



Last week, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) released a 17-page progressive report on the Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (CAP-EPR) that CCME approved in 2009.

According to the report, *"Since the adoption of CAP-EPR, nine out of ten provinces have legislated EPR programs or requirements and the number of product categories covered by legislated EPR programs or requirements, both in effect or soon to be, has almost tripled."*

The report also presented limited statistics on various EPR categories. For example, the six provinces with electronics EPR programs in 2012 collected 123,694 tons of end-of-life devices.

Future product categories targeted for CCME EPR efforts include construction and demolition materials, furniture, textiles and carpet, and ozone-depleting appliances.

Download the CCME progress report at [http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/pn\\_1524\\_cap\\_epr\\_progress\\_report\\_e.pdf](http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/pn_1524_cap_epr_progress_report_e.pdf).

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## Minnesota Ban on Landfill Disposal of Mercury-Containing Products Takes Effect

On Friday, disposal of mercury-containing thermometers and thermostats become illegal in Minnesota. The products were previously exempt from an earlier disposal ban, but the 2014 Minnesota State Legislature recently approved removing the exemptions.

Mercury-containing thermostat manufacturers are now responsible to collect and safely process their end-of-life devices. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has responsibility for enforcing the new law.

Get more information at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-news/current-news-releases/new-law-to-get-more-mercury-out-of-the-waste-stream-takes-effect.html>.

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## Monterey County, California Tentatively Approves Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

Last week, the Monterey County (California) Board of Supervisors gave tentative approval to an ordinance to ban the distribution of single-use plastic bags. The ordinance would take effect 31 days after a second reading and approval, which is expected for later this month. However, affected retail establishments will have six months to become compliant with the ordinance.

The ordinance allows retailers to distribute recycled paper and reusable bags for a fee of 10 cents per bag. Bag fees must be itemized on customer receipts, and retailers must maintain records of the number of bags distributed and fees charged for a minimum of one year.

The ordinance also includes a provision that allows to Board of Supervisors to increase the bag fee to 25 cents after the 10-cent fee has been in place for at least one year.

The Monterey County draft ordinance is available for review at [monterey.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=b068a3f6-d1dc-49e3-a222-b2ddaff364ac.pdf](http://monterey.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=b068a3f6-d1dc-49e3-a222-b2ddaff364ac.pdf).

## Statistics & Trends

### State of Rio de Janeiro Closes 51st Landfill

The Rio de Janeiro Secretary of Environment said on Thursday, a landfill located in Japeri had been officially closed, the 51st landfill closure in the Brazilian state since 2007. Trash trucks that would have normally dumped at Japeri are now directed to the Central Waste Treatment Center in Nova Iguacu.

The Secretary said only 19 landfills remain open, handling only 2.3% of the waste generated in the state, and most of those remaining landfills are scheduled for closure. The landfill closure efforts support Brazil's 2010 National Policy on Solid Waste, which seeks to transition the country from landfill disposal of waste to a circular economy focused on waste reduction, recycling and recovery.

The Rio de Janeiro Secretary of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.rj.gov.br/web/sea/exibeconteudo?article-id=2164686>.

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### New Recycling/Reuse Facilities a Key Element in London's 2050 Infrastructure Plan

On Thursday, London Mayor Boris Johnson released a 43-page plan that envisions the city's infrastructure in 2050. A public consultation on the plan was opened.

Section seven of the plan addresses "*resource management*." It says that for London to fully support a circular economy a number of infrastructure changes will be required, among them 40 new facilities to help reuse and recycle materials. The present waste management infrastructure "*is not suitable for a move to a circular economy and there is a lack of financing mechanisms to help develop the necessary facilities*."

"*London will require millions of tonnes of annual capacity in order to disassemble, remanufacture, repair and reuse components, and for waste material separation and reprocessing*," according to the plan.

Download the London 2050 infrastructure plan at <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Enabling%20Infrastructure%20%E2%80%93%20Green%20Energy%20Water%20and%20Waste%20Infrastructure%20to%202050.pdf>.

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### France Reclassifies Wood Packaging Waste as a Biofuel

On Friday, the French Minister of Ecology, Durable Development and Energy, Ségolène Royal, approved a decree that says shredded wood packaging waste is no longer to be considered waste when it is used as fuel for boilers. It is the first instance of France designating when waste is no longer waste.

According to a Ministry announcement, the reclassification is hoped to help France ensure that 30% of its energy comes from renewable sources. About half of the renewable source energy is expected to be biomass, now included shredded wood packaging waste.

Get more information at

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Economie-circulaire-Segolene-Royal.40369.html>.

## Business Initiatives

### South African Plastics Industry Sets Zero Plastics to Landfill Goal

The industry association Plastics South Africa announced last month that it has set a goal of "eliminating all plastic from the country's landfill sites by the year 2030." The association's Sustainability Council will work with plastics manufacturers and major retailers to try to reach the goal.

*"Thanks to its molecular make-up, plastics are an ideal material to be recycled and a resource that is too valuable to simply be thrown away or merely incinerated,"* said Anton Hanekom, Plastics SA's executive director. *"The South African plastics recycling industry has developed rapidly during the past few years, both in terms of creating new recycling techniques and creating new markets for recycled products. We have proven that plastic products can effectively be recycled many times over into new products, and are being recognized as one of the world leaders when it comes to 'closing the loop', or recycling products back into new products."*

However, Hanekom also said that in instances where recycling is not possible or difficult, energy recovery will be pursued.

Get more information at

<http://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/images/5388.pdf>.

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### US Scrap Industry Finds Consumer Confusion about Plastics Recycling

Last Thursday, the US Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) announced the results of an online poll conducted in coordination with the firm Earth911. The poll was conducted earlier this summer and had 1,177 participants.

According to ISRI, the results "indicate that 65 percent of people do not understand what is acceptable when recycling plastics." Thirty-seven percent of participants did not know how much food contamination of plastics is acceptable; 28% did not know which types of plastics were accepted in their curbside recycling bins; and 17% did not understand the seven resin codes.

*"As long as confusion reigns, consumers are apt to throw plastics away that should be recycled, This Earth911/ISRI Opinion Poll demonstrates a strong need for additional education, particularly by municipalities, on what can be recycled and how to do it."*

The ISRI announcement is posted at

<http://www.isri.org/news-publications/article/2014/07/30/new-poll-reveals-lack-of-information-causes-consumer-confusion-over-plastics-recycling#.U9vr0qMQP7E>.

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## Firm Launches Dedicated Polystyrene Foam Recycling Facility in Indianapolis

On Monday, Plastic Recycling, Inc. announced it is launching a recycling facility "*dedicated specifically to the recycling of post-consumer foam cups, foam take-out containers and other used polystyrene materials collected through curbside pick-up programs across the country.*" The facility is expected to be operational during the first quarter of 2015 and have the capacity to process 25 million pounds of polystyrene foam per year.

*"We currently recycle about 60 million pounds of foam and rigid polystyrene materials annually but we have the capacity to do so much more,"* said Alan Shaw, the corporation's owner. *"The residential recycling stream has been largely untapped by our competitors and we view it as a tremendous source for more of this valuable material."*

Get more information at  
<http://plastic-recycling.net>.

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