ISTC Technical Assistance Program News: May 2021

This bi-monthly newsletter is a service of ISTC's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and is funded through a grant from U.S. EPA. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.
TAP helps Argonne National Laboratory implement composting program
by Laura L. Barnes

What began in 2015 as a waste audit by ISTC's Technical Assistance Program has led to a multi-year, multi-project implementation plan to collect compostable material from buildings across Argonne National Laboratory's campus.

Using the data from the audit, which revealed that Argonne's waste stream contained a high quantity of compostable material, the two organizations collaborated to develop and execute an organics collection implementation plan for the campus. Argonne has diverted over 65 tons from the landfill since 2018, which has helped them meet their federally-mandated performance goal of 50% diversion for non-hazardous wastes.

Farm to Food Bank survey deadline extended, focus groups planned
by Joy Scrogum

Help ISTC, Feeding Illinois, the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, and the Illinois Farm Bureau by completing the Farm to Food Bank producer survey today.

The project team is also recruiting participants for a series of virtual focus groups. They seek food producers and distributors, as well as representatives from hunger relief
agencies. If you are interested in participating, please contact TAP.

Dispelling the myth of sustainability vs. profit
Kalypso, November 2020

This article investigates how sustainability and profit come together to drive value for stakeholders around the world.

Composting infrastructure group seeks millions for federal grants, loans
Waste Dive, 5/11/21

Composting, packaging and circular economy-oriented organizations and trade groups have formed the U.S. Composting Infrastructure Coalition to advocate for expanding and increasing access to programs that divert food waste, yard trimmings, and certified compostable packaging. The group’s initial push is to advocate for national funding programs that support a range of composting infrastructure projects.

Can the tail wag the dog for corporate responsibility?
Chief Executive, 4/27/21

As the CEO of a pet care company learned, innovative greening strategies can bring new value for doing well by doing good.
Assessing and selecting sustainable leaders
Russell Reynolds Associates, 4/16/21

Russell Reynolds Associates recently partnered with the United Nations Global Compact to study the characteristics and behaviors that differentiate sustainable business leaders from other top-tier executives. This article builds upon that research to focus on how to assess and select sustainable leaders during the hiring process.

EPA proposes major rule to reduce certain greenhouse gases
The Hill, 5/3/21

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking a major step to battle climate change with the formal proposal of a rule phasing down the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are used as refrigerants.

Other stories
Aerospace

- Phillips 66 and Southwest Airlines partner to help commercialize sustainable fuel
  Environment + Energy Leader, 4/23/21
- Sustainability in aviation is a tough nut—but it can be cracked Fortune, 4/29/21

Auto industry
BMW Group coming Neue Klasse to set standards in digitization, electrification and sustainability *Green Car Congress*, 3/18/21

General Motors leads $139 million investment into lithium-metal battery developer, SES *TechCrunch*, 4/19/21

General Motors will train its employees to learn about EVs *The Hill*, 5/10/21

Groupe Renault, Veolia & Solvay partner to recycle end-of-life EV battery metals in a closed loop *Green Car Congress*, 3/19/21

Honda aims to go all-electric by 2040 *NPR*, 4/23/21

In Europe, industry and environmentalists call for binding targets for infrastructure for zero-emission trucks *Green Car Congress*, 4/15/21

It’s not about Tesla—This B2B vertical in the electric vehicle industry is set to explode *Forbes*, 4/30/21

Michelin wants to make tires out of recycled plastic bottles *Autoblog*, 5/5/21

Recycling startup Redwood Materials is partnering with Proterra to supply EV battery materials sustainably *TechCrunch*, 3/29/21

Soybean oil finds home in all-weather tires *Farm Progress*, 4/13/21

UK APC awarding £9.4M to 22 low-carbon vehicle feasibility studies *Green Car Congress*, 4/5/21

Washington State bans gas cars by 2030 – the earliest in the US *Electrek*, 4/15/21

**Auto maintenance**

- Ultrasonic aqueous parts cleaning in auto repair *Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center*, May 2021

**Chemical manufacturing**

- 'Dominating' fungus could be solution to producing more biofuels and chemicals *University of York*, 4/27/21
- Microbes – Carbon to chemicals *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*, 5/3/21
- Now you can wash your clothes with recycled carbon emissions *Fast Company*, 5/8/21
- Plastics with embedded particles decompose in days instead of years *Chemical & Engineering News*, 4/21/21
- Technip Energies to supply ethanol-to-ethylene catalyst for Lanzajet SAF production *Chemical Engineering*, 5/15/21

**Food & beverage**
Anheuser-Busch to partner with Post to develop sustainable food \textit{Food Dive}, 4/22/21

Apeel acquires ImpactVision, furthering goal of reducing global food waste \textit{Food Tank}, 5/3/21

Austria's waterdrop brings sustainable 'microdrinks' to the US \textit{Food Dive}, 4/27/21

New initiative to create global online database with animal production data from all over the world \textit{Wageningen University & Research}, 4/26/21

PepsiCo to eliminate 3 million tons of GHGs through regenerative agriculture practices \textit{Environment + Energy Leader}, 4/20/21

Sysco, Cargill, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation partner for $5 million sustainable grazing initiative \textit{Refrigerated & Frozen Foods}, 4/20/21

This tech makes perishable food last months without a fridge \textit{Fast Company}, 4/21/21

Unilever defines Regenerative Agriculture Principles: ‘Without consensus it’s difficult to have alignment… it was important to start the work’ \textit{Food Navigator}, 5/10/21

Upcycled cocoa fruit waste sweetens deals in confectionery, bakery and beverage \textit{Food Navigator}, 4/27/21

\textbf{Circular economy}

Can recycled glass help restore Louisiana’s eroding coastline? \textit{The Guardian}, 4/16/21

How Taco Bell is going to start recycling its hot sauce packets \textit{Nation’s Restaurant News}, 4/19/21

Lithium-ion battery recycling and manufacturing startup raises $20 million from global industry leaders \textit{Company news release}, 4/12/21

Mattel PlayBack to give old toys new life \textit{Sustainable Brands}, 5/12/21

Recycling critical metals in e-waste: Make it the law, experts warn EU, citing raw material security \textit{CEWASTE Project}, 5/10/21

Singapore-based startup Green Li-ion says its patented technology could be the solution to recycling lithium ion batteries \textit{Business Insider}, 2/13/21

\textbf{Climate}

Allbirds is giving away its carbon footprint calculator to the fashion industry \textit{Sustainable Brands}, 4/29/21

Climate change will reshape Silicon Valley as we know it \textit{Wired}, 3/8/21

Global Assessment: Urgent steps must be taken to reduce methane emissions this decade \textit{UN Environment Programme}, 5/6/21

PG&E, Apple, 300+ other companies urge Biden admin to set ambitious federal
Construction & buildings

- Behind Dallas-Fort Worth’s grand goals to be the greenest airport on the planet *Skift*, 5/3/21
- Nature as a building block for Microsoft’s new Silicon Valley campus *Microsoft*, 4/23/21
- Online map showcases construction-related careers in booming green sector *Utility Dive*, 4/8/21
- US building codes need a major retrofit to meet climate goals and spare consumers *Smart Cities Dive*, 4/7/21

Corporate sustainability

- Advice clients clamour for ESG investments *International Adviser*, 5/7/21
- Amazon raises $1 billion sustainable bond for climate, social causes *Reuters*, 5/10/21
- General Mills in revolving credit facility tied to sustainability *Food Business News*, 4/16/21
- Jim Beam distiller puts $1 billion behind sustainability, diversity, responsible drinking plans *CNBC*, 4/21/20
- Levi’s wants you to stop buying so many jeans *Fast Company*, 4/21/21
- Nestlé trumpets its green credentials as shareholders approve $3.5 billion net-zero plan *Fortune*, 4/15/21
- Table Scraps: How Four Peaks Walks Its Sustainable Talk *Phoenix New Times*, 3/24/21
- Treasury Secretary Yellen endorses TCFD reporting, IFRS sustainability standards initiative *ESG Today* 4/22/21

Energy

- Corporate funding for solar surges in Q1, but venture capital eyes are on storage, *Mercom finds Utility Dive*, 4/21/21
- Energy experts: Reaching net-zero by 2050 relies on these 7 things *World Economic Forum*, 5/10/21
- Experts’ predictions for future wind energy costs drop significantly *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*, 4/15/21
• Hershey to construct company’s first utility-scale solar farm Environment + Energy Leader, 4/20/21

• Solar power storage could get a whole lot cheaper with used electric vehicle batteries TechRepublic, 5/3/21

• With 9 new projects, Amazon is now Europe’s largest corporate buyer of renewable energy Environment + Energy Leader, 4/20/21

Packaging

• 8 sustainable packaging innovations for food and beverages Food Dive, 4/22/21

• Colgate’s new toothpaste tube is designed with slippery coating to let you squeeze out every last drop CNN, 4/28/21

• Consumer demand for sustainable packaging holds despite pandemic Food Dive, 4/27/21

• Greiner Packaging reducing material usage for yogurt cups Dairy Reporter, 4/19/21

• Sustainable packaging gains as COVID “shock” ebbs, but carbon calculations pose challenge Food Navigator, 1/28/21

• Lamb Weston’s Alexia frozen potatoes switch to sustainable biomaterial packaging Refrigerated & Frozen Foods, 4/19/21

Regulation

• EPA announces changes to prevent unsafe new PFAS from entering the market Environmental News Bits, 4/27/21

• FDA releases action plan for reducing exposure to toxic elements in food for babies and young children Food Safety Magazine, 4/8/21

• For PFAS, is environmental persistence on its own enough to trigger regulation? Chemical & Engineering News, 4/18/21

Retail

• Clean beauty is now a $1 billion business. Just ask Beautycounter Fast Company, 4/13/21

• How online natural retailer Thrive Market is going climate-positive Supermarket News, 5/4/21

• Luxury beauty is betting on refillable solutions, but will customer behavior follow? Glossy, 4/23/21

• Neiman Marcus wants customers to know it’s buying into sustainability Dallas Morning News, 4/23/21
Petco intends to make half of all products sustainable by the end of 2025 *Times of San Diego*, 4/13/21

**Supply chain**

- Fashion industry advancing transparency, circularity – thread by thread *Sustainable Brands*, 5/11/21
- Heineken sets out plans to be carbon neutral across value chain by 2040 *Beverage Daily*, 4/19/21
- Pepsi and Mars want to squeeze carbon out of their supply chains *Canary Media*, 4/21/21
- ‘Supercharging adoption of sustainable solutions’: The Coca-Cola Company joins AB InBev 100+ Accelerator *Beverage Daily*, 4/26/21
- Why it’s so hard to eliminate plastic from the supply chain *Fast Company*, 4/20/21

**Waste prevention**

- Analyzing a product’s waste lifecycle journey before it begins *Waste360*, 4/13/21
- New zero waste standard helps companies demonstrate progress in sustainability journey *Company news release*, 4/28/21
- Roundup: Food waste back in the spotlight *Waste Dive*, 4/30/21
- This app lets you buy whatever food your favorite restaurant has leftover at the end of the day *Fast Company*, 5/4/21

**Water**

- *Ceres | WWF AgWater Challenge* Ceres, 5/1/21
- The smart technology that’s enabling intelligent pollution prevention *Kando*, 4/16/21
- Top 9 actions to take in the lab to improve water efficiency *My Green Lab*, 2/15/21

**Tools & publications**

- *A Contribution to Future Critical Raw Materials Recycling* (CEWASTE)
- *A Wave of Change: The Role of Companies in Building a Water-Secure World* (Carbon Disclosure Project)
- *From Idea to Implementation: A Campus-Wide Composting Program: Recovering*
Organic Materials at Argonne National Laboratory (ISTC)

Upcoming events

May 17-20 2021 Better Buildings, Better Plants Virtual Summit (U.S. DOE)
May 18 On the Road to Net-Zero? Start With Your Buildings (GreenBiz)
May 20 Improve Your Bottom Line: Reduce Metal Manufacturer's Processing Energy and Waste (PennTAP)
May 26 Safer Alternatives for Solvent Applications (Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center)
May 27 Zero Waste: Making the Connection to P2 (National Pollution Prevention Roundtable)
June 22 Sustainable Solutions for Craft Beverage Producers: How to Cultivate a Culture of Sustainability at Your Facility (New Hampshire P2 Program and U.S. EPA Region 1)

On demand training

- Sustainable Solutions for Craft Beverage Producers: Energy Treasure Hunt for Microbreweries (New Hampshire P2 Program and U.S. EPA Region 1)
- Tools for Safer Chemicals - From Chemicals to Products to Organizations (ISTC)
- Trends Shaping Sustainable Edible Oil PET Packaging. (Sidel)

ISTC employment opportunities

Visit the PRI website to see current job opportunities at ISTC.

Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Prairie Research Institute  |  University of Illinois
One Hazelwood Drive, MC-676  |  Champaign, IL 61820
217-333-8940  |  istc-info@illinois.edu