

Lighting Products Stewardship Plan Proposed For British Columbia

Last week, McLaren Lighting, a company in British Columbia, released a revised draft plan to collect and recycle waste lamps in the province as authorized by the Recycling Regulation of the Environmental Management Act.

The proposed plan would take back at no cost to consumers waste fluorescent lamps (including CFLs), residential lighting fixtures, table and floor lamps, and ceiling fans that containing lighting. Products in working condition would be donated to charities for resale. Waste fluorescent lamps would be shipped to a lamp processing facility to capture mercury and recycle glass.

McLaren Lighting is accepting stakeholder comments on the draft plan.

Download a copy of the proposed stewardship plan at http://rcbc.bc.ca/files/u7/Mclaren_Lighting_Stewardship_Plan_V5_0.pdf

San Francisco Bill Seeks To Reduce Bottled Water Consumption

A revised draft ordinance introduced to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors last week by President David Chiu seeks to reduce the use of bottled water not by a ban but by requiring an alternative - free water filling stations ("*drink tap stations*") in all new buildings that have water fountains. The measure would amend the San Francisco Environment Code and has been under development since last summer.

"Every 27 hours Americans consume enough bottled water to circle the entire equator with plastic bottles stacked end to end. We have to do better," said Chiu.

If the ordinance is approved, it would take effect on July 1, 2013.

More information on the proposed ordinance is available at <http://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1143637&GUID=6CF61B44-C8F5-4DAC-99CC-3021B57C747B&Options=&Search=>.

Statistics & Trends

German Government Offers €20 Million To Support Material Resources Efficiency Projects

On Monday, Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt or UBA) and its Ministry for the Environment, Nature, Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) announced that € 20 million is available in funding for projects that improve material efficiency in German production and conserve natural resources. Interested stakeholders have until September 30 of this year to submit applications for project funding.

Among the types of projects sought are pilot programs that can replace material-intensive production methods, implement more efficient material production processes or use recycled waste, according to UBA. The funding is part of Germany's Environmental Innovation Program.

The UBA announcement is posted at http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-presse/2013/pd13-016_materialeffizienz_in_der_production_schont_ressourcen_und_senkt_kosten.htm.

Brasilia Pharmacies To Begin Collecting Waste Medicine Under New Law

Last week, Agencia Brasil reported that the Federal District - Brasilia - adopted Law No. 5.092, which requires pharmacies to take back expired and unwanted drugs from consumers and forward them to drug manufacturers for safe disposal.

Felipe Faria, the President of Sindicato das Farmacias, said drug manufacturers must now establish the mechanisms for collecting, transporting and destroying the waste pharmaceuticals.

The new law in Brasilia comes as national extended producer responsibility programs are being developed by the national government for a half dozen product categories as authorized by the National Policy on Solid Waste of 2010.

The Agencia Brasil story can be reviewed at <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/noticia/2013-04-05/farmacias-do-distrito-federal-terao-de-receber-remedio-vencido-para-descarte>.

Business Initiatives

German Battery Recycling Firm To Partner On Collections In Romania

According to an announcement yesterday by the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Remat Holding, one of Romania's leading scrap metal recyclers has signed a "partnership agreement" with Redux Recycling GmbH, a German battery recycling company, to collect and recycle waste batteries and accumulators in Romania.

The EU Batteries and Accumulators Directive requires Member States to recycle 45 percent of their waste batteries by September 2016. Romania is behind other Member States in progressing toward the target.

Get more information on the agreement at <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/comunicate-de-presa/16475/>.

European Paper Industry Developing Better Recycled Paper And Fiber Packaging Applications

Today the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) said it is helping to get a three-year research project underway called "*Fibre+: Innovative Paper Packaging Products for European SMEs Based on Functional Modification of Recovered Fibres.*"

According to CEPI, the project "*will create innovative processes modifying recovered fibres for new functional packaging products, reducing the need of the sector for virgin fibre and supporting the competitiveness of the SMEs in the EU packaging sector and will lead to paper packaging that is "more recyclable, less hygroscopic, stiff and durable, in particular those used for corrugated packaging."*

Nine other organizations - companies, research institutes and associations - are participating in the project.

Get more information at <http://www.cepi.org/node/15651>.

Origins And Singapore NEA Launch Cosmetics Container Recycling Program

With support from Singapore's National Environment Agency (NEA), cosmetics and personal care products manufacturer Origins launched a campaign on Sunday to "*encourage more people to recycle their plastic and glass containers for cosmetic products and toiletries.*" The campaign is expected to collect at least 8,000 cosmetic containers year this and is part of NEA's Every Act of Recycling Trash Helps (EARTH) campaign

According to the NEA, consumers may consumer may drop off any brand of cosmetic containers at Origins counters in participating stores. The program may be expanded to place cosmetic recycling bins in community centers and shopping malls.

Get more information at http://app2.nea.gov.sg/news_detail_2013.aspx?news_sid=20130401162459719393.

Less Than 0.006 Percent Of Agricultural Land Is Used For Bioplastics, Says Industry Group

On Monday, the European Bioplastics, a trade organization, said that the "*surface required to grow sufficient feedstock for today's bio-plastic production is less than 0.006 percent of the global agricultural area of 5 billion hectares.*" (The claim is based on 2011 trade data.)

European Bioplastics made the statement to counter claims that bioplastic production diverts farm land from food and feed production, which accounts for 27 percent of agricultural land. The trade organization also noted that 55 million hectares of agricultural land - about 1 percent the global total - is used for biofuels production.

The European Bioplastics statement is posted at http://en.european-bioplastics.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/EuBP_PR_land_use_for_bioplastics_130408.pdf.

Australian Packaging Covenant Calls For Universal Curbside Waste Packaging Collection

On Monday, the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC), a nonprofit organization of more than 900 businesses, government bodies and non-profit organizations, said that critical to increasing the country's packaging recycling rate is *"the expansion of a full kerbside collection to all households, uniformity of materials accepted and stronger adoption of national standards that deal with bin design and colour."* APC advocates recycling at least 70 percent of Australia's packaging waste by 2015.

"The expansion of kerbside recycling to include flexible films recycling, for example, would mean that everything from plastic carry bags, bread bags and plastic wrapping from a diverse range of items could be recycled into new product," said Stan Moore, APC CEO.

The recommendation is included in a 60-page report titled *"Assessment of Recycling Infrastructure: Current Status and Future Opportunities"* that was also released last week by APC.

The APC announcement is posted at http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/data/Media/SRU_Media_Release_080413.pdf.

The Green Perspective

Keep Britain Tidy Identifies Most Littered Product Brands

Late last month, Keep Britain Tidy released new data on the most littered product brands in the United Kingdom, based on a recently completed *"litter count."*

The most littered brand was Coca-cola, followed by Cadbury, Walkers, McDonald's and Mars. Eight percent of the littered counted was Coca-cola branded.

"Everyone has a role to play, including everyone who buys these products," said Phil Barton, Keep Britain Tidy CEO. *"When you buy a bottle of pop, a bag of crisp or a chocolate bar, you don't just buy the contents you buy the packaging as well and it is your responsibility to dispose of it correctly."*

Barton also said that his organization *"works with some of the companies whose products feature in this top ten"* to reduce littering. Coca-cola and McDonald's were among the Keep Britain Tidy supporting companies.

Get more information at <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/KeyIssues/Litter/EnglandsGreatLitterCountOverallNationalResults.aspx>.