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PRO EUROPE members



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Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to our summer edition of the PRO EUROPE newsletter! As always, you will find updates on recent key EU developments relevant to PRO EUROPE's priorities and, thanks to great contributions from our members, a number of interesting stories on key developments at national level. This has been a busy spring for PRO EUROPE, and in the pages to follow you will also be able to read about some of our recent activities.

I would once again like to welcome our new President Luis Veiga Martins, taking over from Henri Meiresonne who did a great job during his two years as President. I am also pleased to see that our organisation continues to grow, with Macedonian PAKOMAK officially becoming a PRO EUROPE member in May, which is proof of our efforts in the field of producer responsibility.

I hope the newsletter makes for an interesting read and I wish you all a nice summer!

Kind regards,

Joachim Quoden
Managing Director of PRO EUROPE

At a glance...

PRO EUROPE appoints new President

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New anti-litter campaign in Belgium

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Commission launches consultation on options to reduce plastic bag use in Europe

The Commission has launched a public consultation in which it asks for stakeholder's opinions on options to reduce the use of plastic bags in Europe. (...)

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Recent producer responsibility developments in Canada

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IN FOCUS

PRO EUROPE appoints new President

At the beginning of April, Luis Veiga Martins was appointed new President of PRO EUROPE. Martins, Managing Director of Sociedade Ponto Verde (the Portuguese member of PRO EUROPE), takes over from Henri Meiresonne, who has been PRO EUROPE's President for the last two years and will go into retirement.

In relation to Martins' appointment, Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of PRO EUROPE stated that: "I am very pleased about this new appointment and I am looking forward to working closely together with Luis Veiga Martins in the coming years. Luis brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the resource management sector to his new position. Under his leadership, Sociedade Ponto Verde successfully promoted the concept of Producer Responsibility in Portugal. I would also like to thank Henri Meiresonne for his leadership and vision as President over the last two years. He made an invaluable contribution to PRO EUROPE's work".

Luis Veiga Martins has been the Managing Director of Sociedade Ponto Verde since



Luis Veiga Martins

November 2005. Previously, Martins spent 16 years in the paper and pulp industry in the Portucel Soporcel Group, where he started out as Head of Sales for the mill's direct customers in Portugal. Later he was appointed Inapa Paper Marketing Director, before moving to European Sales. After the merger of the different companies he was appointed Sales Director of the Portucel Soporcel Group's paper business, a leading company in Europe.

Martins obtained a degree in Economics and MBA with specialization in Marketing from the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

PAKOMAK becomes member of PRO EUROPE

The Macedonian non-profit organisation PAKOMAK, founded by Macedonian private companies, officially became a PRO EUROPE member on 20 May 2011.

"Joining PRO EUROPE is a natural step for PAKOMAK. We are glad to be part of this big family that is caring for packaging recovery. We look forward to working in collaboration with our sister organisations, to use their expertise in order to reach our aims which are also national goals of the Ministry for the environment of the Republic of Macedonia" said Filip

Ivanovski, Managing Director at PAKOMAK.

Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of PRO EUROPE, welcomes PAKOMAK into the producer responsibility network and has stated that: "[g]rowing membership is proof of PRO EUROPE's efforts in this area. It demonstrates that PRO EUROPE's principles are shared across Europe. All PRO EUROPE members are committed to supporting our colleagues from PAKOMAK to bring the concept of producer responsibility to F.Y.R. Macedonia."

PRO EUROPE organises site visit with EU officials

At the end of May, PRO EUROPE organised a very successful site visit to a sorting plant in the North of Belgium. The objective of the excursion was to show decision makers from the European

Commission and the European Parliament how recycling is done. We managed to attract 12 relevant participants from the Commission and the Parliament to accompany us to a half day event. After a

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short presentation on PRO EUROPE, recycling in Belgium by Fost Plus and an introduction to the site, the participants had the possibility to visit the sorting site and get an impression of what happens with the blue recycling bag in Belgium after it is put out on the street. The event



was an excellent opportunity for PRO EUROPE to engage with decision makers and to discuss various issues. Judging from the participant's feedback, it raised PRO EUROPE's profile as a key knowledge partner for the EU institutions.

PRO EUROPE participates in ISO delegates' meeting resulting in acceptance of Draft International Standard texts on packaging and environment

PRO EUROPE's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, was among the participants when International Standardisation Organization (ISO) delegates came together in Atlanta, USA, in early May. The gathering, which followed previous meetings of the delegates in Stockholm (2009), Beijing (2010), Tokyo (2011), resulted in the acceptance of the Draft International Standard (DIS) texts.

The delegates came together between the 2nd and 6th of May, and brought draft texts in line with input made from a wide range of stakeholders. The ISO has outlined that the participants "succeeded

in creating the robust DIS texts which will be available for final review in the coming months".

The new standards on packaging and environment shall deal with packaging optimisation to minimise its environmental impact, the responsible use of hazardous substances, the recycling and possible reuse of packages. They shall be used by companies in the packaging field, including designers, manufacturers, recyclers and retailers. It is estimated that the standards will be available for use by late 2012.



Group picture of participants at the Atlanta meeting

PRO EUROPE participates in deposit study workshop

As reported previously, the Commission is currently carrying out a study via an external contractor, Eunomia, on the feasibility of a pan-European deposit system for metal beverage cans. The study will assess existing collection and recovery systems of metal beverage cans across the EU and potential problems related to the lack of compatibility of different national systems. It should also propose possible solutions.

This spring, Eunomia has organised two workshops related to the study. The most

recent workshop took place in Helsinki in April and saw the participation of PRO EUROPE's Managing Director Joachim Quoden.

Eunomia submitted an interim report to the Commission in May. A stakeholder consultation should be launched in August. The final study by the consultants is expected for November, the results of which will be presented during a stakeholder event in the European Parliament, Brussels, in late October.

Coherence of waste legislation workshop

Fost Plus' Director Business & Marketing, Johan Goossens, participated on behalf of PRO EUROPE in a workshop on the coherence of waste legislation, organised by BIO Intelligence Service in April. The consortium is doing a study on behalf of the European Commission in which it is screening EU recycling directives in order to examine how the EU waste acquis could be simplified / made more coherent. The overall purpose is to align product-specific waste legislation to the Waste Framework Directive. Possibly, new recycling targets will also be set for some sectors.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss the preliminary findings and next steps of the study and to get input from stakeholders from four roundtables on specific topics. Goossens gave a presentation at the beginning of the packaging roundtable, in which he spoke about matters relating to the lack of legislative coherence for the packaging waste stream. Goossens will also participate in the second workshop on the coherence of waste legislation, which will take place in July. The final study by BIO Intelligent Service is expected in September.



EU POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Commission launches consultation on options to reduce plastic bag use in Europe

The Commission has launched a public consultation in which it asks for stakeholder's opinions on options to reduce the use of plastic bags in Europe. According to EU data, the total volume of plastic bags produced in Europe was no less than 3.4 million tons in 2008 and the average EU citizen uses as many as 500 plastic bags yearly.

Both the Commission and EU Environment Ministers believe that effective EU action on the matter is needed. The impact plastic carrier bags has on the

environment was discussed by EU Environment Ministers in March this year and the Commission has previously informed that it is looking into the matter. A number of possible options, including charging and taxation, as well as a potential ban, all remain on the table.

Whether pricing measures, such as taxation or charges, would be effective or if other options would be better are matters that can be commented on in the consultation. An additional matter treated is that of biodegradable bags and the consultation seeks to find out how

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satisfied stakeholders are with the requirements on compostability and biodegradability in the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. Opinions on potential environmental, social and economic impacts of measures to strengthen biodegradability requirements for packaging, such as making biodegradable packaging products more visible to consumers, are also sought.

Measures to reduce the use of plastic bags have already been taken in some Member States. For example, Ireland and Denmark have both introduced taxes. Retailers in France charge consumers with a fee and the revenues are used for collection and recycling. Italy introduced a ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags at the beginning of the year, towards which criticism has been raised by the plastics industry.

Another issue that is becoming increasingly prominent on the EU agenda is marine litter. It is sometimes referred to as 'plastics soup' as an estimated 83% of marine litter consists of plastics. The problem is intrinsically linked to the plastic bag problematic, as plastic bags that are not waste managed often end up in the oceans and seas. More often than not, due to their small size and low weight, single use plastic bags are not waste managed. It has been acknowledged that an effective EU response to reduce the use of single use plastic bags in the EU could contribute to reducing the 'plastic soup' problem. In fact, it has been estimated that approximately 80% of the waste that ends up in the seas and oceans originates from land. As such, all aspects of the waste cycle, including prevention and production, have to be tackled in order to address the problem.

The plastic bag consultation will be open until August 9th. It can be viewed [here](#).

EU moving forward in developing end-of-waste criteria for waste streams

Progress is being made on the establishment of EU end-of-waste criteria for the different waste streams under the Waste Framework Directive. According to the new 2008 Directive, certain waste streams shall cease to be classified as waste after having undergone certain treatment and fulfilling specific criteria. Following the development of a methodology-guideline, carried out by the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) Institute for Prospective Technological Studies for determining end of waste criteria, the JRC is carrying out reports with technical proposals for the end-of-waste criteria for the different waste streams. A general end of waste principle is, according to the JRC, that "waste ceases to be waste when a useful and safe product is placed on the market".

The first end of waste regulation, for iron steel and aluminium scrap, was agreed on by EU Member States in March and will enter into force in October this year. It requires for example that aluminium should be separated from other metals and cannot contain more than 5% of any other material. The criteria for steel and iron requires excessive ferrous oxide and toxic substances be removed.

A report with recommendations on end-of-waste criteria for paper was presented by the JRC in April 2011. It recommends,

among other things, that in order for paper to cease to be considered as waste it should correspond to a paper grade demanded by the market and that it cannot contain hazardous properties. Furthermore, it should not have come into contact with any other type of waste that may have caused contamination during processing.

Regarding end-of-waste criteria for copper, a report with recommendations was presented in May this year. Among other things, the guidelines outline that the copper cannot have any hazardous properties and that the scrap should be graded based on standards such as the EN 12861. The JRC though, could not outline exactly what percentage of non-copper material can be tolerated.

The EU executive is also developing criteria for waste streams such as plastic and glass. Work has also started on criteria development for biodegradable waste. In a statement, Environment Commissioner Potočnik outlined that the adoption of the first criteria marked an "important step towards Europe's goal of becoming a resource-efficient economy and recycling society".

PRO EUROPE members will take part in a 'kick-off stakeholder meeting' on end-of-waste criteria for plastics, which will be organised by the Commission in July.



PRO EUROPE members' news



Rekopol ten years old

Rekopol celebrated its ten year anniversary this spring. A conference on Packaging Waste Recovery and Recycling in Poland was organised on the occasion of the anniversary, hosted by Waldemar Pawlak, Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and Minister of the Economy, and Bernard Błaszczak, Deputy Minister of the Environment. The conference was attended by around 200 participants, including business people, chambers of commerce members, municipal companies and recyclers, governmental administration and NGO representatives. They discussed matters such as the Polish packaging waste management system and the achievements made since Poland adopted producer responsibility legislation a decade ago. Speaking at the conference, Rekopol President, Piotr Szajrych, made reference to progress made so far, but acknowledged that there was still room for significant improvement. Among other



Joachim Quoden, Managing Director,
PRO EUROPE



Piotr Szajrych, President, Rekopol

things, Szajrych informed that “[o]ver the last 10 years 9.000.000 tons of waste did not end up on illegal waste dumps or landfills but were recycled instead”. Reference was also made by Szajrych to recent Eurostat data, according to which the average rate of waste separation performed among Polish citizens is slightly more than 10 kilos per person per year, which is several times less than of Germany for example.

PRO EUROPE’s managing director Joachim Quoden, who took part in the conference, welcomed the progress made by Rekopol to date and stated that “we are working closely with Rekopol to share experiences collected from other Member States to bring Poland up to the next level”.



Sociedade Ponto Verde sponsors Brazilian film about waste pickers

The Brazilian documentary *Waste Land* by Midas Filmes premiered in Portugal on 28th April. It is an extraordinary film that has moved audiences at all the festivals at

which it has been screened. It addresses the reality of the waste pickers in Jardim Gramacho, the world’s largest open-air garbage dump situated on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. The film is being

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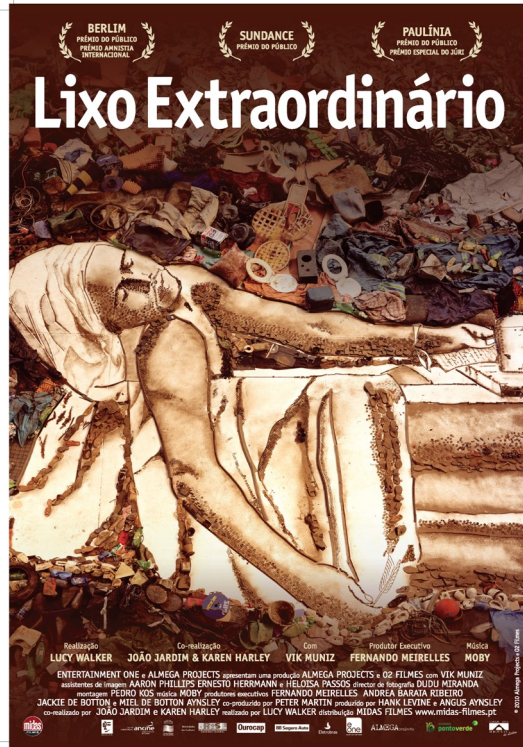
sponsored by Sociedade Ponto Verde (SPV) and will premiere at Cinema City Classic Alvalade in Lisbon, Cinema Zon Lusomundo Fórum Almada in Almada, and Cinema Zon Lusomundo Parque Nascente in Gondomar.

The documentary was shot between August 2007 and May 2009 and was nominated for an Oscar in 2010. It followed the work of the award-winning photographer Vik Muniz in his latest project, which was to photograph the waste pickers at Jardim Gramacho. The men and women who work on the dump collect recyclable materials and as a result remove around 200 tonnes a day. Muniz manages to transform others' waste into art.

In this film, which was directed by Lucy Walker, João Jardim and Karen Harley, Muniz photographs a group of pickers to portray the work of these people who make a living from refuse. There are around 4,000 pickers making a living from recycling the waste that arrives at the Gramacho dump every day.

SPV, the company responsible for organising and managing the take-back and recovery of packaging waste in Portugal, is sponsoring this film through publicising it. A creative competition was organised on SPV's Facebook page (reciclar é dar e receber) with the chance of winning free tickets to the pre-screening of the documentary at Cinema City Classic Alvalade.

In 2010, Sociedade Ponto Verde signed a cooperation agreement with Rio de



Janeiro State Secretariat which aimed at sharing experiences and information on the implementation of the concepts of extended producer responsibility in managing waste flows, especially packaging waste.

The waste problem is a nationwide concern in Brazil, and the State of Rio de Janeiro is a good example. The country is going through a period of change in this area thanks to the recent National Waste Law, which is still in the regulation phase. In the next four years, Brazil wishes to eliminate all rubbish dumps and progressively implement selective collection.

Grüner Punkt to combat marine litter

First “Fishing for Litter” project in Germany / DSD analyzes marine waste at its own plastics recycling facility in Hörstel (North Rhine-Westphalia).

Der Grüne Punkt - Duales System Deutschland GmbH (DSD) is gearing up to combat waste in the sea. In the plastics recycling plant of DSD's subsidiary Systec Plastics GmbH in the North Rhine-Westphalian town of Hörstel, DSD's experts will, as part of the “Fishing for Litter” pilot project, be analyzing waste collected by fishermen so as to arrive at conclusions regarding its nature and composition. In a further step, the Green Dot (“Der Grüne Punkt”) will be researching whether it is possible to recycle the waste, or otherwise manage

its compliant disposal.

“We shall be contributing our corporate expertise and our excellent network in the sector in order to combat this important problem”, explains Stefan Schreiter, DSD's CEO. “A good disposal infrastructure helps to restrict the discharge of waste from the land into the sea. The Green Dot and waste separation in Germany have achieved much in this regard. With our involvement in this project, we are aiming to help in further reducing the amount of waste in the North and Baltic Seas.”

In conjunction with DSD and regional



Der Grüne Punkt –
Duales System Deutschland GmbH

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partners, Germany's Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) has launched the country's first "Fishing for Litter" project. Fishermen are now helping to remove waste from the sea and to arrange for its eco-friendly disposal back in harbor. The Baltic ports of Burgstaaken (Fehmarn) and Heiligenhafen are pilot regions for the Baltic. "We are delighted at this broad alliance against using the sea as a rubbish dump", says NABU's President Olaf Tschimpke, "because it's only through joint initiatives by the politicians, the business community and conservationist organizations that we can prevent tens of thousands of marine

creatures from being killed by our civilization's waste".



Broad alliance against rubbish in the sea: the project partners involved in "Fishing for Litter" (Photo: NABU).



Fostplus

New anti-litter campaign in Belgium

Fost Plus has launched a new anti-litter campaign together with the Flemish Region. The goal of this campaign is to have a positive and motivating influence on residents. The focus has been laid on convincing people that litter is not 'hip' and to thus encourage a change in behaviour.

Increased participation

One of the key elements of this new approach is to encourage people to participate proactively in the campaign themselves. They are invited to make their own personalised posters and hang them in their windows. A specific application has been installed on the renewed website (www.indevuilbak.be) that makes it easy for residents as well as local authorities to participate

proactively. There are also advertisements in magazines and newspapers, posters and adverts on buses and trams thanking residents for keeping their neighbourhood free of litter. In addition, special campaigns have been designed for car parking areas on motorways to raise awareness among drivers.

Continuous support for local authorities

Local authorities are being given significant support to encourage them to take action against litter. Fost Plus is providing them with cost-free materials such as gloves and fluorescent safety jackets, etc. in order to support their anti-litter campaigns. In addition to this concrete support material participants are also being given financial incentives to encourage them to carry out anti-litter campaigns that are about more than just implementing clean-up campaigns. A print-on-demand application on the website www.indevuilbak.be gives local authorities the opportunity to create customised promotional material (posters, stickers etc.).

More info? Visit
www.indevuilbak.be



Poster in situ: "Littering has become out of date. Thank you for keeping your neighbourhood clean."

21 and 22 November 2011: two seminars on prevention

The European week for waste reduction will take place at the end of November of this year. On this occasion, two seminars will be held in Brussels.

Prevention and packaging

On the 21st of November, Fost Plus will organize a seminar on prevention and packaging in Belgium. The following topics will be presented:

- Results of the Fost Plus survey about the perception of excessive packaging
- Explanation of the life cycle approach, applied to packaging
- Initiatives realized by Fost Plus
- Testimonies of good practices by various companies

New Minister announces a review of Producer Responsibility Initiatives including increases in the landfill levy

The new Irish Minister for the Environment has made an announcement around waste policy and of its intention to review all current Producer Responsibility Schemes, with a particular focus on Packaging. The current Producer Responsibility Initiatives operational in Ireland include packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), end of life vehicles (ELVs) and batteries. The terms of reference of this review have yet to be agreed and the timescale has of yet not been set.

In addition the Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan has announced that the landfill levy in Ireland will rise from €30 per tonne to €50 per tonne from 1 September 2011, €65 per tonne from July 2012 and €75 per tonne from July 2013. He stated "by announcing these rates today, I am providing the waste sector with the certainty that it needs to prepare for the changes that these increases will bring."

Also mentioned in the ministers statement was a Regulatory Impact Assessment on changing the structure of the household waste collection market. Currently in Ireland there is open competition for household waste between municipalities and private contractors, with private contractors controlling 60% of household waste collection. The Program for government is seeking to give control back to the local municipalities.

Consultation on Possible Packaging Tax/Levy commenced

- An overview of initiatives proposed by other PRO EUROPE organizations.

Economic instruments

On the 22nd of November, a European seminar on economic instruments that are likely to contribute to waste prevention will take place. This seminar is organized by Brussels Environment and the Association of Cities and Regions for recycling (ACR+), with the support of Fost Plus. Among the speakers, representatives of European and Belgian politicians, as well as PRO EUROPE.

The complete agenda will be soon available on our website www.fostplus.be.



The Irish government has started a consultation process with industry, stakeholders and the public on the operation of a possible packaging Tax/Levy. The new Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan has commented stating that no decision has been made on the matter, but the Department for the Environment would 'examine options' regarding the introduction of a packaging tax, as part of its waste reduction strategy going forward.

The first stage of this consultation will be to obtain the overall view of the stakeholders on the broad subject of a packaging tax. Once these views have been analysed the Department may consider a further consultation on a number of defined packaging levy options. The main issues which it is intended to examine in this consultation are as follows:

- The overall views of stakeholders on a packaging levy.
- How a packaging levy might be operated;
- International experiences of similar levies; and
- How a possible packaging levy might be structured in order to contribute to a reduction in packaging waste.

Comments specifically addressing these topics are being sought by 5pm Friday 5th August 2011.

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Repak has separately commenced engaging with its members and stakeholders on the proposed packaging tax levy, which poses a potential serious threat to Repak and the current success of packaging recovery and recycling in Ireland. This proposal comes from the

Governments desire to broaden the tax base and close the Government funding deficit through additional tax raising measures. Repak is urging that this packaging tax consultation should not be held in isolation but as part of the overall review of producer responsibility initiatives in particular packaging as previously mentioned.

Sekopak successful in year one for system establishment in Serbia



“After the first year of implementation of the legislative framework on packaging and packaging waste in Serbia, we may finally announce a successful year for Sekopak, as the first and largest Operator in the System for Packaging Waste Management”, stated Rebeka Bozovic, company Communications Director at the “Green Serbia” conference held on April 7th in Belgrade’s Hyatt Regency Hotel.

“According to the National strategy on waste management for the Republic of Serbia and other informal resources, in Serbia there are up to half a million tons of packaging waste produced every year. As GDP grows in Serbia, so this waste increases. More than 200 producers transferred their obligation to be compliant with the law on Sekopak as they jointly generate around 170.000 tons of packaging waste. This means Sekopak alone covered between 35-40% of the market. In the name of its clients, Sekopak collected and sent to the recycling process 9020 tons of all kinds of packaging waste, thus achieving the 5% recovery national target. We are especially proud of the fact that 98% of collected waste was recycled within domestic recycling capacities, while only a small amount found its way to recyclers abroad”, said Bozovic.

She further added that following the expiration of the reporting deadline on target achievements for the industry, the

most important tasks for state services is to track down free-riding companies and to enforce all legally applicable means to make them join the system.

“Without strong intent from the state to apply the control mechanisms it possess, unwanted scenarios will take place; for example, responsible and paying companies could be punished instead”, claims Bozovic and explained: “Sekopak used the financial means from the clients to organize support for primary selection, baling and transport to the recyclers with help from 23 partners which included the communal waste companies of Kragujevac, Novi Sad, Cacak, Gornji Milanovac, Leskovac and Jagodina to mention a few. In these towns through the existing systems and system of Sekobag and Secontainers, over 9.000 tons of material was sorted out. “What was achieved in this respect by free-riding companies?”, she asked.

Bozovic added Sekopak’s mission lies in establishing the sustainable system for all packaging waste through upgrading communal waste management and other capacities at the lowest sustainable cost for its clients.

The deadline for implementation of the law expired in March 2011, while obligations arising from the national targets are in effect since January 1st 2011 and boast higher values for years to come.



The North American corner

Driving continuous improvement in packaging recycling schemes in Canada

While the provincial producer responsibility schemes for packaging and

printed paper in Canada do not, at the moment, have control over the recycling system design and its operation, they use

(Continued from page 10)

their financial leverage to promote systemic improvements to the overall system and to reward local authorities that operate more efficiently.

For example, in Ontario (Canada's largest province), 10 to 20 percent of the funds provided by Stewardship Ontario (the industry producer responsibility scheme for packaging and printed paper) are not distributed to local government as an operating subsidy but instead are invested in initiatives designed to improve program efficiency over the long term. Overseen by a joint Board of Stewardship Ontario and local government representatives, the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF), makes investments that promote best practices such as regional cooperation and sharing of infrastructure and automation. For example, the Fund was used to persuade a mid-sized municipality (pop. 350,000), which had a need for a new and expanded material recovery facility, to construct a high-capacity facility that could serve much of the regional area, reducing processing costs per tonne and avoiding costly new small-scale facilities serving smaller communities in the area. Project ideas may be submitted to the CIF by local authorities or developed proactively by Stewardship Ontario, local authorities and CIF staff. Projects are

evaluated based on a rigorous set of criteria that assess financial return on investment, system efficiency and recycling rate improvements. Generally 50 percent of project costs are funded (to ensure that the host municipality shares some of the risk), and municipalities are encouraged to find other funding partners to offset project costs.

For 2011, the CIF budget is \$9 million CAD (or 10 percent of industry levies). The funding priorities for this year include supporting municipalities to collect and recycle more non-bottle rigid plastic packaging; continue to support the development of larger, regional materials recovery facility and improving the efficiencies of existing facilities, fostering innovation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve fuel economy on collection vehicles; and encouraging the use of technology such as radio frequency identification and route management software to reduce collection costs.

Other elements of the Stewardship Ontario program plan include making investments in market development such as non-bottle rigid and film plastics and paying municipalities according to the effectiveness and efficiency of their programs and implementing best practices.

Recent producer responsibility developments in Canada

British Columbia

In May 2011, the province of British Columbia (Canada's third largest in population) amended its framework Recycling Regulation to add a new product category for Packaging and Printed Paper, effectively triggering the requirement for producers to develop a stewardship plan within 18 months (November 2012) and to launch a recycling program for these materials within 36 months (May 2014). The framework Recycling Regulation requires all product stewardship plans to achieve (or be capable of achieving) a 75 percent recovery rate within a reasonable time. As with other obligated waste streams in B.C., producers may transfer their individual producer responsibilities and liabilities to a third party stewardship agency. Under the regulation, the provincial deposit-refund system for soft drinks is maintained. Unlike the existing comprehensive packaging and printed paper stewardship programs in place in

Ontario and Manitoba and until recently in Quebec (see the description of the new regulation in Quebec, below), the B.C. approach requires industry to take full financial responsibility for recycling packaging and printed paper in British Columbia. While the regulation does not clearly define the responsibility for design and operation, it is anticipated that with full responsibility industry will have greater control over design and operation.

Quebec

The province of Quebec has had a shared responsibility model since 2004, where half of the total net system cost is funded by producers and the other half, funded by the local authorities. After a full year of debate in parliament, the regulation governing this funding arrangement has been amended to gradually transfer the financial responsibility for the packaging and printed paper recycling system to producers by 2013. Under the new arrangement, industry will be responsible



(Continued from page 11)

for the net cost to collect, transport, sort and process used packaging and printed materials (no compensation will be provided for promotion and education activities or for the provision of collection

bins). In addition, funding to local governments will be subject to an “efficiency and effectiveness factor” intended to reward financially best performers and penalize poor performers with respect to recycling rates and costs.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT !

Please share with us your comments and suggestions to improve this newsletter continuously.

A story to share? Please send it to us and we will be happy to give it due consideration for an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Contact us at info@pro-europe.info