
Brazilian Government Allocates R\$ 200 Million More To Support Small Recycling Businesses

Late last month, the Brazilian federal government announced R\$ 200 million in recycling funding under the third phase of Projeto Cataforte. R\$ 30 million is in non-refundable grants and the remaining R\$ 170 million in low interest loans.

According to the CONAMA (the National Council of Environment) announcement, the funds may be used for technical advice, accounting, management, technology development, technical production and human resources support for modernizing and expanding recycling services, particularly those involving catadores or street collectors.

The Brazilian Government announcement is posted at <http://www.mma.gov.br/port/conama/index.cfm>.

Norwegian Government Delays Release Of National Biogas Strategy

The industry association Waste Norway (Avfall Norge) said last week that the Norwegian Government is delaying the release of an anticipated national biogas strategy until after the national election next month. Waste Norway, along with the Biogas Alliance, has been pressing the government to develop the strategy, which was hoped to be released along with the proposed new Waste Strategy last month.

"It is regrettable that we have to wait for a new government before we can get the knowledge framework for this important area, said Waste Norway Assistant Director Henrik Lystad. "Biogas can contribute to sustainable transportation in cities and towns and is part of the solution to climate change in agriculture and transport."

The biogas (methane) will be generated from food and other organic waste, producing compost for farming and gas for energy.

The Waste Norway information release is posted at <http://www.avfallnorge.no/nyheter1.cfm?pArticleId=29448&pArticleCollectionId=2556>.

Statistics & Trends

Taiwanese EPA Launches Voluntary Green Procurement Alliance

Late last month, the Environmental Protection Agency of Taiwan announced the launch of a voluntary program for businesses and other organizations to increase their levels of green products procurement. To support the effort, the Taiwanese EPA has helped establish an online network of green product providers.

By joining the network, businesses and organizations can purchase environmentally-friendly products at reduced prices and receive other financial incentives.

Get more information at

http://ivy5.epa.gov.tw/enews/fact_Newsdetail.asp?InputTime=1020729113350.

European Environment Agency To Offer Marine Litter Monitoring App Next Year

Calling marine litter "*a growing threat worldwide*," the European Environment Agency (EEA), an agency of the European Union, said last week that it will make available a smartphone app called Marine Litterwatch next year. The app will allow "*conservation groups and other 'citizen scientists' to log and report the amount of litter they find on the beach. This information will help the EEA understand this growing problem and also provide data to support better policy implementation.*"

In announcing the upcoming smart phone app, EEA stated, "*Increasing amounts of litter are ending up in the world's oceans and harming the health of ecosystems, killing animals when they become trapped or swallow the litter. Human health is also at risk, as plastics may break down into smaller pieces that may subsequently end up in our food.*"

Get more information at <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/marine-litter-2013-a-growing>.

Los Angeles Mayor Appoints City's First Sustainability Officer

Last week, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Matt Petersen to be the city's first sustainability officer. Petersen is the CEO of the nonprofit organization Global Green USA.

"I am proud to have him lead my citywide effort to make every neighborhood healthier, create green jobs, and hold every city department responsible for cleaner air and water," said Garcetti.

The announcement provides no details about any major new sustainability initiatives the mayor may be considering.

The announcement by Mayor Garcetti can be found at

http://www.lamayor.org/garcetti_names_la_s_first_chief_sustainability_officer.

Irish Environmental Minister Criticizes Local Waste Collection Price Increases

Last week, Ireland's Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Paul Hogen blasted some waste collection firms that have raised their collection fees arguably in response to an increase in Irish landfill taxes announced last year.

"It is inexcusable and reprehensible that a waste collector would try to use the increase in the landfill levy as a smokescreen to inflate their prices," said Hogen, who referred the matter to the National Consumer Agency for investigation.

"The levy is a key instrument to ensure we meet our international waste obligations, including the strict limits applicable under the Landfill Directive, and thus avoid the imposition of fines which would ultimately end up being funded by the tax-payer, continued Hogen. "In this regard, to see the levy quoted by some in the industry as a justification for imposing irrational price hikes is particularly galling."

For the complete Ministry of Environment announcement, go to <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Waste/News/MainBody,33951,en.htm>.

Business Initiatives

UK Waste Services Association Not Impressed With Defra's Updated English Waste Strategy

Last month, the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) released a draft updated English Waste Strategy to align the national strategy with EU Directive requirements, and it opened a public consultation. Last week, the Environmental Services Association (ESA), which represents waste management and recycling businesses in the UK, commented on Defra's strategy. The comments were not too positive.

"What Defra has just published is another consultation document, rather than a draft of the waste prevention programme, so all is still to play for," said Roy Hathaway, an ESA policy advisor last week.

Hathaway also said in regard to the roles of businesses and citizens in waste reduction that *"the role of Government remains very important, even if its not the whole story. Here the signs are not good: while Defra talks up WRAP's role in waste prevention, it is making huge cuts in WRAP's budget, and while it singles out construction as a key sector, Defra is repealing the regulations requiring Site Waste Management Plans."*

The full ESA statement is posted at http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/press_releases/130807_ESA_says_more_work_is_needed_on_WPP.pdf.

Plastics South Africa Will Coordinate Cleanup and Recycling Week Activities Again

The industry association Plastics South Africa announced it will again be coordinating activities for Cleanup and Recycling Week, which takes place September 16 through 23. This year is the 17th consecutive year that Plastics/SA will be a coordinator.

"Although recycling has become second nature to many people, research shows that the majority of our population still don't recycle despite the various awareness campaigns," said Plastics/SA Sustainability Director Douw Steyn. *"There are still not enough collection points in many of our*

major cities, while many consumers still claim to be unsure about what materials can be recycled or how to go about it."

The South African event coincides with the 28th International Coastal Clean Up Day that Plastics/SA is also helping to coordinate.

Get more information on the scheduled events at <http://www.cleanup-sa.co.za/home.htm>.

The Green Perspective

EWG Slams Proposed US Chemical Safety Improvement Act In Congressional Hearing

Bills to update the US Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which was enacted in 1976, have been introduced in the US Congress in recent years with the latest bill being the proposed Chemical Safety Improvement Act, which has the support of the chemicals industry. However, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) recently criticized the bill during a hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, despite agreeing that TSCA reform is overdue.

According to EWG President Ken Cook, *"The Chemical Safety Improvement Act will not fix the problem. It would preserve some of the worst features of the Toxic Substances Control Act. And yet it would prevent states from enacting their own, more protective, regulations and would prevent individuals from seeking remedies through the legal system. Americans would wind up with less government vigilance over hazards posed by toxic chemicals."*

The Chemical Safety Improvement Act's future is uncertain, and one of the authors of the bill, Senator Frank Lautenberg (D - NJ) passed away earlier this year. The bill has some Republican support in the Senate.

Get more information on the EWG's position at <http://www.ewg.org/release/ewg-s-cook-scores-industry-backed-chemicals-bill>.

Danish Eco Council Calls For Stronger EU Nanomaterials Regulation

Last Thursday, the Danish Eco Council, an academically-centered NGO, called on EU policy makers to implement stronger nanomaterials regulations.

The organization said nanomaterials' *"health risks that have not yet been adequately addressed"* and that *"current EU legislation in this area is not sufficient to protect human health and the environment."*

Included in the communique is a link to 20-page *EuropaInfo* that contains opinions about nanotechnology safety and environmental concerns by nearly a dozen leading researchers and scholars.

The Danish Eco communique is posted at

<http://www.ecocouncil.dk/en/udgivelser/artikler/kemikalier/2189-akut-behov-for-eu-politik-pa-nano-området>.

Copyright, 2013
Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com