

A full-page background image showing three hikers (two men and one woman) in red and dark clothing, pulling on a rope to climb a rocky coastline. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the ocean and sky. The hikers are silhouetted against the bright light.

STAY CONNECTED

Webinar Wednesdays

Top 10 Takeaways from the What's on Your Mind Webinar

**Hosted by the PAC NEXT team: Alan Blake, Dan Lantz, and
Andrew MacDonald**

Webinar took place April 1, 2020

1 The Packaging and Recycling industries are essential businesses and deserve support under the duress of the Covid-19 virus. The industry is having to respond to significant volume shifts, manage ever changing continuity plans and ensure worker safety.

2 Packaging is proving yet again that it is crucial in protecting and preserving products and reducing food loss and waste during times of high demand and hoarding.

3 Adversity represents opportunity for innovation that changes the recycling game and material recovery. We expect to see new technologies coming forward in the next several years e.g. chemical recycling, digital tracing, optical sorting, mono materials, smart technologies.

4 Industry alliances and initiatives are more important than ever to drive the New Plastics Economy and resolve packaging pollution challenges through collaborative and innovative solutions.

5 Worker and consumer safety is a concern with recommendations to wash recyclable materials before placing in the recycle bin. Refer to WHO / CDC / OSHA for latest guidelines. Recyclers are practicing social distancing on manual sort lines forcing slower line speeds and targeted sorting based on market demand.



6

Everyone is going virtual - zoom meetings, e-commerce and home deliveries are all struggling to meet the demand. This will be business as usual as the economy recovers and our technology and supply chains must get up to speed and be adaptable.



7

Globally, supply of material for recycled content is expected to decrease - by how much, and for how long, remains unclear. This, combined with low oil prices and increased packaging demand, will make virgin resins especially attractive, and may put additional pressure on already challenging CPG company sustainability targets.



8

Considerable investment interest in the North American plastics recycling space may remain on the sidelines as the global economy moves toward recession, or may be sparked by an opportunity to provide domestic solutions less vulnerable to global supply chain risks.



9

Going forward third-party reuse models, compared with other models like 'bring-your-own' (BYO), may be more viable given heightened public health concerns, and potentially stricter health codes.



10

Great to see industry stepping up to help mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 virus by adapting manufacturing facilities to produce much needed face masks, gowns, gloves, sanitizers, ventilators to support our front-line health workers.