



SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING COALITION®

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING COALITION

a project of **GreenBlue** 

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SPC Updates

SPC Releases Metrics Framework

Last week the SPC publicly released its *Sustainable Packaging Indicators and Metrics Framework Version 1.0*, designed to help companies measure progress toward the SPC Definition of Sustainable Packaging. The Metrics Framework is the result of nearly two years of extensive research and stakeholder engagement. More than 80 representatives from SPC member companies participated in this effort so this is truly a collaborative achievement.

The Metrics Framework provides a wide-ranging palette of indicators and metrics that are organized into eight categories related to material use, energy use, water use, material health, clean production and transport, cost and performance, community impact and worker impact. Selected metrics from the Metrics Framework are also serving as the baseline for the Global Packaging Project, an initiative of the Consumer Goods Forum, that seeks to standardize packaging sustainability measurement by developing a globally recognized set of indicators and metrics with common data request and collection protocols. Pilot testing of the GPP metrics is expected to begin in the first half of 2010.

[Download the Metrics Framework](#)

News Stories on the Metrics Release:

[Sustainable Packaging Coalition Releases Metrics](#)
Environmental Leader – December 8, 2009

[SPC Releases Sustainability Metrics](#)
GreenerPackage.com – December 8, 2009

[SPC Publishes Common Green Packaging Metrics](#)
Food Production Daily – December 8, 2009

[Metrics on Sustainable Packaging Released](#)
Supermarket News – December 8, 2009

[New Guide Points the Way to Sustainable Packaging](#)
GreenBiz.com – December 7, 2009

SPC Events

[Open Forum Call: Introducing Metafore](#)

with Tom Pollock, Metafore
January 21, 2010
11:00 am – 12:00 pm EDT

Events of Interest

[SB In Focus: Building Credibility, Avoiding Greenwash](#)

A full-day webinar with presenters including GreenBlue Senior Fellow Katherine O'Dea
January 14, 2010

News of Interest

[ISO Begins Work on International Sustainable Packaging Standards](#)
Environmental Leader – December 10, 2009

[Survey Shows Disconnect Between the Strategic Value and Measurement of Sustainability Initiatives](#)

Sustainable Life Media – December 9, 2009

[Will Big Business Save the Earth?](#)
New York Times – December 5, 2009

[Getting to the Bottom of Plastic Bottle Risks](#)
Business Week – November 25,

Environmental Technical Briefs Available in January

The Environmental Technical Brief for Metals and Container Glass is complete and will be released on the SPC website in January. All three sections of the *Environmental Technical Briefs of Common Packaging Materials* – Polymers, Fiber-based Materials and Metals and Glass – will be available to member companies free of charge. Non-SPC member companies will be able to purchase the briefs via the website.

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SPC Composting Survey

As a result of much discussion and strong support coming out of our Fall Meeting, the SPC will be initiating a survey of composting facilities in early 2010. The purpose of this work will be to better understand the operating conditions of commercial composting operations, the state of acceptance and attitudes around compostable packaging, and other issues to be defined. We will be convening a series of calls early in the year to help define what questions will be included in the survey and will be looking for interested members to participate in its development. If you have interest in this project and would like to be included please contact [Liz Shoch](#).

COMPASS: Transport Module Development

We are planning next year's developing priorities for COMPASS and would like to recruit SPC volunteers to participate in a discussion about the transport module. We are seeking input on how far down the supply chain from the conversion phase is it possible to include the impacts of transportation for different materials and package shapes (for example, to filling or beyond). Familiarity with the COMPASS software will be useful but not necessary. We anticipate that it may require a couple of calls to define the parameters of modeling transportation to the current framework in COMPASS. SPC members should contact [Minal Mistry](#) if you are interested.

Membership Renewals for 2010

It's the last chance to renew membership for the coming year! All primary contacts for SPC member companies should have received renewal notices in November. We are proud of all that the Coalition was able to achieve over the past year: COMPASS, our online software application released last spring, is now in use by more than 70 companies, as well as in classrooms at MSU and RIT. We released three reports to our members: the *Environmental Technical Briefs of Common Packaging Materials*, the *Sustainable Packaging Indicators and Metrics Framework* and *Closing the Loop: A Guide to Packaging Material Flows and Terminology*. The Essentials of Sustainable Packaging course continued to

expand, and now includes a retailer-specific curriculum. And don't forget our spring and fall meetings where many of you joined us for valuable discussions and collaboration.

We're couldn't have accomplished any of this without you. We are grateful for your participation in 2009 and hope you will continue your membership in 2010. If you did not receive the renewal request or have questions about membership, please contact [Anne Bedarf](#).

Happy Holidays!

Thank you for all your support over the past year. Everyone at GreenBlue wishes you a happy holiday season and all the best for 2010.

SPC and GreenBlue in the News

Packaging Digest Webinar with Anne Johnson: Sustainability in Packaging

Packaging Digest – December 15, 2009

The results of Packaging Digest's fourth comprehensive research survey reveal the growing awareness of sustainability and the influential role it plays in packaging decisions. [Webinar Archive](#)

Closing the Loop: A Progress Report on the Drive towards Sustainable Packaging

Food Engineering & Ingredients – December 2009

There are also a number of tools available to packaging designers which can be used to help estimate the environmental impact of different pack designs in real time. One such, an on-line software package called COMPASS, has been developed by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition. COMPASS will produce "comparative profiles of packaging design options" and uses a set of metrics derived from the Coalition definition of sustainable packaging. [Read More](#)

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The Sustainable Packaging Coalition is a project of [GreenBlue](#), a nonprofit institute that works with the private sector to enable the positive redesign of industrial systems. [Click to Unsubscribe](#).