When your significant other buys a new toaster and dumps the old one in the garage because he “didn’t want to just throw it away,” the friendly people who answer the CRD recycling hotline can tell him where to put it. Er, recycle it. 250 360 3030, 8:30-12, 1-4:30 Monday to Friday.

Labour relations, international market demands
This Reuter’s news video looks at developments in South Africa’s mining industry as strike action at the Lonmin platinum mine continues.

Cost of doing business
“Americans generate more than 250,000,000 tons of solid waste every year...109,000,000 tons of that is packaging.”
“...$11 billion worth of stuff that could be recycled.”
“We are putting into the ground a huge amount of resources, from aluminum, which is worth $2,000 a ton, to PET, which could be worth $400-500 a ton...”
Nestle Water makes about 20 billion PET plastic bottles a year, “so it’s in our business interests to increase recycling rates, get those bottles back and keep PET plastic in perpetual use...”
Big-business leaders talk about Unfinished Business: The Case for Extended Producer Responsibility.

Finance, investment
The Guardian questions how Barclays, and indeed other banks, generate legitimate wealth.
“The bank allegedly makes up to £340m each year from agricultural commodity price speculation,” writes Michael Townsend. This is “an activity that has the impact of driving up food prices and exacerbating poverty worldwide.”
“Even looking behind the headlines, and digging deeper into the source report,” Townsend says, “it is clear that short-term speculation is a significant activity in which Barclays, and other major banks, make substantial profits.
“Given the true impact of such business activities, it begs the question: can this ever be considered a legitimate source of revenue, within the framework of a genuinely sustainable business?”

Financial innovation
In September 2010 an organisation called Social Finance raised £5m ($7.8m) from 17 investors, both individuals and charities, to pay for a programme to help prevent ex-prisoners in Peterborough, England, from reoffending. We’ll find out in 2013 whether it worked. Or not.
The concept is also on trial in New York’s juvenile criminal system. This Economist special report has more on the good, the bad, and the greedy of innovation in finance.