

Welcome to our spring 2018 Newsletter!



Thank you for being a valued member of the BC Solid Waste Research Collaborative (BC SWRC). As you know, the BC SWRC is a network of people from industry, government, academia and the non-profit sector using applied research to tackle BC's municipal waste and resource management questions. As a member of the Collaborative, we'd like to provide you with an update on what's been going on.

Moving forward, we will be sending a periodic update to keep you in the loop on the exciting research projects underway, and to check in with projects that have recently wrapped up. If you have research projects you would like to share with the group, either through the newsletter or on our website, <https://bcswrc.ca/>, send an email to hello@bcswrc.ca, and we can help you get the word out.



Environmental Research & Education Foundation

Lighting a path to sustainable waste management practices

Proposed Research Projects Submitted to EREF

The BC SWRC has submitted two applications to the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF) for research funding. The Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) is a US-based organization made up of a board of directors who provide strategic guidance and a Research Council who provide technical guidance. Together, they review proposal submissions, fund and direct scientific research and provide scholarships to develop new approaches to managing solid waste. Check out their website for more information <https://erefdn.org/research-grants-projects/>.

This year, from a total of 157 preliminary submissions, both of the two proposals submitted by the BC SWRC have been short listed for full proposal review. The review process is underway and we hope to hear back from the EREF in June. As described below, the first project put forward by the BC SWRC explores tools and methods for onsite rapid asbestos screening while the second explores alternatives to single-use coffee cups.

On-site Asbestos Testing

(UBC, local gypsum processors, Metro Vancouver)

Because conventional asbestos testing requires time-consuming sampling and laboratory testing, significant amounts of gypsum are assumed to contain asbestos and are unnecessarily disposed of rather than recycled. The proposed research includes a review of commercially available devices, field kits, and methods for on-site measurement or detection of asbestos in gypsum, a comparison between the accuracy of the on-site methods with conventional laboratory tests, and an assessment of the operational and economic effectiveness of on-site testing.



Used drywall panels



Single use coffee cups in a streetscape waste bin

Sustainability Business Case for Alternatives to Single-Use Coffee Cups

(SFU, Metro Vancouver)

The proposed research entails working with civic facilities, volunteer coffee retailers, and university cafeterias. They will identify coffee retailers to trial different approaches of economic incentives and penalties, education, and cup sharing programs, and gauge their effects on shifting consumer behaviour to adopting the use of reusable mugs as opposed to disposal coffee cups. The research will also explore both the perceived and actual economic and convenience impacts of each approach on the participating businesses and consumers.

Hope you enjoy the updates! Thank you for your continued support of the BC SWRC.