

# “WHAT’S NEW IN P2”

A Monthly Information Service

Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2)  
Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (CPPIC)

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## *P2 News*

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### **Vancouver first major city in Canada to allow electric vehicles on city streets**

The City of Vancouver recently approved a by-law which allows slow-speed electric vehicles to travel on its city streets, becoming the first major city in Canada to do so. Electric vehicles will be allowed on any street where the speed limit is 50 km/hr or less. While many electric vehicles are able to travel faster than 50 km/hr, Transport Canada has deemed them unsafe when driven faster than 40 km/hr. This is because they currently don't undergo the same safety testing as regular vehicles and come in a variety of shapes and sizes that may not sufficiently protect passengers in an accident. Vancouver has also started requiring that all new single-family homes be equipped with electric car plug-ins and is considering setting up “opportunity charge points” around the city where vehicles can be recharged. Oak Bay, a small suburb of Victoria, B.C., also allows electric vehicles on its streets and Quebec and Ontario have pilot programs in place. London, England is considered the leader among industrialized countries with more than 1000 electric vehicles estimated in use.

CBC.ca, *Electric cars legalized in Vancouver*

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2008/10/01/bc-electric-vehicles-legal-vancouver.html>

### **Montreal introduces city-wide bike share program**

The City of Montreal unveiled plans for a public bike system that will begin next spring with the introduction of 2,400 Quebec-designed, fully recyclable, aluminum bicycles. Montreal's self-service rental program, which is modeled after the popular Vélib' bike program in Paris, will include a network of 300 solar powered stations around the city where bikes can be rented and returned. In support of short trips, use of a bicycle is free for the first 30 minutes with a membership, \$1.50 for the next half hour and increases in cost for successive half hour periods. Memberships are \$28/month, \$78/ 7months or \$5/day. The \$15 million system is being paid for by Stationnement de Montreal, the company that manages the City's on-street parking, who hope to recoup their investment through membership fees. Paris' Vélib' program started in the summer of 2007 and since then has rented more than 20,000 bikes 31 million times.

Stationnement de Montreal, Public Bike System

<http://www.statdemtl.qc.ca/en/bike/>

CBC.ca, Montreal unveils ambitious bike-rental program

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2008/09/22/bixi-bikes.html?ref=rss>

The Gazette, Mayor's on a roll with bike-sharing plan

<http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/features/viewpoints/story.html?id=f92c0526-64fd-42ff-a217-669adcb9a019>

### **Climate change leads to record sea ice loss in Canada's Arctic**

As more information emerges about the extent of sea ice loss in Canada's Arctic this year, it has been reported that sea ice cover is at its lowest level since satellite record-keeping began in 1978.

Throughout the summer, reports of chunks of sea ice breaking away from Ellesmere Island have raised concerns that the effects of climate change in the Arctic are surpassing predictions, bringing the area to a dangerous “tipping point”. During the last century, thick sea ice would eventually reform in place of ice shelves that broke off, but with the current warming trend environmental conditions that kept ice shelves in balance for thousands of years are no longer present and the extent of sea ice loss is irreversible. The burning of oil and other fossil fuels is widely agreed as the main cause of manmade warming and melting ice, which makes the suggestion of increasing exploration of the Arctic’s oil and mineral deposits (which have become more evident as a result of the melting sea ice) a great concern to scientists, environmentalists and the general public that are following reports of a diminishing ice cover.

CBC.ca, *Record sea ice loss opens Northwest Passage*

<http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2007/09/14/northwest-passage-esa.html>

Telegraph.co.uk, *Canada’s arctic ice shelf has ‘massively’ shrunk*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2008/09/04/eaice104.xml>

BBC News, *Arctic ice is at ‘tipping point’*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7585645.stm>

### **New study suggests bisphenol A may be harmful to adults**

A new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in September links the much discussed chemical bisphenol A (BPA) with heart disease and diabetes in adults. Health Canada made regulatory history in April by proposing to place BPA (a chemical found in plastic baby bottles, food cans and many other products) on the government’s list of toxic substances and banning it from baby bottles. At the time, Canadians were told that exposure to the chemical was not a risk for adults, however the findings in the JAMA article suggest otherwise. While the researchers were cautious to suggest a direct link between BPA and disease, the results suggest a need for further scientific investigation given the possible public health implications. The new research represents the largest investigation to date of BPA’s possible effect in humans. The main findings were that adults with higher exposure to BPA have 2.9 times the odds of having cardiovascular disease and 2.4 times the odds of having adult-onset diabetes compared with those with lower exposure. Levels of BPA used in the study were based on typical ranges found in American adults.

Globe and Mail.com, *Bisphenol A poses disease risk for adults, study says*

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080916.wbisphenol0916/BNStory/Science/home>

The Star.com, *Study raises new concerns over bisphenol A, health risks*

<http://www.thestar.com/article/500554>

### **United States moves to protect Great Lakes**

In late September, the U.S. House of Representatives ratified a compact to prevent the diversion of water from the Great Lakes. The eight bordering states negotiated the compact after more than four years of talks. Successfully signed by George Bush in early October, the compact has become a law that prohibits almost any diversion of water to countries or remote states from the natural drainage basin and additionally requires states bordering the Lakes to introduce new conservation measures. While most of the coverage of the compact has been positive, there has been some concern expressed about a possible loophole in the agreement, which some say allows for the diversion of bottled water. The exemption allows for the diversion of water in containers smaller than 5.7 gallons.

The Associate Press, *House approves Great Lakes Compact*

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gRXs1PFATEQP0CVpRdIIUoHhHmKwD93CI8S81>

The New York Times, *House Bans Diverting Water from Great Lakes*  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/24/washington/24lakes.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/24/washington/24lakes.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

United Press International.com, *Bush signs Great Lakes Compact*  
[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/2008/10/04/Bush\\_signs\\_Great\\_Lakes\\_Compact/UPI-83551223132201/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/10/04/Bush_signs_Great_Lakes_Compact/UPI-83551223132201/)

Also in September, Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama announced a \$5 billion trust fund for cleanup and restoration of the Great Lakes. The fund would be phased in over 10 years and would be the centerpiece of a larger plan that also calls for the appointment of a Great Lakes Coordinator in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a focus on combating invasive species. The fund would support projects such as sewage system repairs, the cleanup of sediments contamination by toxic chemicals, and restoration of wetlands and wildlife habitat.

The Associated Press, *Obama proposes \$5B trust fund for Great Lakes*

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iDJ0hDY2KzkkdCRALQyqRfQfNXyQD9382SAG0>

Washington Post.com, *Obama Lakes Plan Could Help Woo Michigan*

[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/17/obama\\_lakes\\_plan\\_could\\_help\\_wo.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/17/obama_lakes_plan_could_help_wo.html)

## ***CPPIC This Month***

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Environment Canada's Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (CPPIC), an online database and comprehensive resource for pollution prevention (P2) information, continues to grow as new resources are added to the database and improvements are made to the P2 web site. The following is a summary of the recent additions:

**15 new resources were added to the database.** Resources may be of interest to community groups, educators, students, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME), municipalities, consumers, the general public and industry. Sample resources include:

- Eco-Efficiency and Chemical Management: Cleaning Compounds - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2156>
- Examples of Sustainable Community Plans - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2158>
- Going Green: Minimum Standards Towards a Sustainable Hotel - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2166>
- A Business Case for Green Buildings in Canada - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2171>
- The Application of Biotechnology to Industrial Sustainability: A Primer - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2177>

**What's New?** Visit the *What's New* Section for the complete list of resources added each month -- <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/whatsNew.cfm>

**Featured Web site:** *Centre for Sustainable Community Development* - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/whatsNew.cfm?view=site&id=34>

**Check out this month's featured Success Story:** *Quebec City* - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/whatsNew.cfm?view=story&id=50>

## ***Publications***

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### **EcoMarkets 2008 Summary Report, Terra Choice**

The EcoMarkets 2008 Summary Report informs readers of the attitudes and practices of North American buyers towards environmentally preferable purchasing. Research was conducted by Terra Choice in 2007 and 2008 in partnership with the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the Responsible Purchasing Network. Indicating a growth in the field of green procurement, one of the main findings of the report is that 68% of North American organizations increased their green purchasing in the past 12 months. Further, 91% of purchasers believe they will become more active green purchasers over the next two years.

For a free copy of the report, please see the ordering information at:

<http://www.terrachoice.com/Home/Services/Research>.

### **College Sustainability Report Card 2009, Sustainable Endowment Institute**

The 2009 College Sustainability Report Card ranked 300 universities with the largest endowments in the United States and Canada based on their sustainability initiatives and programs. While not a single university received an “A” overall, 15 universities received an “A-” including the University of British Columbia, which was the only Canadian institution to do so. Overall, 5% of schools received an “A-”, 2% received an “F” and on average schools received a “C+”. The details of the report card have been used to create an interactive web site that provides sustainability profiles and grades for each of the surveyed universities in 9 main categories, including climate change and energy, food and recycling, green building, student involvement, transportation and more. Visitors to the site can create side-by-side comparisons of schools, examine trends across policy categories (e.g. energy investments), and search for schools with specific programs (e.g. green dorms, car sharing). The aim of the web site is to provide information for schools to learn from one another’s experiences, enabling them to establish more effective sustainability policies.

Visit the interactive College Sustainability Report Card at:

<http://www.greenreportcard.org/>

## ***Conferences and Events***

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### **Responsible Travel and Tourism Forum, Toronto, ON**

**October 14-15**

RTTF is Canada's only industry-led forum that brings travel and tourism professionals together to learn and discuss a wide range of issues relating to responsible business practices. High profile Canadian and international speakers from academia, private and public sectors will deliver a wide range of perspectives and current responsible travel and tourism initiatives being adopted globally. For more information, visit <http://www.rttf.ca/>

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Green Purchasing Summit, San Francisco, CA**

**October 15 – 17**

This is the World’s biggest networking event for procurement and supply chain professionals who want to green their operations. How is the trend to go green affecting your daily operations, changing the way you do your job - and enabling you to increase cost savings? Find out at the Green Purchasing Summit. For more information, visit

<http://www.eyeforprocurement.com/green2008/>

## **Waste Reduction Week, Canada-wide**

**October 19-25**

Find more information about events happening in your area at <http://www.wrwcanda.com/>.

## **State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference, Niagara Falls, ON**

**October 22-23**

This year, emphasis will be on "The Nearshore." In 1996, SOLEC focused on the nearshore lands and waters of the Great Lakes where biological productivity is greatest and where humans have maximum impact. In 2008, the conference will concentrate on what has changed with respect to the nearshore environments since 1996. Additional conditions and issues not evaluated in 1996 will also be addressed. For more information, visit

<http://www.solecregistration.ca/en/Default.asp>

## **Canadian Environmental Network Annual General Assembly, Toronto, ON**

**October 24-26**

Every year members of the Canadian Environmental Network gather at the General Assembly to meet their peers, strategize at a national level, and share information. This year the topic of 'Health and the Environment' will be addressed through the many workshops, plenary sessions, and presentations. Several of the scheduled events are open to the general public, including a dinner and keynote speech on the 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit

<http://www.rcen.ca/aga/main.html>

## **Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference, Vancouver, BC**

**October 27-29**

The International Ecotourism Society's third conference focusing on sustainable tourism in the U.S. and Canada, the ESTC2008 will bring together 500+ experts, industry leaders and community stakeholders from across the region. For more information, visit

<http://www.ecotourismconference.org/>

## **International Symposium for the North American Lake Management Society, Lake Louise, AB**

**November 11-14**

The theme of the 2008 Symposium is "Lake Management in a Changing Environment". It will deal with the management of our lakes when faced with unprecedented developmental pressures, climate change and water scarcity. For more information, visit

<http://www.nalms.org/Conferences/2008LakeLouise/Default.aspx>

## ***Internet Bits and Bytes***

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### **PowerUp, Pembina Institute**

The Pembina Institute, in partnership with the Ivey Foundation, Tides Foundation, Equiterre, ForestEthics and Environmental Defence, has created the web site PowerUP. The aim is to bring citizens together to push for stronger laws and policies that will address the challenge of climate change. Visitors to the web site can read the 'Vision for Canada', which makes the request for effective policies in markets, laws and investments, and international agreements. Additional sections include 'Research', which includes links to sites and resources that help visitors learn about global warming and how to solve it, 'What You Can Do', 'News and Events', 'Social Networks', and 'Look Who's Powering UP', a section which outlines a central statement and high profile signatories asking for meaningful action from the Canadian government on climate change. In September, the Pembina Institute announced that former Prime Ministers Paul Martin, Joe Clark, Kim Campbell, John Turner and Jean Chretien, as well as many other prominent

Canadians showed support for the urgent statement of action spearheaded by PowerUp. Visit the site at <http://www.powerupcanada.ca/home/>.

### **Light Pollution is No Longer Hiding in the Dark**

*By Robert Dick, Physics - University of Ottawa, Physics and Engineering - Carleton University*

Less than 10 years ago, few people had heard of light pollution. Most people slept while artificial lighting increasingly brightened the night. However, astronomers and a few biologists did notice and studied its impact on the environment. Their findings have resulted in the science of scotobiology. Instead of having a limited effect on wildlife, it has been shown that light has a profound impact on wildlife and human health. Fortunately it is easily reduced and in some cases eliminated. Reducing light pollution saves energy, reduces air and water pollution due to power generation and helps to preserve the environment and our cultural heritage. Become informed about the impact of nocturnal lighting by reading about it on the following web sites:

<http://www.starlight-theatre.ca/LT-POLLUTION.HTM>

<http://www.rasc.ca/index.shtml>

<http://www.darksky.org/mc/page.do>

### ***From the Desk of the ED***

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As this newsletter is being written and distributed, seriously troublesome economic times have descended on most countries. While public and private sector leaders try to reassure Canadians that Canada is well positioned to weather these economic storms, there can be little doubt that there is increased sensitivity and caution with regard to new investments and change. The impact to the advancement of P2 in this country is hard to discern. On the one hand, we can expect businesses to be far more rigorous in their examination of business cases for implementing new sustainable production and consumption processes and supporting technologies. The overall impact could likely be a slowdown on the implementation of P2. On the other, for businesses who are confident of the overall utility of their products and services and a continuing demand for them over the longer term, this may be just the time to invest in improvements to their overall efficiency including the lessening of their environmental footprint. Undoubtedly, the current economic turbulence represents an additional challenge to P2 practitioners, but I am confident that those individuals and firms who have done their homework in their respective P2 fields and have taken the time to develop a strategic outlook will fare well and be able to find, and take advantage of, opportunities to advance P2 in their respective fields.

### ***Information Sharing***

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If you wish to contribute to this information service, please e-mail us at [info@c2p2online.com](mailto:info@c2p2online.com)