

A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO BUILD GREEN



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RENEWABLE & RECYCLABLE

A NATURAL CARBON BANK



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Project of the Canadian Wood Council

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GreenBites

Cleanup is in the bag

Province works with retailers to change consumer habits

Paper or plastic won't be an option for Albertans soon if a new agreement between the province and major retailers to reduce plastic bags works as planned.

The province and four retail associations embarked on the plan this June to reduce plastic bag use by about 50 per cent of its 2008 level by 2013. About 900,000 plastic bags were used in the province in 2008.

Retail organizations included in the voluntary agreement represent over 90 per cent of retail sales in Alberta and include the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, Retail Council of Canada, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers and Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores.

The industry funded and led program will include an education campaign encouraging consumers to use reusable shopping bags.

"Many Albertans are concerned with the number of plastic bags littering streets and entering landfills," says Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner in a news release. "This agreement with retailers is an important step in reducing plastic bag waste in every community."

The plan follows on the heels of an all-out plastic bag ban approved late last year for most retailers in Fort McMurray.

www.alberta.ca



Eastward bound

B.C.-based recycler opens shop in Calgary

In its 20th year of successful business, paper recycler and shredder Urban Impact is branching into Calgary. The Richmond, B.C.-based company just won the Private Sector Award for Environmental Leadership from the Recycling Council of British Columbia and has kicked off in Calgary with 750 new clients.

Devised as a university project in 1989, Urban Impact is a family-owned-and-operated business committed to environmental conservation and global responsibility. Last year the company collected and diverted 95,000 tonnes of recyclable material from local landfills.

Urban Impact founder Nicole Stefanelli originally sought to prove that it was viable for commercial businesses to reduce their waste disposal costs and green their businesses by recycling. Today, the company provides clients with complete recycling, shredding and green business consulting services and is also operator of the first commercial recycling hybrid vehicle in Canada.

www.urbanimpact.com