event this year instead of a Collectors' Conference. [Consultation event details and registration information](#) are available.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/save-date-mmbc-consultation-november-15-16-2017/>

Recycle BC's network of depots expands

Queensborough Landing Return-It Depot, Chilliwack Bottle Depot, and Panorama Village Return-It Depot have joined Recycle BC's network of more than 200 depots. They now accept all materials in Recycle BC's residential packaging and printed paper recycling program.

Sources: <https://recyclebc.ca/queensborough-landing-return-depot-expands-accepted-materials/>; <https://recyclebc.ca/chilliwack-bottle-depot-now-accepting-packaging-printed-paper/>; and <https://recyclebc.ca/panorama-village-return-depot-expands-accepted-material/>

Recycle BC's expansion of flat-fee categories simplifies steward reporting

Recycle BC has introduced new flat-fee categories for stewards supplying between 5,000 and 15,000 kg of material to the residential market annually. The categories provide more stewards with increased reporting efficiency and can be used for 2017 reporting that will inform 2018 invoices. Current stewards can review their previous reports to determine if they are eligible for flat fees. New stewards who believe they qualify for one of the flat-fee categories should confirm with the [Online Assessment Tool](#), proceed to the [WeRecycle Portal](#) and register, complete a Member Agreement, and then follow reporting guidelines.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/mmbc-expansion-flat-fee-categories-simplifies-steward-reporting/>

SARCAN recycling program now accepts dairy containers

As of April 1, 2017, SARCAN depots now accept plastic and paperboard cartons for milk, cream, buttermilk, liquid creamers, lactose-free milk, and drinkable yogurt for refund of a paid deposit. These containers will also be subject to environmental handling fees. For more information about this change, read the [Government of Saskatchewan's press release](#).

Source: <https://recycle.ab.ca/news/dairy-containers-added-to-sks-sarcandeposit-program/>

RCA to hold 2017 Waste Reduction Conference in October

RCA will hold its 2017 Waste Reduction Conference, themed "It Takes a Village," on October 11 through 13. Potential presenters are welcome to submit proposals on a range of topics, including reuse, environmental education, food waste, problematic materials, and progressive ICI programs. Confirmed keynote speakers are Zero Waste Europe and visionary architect Sudhir Suri (L'OEUF Architects). [Preliminary conference and registration information](#) is available.

Source: <https://recycle.ab.ca/news/rca-conference-2017-announcement/>

Alberta Depot remains leader in Canadian beverage recycling industry

Industry analyst CM Consulting released its [2016 “Who Pays What” report](#) in December, featuring the latest data on beverage container recovery in Canada. Alberta Depot achieved a beverage container return rate of more than 85%. Every year, Alberta bottle depots collect more than two billion beverage containers, which equals more than 107,324,978 kg of waste that is diverted from landfills.

Source: <https://albertadepot.ca/news/alberta-depot-remains-an-industry-leader/>



MMSW introduces new fee categories and tool to help small businesses

MMSW has introduced new flat-fee categories and an online assessment tool to help low-volume stewards meet their reporting requirements quickly and easily. Previously, businesses resident in Saskatchewan with annual revenue between \$2 million and \$5 million were required to pay an annual \$500 flat fee for the first two years of the program and were not required to report to MMSW. Stewards who believe they qualify for one of the low-volume categories should confirm with the [Online Assessment Tool](#), proceed to the [WeRecycle Portal](#) and register, complete a Member Agreement, and then follow reporting guidelines.

Source: <http://www.mmsk.ca/news/new-mmsw-fee-categories-tool-help-small-businesses/>

MMSW enters Post-Transition Phase 1

As of January 1, 2017, MMSW entered Post-Transition Phase 1. The payment model for Collectors stays the same at a fixed rate of \$11.75 per household per year. As per the [Program Plan](#), during Post-Transition Phase 1, payments will be made to municipalities to manage residential WPP supplied by MMSW Members. MMSW will be hiring an accredited accounting firm in 2017 to conduct audits for a sample of Collectors to determine supply chain costs of WPP in Saskatchewan.

Source: <http://www.mmsk.ca/news/collectors-mmsw-enters-post-transition-phase-1/>

RFP: SO and Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) 2017 and 2018 Waste Composition Studies

SO and CIF solicited proposals from qualified contractors between March and April of 2017 to undertake waste composition studies in selected Ontario Municipalities. The RFP can be accessed [here](#).

Source: <http://stewardshipontario.ca/news/rfp-stewardship-ontariocif-2017-2018-waste-composition-studies/>

Ontario Government proclaims Waste-Free Ontario Act

On November 30, 2016, the Ontario Government proclaimed the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 \(RRCEA\)](#) and the [Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016 \(WDTA\)](#), enacted by the [Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016 \(WFOA\)](#). The legislative package also includes a companion discussion paper: [“Draft Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy.”](#) The RRCEA and the WDTA replace the Waste Diversion Act. This legislation establishes a new Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (the Authority), which replaces Waste Diversion Ontario. The Authority will act as the overseer of new and existing programs.

Source: <http://stewardshipontario.ca/news/waste-free-ontario-act-proclaimed/>

Ontario releases public consultation document to address food and organic waste

Ontario released [Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario](#) to provide input towards the development of a Food and Organic Waste Framework. Comments are due on July 30, 2017.

ÉEQ to host 2017 Conference on Canadian Stewardship



Conference organizers chose ÉEQ to host the 2017 Conference on Canadian Stewardship. The theme of this year's conference is "EPR and circular economy." The conference will examine various topics related to this theme, including the governance of programs, the metrics of measuring program performance, innovation in product

and packaging design, and how programs evolve to be more effective systems to benefit producers and consumers while complying with government regulations. The conference will be held from September 27 to 29. [Conference details and registration information](#) are available.

Source: <http://www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca/conference-on-canadian-stewardship-eeq-to-host-the-2017-edition-in-montreal>

ÉEQ's Innovative Glass Works Plan: Five sorting centres to test new cutting-edge glass processing equipment

Under ÉEQ's [Innovative Glass Works Plan](#), five sorting centres will take part in pilot projects to test cutting-edge cleaning and sorting equipment for glass collected through curbside recycling. The sorting centres will contribute to the search for a concrete solution for 100% of the glass collected through curbside recycling. In winter 2017, official inaugurations will be held in each sorting centre to mark the installation of the equipment, which represents a total investment of \$5.5M.

Source: <http://www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca/eeqs-innovative-glass-works-plan-five-sorting-centres-to-test-new-cutting-edge-glass-processing-equipment>

U.S. NEWS

New York City to reinstate foam ban

NYC will reinstate a ban on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) food service packaging in November of 2017. According to a [report](#) released by the city's Department of Sanitation (DSNY), EPS food service packaging cannot be recycled in an economically feasible or an environmentally effective manner.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/plastics/2017/05/17/nyc-moves-reinstate-foam-ban-new-analysis/>

State recycling programs gradually erode

During the past decade, various state programs, including in Florida, Georgia, and Texas, have been defunded. Recently, a North Carolina government office – the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) – that provides considerable recycling industry support has been targeted for cuts. The North Carolina State Senate has approved a budget that proposes to eliminate funding for DEACS's programs.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2017/05/16/state-recycling-program-targeted-elimination/>

Container deposit programs and bills aiming to replace them are simultaneously increasing

Container deposit programs have been introduced in Illinois and Virginia and expansions have been proposed in California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont. At the same time, however, bills aiming to replace these programs are also on the rise. Currently, Connecticut and Iowa are among the states where bills have been proposed to replace the programs. According to container deposit

opponents, the programs are ineffective and should be replaced with a tax. Nonetheless, container deposit supporters argue that the focus should be on improving the effectiveness of the programs rather than on replacing them.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2017/05/16/connecticut-iowa-serve-bottle-bill-case-studies/>

Maryland signs two bills aimed at improving organics diversion

The first bill – [House Bill 1349](#) – will regulate compostability claims on plastic products. The second bill – [the Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Act](#) – will study ways to boost composting throughout the state. House Bill 1349 requires products sold in the state and labeled as compostable to meet specific biodegradability standards. The Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Act requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to study and recommend ways to boost composting in the state.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2017/05/09/maryland-approves-biodegradable-labeling-law-composting-study/>

Governor Rick Snyder to establish new recycling plan for Michigan

In order to boost residential recycling in Michigan, Governor Rick Snyder is developing a new recycling plan for the state. The state's current residential recycling rate is 15%, which is among the lowest in the country. The new recycling plan aims to encourage more people to recycle and push for increased residential recycling services. The governor will develop this plan by utilizing recommendations sent to him by two task forces.

Source: <http://www.waste360.com/waste-reduction/gov-snyder-establish-new-recycling-plan-michigan>

Recycling Partnership releases 2016 Annual Report

The [report](#) highlights benefits of the organization's work, focusing on year-on-year growth, systems solutions across the supply chain, and the multiplier effect that intelligently-deployed new infrastructure delivers.

Source: <http://recyclingpartnership.org/the-recycling-partnership-releases-2016-annual-report/>



Nestlé Waters North America invests \$6 million in Closed Loop Fund

Nestlé Waters North America is investing \$6 million in the Closed Loop Fund. The Closed Loop Fund is a \$100 million social impact investment fund to increase the recycling of products and packaging in the U.S. Nestlé Waters will join 3M, Coca-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive, Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson, Keurig Green Mountain, PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation, Procter & Gamble, Unilever, and Walmart and the Walmart Foundation in funding comprehensive recycling infrastructure and programs in cities across the U.S. To date, the Closed Loop Fund has diverted more than 100,000 tons of recyclables from landfill, and the 11 projects currently funded are expected to divert four million tons by 2025. Nestlé Waters' investment in the Closed Loop Fund is significant in enabling people to recycle more and to do so efficiently, helping to improve the country's recycling system. The Closed Loop Fund has released its first [Impact Report](#) in November of 2016.

Source: <http://www.waste360.com/waste-reduction/nestl-waters-north-america-invests-6m-closed-loop-fund>

EUROPEAN NEWS

Conservative manifesto pledges support for “better packaging” and “more recycling”

The Conservative Party’s 2017 General Election manifesto has called for better packaging and more recycling. However, the document does not provide detail about how the Conservative government would approach packaging and recycling issues.

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/news/environment/conservative-manifesto-pledges-support-for-better-packaging-19-05-2017>

Welsh Cabinet Secretary announces a £6.5m Circular Economy fund

The Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, announced a £6.5m fund to help the country move towards a circular economy. The fund will begin in 2019. It builds on the successful £14m Accelerating Reprocessing Infrastructure Development (ARID) project, which helped businesses create 178 new jobs, reduce, reuse, or recycle 399,000 tonnes of waste, and avoid 79.5 KT carbon emissions. The fund will help Wales towards the milestones of 70% recycling by 2025 and 100% recycling by 2050, as set out in the Welsh Government’s waste strategy [Towards Zero Waste](#).

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/news/environment/welsh-cabinet-secretary-confirms-6-5m-circular-economy-fund-13-03-2017>

HELPFUL LINKS

BC

<https://recyclebc.ca/stewards/steward-news/>

Alberta

<http://esrd.alberta.ca/waste/>
<https://www.recycle.ab.ca/public-policy>

Saskatchewan

<http://www.mmsk.ca/notices-alerts>

Manitoba

<http://stewardshipmanitoba.org/mmsm/whats-new/>

Ontario

<http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/latest-news/>
<http://rpra.ca/News-Updates>

Quebec

<http://www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca/news-and-events>

Nova Scotia

<http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/waste/>

Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance

<http://www.cssalliance.ca/latest-news>

U.S.

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/advancing-sustainable-materials-management-facts-and-figures-report>

Europe

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target_review.htm
<http://www.europen-packaging.eu/downloads/1608.html>

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