

AlarmRecycle

Annual Report to the Director

2012

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AlarmRecycle 2012 Report to Director, Waste Management

Executive Summary

Products within plan	Residential-use smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms
Program website	www.productcare.org/Smoke-Alarms

Recycling Regulation Reference	Topic	Summary
Part 2, Section 8(2)(a)	Public Education Materials and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration through RCBC Hotline and Recyclepedia, the SABC Recycling Handbook and the BCUOMA Ambassadors to harmonize consumer-facing information about AlarmRecycle drop-off sites. • Focused on Fire Prevention Week and the end of Daylight Savings Time for press releases and publishing print ads. • Direct and targeted outreach, such as communications to fire departments and to fire safety and prevention companies, all over the province to inform them about AlarmRecycle. • AlarmRecycle ads were published in 2012 municipal waste and recycling calendars. • Print advertising
Part 2, Section 8(2)(b)	Collection System and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the 2012, the province-wide collection system was comprised of 134, contracted and advertised collection sites, including 66 return-to-retail locations, 8 local government facilities, 3 fire departments and 57 private recycling depots.
Part 2, Section 8(2)(c)	Product Environmental Impact Reduction, Reusability and Recyclability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ionization foil stamping technology ensures less waste produced and precious metals used in this stage of the manufacturing process. • There is a general trend in the industry to move from 9 volt to 3 volt alarms reducing the number of batteries required for product operation.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The launch of a new line of smoke and CO alarms that don't require a battery change during the life of the alarm (potentially saving up to 30 batteries). • Alarm lifespans are slowly expanded, thereby reduce the product's disposal rate.
Part 2, Section 8(2)(d)	Pollution Prevention Hierarchy and Product / Component Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plastic and metal components (copper, aluminum and ferrous etc.) are separated and recycled. • Radioactive component of some of the alarms (Am-241 foil) is shipped for final disposal at a licensed radioactive waste facility.
Part 2, Section 8(2)(e)	Product Sold and Collected and Recovery Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the approved program plan, aggregated sales data would not be made publicly available, due to limited number of manufactures and to protect confidential segment share information. • Between January 1 and December 31, 2012, the program collected approximately 21,326 units.
Part 2, Section 8(2)(e.1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program plan commits to reporting on a province basis and not individual Regional Districts
Part 2, Section 8(2)(f)	Summary of Deposits, Refunds, Revenues and Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix D contains the Independent Financial 2012 Audit of AlarmRecycle.

Comparison of Key Performance Targets

Part 2 section 8(2)(g); See full list of targets in Plan Performance (Section 9)

Priority Stewardship Plan Targets	Performance	Strategies for Improvement
1. The program will establish 60 depots by the end of 2012.	At the end of 2012, AlarmRecycle had contracted with 134 permanent depots, across 28 regional districts.	n/a
2. Total number of units of smoke and CO alarms collected annually, BC total to be provided by the end of 2012.	In 2012, 21,326 units were collected, establishing a baseline for annual targets (5% collection rate target annual increase).	n/a
3. The program will work with other stewardship programs to try to limit consumer confusion and to develop communication synergies between programs.	AlarmRecycle has joined SABC and with working with similar programs (LightRecycle and PaintRecycle) in outreach to stakeholders. In addition AlarmRecycle has engaged RCBC for hotline and Recyclepedia services	Ongoing efforts are being made to create synergy between consumer-facing materials.
4. Conduct a consumer awareness survey after the first complete calendar year (2012) of program operation. Target a baseline of 25% consumer awareness of the program during this survey.	A survey was conducted in January 2013, it showed a consumer awareness level of 22% for recycling smoke alarms and 20% for recycling CO alarms.	AlarmRecycle will focus on increasing consumer awareness using a number of different initiatives.

Program Outline

AlarmRecycle, the BC Smoke and CO Alarm Recycling Program, began October 1, 2011. AlarmRecycle is operated by Product Care Association pursuant to the BC Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Stewardship Plan, approved by the BC Ministry of Environment under the BC Recycling Regulation on August 17, 2011. AlarmRecycle members include manufacturers, brand owners, distributors, first importers and retailers. In 2012 there were 55 AlarmRecycle members, for a complete list of 2012 registered AlarmRecycle members, see Appendix A. This annual report for the 2012 year covers the period from January to December, 2012.

Products that are recycled through AlarmRecycle include: smoke alarms designed for residential-use, as defined by the CAN/ULC-S531 standard¹ and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms designed for residential use, as defined by the CAN/CSA 6.19 standard. The program has developed a collection network of over 100 permanent year-round collection locations. AlarmRecycle does not directly own or manage collection sites but contracts with all collection locations. Collection sites include fire safety organizations, fire halls, retailers, recycling organizations (both non-profit and for profit), and local government recycling centres or transfer stations.

The AlarmRecycle website is a consumer-facing portal where the public can gather information on various topics, such as what products are accepted in the program, where to find a collection site close to them, promotional materials and membership. The website is www.productcare.org/Smoke-Alarms. In January 2013, after the first complete calendar year (2012) of program operation a consumer awareness survey was conducted. The survey results showed a consumer awareness level of 22% for recycling smoke alarms and 20% for recycling CO alarms. Further details on education and outreach efforts are outlined in Section 3.

While the BC Recycling Regulation requires that a program recovery rate be established and reported, the unique nature of the smoke and CO alarm market in BC precludes this option as a performance measure. A recovery rate compares the amount of materials collected to the amount of material sold over the same time period. Collection and sales data are typically published alongside the recovery rate in order to provide context for a percentage based recovery rate. To calculate the recovery rate would permit estimates of the sales data of individual companies to be published, which is confidential business information. A simple percentage recovery rate would not provide a meaningful measure of program performance without the context of the number sold in the same period. Because there was not a suitable reference point for smoke and CO alarms, the program committed in its approved stewardship plan to submit a collection rate target for the program to the BC Ministry of Environment by April 1, 2013. In the 2012 calendar year, the program collected approximately 21,326 units, which AlarmRecycle will use as the collection rate baseline. The program will target a 5% annual increase in the number of units collected as AlarmRecycle's collection rate targets as per Table 5, which was submitted to the Ministry of Environment.

¹ Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC) Standards develops and publishes standards and specifications for specific product types, including those having a bearing on fire safety. Fire alarms installed in dwelling units must conform to the CAN/ULC-S531-02 standard.

Public Education Materials and Strategies

In 2012, AlarmRecycle focused largely on raising awareness and increasing collection rates through fire departments across the province. AlarmRecycle messaging was incorporated in existing Fire Prevention Week and Daylight Saving Times ending promotion. It was during this period that informative letters, emails and ads were sent out to media outlets, fire departments and fire-safety and prevention companies about AlarmRecycle. Point of sale material (rack cards, posters and stickers to put on the alarms) is made available to all stakeholders and is free of charge to order through reorder@productcare.org or on the website. Examples of public educational materials are included in Appendix B.

AlarmRecycle education and outreach included several different methods of informing key stakeholders and the general public about the program. Means of outreach included, media relation through the placement of print ads in community papers and major dailies, as well as public outreach through outlets such as fire departments, BC Fire Chief's Association and local governments. Online outreach was conducted using Facebook Ads, AlarmRecycle's website and the RCBC Recyclepedia. AlarmRecycle public education activities are detailed in Table 1.

Additionally, AlarmRecycle participated in several collaborative initiatives, including the Stewardship Agencies of BC (SABC) recycling handbook, joint municipal calendar ads in several regions of the province, the Recycling Council of BC's (RCBC) hotline and Recyclepedia, and the British Columbia Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA) summer ambassador program.

Key messaging in 2012 highlighted the following themes:

- AlarmRecycle is a recycling program for used or expired smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and combination smoke and CO alarms. The program was developed to ensure that smoke and CO alarms would stay out of the landfill, and to ensure compliance with the BC Recycling Regulation.
- BC residents can drop off their used smoke, carbon monoxide alarms or combination smoke and CO alarms for recycling at no cost, at over 130 AlarmRecycle drop-off locations across BC. Residents can find their nearest drop-off location at www.alarmrecycle.ca or by phoning 1-800-667-4321 toll free.
- Like most other recycling programs operating in BC, AlarmRecycle is funded by recycling fees applied on the sale of new products. The recycling fee fully covers program costs, such as collecting, transporting and recycling smoke and CO alarms previously destined for the landfill. These recycling fees are necessary to operate this comprehensive, convenient and responsible recycling program in the province.
- The program saw growth through the addition of around 90 new collection sites across the province.
- "Large volume end users" with more than 40 smoke or CO alarms for recycling can arrange for a free pick-up service (one-time, regularly scheduled or as needed).

Table 1: Summary of 2012 AlarmRecycle Outreach

Event	Tactic	Result
<i>Fire Prevention Week</i>	Media relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AlarmRecycle press release was picked up by several media outlets, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management World Business Review Canada Yahoo! Finance The Whistler Question
	Outreach to fire departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters, along with posters and rack cards were sent to over 60 local fire departments across the province.
	Outreach to regional and municipal contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach was made to local government contacts, who were sent an informative email about AlarmRecycle that included the 2012 press release.
<i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	Print Ads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print ads were published in the following areas and communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interior North (100 Mile House, Prince George, Kitimat and Prince Rupert) Interior South (Vernon, Kelowna, Kamloops, Invermere, Merritt and Nelson) Metro Vancouver (Vancouver, Surrey/North Delta, Burnaby/New Westminster, North/West Vancouver, Langley, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Abbotsford) Vancouver Island (Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River, Parksville/Qualicum, Ladysmith and Cowichan)
<i>Large Volume End Users (LVEU) Outreach</i>	Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire alarm-related businesses were sent a letter explaining the free pick-up service and to let them know there are over 130 depots across the province.
<i>General Public Outreach</i>	Collaborative Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracted with RCBC to provide Hotline and Recyclepedia services. Participated in the fourth edition of the SABC Recycling Handbook. AlarmRecycle ad published in 16 2012 municipal waste & recycling calendars alongside PaintRecycle, LightRecycle and OPEIC. AlarmRecycle is promoted through the Product Care Facebook and Twitter accounts on a regular basis. BCUOMA Ambassadors distributed AlarmRecycle rack cards at community events and depots across BC.

Consumer Awareness Study:

The first consumer awareness survey for BC AlarmRecycle was conducted in January 2013 (after the first complete year of operation). The survey results showed a consumer awareness level of 22% for recycling smoke alarms and 20% for recycling CO alarms. The survey results, in conjunction with the 2012 volumes collected, were used to determine the annual “available to collect” number, which is due to the Ministry of Environment on April 1, 2013.

Collection System and Facilities

AlarmRecycle operates drop-off locations across BC where residents can return their smoke and CO alarms. There is no charge for consumers to drop off their products.

Product Care does not directly own or manage any depots, but contracts with all collection sites. At the end of the 2012, the province-wide collection system was comprised of 134 contracted, advertised collection sites, including 66 return-to-retail locations, 8 local government facilities, 3 fire departments and 57 private recycling depots. Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the different types of collection sites in both 2012 and 2011. In Appendix C a complete list of collection sites as of December 31, 2012 is provided. Included in Appendix C is a table that lists how many sites are in each regional district.

The collection system is supplemented by a direct pick up service for approximately 25 sites that service “Large Volume End Users”. These facilities collect large volumes of smoke and CO alarms and include fire safety organizations, electrical distributors and local government facilities.

Table 2: 2012 and 2011 Collection Site Breakdown by Type

Collection Site Type	# of Collection Sites in 2011	# of Collection Sites in 2012
Retailers	13	66
Local government	10	8
Recycling depots	53	57
Fire departments	0	3
Total	76	134

Product Environmental Impact Reduction, Reusability and Recyclability

While the principal purpose of smoke and CO alarms is safety, the industry has taken into account environmental considerations. Efforts have been made by the smoke and CO alarm industry to reduce the environmental impact of their products. New ionization foil stamping technology ensures less waste produced and precious metals used in this stage of the manufacturing process. The amount of plastic and other materials in a typical smoke alarm has also decreased substantially over the past two decades while the use of recycled materials in product packaging has increased. Finally, there is a general trend in the industry from 9 volt to 3 volt alarms reducing the number of batteries required for product operation.

Manufacturers regularly review the design of these products for functionality, sustainability and impact on the environment. They are continually working to find recycled materials for packaging and implement other sustainable initiatives. Some initiatives taken by manufacturers are:

- a) The launch of a new line of photoelectric smoke and CO alarms that don't require a battery change during the life of the alarm. Dependent upon on the type of alarm, up to 30 batteries could be saved per alarm (based on the recommended 10 year life of an alarm and one battery change per year).
- b) The extension of alarm lifespans, which thereby reduce the product's disposal rate. Currently, the lifespan of a smoke and/or CO alarm varies between 5-10 years, depending upon its "end of life" rating as determined by the CSA 6.19-01 standard. Manufacturers are now being approved by the CSA 6.19-01 standard for a 10 year lifespan from date of activation for their carbon monoxide and combination smoke and CO alarms.

Pollution Prevention Hierarchy and Product / Component Management

Although not widely known by the general public, the use of ionization smoke detectors is quite common. A radioactive source is used within the detector to ionize the air and produce a small electric current. When smoke enters the detector chamber, the current is interrupted which causes the alarm to sound. The radioactive element used in the smoke detector is most commonly americium-241 (Am-241) which emits alpha radiation (or alpha particle). The source of radioactivity is quite small. Ionization units collected and shipped are required to be labelled "Radioactive Material - Excepted Package - Articles, UN2911."

The boxes of collected units are consolidated in Product Care Association's facility until sufficient quantities are amassed for processing. During the consolidation, all collected smoke and CO alarms have their batteries removed and sent for recycling. Product Care Association has collaborated with the Call2Recycle stewardship program for safe disposal through their program. The alarms are also sorted and counted before being shipped to an approved and licensed recycler.

At the recycler’s facility, prior to dismantling, each smoke alarm in the shipment is physically inspected and inventoried by a Radioactive Materials Technician. The plastic and metal components are separated and sent for recycling. The copper, aluminum and ferrous metal are source separated and shipped for metal recovery, through the scrap metal recycling industry. The remaining Am-241 foil is shipped for final disposal at a licensed radioactive waste facility. The processing and recycling of the alarms in 2012, resulted in approximately 12,160 microcuries of Am-241, and 1.6 microcuries of RA-226 diverted from the solid waste stream.

Product Sold and Collected and Recovery Rate

Products Sold

There are several brand owners in the BC smoke and CO alarm market but the market is primarily served by three brand owners. Given the small number of manufacturers of these products selling into the BC market, as per the Ministry Environment approved stewardship plan, aggregated sales data would not be made publicly available, as with other stewardship programs.

Collection Volumes

Smoke and CO alarms are collected at collection sites in boxes, totes or mega bags, depending on the volume they expect to receive. Between January 1 and December 31, 2012, the program collected approximately 21,326 units, as shown below in Table 3.

The average number of program alarms within the boxes/totes was estimated to be 51. These values were calculated using the sorted values of over 500 boxes/tote which were counted at the time of sorting and consolidation in the Product Care Association Surrey facility between October 2011 and April 2013. The number of alarms collected was determined by multiplying the number of small boxes/totes collected each month by 51 alarms per container.

Table 3: Units Collected, January – December, 2012

	January 1 to December 31, 2012	# of Alarms Collected
# of Small Containers	369	18,819
# of Mega Bags	3	2,507 ²
Total	372	21,326

² The total is the sum of two bags which were sorted and counted in Surrey (counted values of 689 and 586), as well as the average of the 7 bags processed by the recycler up to April 17, 2013 (counted average 1,232).

Units Collected by Regional District

Table 4 illustrates the number of smoke and CO alarms collected from each of the province's regional districts between January and December, 2012.

Table 4: Total smoke and CO alarms collected by Regional District, 2012

Regional District	# Small Containers ³	# Mega Bags	# of Smoke & CO Alarms
Alberni Clayoquot	0	0	0
Bulkley Nechako	0	0	0
Capital Regional District	60	0	3,060
Cariboo	0	0	0
Central Coast	0	0	0
Central Kootenay	4	0	204
Central Okanagan	46	0	2,346
Columbia Shuswap	0	0	0
Comox Valley	3	1 ⁴	842
Cowichan Valley	1	0	51
East Kootenay	0	0	0
Fraser Fort George	2	0	102
Fraser Valley	51	0	2,601
GVRD	157	2 ⁵	9,825
Kitimat Stikine	0	0	0
Kootenay Boundary	2	0	102
Mt. Waddington	0	0	0
Nanaimo Regional District	14	0	714
North Okanagan	8	0	408
Northern Rockies	0	0	0
Okanagan Similkameen	7	0	357
Peace River	2	0	102
Powell River Regional District	6	0	306
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	0	0	0
Squamish Lillooet	3	0	153
Strathcona	1	0	51
Sunshine Coast	0	0	0
Thompson Nicola	2	0	102
TOTAL	369	3	21,326

³ Conversion factor used: 51 units per box/tote.

⁴ The number of units counted in the megabag collected in the Comox Valley Regional District was estimated to be 689.

⁵ The number of units in the megabags collected in the GVRD were estimated to be 1,232 and 586.

Collection Rate and Targets

While the BC Recycling Regulation requires that a program recovery rate be established and reported, the unique nature of the smoke and CO alarm market in BC precludes this option as a performance measure. A recovery rate compares the amount of materials collected to the amount of material sold over the same time period. Collection and sales data are typically published alongside the recovery rate in order to provide context for a percentage based recovery rate. To calculate the recovery rate would permit estimates of the sales data of individual companies to be published, which is confidential business information. A simple percentage recovery rate would not provide a meaningful measure of program performance without the context of the number sold in the same period. Because there was not a suitable reference point for smoke and CO alarms, the program committed in its approved stewardship plan to submit a collection rate target for the program to the BC Ministry of Environment by April 1, 2013.

For these reasons, AlarmRecycle will report on the total number of program products collected annually as the performance measurement tool.

Revenues and Expenditures

AlarmRecycle is funded by membership fees, known as environmental handling fees, remitted to Product Care by its members based on the volume of sales of smoke and CO alarms in British Columbia. The eco-fee rates are set by Product Care. In some cases, retailers recover the fees from consumers as a separate visible eco-fee. Program revenues are applied to the operation of the program, including education, collection system, administration, transport, recycling and disposal of collected products as well as a reserve fund. Table 6 illustrates the eco-fee rates for program products effective since October 1, 2011. Additionally, a copy of the independent financial audit of the program's revenues and expenses can be found in Appendix D.

Table 6: Eco Fees as of October 1, 2011

Unit Type	Eco Fee
Smoke Alarms ⁶	\$1.20
Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms	\$0.60

⁶ Includes combination smoke and CO alarms.

Table 7: 2012 AlarmRecycle Revenue and Expenditures

	Amount
Revenues	\$ 378,054
Program Expenses	
Collection	\$ 9,263
Transportation	\$ 3,078
Depot Supplies	\$ 915
Processing ⁷	-
General and Administrative Expenses	
Communications	\$ 8,339
Administration	\$ 2,400
Overhead Allocation	\$ 12,696
Total Expenses	\$ 36,691
Excess of Revenues over Expenses for the Year	\$ 341,363

Plan Performance

Plan Target	2012 Results	Strategies for Improvement
1. The program will establish 60 depots by the end of 2012.	By the end of 2012, AlarmRecycle had 134 contracted, permanent depots open across 28 regional districts.	n/a
2. Total number of units of smoke and CO alarms collected annually, BC total to be provided by the end of 2012.	In 2012, approximately, 21,326 units were collected, establishing a baseline for annual targets to be set).	Targets to be set and submitted to the Ministry of Environment by April 1, 2013
3. Conduct a consumer awareness survey after the first complete calendar year (2012) of program operation. Target a baseline of 25% consumer awareness of the program during this survey.	A survey was conducted in January 2013, it showed a consumer awareness level of 22% for recycling smoke alarms and 20% for recycling CO alarms.	AlarmRecycle will focus on increasing consumer awareness using a number of different initiatives.
4. Work with the other stewardship programs to try to limit consumer confusion and to develop communication synergies between programs.	AlarmRecycle collaborated with other product stewardship programs by participating in the SABC Recycling Handbook and multi-product advertising in municipal calendars.	AlarmRecycle will continue to participate and consider options for harmonizing consumer-facing information through SABC amongst other initiatives.

⁷ At year end, the Association had unprocessed program materials on hand with an estimated cost to process, transport and recycle of \$79,488 which will be incurred in 2013.

<p>5. By the end of 2013, AlarmRecycle will target an accessibility standard of a minimum of 90% of the provincial population having access to a collection point, where “access” is defined as a 30 minute drive or less to a collection point for those living in urban/urban centres of 150,000 or more and a 45 minute drive or less for those living in communities greater than 4,000 people.</p>	n/a	n/a
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APPENDIX A: 2012 AlarmRecycle Members

Company
0797222 BC LTD DBA Pine Lighting
Acklands-Grainger Inc
ACME FIRE AND SAFETY CO LTD.
AMELECO ELECTRIC INC.
Amway Canada Corp
Best Buy Canada
Canadian Tire
Chalifour Canada
Corporate Express Canada, Inc.
Costco Wholesale Canada
Dicon Global Inc
EB Horsman & Son
EECOL Electric Corp - Calgary
Farley Manufacturing Inc
Federated Cooperatives Ltd.
FIBRETECH DISTRIBUTORS INC
Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council's Distribution Centre
Franklin Empire
Gregg Electric Ltd
Guillevin International Inc.
HD Supply Canada
Her Majesty in right of Canada as represented by the staff of the non-public funds Canadian Forces
Home Depot Canada
Home Hardware
Hudson Bay Company
Illuminations Lighting Solutions
Kerrisdale Lumber Co. Ltd.
Kidde Canada
Leinshare Holdings Inc. dba Pharmasave #231
Lite-scape Lighting Inc.
Loblaws
London Drugs Ltd
Lowe's Companies Canada, ULC
Mircom Engineered Systems Ltd
National Fire
Nedco a division of REXEL CANADA ELECTRICAL INC
Pacific Coast Fire Equipment
Peavey Industries Ltd.

Company
Pharmasave #221 - Mill Bay Pharmacy
Pine Lighting Ltd.
Raine Mountain Hardware Ltd
Rona Revy Inc.
Royal City Fire Supplies Ltd
Royal Lighting & Electrical Supply Ltd.
Save More Lighting LTD
Serva-Lite Sales
Shadow Lighting & Supplies Inc
Slegg Construction Materials Ltd.
Staples Canada Inc
Superior Lighting and Bath Inc.
TruServ. Canada Inc.
Walmart Canada Corp
West Point Lighting Ltd
Westburne West (A Division of Rexel Canada Electrical Inc.)
Westcraft Lighting Ltd

APPENDIX B: 2012 Communication Examples

Ads that were placed in the Nanaimo News Bulletin and the Invermere Valley Echo:

Have you tested your smoke alarm?

Old or expired smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can be recycled!

Free drop-off in Nanaimo

- London Drugs:
 - 2 - 650 South Terminal, Port Place
 - #175 - 4750 Rutherford Road, Nanaimo North Town Centre
- Nanaimo Recycling Exchange
2477 Kenworth Road

We accept smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, combination smoke/CO alarms.

1-800-667-4321
www.alarmrecycle.ca

Have you tested your smoke alarm?

Old or expired smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can be recycled!

Free drop-off in Invermere

- Invermere Fire Department
626-4th Street

We accept smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, combination smoke/CO alarms.

1-800-667-4321
www.alarmrecycle.ca

Print ads in the Victoria News and the 100 Mile Free Press:

VICTORIA NEWS Wednesday, November 7, 2012 www.vicnews.com • A8

LETTERS

Liberals need to find transparency within first

The purpose of the recent B.C. Liberal convention is whether we prepare for the upcoming provincial election in early 2013 and to build enthusiasm in all the delegates. In her closing speech, Premier Christy Clark proclaimed that "The Liberals have a big vision."

Well I too have a big vision. It's a 50-year vision in my living room, which I watch daily in hopes of seeing some sort of transparency and accountability every time a Liberal conference issue arises.

It was astonishing that the delegates at this convention proposed two controversial resolutions.

One was to create a law preventing public-sector unions from using union money for any political purpose.

The second proposal called for more financial disclosure laws for public sector unions to let their lobbying and NDP donations into public view.

The Liberal goal, it seems, is to "increase transparency and accountability within unions."

Wow, what a joke.

I contend that the Liberal party should first clean up their own backyard when it comes to transparency and accountability before adopting laws of this type for other parties to follow.

All political parties promise during elections that they will put forward a transparent and accountable government if elected.

All political parties fail miserably in keeping their promises.

*Martin L. Buttle
Victoria*

Optimism among Liberals harkens back to Titanic

So, Little new to B.C. Liberal renewal (Vic. News, Oct. 31).

All the optimistic predictions and the optimal atmosphere at the recent B.C. Liberal convention in Whistler reminded me of that old joke about the last words of the captain of the Titanic: "There's nothing to worry about, folks. We're just slowing down to take a little ice on board for the party tonight."

*Gordon Philford
Victoria*

Looking for the last big one

With the water like glass, Trish Morrison and Glen Gilroy set off recently from the Fleming Beach boat ramp to go fishing. The pair were hunting for coho, on what they expected to be their last trip of the year.

Mega-project critic should be more selective

Re: Region backtracking heading to tax rate (31 Oct. 31)

In his column about the need to apply the brakes to a growing list of megaprojects, Stan Bartlett lumps together sewage treatment infrastructure (\$72 million), the Johnson Street Bridge (\$2.2 million), light-rail transit (\$90 million) and a 25-year pole-line and cycling infrastructure plan (\$20 million).

Two of these projects – sewage treatment and the bridge – are one-off, all-or-nothing affairs.

The other two represent multi-phased opportunities to transition away from what is widely recognized as a wholly unsustainable mode of transportation dependencies and the very expensive road networks needed to operate them toward modes of transportation that are more sustainable in every sense of the word (i.e., economically, environmentally and socially).

If your objective is to save taxpayers' money during this period of restraint, you are far better off focusing your efforts on more immediate and one-off megaprojects, as the full cost of these will be incurred much sooner and spread over a much shorter period of time.

In the meantime, as new "alternative" transportation networks gradually get built over the next two decades, more and more people will be able to leave their money-grubbing vehicles at home (or perhaps go without them altogether) and really start saving some money.

By the way, I'm a commuter-cyclist without a stretch of spandex in my wardrobe.

*Tue Berkhout
Victoria*

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The News reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and tone. The News will not print anonymous letters. Please include phone number for verification of your letter's substance. Phone numbers are not printed.

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Have you tested your smoke alarm?

Old or expired smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can be recycled!

Free drop-off in Victoria

- Hartland Recycling Depot
#1 Hartland Avenue
- London Drugs #14
203 - 933 Yates Street
- London Drugs #54
Yooja - 3478 Tillicum Road
- London Drugs #14
127 - 9995 Quadra Street
- London Drugs #46
3007 Smoke Road
- Oak Bay Recycling Depot
2771 Elgin Road

We accept smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, combination smoke/CO alarms.

1-800-667-4321
www.alarmrecycle.ca

100 Mile Free Press Wednesday, November 7, 2012 www.100mlefreepress.com • A33

Concussion awareness apps launched

Hockey Canada launched three concussion awareness apps for smartphones and tablets recently with the endorsement and support of Team Canada alumnae Hilary Chancy.

The apps are available in both English and French, with versions for both adults and children.

They include a variety of resources and information on concussions, focusing on prevention, respect, rules, symptoms and return-to-play protocol.

"The apps are available for BlackBerry, iOS and Android devices and can be downloaded from several websites and platforms, including Hockey Canada, Blackberry's App World, iTunes and Google Play Store."

"This is a great tool to use if there is a concern that a player may have a concussion," says IHC Hockey branch coordinator for safety-risk management Andy Detrich.

"It provides read-by-available bits of signs, symptoms, what questions to ask and a list of resources in their area should the user have further questions. The children's app also teaches them how to prevent concussion through respect and playing by the rules, Detrich adds.

Wranglers present franchise proposal to league

Arnie Jungblut, president of the 100 Mile House Wranglers Hockey Club, presented a franchise proposal to the International Junior Hockey League board of governors on Nov. 4 to present their proposal for a franchise team to be based in 100 Mile House.

Wranglers secretary president Tom Blackford says the local group was contacted by the board of governors to make their submission.

"The league is of further development with the intent of putting proposals for a franchise team, met with the International Junior Hockey League board of governors on Nov. 4 to present their proposal for a franchise team to be based in 100 Mile House."

Blackford says new members will be put forward for soliciting different organizations to put proposals for.

*Arnie Jungblut
100 Mile House*

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100 Mile House

Have you tested your smoke alarm?

Old or expired smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can be recycled!

Free drop-off in 100 Mile House

- Century Hardware Ltd.
488 South Birch Avenue
- Lone Butte Supply
400 Exeter Road

We accept smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, combination smoke/CO alarms.

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APPENDIX C: Detailed lists of AlarmRecycle Collection Sites in 2012

Complete List of all 2012 AlarmRecycle Collection Sites

Depot Name	Year Started	City
Abbotsford Bottle Depot	2011	Abbotsford
Abbotsford Community Services Recycling	2011	Abbotsford
Aldergrove Return-It	2011	Aldergrove
Alpine Disposal & Recycling	2011	Langford
Augusta Recyclers Ltd.	2011	Powell River
Bella Coola Recycling Depot	2011	Bella Coola
Biggar Bottle Depot	2011	Port Coquitlam
Bings Creek Solid Waste Complex	2011	North Cowichan
Boucherie Self Storage & Bottle Depot	2011	Kelowna
Campbell Mountain Landfill	2011	Penticton
Canadian Tire Campbell River	2011	Campbell River
Canadian Tire Williams Lake	2011	Williams Lake
Capital City and Sidney Fire equipment Ltd.	2011	Sidney
Carney's Waste Systems - Pemberton Waste & Recycling Facility	2011	Pemberton
Carney's Waste Systems - Squamish	2011	Squamish
Carney's Waste Systems - Whistler	2011	Whistler
Century Hardware Ltd.	2011	100 Mile House
Chasers Bottle Depot	2011	Vernon
Chetwynd Lions Recycling	2011	Chetwynd
Chilliwack Bottle Depot	2011	Chilliwack
Cranbrook Bottle Depot	2012	Cranbrook
D & G Recycling Ltd	2012	Delta
D.C. Recycling & Bottle Depot	2011	Dawson Creek
Eco-Depot Recycling	2011	Fort St. John
Fleetwood Bottle Return Depot Ltd.	2011	Surrey
FSJ Bottle Drop	2011	Fort St. John
Gabriola Island Recycling	2012	Gabriola Island
Gibsons Recycling Depot	2011	Gibsons
Go Green Depot & Recycling	2011	Vancouver
Hartland Recycling Depot	2011	Victoria
Home Hardware Cranbrook	2011	Cranbrook
Home Hardware Merritt	2011	Merritt
Home Hardware Revelstoke	2011	Revelstoke
Interior Freight & Bottle Ltd.	2011	Vernon
International Fibre Recycling- dba Greenheart Ventures	2012	Agassiz

Depot Name	Year Started	City
Invermere Fire Department	2011	Invermere
J&C Bottle Depot (formerly Penticton Recycling & Bottle Depot)	2011	Penticton
Joe's Bottle Depot	2011	Vancouver
Junction Bottle Depot Ltd.	2011	Ladysmith
Kamloops Fire Rescue	2011	Kamloops
Kaslo Building Supplies	2011	Kaslo
KUTE-Kitimat Recycling Depot	2011	Kitimat
Ladner Bottle Depot	2011	Delta
Langley Bottle Depot	2011	Langley
London Drugs #10	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #11	2012	Richmond
London Drugs #12	2012	Kelowna
London Drugs #14	2012	Victoria
London Drugs #15	2012	Coquitlam
London Drugs #16	2012	Abbotsford
London Drugs #17	2012	Delta
London Drugs #18	2012	Langley
London Drugs #19	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #2	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #25	2012	Burnaby
London Drugs #28	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #29	2012	Victoria
London Drugs #3	2012	New Westminster
London Drugs #35	2012	Kamloops
London Drugs #36	2012	Nanaimo
London Drugs #37	2012	Delta
London Drugs #39	2012	Vernon
London Drugs #4	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #41	2012	Chilliwack
London Drugs #42	2012	South Surrey
London Drugs #44	2012	West Vancouver
London Drugs #46	2012	Victoria
London Drugs #47	2012	Maple Ridge
London Drugs #5	2012	North Vancouver
London Drugs #50	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #51	2012	Prince George
London Drugs #52	2012	Richmond
London Drugs #53	2012	Vancouver

Depot Name	Year Started	City
London Drugs #54	2012	Victoria
London Drugs #55	2012	Mission
London Drugs #56	2012	Burnaby
London Drugs #6	2012	Burnaby
London Drugs #61	2012	Gibsons
London Drugs #67	2012	Courtenay
London Drugs #7	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #70	2012	Penticton
London Drugs #71	2012	Burnaby
London Drugs #72	2012	Nanaimo
London Drugs #73	2012	Campbell River
London Drugs #74	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #75	2012	Surrey
London Drugs #76	2012	Westbank
London Drugs #77	2012	Duncan
London Drugs #78	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #8	2012	Surrey
London Drugs #80	2012	Squamish
London Drugs #81	2012	Surrey
London Drugs #82	2012	Vancouver
London Drugs #9	2012	Surrey
Lone Butte Supply	2011	100 Mile House
Lougheed Return-It	2011	Coquitlam
Meade Creek Recycling Drop-Off Depot	2011	Lake Cowichan
Mission Recycling Depot	2011	Mission
Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Society	2011	Nanaimo
Nelson Home Bldg Centre	2011	Nelson
North Shore Bottle Depot	2011	North Vancouver
North Van Bottle and Return -it Depot	2012	North Vancouver
Oak Bay Recycling Depot	2011	Victoria
Oliver Sanitary Landfill	2011	Oliver
Osoyoos Bottle Depot	2011	Osoyoos
Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot	2011	Parksville
Parksville Home Hardware	2011	Parksville
Peerless Road Recycling Drop-Off Depot	2011	Ladysmith
Pender Island Recycling Society	2011	Pender Island
PG Recycling & Return-It Centre	2011	Prince George
Quality Glass Ltd.	2011	Ashcroft

Depot Name	Year Started	City
Regional Recycling - Prince Rupert	2011	Prince Rupert
Ridge Meadows Recycling Society	2011	Maple Ridge
Saltspring Island Recycling	2011	Saltspring Island
Sardis Bottle Depot	2011	Chilliwack
Scott Road Bottle Depot	2011	Surrey
Semiahmoo Bottle Depot	2011	Surrey
Seven Mile Recycling Centre	2011	Port McNeil
Shepherds Home Hardware	2011	Armstrong
Sooke Home Hardware	2011	Sooke
South Van Bottle Depot	2011	Vancouver
Steveston Return -It	2012	Richmond
Sun Coast Waste Services	2012	Port Alberni
Super Save Bottle Depot	2011	Clearwater
The Battery Doctors	2011	Kelowna
Trail Bay Hardware	2011	Sechelt
Trail Bottle Depot	2011	Trail
Venture Training Vernon	2011	Vernon
Village of Gold River	2011	Gold River
Walnut Grove Bottle Depot	2011	Langley
Westcoast Home Hardware	2012	Port Alberni
Whistler Fire Rescue Services	2011	Whistler
Wide Sky Disposal	2011	Fort Nelson
Willowbrook Recycling Depot	2011	Langley

Breakdown of Collection Sites per Regional District

Regional District	# of Collection Site
Alberni Clayoquot	3
Bulkley Nechako	0
Capital Regional District	11
Cariboo	3
Central Coast	1
Central Kootenay	1
Central Okanagan	4
Columbia Shuswap	1
Comox Valley	2
Cowichan Valley	5
East Kootenay	3
Fraser Fort George	2
Fraser Valley	10
GVRD	47
Kitimat Stikine	1
Kootenay Boundary	1
Mt. Waddington	1
Nanaimo Regional District	5
North Okanagan	5
Northern Rockies	2
Okanagan Similkameen	5
Peace River	4
Powell River Regional District	1
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	1
Squamish Lillooet	5
Strathcona	4
Sunshine Coast	3
Thompson Nicola	5
TOTAL	134

APPENDIX D: Independent Financial 2012 Audit of AlarmRecycle

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION -
BC SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE
(CO) ALARMS PROGRAM**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

31 DECEMBER 2012



**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION -
BC SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS PROGRAM
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the year ended 31 December 2012**

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Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1E3

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Fax: 604-684-7937

E-mail: admin@rolfebenson.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To: BC Ministry of Environment,

As required the British Columbia Environmental Management Act, Recycling Regulation 8(2)(f)(ii), we have audited the statement of revenues and expenses of the BC Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms Program (the "Statement") as reported by Product Care Association for the year ended 31 December 2012 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Statement in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the Statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.





INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT - continued

Opinion

In our opinion, the Statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues and expenses of the BC Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms Program as reported by Product Care Association for the year ended 31 December 2012 in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Restriction on Distribution

This report is prepared on the direction of Product Care Association's management and the requirements of British Columbia Environmental Management Act, Recycling Regulation 8(2)(f)(ii). As a result, the report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Product Care Association's management and the BC Ministry of Environment and should not be distributed to other parties.

Rolfe, Benson LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Vancouver, Canada
21 May 2013



**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION -
BC SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS PROGRAM**
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012
Revenues	<u>\$ 378,054</u>
Program expenses	
Collection	9,263
Transportation	3,078
Depot supplies	915
Processing (Note 3)	-
	<u>13,256</u>
General and administrative expenses	
Communications	8,339
Administration	2,400
Overhead allocation (Note 2(c))	12,696
	<u>23,435</u>
Total expenses	<u>36,691</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	<u>\$ 341,363</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION -
BC SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS PROGRAM**
Notes to the Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the year ended 31 December 2012

1. Basis of Presentation

This Statement includes the revenues and expenses of the BC Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms Program, a segment of the operations of Product Care Association (the "Association").

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This statement of revenues and expenses is prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from eco-fees is recognized at the time an eco-fee applicable product is sold by a member of the Association, and the eco-fee becomes due and payable.

(b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) General and Administrative Expenses

A portion of the total general and administrative expenses of Product Care Association, net of expense recoveries, has been allocated to this program. The allocation of general and administrative expenses to this program is determined using the percentage of program specific operating expenses as compared to total operating expenses for all Product Care Association programs.

3. Processing Commitment

At year end, the Association had unprocessed program materials on hand with an estimated cost to process, transport and recycle of \$79,488 which will be incurred in 2013.

APPENDIX E: Third Party Assurance Statement for Non-Financial Information