



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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to the PAC NEXT Spring edition of the Packaging Policy & Stewardship Program Updates for 2019. I'm sure you've been noticing the huge increase in Corporate and Government activity to embrace the journey to zero plastics waste by encouraging packaging designs that fit within the Circular Economy, i.e. can be recycled (or composted), reduced, reused, and increase recycled plastic content. If you have the time, take a look at the recent PAC NEXT report [Who's Who of Zero Plastic Waste Initiatives](#) that provides an overview of the Corporate commitments and their affiliation to zero plastics waste initiatives. The big challenge here is to match our efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle with much needed investment in infrastructure to adequately support these initiatives.

In parallel, legislation is cropping up globally that aims to ban single use plastics (carry bags, stirrers, straws, cutlery, plates, EPS containers) that are deemed to not fit within the Circular Economy. The watch-out here is to avoid unintended consequences (e.g., carry bag bans driving an increase in purchase of plastic garbage bags) and then to follow-up and show that the bans have been effective.

Canada – the government and industry agencies are also embracing the New Plastics Economy looking for affordable ways to increase packaging recovery and recycling. We're also seeing an initiative in BC to collect hard to recycle materials, such as flexible packaging, and find viable ways to create value (chemical recycling certainly has a role to play here).

USA – several states are considering EPR legislation but it is not expected for anything to progress quickly as the bills are likely to go through several reviews. Others are looking at single use plastics bans, most notably New York, while California is leading the way on increased plastic recycled content in bottles.

Global – China has been joined by Vietnam and India in banning solid waste and plastic scrap imports, increasing pressure on the North American recovery efforts to handle and process our own materials cost effectively and to not have to resort to landfilling and/or incineration.

Finally, we should be encouraged by the various global alliances focused on funding innovation to find solutions to recover *all* packaging materials and keep them within the Circular Economy. The only thing is we need billions, potentially trillions, of dollars to capture all of the materials leaking into our natural environment today. Watch this space.

Alan Blake
PAC NEXT US Director

CANADIAN NEWS

New federal strategy on consumer plastics to be announced

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna says that plastic packaging is on the federal government's radar and that a new federal strategy on consumer plastics, promoting a circular economy, will be announced in June of this year.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/marketplace-poll-on-plastics-1.5084301>

The Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance (CSSA) sets commitments and endorses circular economy for plastics

CSSA signs [Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy Global Commitment](#) and sets its own supportive commitments, including the following:



- collaborate with businesses and governments in order to help increase reuse, recycling, and/or composting rates for plastics;
- advocate for a system of harmonized extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulations across Canada as a critical mechanism for developing circular supply chains; and
- advocate for public procurement policies that require increasing amounts of recycled content in packaging and products and 100% recyclable plastic packaging as effective and visible means of promoting circular economy outcomes.

Source: <https://www.cssalliance.ca/cssa-endorses-circular-economy-for-plastics/>

CSSA's Material Cost Differentiation (MCD) Project update

The second phase of the MCD Project, the pilot test phase, is coming to an end. 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. Work is underway to complete two remaining pilot tests. 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.

Source: <https://www.cssalliance.ca/mcd/>

Recycle BC revised Program Plan update

Recycle BC continues its discussions with the government to finalize its revised [Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan](#). The Recycle BC Board of Directors approved the Plan in September 2018, and then it was sent to the BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoECCS) for review and approval. Recycle BC will advise stewards when the Plan is final.

Source: <https://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-march-2019/>

Recycle BC Flexible Plastic Packaging Initiative update

All Recycle BC depots are now obligated to accept Other Flexible Plastic Packaging (OFPP) materials as part of a research and development project. 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.

Source: <https://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-march-2019/>

Alberta government approves Alberta Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) Pilot Program

The Alberta Department of Agriculture and Forestry has announced the government's approval of [the APRG Pilot Program](#), a three-year project aimed at reducing plastic waste within Alberta agriculture through the following measures:

- recycling grain bags and twine;
- researching markets for other agricultural plastics not included in the Program;
- conducting a waste characterization study to determine agricultural plastic volumes;
- surveying producers to get feedback; and
- educating producers on the program and how to recycle their plastics.

Source: <https://recycle.ab.ca/news/the-agricultural-plastics-recycling-group-receives-government-approval-for-pilot-project/>

MMSW Payment Model

MMSW's new supply-chain payment model came into effect on January 1, 2019, following Advisory Committee and Board of Directors [approval](#) in 2018. The model increases per household payments to municipalities for both curbside and depot collection services for the first time since the program's launch.

Source: <https://www.cssalliance.ca/news-and-updates-march-2019/>



Ontario government sought feedback on waste reduction discussion paper

The Ontario government sought feedback on its discussion paper [Reducing Litter and Waste in our Communities](#). The paper provides a road map for how the government will implement the waste commitments included in its [Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations – A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#), comprising:

- reducing and diverting food and organic waste from households and businesses;
- reducing plastic waste;
- making producers responsible for the waste generated from their products and packaging; and
- recovering the value of resources in waste.

PAC [has responded](#) to the paper.

Source: <https://rp.ca/2019/03/government-seeks-feedback-on-reducing-litter-and-waste-in-our-communities-discussion-paper/>

Québec government aims to improve Québec's waste management

The Québec government tabled a budget that includes \$100 million to improve Québec's recovery system. The budget measures include the following:

- modernize sorting centres, especially for glass and plastic;
- lead technological innovation to increase the quality of the materials and their outlets;
- support packaging eco-design initiatives; and
- provide more recovery equipment in public spaces.

Source: <http://www.eeq.ca/en/recycling-and-sorting-centres-the-government-is-making-the-right-choices-maryse-vermette-ceo/>

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) releases report on *Innovative Glass Works Plan*

[The Plan](#) is an initiative devised to modernize Québec sorting centres and support growth of markets to give glass a new life, with the goal of recycling 100% of glass collected from curbside bins. According to ÉEQ, the [Innovative Glass Works Plan report](#) demonstrates that Québec sorting centres have the capacity to process glass with purity of over 97% for a range of uses. The results show that it is possible to recycle 100% of the glass collected through curbside programs with targeted investments of \$50 million to modernize sorting centres and develop outlets.

Source: <http://www.eeq.ca/en/a-second-life-for-100-of-the-glass-collected-through-curbside-recycling-in-quebec-is-within-our-reach/>



ÉEQ presents *Plastics Solutions Forum*

On February 4 and 5, ÉEQ (with [Citeo](#)) presented the [Plastics Solutions Forum](#) in Paris. It brought together actors from all segments of the plastics value chain (marketers, manufacturers, recyclers, government authorities, investors) to review the current state of plastics recycling and discuss the most promising technologies in the field. For the first time, 13 international companies and start-ups met with producers, investors, and recyclers over a two-day period to share about industry-level development opportunities for these new technologies.

Source: <http://www.eeq.ca/en/plastics-solutions-forum-eeq-and-citeo-bring-together-actors-from-all-segments-of-the-value-chain-to-develop-plastics-recycling/>

U.S. NEWS

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bills hit Indiana and Washington

Lawmakers in Indiana and Washington are evaluating proposals that would shift end-of-life packaging management responsibilities from municipalities to product producers. In **Indiana**, [SB619](#) requires that producers manage or finance the recycling of printed paper and packaging. The bill was referred to the Senate Environmental Affairs committee, which has yet to schedule a hearing on it. If approved, the program requirements would begin in 2021. In **Washington**, [HB1204](#) and [SB5397](#) require that producers, local governments, and haulers develop and implement an EPR program for plastic materials by the beginning of 2022. The Senate bill received hearings in the Senate Environment, Energy and Technology committee and was recommended with several changes to the original bill, including additional studies to take place before the program would be implemented. Now, the bill goes before the Senate Ways and Means committee. The House bill is in the Committee on Environment and Energy, where it has had one hearing so far.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/02/19/packaging-stewardship-bills-hit-states/>

Legislation banning plastic products

Hawaii: The state Senate passed [SB522](#), which prohibits the distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, bags, straws, and EPS containers. Separately, the chamber also advanced [SB11](#), which prohibits restaurants from serving prepared foods in EPS containers, and [SB367](#), which bars restaurants from giving out EPS or PS containers, straws, and bags. All three bills are now in House of Representatives committees.

Source: <https://www.wastedive.com/news/hawaii-state-bill-single-use-plastics/548521/>

Washington: The state Senate approved [SB5323](#), which imposes a statewide ban on plastic carryout bags. The state House of Representatives is now considering it. The legislation allows stores to provide customers recycled-content paper bags and reusable plastic bags that meet certain specifications. The bill mandates that stores charge eight cents per bag. The bill also requires compostable plastic bags to meet standards for compostability in municipal or industrial systems.

Source: <https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/washington-state-senate-sb5323-approves-plastic-bag-ban/>

Maryland: The House of Delegates advanced [HB109](#), which bans food service providers from selling food and drinks in EPS containers.

Source: <https://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20190314/NEWS/190312221/maryland-eyes-first-statewide-eps-food-service-ban>

New York:

The state Senate passed [SB1508](#), which prohibits the distribution of plastic carryout bags (with some exceptions) and allows individual cities or counties the option of placing a five-cent fee on paper bags. The ban goes into effect in March 2020.

Source: <https://www.wastedive.com/news/new-york-passes-statewide-organics-mandate-plastic-bag-ban/551725/>

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio signed an executive order that directs city agencies to end the purchasing of single-use plastic foodware and replace it with compostable or recyclable alternatives. It

also directs them to keep a small supply of plastic items available upon request for people who need them.

Source: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/191-19/mayor-de-blasio-signs-executive-order-end-city-reliance-single-use-plastic>

Vermont: The state Senate advanced [S.113](#), which prohibits stores and restaurants from providing single-use plastic bags and EPS containers to customers. It also mandates that they charge 10 cents or more for single-use paper bags. Additionally, it requires vendors to only give out single-use plastic straws on request. If enacted, the bill would be the most comprehensive single-use plastic waste state law in the country.

Source: <https://vtdigger.org/2019/03/29/senate-approves-single-use-plastic-bag-styrofoam-ban/>

New California bill would require recycled content in plastic bottles

California legislators are considering a bill, [AB 792](#), that would hold plastic bottle manufacturers accountable for recycling and reusing their own products. It would require plastic beverage containers in California to be made of at least 50% recycled content by 2025 and be 100% by 2035. The bill passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and now goes before the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Source: <https://www.kqed.org/news/11739302/a-future-with-100-recycled-beverage-bottles-a-new-state-bill-would-require-it>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



European Parliament approves single-use plastics ban

The European Parliament approved a new law banning a variety of single-use plastic items across the European Union (EU) by 2021. The ban covers about a dozen items, including plastic cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers, balloon sticks, cotton swab sticks, and EPS food and drink containers. Also, EU countries will be required to reach a 90% collection goal for plastic bottles by 2029, and plastic bottles will need to contain 25% recycled content by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

Source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190321IPR32111/parliament-seals-ban-on-throwaway-plastics-by-2021>

China reiterates total ban on solid waste imports

Chinese officials made clear the government's plan to end almost all "solid waste" imports by the end of this year, despite opposition from U.S. interests. The U.S. delegation urges China to distinguish "waste" from recyclable materials and scrap before finalizing and implementing this draft law.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/04/09/china-reiterates-total-ban-and-tries-to-define-solid-waste/>

Vietnam reiterates total ban on plastic scrap imports

The Vietnamese government has reiterated its plan to phase out plastic scrap imports and ban all plastic imports by 2025.

Source: <https://www.waste360.com/legislation-regulation/indonesia-delays-paper-restrictions-vietnam-ban-plastic-imports>

India to end plastic scrap imports

Citing environmental concerns and an interest in bolstering domestic manufacturing, the Indian government says it will ban plastic scrap imports, starting August 31 of this year. India banned scrap plastic imports in 2016, but later that year the country opened up certain exceptions, allowing companies in designated economic development areas to legally import plastic. The new rule appears to reverse those exceptions.

Source: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/03/06/india-to-end-plastic-scrap-imports/>

Indonesia delays paper restrictions

After the Indonesian government announced that more stringent paper import restrictions would take effect on April 1 of this year, Indonesian officials have now postponed those rules until further notice.

Source: <https://www.waste360.com/legislation-regulation/indonesia-delays-paper-restrictions-vietnam-ban-plastic-imports>

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/>
<https://rpra.ca/latest-news/>

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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