



Flexible Films Plastics Packaging Project

Oct. 1, 2012

The **Canadian Plastics Industry Association**, the **Continuous Improvement Fund** and **Stewardship Ontario** are working together to help determine the future of Flexible Film Plastics Packaging collection, processing and sorting systems and technologies.

With the growth in types of packaging and popularity of recycling program systems there is a need to better understand the future packaging trends, recycling system capital and operating costs and the variety of end markets for this material stream. As well the joint effort will look to identify opportunities for improved efficiency in recycling systems. The CPIA, CIF and SO have jointly retained a consulting consortium comprised of StewardEdge, Resource Recycling Systems and Moore Recycling Associates to accomplish this undertaking.

The objectives of this project are to:

- conduct a comprehensive study of flexible film packaging in the marketplace and in Ontario households to understand better what is currently available and recyclable to today's market standards and the issues in recycling flexible films at material recycling facilities and at plastic re-processors;
- identify available commercial and upcoming pre-commercial technologies that can manage film in a Material Recycling Facility
- identify available commercial and upcoming pre-commercial sorting technologies that can capture a variety of film grades either at a MRF or at a re-processing operation;
- identify possible packaging design changes to increase recyclability; and
- the cost drivers and associated costs to collect at curbside, municipal depot and commercial return sites.

The work is expected to be completed by January 2013. The final report is expected to provide a new foundation from which the plastics and diversion industry can further advance efforts to increase the recycling and diversion of flexible film plastics from landfill. Assisting with the project is the new organization Pac Next, that will support the efforts of the CIF, SO and CPIA through its membership's voluntary efforts to provide input and feedback as the study progresses.

For further information on this project, contact:

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The Canadian Plastics Industry Association is the national voice of Canada's plastics industry dedicated to improve the sustainability of plastics by working in partnership with stakeholders to increase the diversion of plastics from landfill.

Stewardship Ontario is an independent, industry-funded organization mandated under the Waste Diversion Act. Stewardship Ontario manages two waste diversion programs in Ontario - the blue box program, which provides municipalities with funding to support the residential recycling of paper and packaging; and the Orange Drop program, which manages the collection and recovery of hazardous and special waste materials through municipal and commercial locations.

The Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) is a program developed through a partnership between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, City of Toronto, Stewardship Ontario and Waste Diversion Ontario. Its mandate is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Ontario's municipal blue box programs.