

THE EMERGING CIRCULAR ECONOMY – MONTREAL A WORLD LEADER



- Montreal's current management of plastic shopping bags is an inspiring example of an emerging 21st century circular economy; an industrial economy in which resources are efficiently managed and recycled in a closed resource loop.
- While Europe is just beginning to embrace closed loop resource **management** systems, Montreal is already proving itself a world leader - a model for Europe -- with its technological approach to bag management and recycling. It presents a real opportunity for the city.
- Montreal already has an eco-friendly, state-of-the-art recycling system that sees high volumes of used plastic shopping bags and plastic film **diverted from the waste stream - recovered in the curbside system, recycled, and then remanufactured into practical everyday products like plastic wood, office supplies, driveway and patio pavers.**
- It is a \$2 billion industry across North America that is growing.
- In 2011, **Montreal launched a new improved, advanced version of its** recycling bin using the latest in technology to increase the volume of waste recycled in the city **and eliminate wind-blown recyclables/litter. Designed and made-in-Quebec,** the new bin is designed to meet the needs of residents of multiple-dwelling structures with eight or fewer units,
- Montreal has shown that plastic shopping bags are an ideal candidate for the circular economy **with this closed-loop resource system. First, Montreal is capturing a large number of bags in its closed bin recovery system that prevents wind-blow litter. 82% of bags available for recycling are being currently being recycled. Second, Montreal has advanced technology to sort and recycle plastic bags and film.**
- **Third, the material is highly recyclable. It is a valuable resource that can be used and reused over and over again, and recycled almost to infinity. The recycled resource can also be used as feedstock to manufacture new green products extending the useful life of the resource instead of ending up in landfill.**

- Here's how it currently works: Plastic shopping bags are recovered at curbside, ground into pellets and then sent to green manufacturers who use them to make new green products like paving stones, plastic lumber, office and garden products.

MADE IN MONTREAL INNOVATION – BUILDING A MONTREAL GREEN ECONOMY USING TECHNOLOGY

RECYCLED PAVERS

- Made from recycled plastic shopping bags and wine bottles, Montreal recycler Gaudreau Environmental



OTHER PRODUCTS MADE FROM RECYCLED PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS



Sources:

- *Attitudes et habitudes des consommateurs – sacs de plastique et reutilisables, version CROP, 30 avril, Project No. 15-8582*
- *EEQ & Recyc Québec <http://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/upload/Publications/Document-appoin-annonce-sacs-23-juillet-2012.pdf>*
- *2012 Recyc-Québec Donnée de recyclage pour sac & film résidentiel & ICI 7,883** tonnes (inclus tous types de sacs et film)*
- *Rapport de Recyc-Québec Report- Plastique vendu par centre de triage au Québec pour l'année 2012 (résidentiel et ICI)*