

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS FROM PN 1405 – *Inventory of Sustainable Packaging Initiatives and Proposed Approach to Develop Sustainable Packaging Guidelines.*
April 2008

CCME's Extended Producer Responsibility Task Group (EPRTG) has prepared this summary of the conclusions presented in *Inventory of Sustainable Packaging Initiatives and Proposed Approach to Develop Sustainable Packaging Guidelines*, prepared by Five Winds International under contract to CCME.

Key Findings:

1. The EPRTG should use the definition as articulated by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC), which states that sustainable packaging is:
 - beneficial, safe & healthy for individuals and communities throughout its life cycle,
 - able to meet market criteria for performance and cost,
 - sourced, manufactured, transported, and recycled using renewable energy,
 - able to maximize the use of renewable or recycled source materials,
 - manufactured using clean production technologies and best practices,
 - made from materials healthy in all probable end of life scenarios,
 - physically designed to optimize materials and energy, and
 - effectively recovered and utilized in biological and/or industrial cradle-to-cradle cycles.

For more information on the SPC definition:

<http://www.sustainablepackaging.org/pdf/Definition%20of%20Sustainable%20Packaging%2010-15-05%20final.pdf>

Note: This conclusion represents a change from the initial recommendation of the consultant, which was to adopt the Sustainable Packaging Alliance's (SPA) definition for sustainable packaging. The shift was made based on input from the focus group and the web consultation, recognizing that the SPC definition has gained profile among industry in the United States and Canada and therefore adoption of the SPC definition may enable greater alignment in the North American marketplace. As with the SPA definition, SPC's also defines sustainable packaging in terms of how it performs across the life cycle and it also clearly addresses the function and purpose of packaging.

2. The EPRTG should adopt SPC's Design Guidelines for Sustainable Packaging which:
 - embrace a full lifecycle perspective,
 - have a North American focus and are well organized,
 - were developed in collaboration with the US EPA,
 - provide a basis for education of sustainability considerations as they relate to packaging, and help to bring them into the mainstream of packaging development,
 - were designed to be flexible and adaptable to the various needs of designers and the requirements of a diverse industry, and
 - include issues that go beyond compliance and reflect the integration of sustainability and environmental considerations into the packaging design process (e.g. cradle- to-cradle design).

For more information on the SPC guidelines:

<http://www.packagingdigest.com/article/CA6489542.html> and
<http://www.sustainablepackaging.org/>