



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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The effects of the ‘perfect storm’ continue to be felt in Canada, the United States, and across the globe. Stricter import policies and trade tariffs are drastically altering how Canada and the U.S. have typically managed waste for years. The worst case scenario is having recyclables head to landfills since China shut its doors earlier this year. First, we heard this happen in regions of [Australia](#) but it is now hitting closer to home (e.g. [Oregon](#), [Eastern Ontario](#)). Now, it’s no longer just China that is implementing stricter import regulation but other Southeast Asian countries as well. Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, and Malaysia have had to deal with a large influx of plastic imports since the implementation of China’s National Sword and are looking for ways to better manage what enters their respective countries.

To put simply, the pressure is on to find domestic solutions to economically manage recyclables. This, of course, also means finding ways to help fund the increasing costs of recycling. Combined with the public pressure to address plastic pollution, there is an increased interest by governments to introduce material bans or taxes. Single-use packaging is currently targeted throughout the globe – from plastic bag bans in Mexico to a levy on coffee cups in Britain. This momentum is also driving increased industry collaboration with government, such as the Circular Economy Leadership Coalition that was announced in late September in Halifax. The Coalition signed the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter to show their support. It is just one example of the growing trend of corporations trying to take a more proactive role in regulatory affairs.

We hope you find this latest issue of policy and stewardship program updates insightful during these times of change.

Rachel Morier
PAC Packaging Consortium

CANADIAN NEWS

Circular Economy Leadership Coalition (CELC) launched

Coinciding with the September meeting of G7 environment ministers in Halifax, a number of companies have created the CELC to advance Canada's efforts to create a more circular economy. The mission of the CELC is to provide leadership, technical expertise, and a collaborative platform for the development of pioneering solutions that eliminate waste at all stages of the life cycle of products. Read this [media release](#) for more information.

Source: <http://www.nzwc.ca/additional-info/media/Documents/20180920-CELCMediaRelease.pdf>

CSSA's 2018 Annual Steward Meeting (ASM) date announced

Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance's (CSSA) ASM will be held on Wednesday, October 24 through webcast. The event will cover program performance along with next year's program budgets and material fee rates. Click [here](#) to register.

Source: <http://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-october-2018/>

CSSA's Material Cost Differentiation (MCD) Project update

The MCD Project is in its second phase – the pilot test phase. CSSA, on behalf of the Boards of Directors of Recycle BC, Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW), Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM), and Stewardship Ontario (SO), initiated the Project. The primary objective of the Project is to develop a methodology that can differentiate the cost to manage each material in the recycling system in a way that satisfies the Project's eight guiding principles and that will work equally well for all four stewardship programs. During this pilot test phase, new measurement procedures are being developed, tested, and refined before being used to produce the material specific input needed for setting material fees. Visit CSSA's [website](#) to learn more.

Source: <http://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-october-2018/>

Recycle BC's 2017 Annual Report

Recycle BC released its [2017 annual report](#). Highlights include the following:

- Over 174,000 tonnes of Recycle BC's packaging and paper product was collected, amounting to a recovery rate of 75%.
- 1.39 million BC households in 156 communities had access to Recycle BC curbside or multi-family services.
- Over 1.8 million BC households had access to curbside, multi-family or depot services.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/recycle-bc-2017-annual-report/>



Recycle BC Program Plan consultation update

Recycle BC received feedback from stakeholders on its draft revised [Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan](#). The Plan was reviewed by the Recycle BC Board of Directors in late September. If it is approved, it will be sent to the BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for approval. Once the plan is submitted to the government, stewards will be advised that the plan and consultation report are available on the Recycle BC website.

Source: <http://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-october-2018/>

Recycle BC Flexible Plastic Packaging Initiative update

A total of 130 BC depots are now accepting Other Flexible Plastic Packaging (OFPP) materials as part of a research and development project led by Recycle BC. The project will determine how best to recycle materials in this category, which is one of the fastest growing packaging types on the market and one of the largest categories of packaging not previously collected under the residential recycling program. As of January 1, 2019, all Recycle BC depots will collect OFPP.

Source: <http://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-october-2018/>

Recycle BC pilots plastic squeeze tube recycling in Coquitlam

Recycle BC (with [More Recycling](#)) will be launching a pilot program in Coquitlam that will determine if plastic squeeze tubes – such as face wash, moisturizer, and toothpaste tubes – can be effectively collected for recycling. Plastic squeeze tubes are currently not accepted for recycling in Recycle BC’s recycling program and most other recycling programs in North America.

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/recycle-bc-pilots-plastic-squeeze-tube-recycling-coquitlam/>



MMSW’s 2017 Annual Report

Recycle BC released its [2017 annual report](#). Highlights include the following:

- Over 41,200 tonnes of waste packaging and paper collected across Saskatchewan, resulting in a recovery rate of 73%.
- 49 kilograms per capita were collected.
- 481 service agreements were made with municipalities, Regional Waste Authorities, and First Nations Communities.

Source: <http://www.mmsk.ca/news/2017-annual-report/>

MMSW Payment Model

The MMSW board has approved a model recommended by the Advisory Committee that will increase payments to municipalities for the collection and processing of designated materials. The model was required as part of the program plan and the increase is the first since the inception of MMSW. The new payment model becomes effective January 1, 2019, and it will increase the program’s annual budget by approximately \$4.5 million.

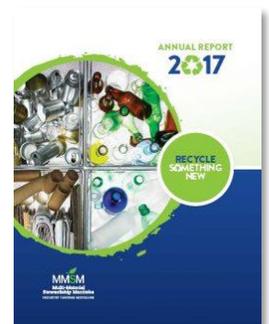
Source: <http://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-october-2018/>

MMSM’s 2017 Annual Report

MMSM released its [2017 annual report](#). Highlights include the following:

- Total tonnes recovered remained steady from the previous year, with 85,259.3 tonnes of packaging and printed paper (PPP) collected in 2017.
- 91.5% of Manitoba’s population has access to a residential recycling program.
- The number of single-use bags used by consumers went down again in 2017.

Source: <http://www.cssalliance.ca/special-edition-news-updates-2017-annual-reports/>



SO’s 2017 Annual Report

SO released its [2017 annual report](#). Highlights include the following:

- Performed above the government-mandated target with a 62.4% recycling rate.
- Over 836,200 tonnes of PPP was recycled.
- Over 94% of Ontario’s households had access to the Blue Box program.

Source: <http://stewardshipontario.ca/news/2017-annual-report/>

Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) sets 2018 steward funding obligation

The RPRA has set the 2019 Blue Box Steward Funding Obligation at \$126.4 million. The Blue Box Steward Funding Obligation is the total amount that stewards must pay to municipalities for the Blue Box Program. The 2018 obligation was \$124.8 million. The RPRA's [full announcement](#) is available. *Source:* <http://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-october-2018/>

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) announces forum on innovations in plastic packaging recycling

In conjunction with the meeting of G7 Environment, Oceans and Energy Ministers, ÉEQ (with [Citeo](#)) announces the very first Québec-France forum on innovations in plastic packaging recycling, titled “Plastics Solutions: Innovations in Recycling on Either Side of the Atlantic.” The goal of the forum is to share experiences and innovative projects taking place on either side of the Atlantic in order to promote the emergence of new solutions that will limit the impact on the environment and further the development of plastic packaging recycling. The forum will be held in Paris in February 2019 and bring together a dozen leading-edge start-ups specializing in innovations pertaining to the recycling of plastics as well as international industry leaders (consumer product and distribution companies who use plastic packaging, recycling manufacturers, and investors). Visit ÉEQ's [website](#) to learn more.

Source: <http://www.eeq.ca/en/plastics-solutions-innovations-in-recycling-on-either-side-of-the-atlantic/>

ÉEQ's Glass Innovation Plan update

Since the launch of the experimental pilot glass sorting and cleaning projects in five sorting centres across Québec in September 2017 to find a solution for 100% of the glass from curbside recycling, ÉEQ has continued to lead discussions with partners to optimize the equipment and increase the quality of the recycled glass to provide material with more added value. The preliminary results of the projects reveal a substantial increase in the purity of the glass as compared to previous years, with an average level of up to 98%. The glass from the projects meets current market specifications, and tests for new markets are conclusive. The results also show that the glass processed by sorting centres was recycled and used in new applications.

Source: <http://www.eeq.ca/en/experimental-pilot-projects-to-recycle-glass-in-quebec-very-positive-early-results/>



U.S. NEWS

California Governor Jerry Brown signs three key plastic pollution reduction bills

The bills consist of the following: [AB 1884](#) (requires restaurants to offer plastic straws only upon request); [SB 1335](#) (prohibits non-recyclable and non-compostable takeout food packaging at state facilities, including parks, beaches, colleges and fairgrounds); and [SB 1263](#) (directs the California Ocean Protection Council to develop a statewide microplastics strategy).

Source: <https://www.waste360.com/legislation-regulation/monumental-week-plastics-beverages-medical-products-bills>

Chinese tariffs on U.S. recyclables go into effect

On August 23, the U.S. and China began imposing new rounds of penalties on \$16 billion worth of each other's goods. Among the hundreds of categories of products, this latest round included China's 25% tariff on OCC, recovered paper, scrap plastics, and various recovered metals.

Source: <http://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/china-imposes-tariffs-on-us-scrap-imports/>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



UK consultation on single-use plastics receives largest response in Treasury's history

Early in this year, the government ran a call for evidence to explore how changes to the tax system or charges could be used to reduce the amount of single-use plastics that are wasted. The government received 162,000 responses and [this document](#) provides a summary of them. It also outlines the government's response and sets out next steps in the process. The government will consider the evidence received from all stakeholders before announcing any policy changes. "Promising policies" include ideas to use tax to encourage the use of recycled plastics in manufacturing; to reduce the use of difficult-to-recycle plastics; to reduce demand for commonly littered single-use coffee cups and takeaway boxes; and to incentivise recycling of waste that is currently incinerated. The government is also "committed to investing to develop new, greener products and processes" through the revenues generated from these taxes and referenced the allocation of £20million in plastics innovation funding announced earlier this year as an example of such action.

Source: <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/Environment/consultation-on-single-use-plastics-receives-largest-responses/>

UK government to consult on increasing plastic bag charge

The charge on plastic bags, a Liberal Democrat-led initiative when the party was part of the coalition government, was introduced in 2015 but limited to stores with more than 250 employees. The 5p charge could rise to 10p with all retailers participating in the scheme. Prime Minister May announced that a consultation will begin later this year.

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/top-story/government-consult-increasing-plastic-bag-charge-31-08-2018>

Packaging Industry questions EU single-use plastics directive

In May, the European Commission proposed new EU-wide rules to target the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas. European Organization for Packaging and the Environment (EUROPEN) and 67 other packaging associations commented on the [proposed directive](#), expressing concern over its quality and impact on the internal market. The associations aim to ensure the following:

- A coherent EU policy framework for packaging is maintained, and the Internal Market for packaged goods is safeguarded by avoiding various differing legal interpretations at EU and national level.
- The directive addresses the root causes of marine litter holistically, incentivizes meaningful innovation and interventions, and allows sufficient development time from research and development to commercialization.
- Policies and legislation contain clear definitions and are based on a complete, evidence-based impact assessment of the implications, to avoid possible unintended consequences.
- Policy measures are non-discriminatory and proportionate to the challenges addressed.

The [full statement](#) is available.

Source: <https://europen-packaging.eu/news/news/122-joint-statement-from-68-packaging-value-chain-associations-on-the-proposal-for-a-directive-on-the-reduction-of-the-impact-of-certain-plastic-products-on-the-environment.html>

Starbucks introduces 5p “Latte Levy” across all stores in Britain

At the end of July, Starbucks began testing a 5p charge on single-use paper coffee cups across all 950 stores in Britain, following [a similar trail in London](#). It will be the first such tax introduced nationwide and will act as a barometer for the coffee shop sector – a successful trial could lead to calls for more, if not all, coffee chains to charge a tax to further encourage customers to bring in a reusable cup and aid recycling efforts and infrastructure.

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/top-story/starbucks-charge-5p-latte-levy-across-stores-britain-10-07-2018>



Proposed plastic incineration tax in UK to possibly fund “recycling education”

A proposed incineration tax on burning plastic waste is being considered by the government as a way to increase plastic recycling and reduce plastic pollution. Waste companies would be required to pay tax per tonne of plastic burned and encouraged to invest in new plastic recycling technologies.

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/top-story/proposed-incineration-tax-fund-recycling-education-26-07-2018>

UK government “mulls new tax” on retailers for cardboard waste

The government could introduce new taxes on retailers using large amounts of cardboard, as part of the Resources and Waste Strategy. Labour MP Mary Creagh, chairman of the Commons Environmental Audit Committee, said: “Online retailers should pay to recycle their packaging, but the UK’s recycling system lets them off the hook, leaving cash-strapped councils and taxpayers to pick up the tab.”

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/top-story/government-mulls-new-tax-retailers-cardboard-waste-19-09-2018>

France to tax goods with non-recycled plastic packaging

France is planning to introduce a penalty system in 2019 that would increase the cost of consumer goods with packaging made of non-recycled plastic. It's part of a pledge to use only recycled plastic throughout the country by 2025, according to an environment ministry official. Brune Poirson, secretary of state for ecological transition, said it was one of several measures planned in the lead up to the 2025 target, including a deposit-refund scheme for plastic bottles. There are also plans to cut taxes for recycling operations.

Source: <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/top-story/france-tax-goods-non-recycled-plastic-packaging-13-08-2018>

Querétaro begins Mexico's first bag ban in a major city

Querétaro, a large industrial city in central Mexico, imposed a plastic bag ban in all commercial establishments on August 1, becoming the first major municipality in Mexico to take such action. National plastics industry association Anipac (Asociación Nacional de Industrias del Plástico AC) reacted by saying that bans and fines, which can add up to \$16,000 in Querétaro's case, would not solve the problem of excessive plastic waste. Anipac said tougher regulations, rather than a ban, were the best way forward. It will continue to work with authorities in Querétaro and elsewhere to develop a national sustainability plan.

Source: <http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20180802/NEWS/180809968/quer-taro-begins-mexicos-first-bag-ban-in-a-major-city>

Taiwan regulates imports

Taiwan previously had a fairly unregulated scrap import system. Due to the effect of China's import policy for waste, Taiwan has seen a large increase in scrap material imports this year. To remedy the growing problem of declining quality, the country's Environmental Protection Administration drafted regulations that will restrict imports. Under the proposed changes, "local firms can only import waste plastics that originate from their own overseas production processes and waste paper that is non-bleached kraft paper, corrugated paper or cardboard," the agency said, adding that nothing should be mixed with "other waste." Importers will also need to have proper licensing to bring in material. Mixed paper would seemingly be banned from import into the country, and scrap plastic imports would be greatly reduced. The [draft regulations](#) are available online (in Chinese only).

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/plastics/2018/08/22/markets-update-asian-countries-further-limit-plastic-imports/>

Vietnam and Malaysia restrict waste imports

Vietnam and Malaysia have also seen a major increase in scrap paper and plastics imports this year. In July, the Vietnamese government announced that it would no longer grant new licenses for waste material imports. In Malaysia, the government has revoked plastics waste import licenses from 114 factories. Malaysian Housing and Local Government Minister, Zuraida Kamaruddin, said that to be allowed to resume imports, factory operators would need to obtain compliance letters from the Department of Environment, premise licenses from local authorities, a recommendation from the waste authority SWCorp (Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation), and proof that their import of plastic waste is clean and not "scheduled waste."

Source: <https://www.euwid-recycling.com/news/policy/single/Artikel/vietnam-and-malaysia-restrict-waste-imports.html>

Thai policy restricting import of scrap plastics proves effective

U.S. scrap plastic exports to the country dropped by 94% after the ban took hold. U.S. exporters sent 1.5 million pounds of recovered plastic to Thailand in July, the most recent month for which statistics are available. That is a substantial decline from the 27.1 million pounds the U.S. shipped to Thailand in June, as well as the 41.6 million pounds sent in May. Thai authorities [announced](#) in late June that they would halt scrap plastic imports amid a rising volume of material stuck at ports. In late August, the government [described plans](#) to make the ban permanent within two years.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2018/09/11/july-trade-analysis-plastics-imports-nosedive-in-thailand/>

Australian Senate committee urges single-use plastics ban

In response to [Australia's recycling crisis](#), the Senate's Environment and Communications References Committee's (ECRC) releases a new report, "[Never Waste a Crisis: The Waste and Recycling Industry in Australia](#)," that recommends that all single-use plastics be banned by 2023. While the report did not define what single-use plastics could be banned, senator Whish-Wilson, who chaired the report, said it could include takeaway containers, chip packets, plastic bags, and coffee cups with plastic linings. The report also recommends the establishment of a national container deposit scheme. The report sets out a blueprint to create a "circular economy" – where all materials used in Australia are recovered and reused domestically.

Source: <http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20180716/NEWS/180719921/australian-senate-committee-urges-single-use-plastic-ban>

HELPFUL LINKS

BC

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

Alberta

<https://recycle.ab.ca/news/>
<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.eeq.ca/en/news-and-documentation/news/>

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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