

News and Current Activities

Building PIQET[®]

SPA is developing a tool to assist in the integration of environmental decision making into corporate packaging design and selection. With sponsorship and direct involvement of five leading food companies and Sustainability Victoria, we are currently in the “building” phase of PIQET[®] (Packaging Impact Quick Evaluation Tool). We are aiming for this tool to quickly provide credible environmental performance indicators for company packaging development and innovation strategies, selecting materials for packaging re-design or packaging innovation, and specifying packaging for procurement of incoming goods. The current project is developing a prototype tool that will be shaped and road-tested based on case study data provided by the company sponsors. SPA is seeking additional private and public sector sponsors for PIQET[®].

PIQET Sponsors:

Simplot Australia
Masterfoods Australia
Cadbury Schweppes
Lion Nathan
Nestlé Australia
Sustainability Victoria

For further information or to arrange a briefing contact: Robert Jordan, (03) 9681 8199, e-mail: robert@sustainablepack.org

SPA launches “Packaging and Product Stewardship: International Regulations and Policies”

SPA has developed the first version of its quick reference document outlining packaging regulations and policies. Twenty eight countries are covered with policies classified according to the degree of regulation (i.e., voluntary, co-regulatory and fully regulated) and also the type of policy measure (e.g., extended producer responsibility, targets, eco-design requirements, codes of practice, taxes and charges and labelling requirements). The Packaging Regulations reference document is one of a number of tools SPA is developing to provide accurate and timely information to decision makers regarding the environmental impacts of packaging. For information on how to order your copies see page 2 or our website. [Download order form from http://www.sustainablepack.org/resources/page.aspx?id=30](http://www.sustainablepack.org/resources/page.aspx?id=30)

New Zealand demand for sustainable packaging training

Since the implementation of the New Zealand packaging accord demand for training in sustainable packaging development is accelerating and starting to outstrip demand in Australia. In November 2005, Helen and Karli



travelled to Auckland to run our second two-day training course for New Zealand based manufacturers. Run in conjunction with the Packaging Council of New Zealand participants were provided with an overview of packaging sustainability including drivers for change, the Australian National Packaging Covenant, the New Zealand Packaging Accord, eco-design strategies, design for recycling and degradability, life cycle thinking and assessment, communications and marketing. The third training course will be conducted in Auckland on 24th March, and is specifically targeting marketers. SPA is currently undertaking a Training Needs Analysis study in Australia with the aim of further developing our training initiatives to meet the diversity of needs of packaging sustainability stakeholders.



Around the world!

SPA is one of several organisations around the world which is tackling the complex question: 'what is sustainable packaging?' In 2004 SPA released their draft definition for discussion. In October 2005 the Sustainable Packaging Coalition in the USA released a more detailed 'vision' for sustainable packaging. Both definitions are similar in that they emphasise functionality, safety and efficiency, as well as recovery through either biological or industrial systems. PIRA International in the UK also prepared a report for its members entitled 'Facing the Challenge of Sustainable Development' (2003) which focused on the characteristics of a sustainable business, such as minimising the material and energy intensity of goods and services and being transparent and accountable. **Links:** <http://www.sustainablepack.org/database/files/Definition.pdf>; http://www.sustainablepackaging.org/about_sustainable_packaging.asp; and <http://www.pira.co.uk>

SPA tools

Packaging Material Selector

SPA's Packaging Material Selector provides easy reference information such as the greenhouse gases generated through material production and national recycling rates for the main packaging materials used in Australia. As well as useful reference for packaging technologists it is increasingly being used to train non technical people to improve their understanding of the different functional characteristics and environmental impacts of packaging materials. An order form for the materials selector can be downloaded at

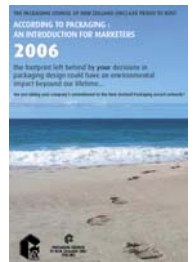
http://www.sustainablepack.org/database/files/MatSelect%20order%20form%20_final_june05.pdf

Forthcoming SPA events

According to Packaging: an introduction for marketers Auckland (27th April 2006)

SPA will run a one-day event specifically designed for marketers on Thursday 27th April 2006 in Auckland. Continuing our collaboration with the Packaging Council of New Zealand the one-day event will provide participants with information on latest developments with the New Zealand Packaging Accord and the Australian National Packaging Covenant and what marketers need to know about designing appropriate packaging. *For further information*

<http://www.packaging.org.nz/new.php>



2006 SPA Roundtables - Mark in your diary!!

Future 2006 SPA Roundtables will be held on 30th June (10th RT) and 20th October (11th RT). Mark in your diary now and further details of topics will be distributed soon.

For further information contact: Robert Jordan, (03) 9681 8199, e-mail: robert@sustainablepack.org

Forthcoming events

AIP National Conference – 15th -16th June 2006

The Australian Institute of Packaging is running its next National Conference on the Gold Coast in June 2006. *For further information:* Simply log on to www.aipack.com.au and you can download the forms through the home page - industry news section or from the events section by asking for the June event.

15th IAPRI World Conference (2006)

The next International Association of Packaging Research Institutes (IAPRI) World Conference on Packaging will be held from 2nd -5th October 2006 in Tokyo, Japan.

For further information: www.tokyo-pack.jp/iapri/i_01.html

Sustain the Chain, See the Gain (Sydney 4th April, Melbourne 10th April)

First Green Capital debate for 2006 looking at extending corporate responsibility along the supply chain. *Further information:* http://www.tec.org.au/greencapital/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=142