

**Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative  
Questionnaire on 3Rs' strategies and activities**

As announced earlier, the Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative will be held from 6 March to 8 March 2006 in Tokyo, Japan. During the meeting, two working groups will be held in parallel in the afternoon of Day 1 (6 March) and Day 2 (7 March) to discuss the promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle).

The two working groups will respectively discuss: (1) promotion of the 3Rs at the *national level*, and (2) promotion of the 3Rs at the *international level* (e.g., international flow of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods). Both working groups will cover the following policy issues related to the promotion and implementation of the 3Rs: (a) cooperation between developed and developing countries, (b) cooperation among stakeholders, and (c) promotion of science and technology.

As stated in the letter from the Task Force for the 3R Initiative, we sent you this questionnaire to reflect your input on the issue paper for the meeting. Also, the result of the survey will be publicly reported later.

Please provide information relative to as many of the items as possible and send it prior to 23 January 2006 by e-mail to [3R@env.go.jp](mailto:3R@env.go.jp) or by fax to +81-3-3593-8262.

## **1. 3Rs policy and strategy update**

At the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs in April 2005, participating countries reported their 3Rs policy and strategies in the form of the 3Rs portfolio. Please provide us with updated information on the major developments of national and international strategies, policies and activities on the 3Rs of your country since the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs (April 2005).

An updated inventory of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs was completed listing over 50 EPR or stewardship programs including materials such as tires, paper, paint, electronic equipment, beverage containers, pharmaceuticals, batteries, refrigerants and others.

A document entitled "Solid Waste as a Resource – Guide for Sustainable Communities" was prepared and promoted to assist municipal governments in developing management systems that minimize the use of resources towards sustainable communities. A review of state-of-the-art technologies for composting, anaerobic digestion, thermal treatment and landfilling was also completed to assist municipalities in taking their integrated waste management systems to the next level to further conserve resources, reduce environmental impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, produce energy, lessen dependence on landfills and improve social acceptability.

## **2. Domestic 3R activities**

### **2.1 Good practices on 3Rs**

We are going to develop a showcase of the successful activities on the 3Rs, including those of the national level, the municipality level, industry, and NGOs/NPOs. Please fill out the EXCEL sheet attached to this e-mail with your good practices on the 3Rs. (Note: If you have already provided us with substantial information on good practices on the 3Rs in the form of the 3Rs portfolio in the Ministerial Conference, please provide us more detailed information on a few of the most successful cases in your country.)

Every year, the third week of October is Canada's *Waste Reduction Week*. The theme of the campaign is *Too Good to Waste* and aims to inform and engage Canadians about wasteful practices and their environmental and social ramifications. The focus of *Waste Reduction Week* is on the 3Rs.

Provincial governments have mandated diversion rates ranging from 50 to 65% to be attained over the next few years. Municipal governments have to develop solid waste management plans to meet these mandated targets.

A report on Solid Waste in Canada under Human Activity and the Environment was completed to summarize the waste challenges with an overview of the national waste statistics, the 3Rs activities, and the regulatory and policy instruments.

The Green Municipal Fund (GMF), established by the Government of Canada to stimulate investment in innovative municipal environmental projects, advances the progress of sustainable

development in Canada's communities. The Fund supports partnerships, leveraging both public and private sector funding to encourage municipal actions to improve air, water and soil quality, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To date, 486 GMF studies, field tests, plans and capital projects have been approved for funding of \$275 million, leveraging over \$1.8 billion of economic activity in communities across Canada.

The Enhanced Recycling Program, ending in March 2006, stimulated recycling activities within Canada by seeking like-minded partners to participate in projects that take current recycling activities to higher levels. Through national consultations, workshops and seminars, the program has raised the awareness of key issues that currently are limiting sustainable recovery efforts. Through strong partnerships, the program has developed projects that strive for higher recovery rates across targeted product streams and sectors of the economy.

## **2.2 3Rs and governance**

To promote the 3Rs, it is necessary to develop a governance system that responds to different situations and conditions of each country. Are there any specific issues relating to institutional arrangements for the implementation of the 3Rs and environmentally-sound management of waste? For example, please explain the different roles of stakeholders in the promotion of the 3Rs, such as how to position the informal sector that is engaged in recycling and recovering activities under the context of national 3Rs policies.

The responsibility for waste management in Canada is shared among all level of governments. Collection, diversion and disposal operations are the responsibility of municipal governments, while the provinces and territories are responsible for approvals, licensing and monitoring of operations. The Government of Canada is responsible for the transboundary movement of wastes, negotiating international agreements and is engaged in MSW management issues related to competitiveness and environmental sustainability, climate change, toxic substances, federal lands and resources, and federal assistance.

## **2.3 3Rs and environmentally-sound management of industrial waste**

Since economic development tends to cause an increase in the amount of industrial waste generation, environmentally-sound management of industrial waste is essential to promote the 3Rs. To decouple economic development and industrial waste generation, what kind of role is expected for the industrial waste emitter, national and local governments, including municipalities? Also, please give us your views on how to share the responsibilities of construction and operation of landfill as final disposal sites among the stakeholders?

## **3. International 3R policy and strategy**

At the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative, it was observed that the international flow of (i) goods and materials for recycling and manufacturing, and (ii) recycled and remanufactured products (hereinafter “recyclable resources and remanufactured goods”) may contribute to the efficient use of resources and the prevention of environmental

pollution if proper mechanisms are in place. It may promote sustainable consumption and production affecting not only the environment but also economic development and job creation. At the same time, it was noted that for many countries the first priority should be placed on minimising the wastes within the country in which the wastes are generated. Participants at the Ministerial Conference expressed the view that transboundary movement of wastes should take place only when safe and appropriate use and environmentally-sound management are possible in the receiving country.

### **3.1 Situation of transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods**

Regarding the transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods, what are the major recyclable resources observed in exports from and imports to your country? Are there any specific problems in relation to exports and imports of these recyclable resources and remanufactured goods? What are the major reasons for the problems?

The main hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable materials exported and imported into Canada in 2004 were:

Exports

- Corrosive Liquids
- Environmental Hazards
- Metal and Mineral Wastes
- Battery Wastes
- Flammable Liquids

Imports:

- Environmental Hazards
- Flammable Liquids
- Corrosive Liquids
- Battery Wastes
- Metal and Mineral Wastes

In 2004, imports of hazardous recyclable materials destined for environmentally sound recovery or recycling operations increased by 5.8% since 2003. Shipments for recycling, which reduce reliance on primary resources and benefit Canadian industry, represented nearly half of all imports in 2004. Batteries, metal-bearing wastes and manufacturing residues accounted for the majority of the imports.

In 2004 Canadian exports of hazardous wastes and hazardous recyclable materials decreased by about 4% since 2003. The reductions in exports are due in part to a decrease in the amount of used acids and bases sent for regeneration or reuse, as well as a drop in the quantities of spent catalysts, solvents and metal containing materials sent for recovery or recycling operations in the U.S.

A specific problem that does arise with respect to imports into Canada, which results in the hazardous recyclable material being returned to the foreign exporter, is hazardous recyclable

material which does not have a comprehensive analysis and is found to be off specifications for the Canadian importer's operations.

### **3.2 Environmentally-sound management in transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods**

To prevent environmental pollution caused by transboundary movement of recyclable resources, what kind of policies and measures (e.g., cooperation among national governments and other stakeholders) are expected? If your country has already launched such activities, please provide us with detailed information.

The control and management of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material within Canada is a shared responsibility. The federal government regulates international and interprovincial/territorial movements, while provincial/territorial governments regulate intraprovincial movements of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material. The provinces/territories are also responsible for establishing controls for licensing hazardous waste generators, carriers and treatment facilities within their jurisdiction.

In Canada, the international flow of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material is subject to the controls of the *Export and Import of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations*, pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA 1999)*. These Regulations ensure that transboundary movements of hazardous wastes destined for disposal, and hazardous recyclable materials destined for recovery/recycling facilities, are handled in an environmentally sound manner. The Regulations contain elements related to the 3Rs initiatives. These include 1) separate definitions for hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material; and exclusion of certain low risk recyclables from the definition of "hazardous recyclable material" if they meet certain elements set out in the definition; 2) ESM criteria to take into account prior issuing a permit to ensure waste/recyclable will be managed in an environmentally sound manner, based on the OECD Recommendation on ESM of waste; and 3) information on exporter's export reduction plan to secure a genuine reduction of international movement of waste and potentially increased recycling instead of disposal.

These Regulations implement Canada's international commitments on the transboundary movements of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material. Canada is a Party to three international agreements relating to wastes and recyclable materials, namely:

1. the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1989; (the Basel Convention)
2. the OECD Decision of Council Concerning the Control of Transboundary Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations, C(92)39/Final, 1992, as amended and replaced by C(2001)/107/Final; and
3. the Canada-United States Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, 1986 (as amended in 1992).

Canada has supported the OECD Recommendation on ESM and continues to be involved in the work on ESM. Domestically, we are also working towards a national approach for the

environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material.

### **3.3 Harmonisation of economic and environmental benefits through the transboundary movements of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods**

Please provide information on the positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the increase in import and export of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods in your country. What kinds of policies and measures have been implemented to support the positive effects and mitigate negative effects of trade of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods?

## **4. Others**

It would be beneficial to link and be able to determine the full environmental benefits of 3Rs activities in terms of local and global environmental impacts.

## **5. Information of respondent**

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5.2 Position: Director

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## The Showcase of 3Rs Good Practices

Date: 28-Feb-06

Country/Organisation: Canada

No.	Name of the practice	Summary of the practice -level of implementation(national, local, industry, NGOs/NPOs) -duration -stakeholders involved	Impact: -Improvements after the introduction of the practice	Key For Success What are the major reasons for the success of the activity?
1	<b>Waste as a Resource - Guide for Sustainable Communities</b>	The Guide was developed as a partnership between the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to promote the concept of waste being a resource. The Guide consists of three main parts: <b>1)</b> a review of waste policies that support the 3Rs such as voluntary approaches, economic instruments, and regulations, <b>2)</b> a review of waste technologies including recycling and organics management, and <b>3)</b> a workbook to assist decision-makers with moving towards sustainable communities through efficient resource management and waste reduction.	The Guide was promoted through a series of six workshops held across the country between December 2005 and February 2006. Through these workshops, approximately 200 participants were instructed on the use of the Guide. Participants ranged from municipal representatives to consultants and non-governmental organizations. To date, the Guide has been adopted by a number of municipalities to assist them with the development of their integrated waste management plans.	The Guide was developed by a team of waste management experts with technical and financial support from the Government of Canada. The partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities ensured that the information could be disseminated through an existing network of municipal representatives. The Guide was tailored to meet the needs of small to medium sized municipalities who typically have fewer staff and experts in the field of waste management. The Guide continues to be promoted at waste management events across the country and is available for download at no charge on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' website at <a href="http://www.sustainablecommunities.ca">www.sustainablecommunities.ca</a> .
2	<b>Determination of the Impact of Waste Management Activities on Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>	In 2005, a study was conducted by the Government of Canada to explore the links between waste management and climate change. A life-cycle approach was used to estimate the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with different waste management activities in the 3Rs hierarchy and beyond (recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, incineration, and landfilling) for specific materials such as paper, cardboard, aluminum, steel, glass, plastics, food scraps, electronics, etc. The information can be used by decision-makers to compare the GHG implications of different waste management options.	The report is the first of its kind in Canada and clearly shows the significant link between waste management activities and GHG emissions. For example, it demonstrates that there is a net GHG savings of approximately 6 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (eCO <sub>2</sub> ) per tonne of aluminum recycled compared to the production of aluminum from virgin materials.	The study builds on several years of research conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the support of leaders in the field of life-cycle assessment. The report was strengthened by the inclusion of an in-depth peer review process that included the participation of academics, industry associations, non-governmental organizations, government officials, and environmental consultants. The technical report and a summary brochure are scheduled to be released on the Government of Canada website in Summer 2006 in both English and French.
3	<b>Waste Reduction Week in Canada</b>	Waste Reduction Week in Canada is an annual event that takes place during the third week in October. The campaign brings together provincial/territorial governments and recycling associations, municipalities, schools, businesses, and the public with the goal of promoting the 3Rs as a way of life. Planning for Waste Reduction Week 2006 is already underway.	During the 2005 campaign, hundreds of events were organized by provincial/territorial governments and recycling associations, schools, municipalities, and businesses across the country. These events focussed on <i>waste reduction</i> (promoting use of reusable shopping bags, tips on "litterless" lunches), <i>reuse</i> (clothing and houseplant exchanges), <i>recycling</i> (collection of recyclable materials, waste audits) and <i>composting</i> (subsidized compost bin sales, workshops).	Waste Reduction Week organizers make it easy to get involved by supplying participants with <i>Too Good to Waste Kits</i> that provide a wide array of organizing tips, facts and statistics to help them with their goals for the event. More information on Waste Reduction Week in Canada is available on the website: <a href="http://www.wrrwcanada.com">www.wrrwcanada.com</a> .