FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Well-Intentioned Government Policy Will Increase GHG Emissions, New Research Paper Finds

OAKVILLE, CANADA, May 18, 2021 — VCMI and Packaging Technology & Research release their joint North American paper on plastic packaging and food waste, and the need for governments and industry to commit and be accountable for implementing collaborative solutions — **"Unwrapping the Arguments …Solving packaging and food waste through government/industry collaboration."**

As the paper concludes, the complexity of packaging and food value chains means that implementing "one-size-fits-all" hammer policies (such as the Canadian Environmental Protection Act) to increase the use of recyclable plastics will not reduce GHG emissions.

In fact, hammer policies will increase GHG emissions due to forced changes in packaging leading to increased food loss and waste (FLW) and the subsequent impact on the environment.

There IS a viable way to reduce both GHG and FLW. This paper proposes establishing a negotiated agreement between industry and government that sets out explicit packaging and FLW targets.

Key Takeaways from the Paper

1) A tandem focus on food and packaging waste is needed to meet GHG emission targets.

2) GHG emissions that result from food sent to landfill are greater than the GHG emissions of plastic food packaging.

3) The need for negotiated agreements is particularly critical in federated countries such as Canada and the US, where provinces/states and municipal governments can impede efforts by having implemented conflicting regulations and misaligned systems.

4) Industry must be the driving force for change, with visionary leaders committing to achieve and be accountable for bold targets, and investing in the creation of harmonious precompetitive solutions.

5) Government-implemented policies, regulations, and programs need to incentivize and assist industry in addressing barriers that inhibit the establishment of circular packaging economies, without negatively impacting the FLW reduction efforts of the food industry, NGOs, and consumers.

6) Whether packaging is both recyclable and recycled is determined by the level of alignment that exists between three sub-systems: 1) products, 2) process, and 3) infrastructure.

…/2

7) The three key features of effective extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs are 1) fees, 2) investment in the circular economy, and 3) reporting and incentives.

8) EPR fees must reflect legally enforceable standards and specifications for entire packaging solutions, not just an individual component of the packaging.

9) An important element of effective EPR programs is ensuring municipal governments are legally accountable for implementing the required systems and processes, and that they publicly report their performance in relation to targets contained in negotiated agreements.

The FULL PAPER can be accessed HERE. The EXECUTIVE SUMMARY can be accessed HERE.

For further information please contact:

VCMI:
Martin Gooch, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Value Chain Management International Inc.
Direct: +1 416-997-7779
martin@vcm-international.com

Packaging Technology & Research:
Claire Sand, PhD
Owner & CEO
Packaging Technology and Research
+1 612.807.5341
claire@packagingtechnologyandresearch.com

About Value Chain Management International (VCMI)

VCMI has been conducting analysis and designing then implementing solutions for reducing food system inefficiencies and implementing best practice resource management approaches since 1999. Projects completed by the VCMI team to reduce food and associated waste include 1) supply chain reconfiguration to extend shelf life; 2) packaging optimization – including sizing, functionality, recyclability, and reuse; 3) date labelling to influence changes in supply chain and consumer behavior; 4) working with industry organizations, NGOs, and government agencies to improve communication with industry and consumers; and 5) consulting to private and publicly owned businesses. www.vcm-international.com

About Packaging Technology & Research (PTR)

PTR leads efforts to reduce climate change by reducing food waste with more sustainable packaging. PTR provides technical strategy, consulting, implementation to new and existing food manufacturers, packaging solutions providers, and trade organizations. PTR Owner & CEO, Dr. Claire Sand, has 35+ years of broad experience within the food science and packaging industry. Today, Sand and her team derive deep solutions that address industry challenges via a Systems Thinking approach that blends Value Chain opportunities with food packaging, science, and processing.
www.packagingtechnologyandresearch.com