

## CRAFTING A RECYCLED FUTURE

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We have been recovering many of those resources that heretofore would have gone to landfills or perhaps worse, to be burned just to get rid of them. The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act will require us to divert even more material from landfills over time. The Resource Recovery Board has a mandate to assist municipalities to meet the provincial solid waste goals but to do so in way that generates new jobs and business opportunities for Nova Scotians.

We have seen some successes such as the Minas Basin Pulp and Power Ltd recycling cardboard into new paper board. This material is transformed into new boxes by Maritime Paper Products, boxes which are eventually recovered by Scotia Recycling and returned to the pulp mill for recycling. Thermocell Ltd. uses recovered newspapers to manufacture cellulosic insulation. Halifax C&D Ltd, which has been recovering and recycling construction materials into useful products, will now be transforming tires into other products. These companies have been able to take large quantities of materials and recycle them. However, economies of this scale do not appear to exist for all of the resources recovered in Nova Scotia.

Perhaps we should be thinking about another strategy that could make use of smaller quantities of materials. I am thinking of craft scale operations which could be transforming materials into marketable products. Many of the readers will have been to craft markets where products that use recovered materials are sold. The melted wine bottles transformed into serving trays come to mind. Some of these craft products have actually been sold outside the province in targeted markets and uses.

We should be looking at the potential for this sector to grow by combining the talents of some creative people and some business development folks. Just recently I read about a market for recycled glass countertops. With the housing market rebounding and the increasing concern of consumers about environmental degradation and the sustainability of life support systems for their children and grandchildren, we might want to create opportunities for consumers of responsible products. Glass or metal light fixtures and light switch panels are two other products that can be manufactured from recovered materials. I'm certain that you can think of more if you put your mind to it.

Many of these operations could be based in rural areas of the province creating economic returns and employment opportunities. The new Eco-Business Park being planned adjacent to the Kaizer Meadows landfill between Chester and Windsor will be looking for tenants. This kind of business would probably be welcomed there.

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