

Louisville, Kentucky Bans Use of Plastic Yard Waste Bags

Last week, the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District approved a resolution banning the use of plastic bags for yard waste curbside pickup. While the resolution took immediate effect, it states that "*full implementation will be delayed during the initial public education and outreach program but no longer than six months from passage.*"

The resolution was adopted because the use of plastic bags "*prevents the yard waste from being used for its intended purpose as compost.*" It encourages residents to use "*paper yard waste bags or certified compostable bags meeting ASTM D6400 standards*" or reusable containers.

To download a copy of the approved resolution, go to www.louisvilleky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/53963341-333E-4419-9454-0FB8C8B9C55A/0/YardWasteResolution.doc.

Statistics & Trends

European Producers Recycled 444,000 Tons of PVC in 2013

Last week, VinylPlus, a voluntary PVC recovery program established by producers, announced that in 2013 members recycled 444,468 tons of PVC - an industry record. VinylPlus said the program was on track to reach a 2020 goal to recycle 800,000 tons annually.

The statistic comes from a 32-page 2014 VinylPlus Progress Report that was also released last week.

VinylPlus also said that last year it "*started to investigate the possibility of increasing recycling volumes in regulated PVC waste streams such as automotive trim and household packaging.*"

Download the 2014 Progress Report at <http://www.vinylplus.eu/mediaroom/113/52/VinylPlus-raises-the-bar-by-registering-over-440-000-tonnes-of-recycled-PVC-in-Europe-in-2013>.

2012 European Steel Packaging Recycling Rate Levelled Off at 74%

The Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging (APEAL) announced on May 13 that the recycling rate for European steel packaging recycling in 2012 was 74%, essentially unchanged from a year earlier.

According to APEAL Executive Secretary Alexander Mohr, steel remained "*the highest recycled material in Europe*" in 2012, but he also noted the industry needs to do more to reach its goal of recycling 80% of European steel packaging by 2020.

Get more information at http://www.apeal.org/index.php?mact=Mediaroom,cntnt01_detail,0&cntnt01template=home&cntnt01orderby=date%20DESC&cntnt01limit=3&cntnt01detailpage=news&cntnt01origid=127&cntnt01item_id=105&cntnt01returnid=26.

France Could Have 1,000 Biogas Facilities In Operation in 2020

Yesterday, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) published information on how biogas generated largely through aerobic digestion could provide up to 3.5% of the country's energy as early as 2030.

ADEME said that with strong growth in the French agriculture sector, up to 1,000 anaerobic digestion facilities could be operating by 2020. France currently has 160 agriculture-based anaerobic digestion facilities in operation, providing enough energy to power 35,000 homes.

ADEME estimated the country currently produces about 130 million tons of waste materials that could become used in biogas production.

Get more information at
<http://www.presse.ademe.fr/>

Government of Victoria Approves \$6.2 Million to Combat Illegal Industrial Dumping

Victoria is the latest Australian state to approve funding to combat illegal dumping, according to a May 6 announcement by Premier Denis Naphine. The state 2014-15 budget includes \$6.2 million to fund *"an illegal dumping strike force to stamp out industrial dumping."*

Last year, Victoria Environmental Protection Agency CEO John Merritt said the illegal dumping strike force *"will be looking at the life cycle of industrial waste in the C&D Sector which generates large volumes of industrial waste. An unknown portion of this waste is being diverted from landfill/recycling and dumped on industrial or rural land in illegal landfills."*

In 2012-13, the task force conducted 235 inspections and issuing 68 notices to address illegal waste dumping. The inspections lead to \$105,000 in fines.

The Government of Victoria environmental budget announcement is posted at
<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/9862-coalition-government-invests-65-million-for-a-stronger-environment.html>.

Dutch Study Examines Appliance Sharing to Reduce E-Waste Generation

Yesterday, Wecycle, the Dutch WEEE compliance scheme, released information from a study it commissioned about how consumers treat home electronics in the Netherlands. The study sampled 1,000 consumers across the country.

Here are a couple of findings that Wecycle highlighted. Women are *"significantly more likely"* to share electronic appliances with friends than are men. The finding is relevant when considering sharing schemes to reduce EEE consumption.

Second, the typical Dutch resident underestimates the number of EEE products in his or her household. On average they believe they have 10 to 30 EEE products in their home, but the survey found the average was 93, including many that no longer work.

For more information, go to

<http://www.wecycle.nl/nederlands/consumenten/nieuws/vrouwen-lenen-elektrische-apparaten-makkelijker-uit-dan-mannen.html>.

Business Initiatives

PRE Launches Online Plastic Packaging Eco-Design Evaluation Tool

Earlier this year, the *Bulletin* reported that the industry association Plastics Recyclers Europe (PRE) was planning to launch an "*online tool*" to improve the design of plastics packaging in regard to recyclability. On May 7, PRE launched the tool, which is called RecyClass and is available for a free six-month trial to everyone. (Creating a login account, however, is required.)

In addition to determining the recyclability of plastic packaging, RecyClass provides "*optional certification for a single package*" and a special label, which PRE says could help packagers market the environmental friendliness of the package.

The URL for the new RecClass web site is

<http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/news/recyclclass-launched>.

Two Leading French Retail Chains Agree to Eliminate BPA-Containing Receipt Paper

As part of a Ministry battle against endocrine disrupting chemicals, French Minister of Ecology, Durable Development and Energy Minister Segolene Royal announced on May 9 that two leading retailers - Carrefour and Naturalia - have voluntarily agreed to eliminate the use of thermal paper receipts containing bisphenol A (BPA). Late last month, Royal said she would be advocating an EU-wide ban on BPA-containing receipts before the European Commission.

Carrefour is a French global retail giant while Naturalia sells organic foods at 79 stores located in France.

Royal also used the Carrefour and Naturalia agreement announcement to remind the public that effective January 1 of next year, BPA will also be banned in all food contact materials in France.

The Ministry of Ecology, Durable Development and Energy announcement is posted at

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Segolene-Royal-confirme-l.html>.

30 Kong Hotel Hotels Join Government Food Waste Prevention Campaign

The Government of Hong Kong said on May 12, that a group of 30 hotels began participating in the Food Wise Hong Kong waste prevention campaign coordinated by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

For hotel restaurants the Food Wise Hong Kong campaign advocates minimizing food waste generation and disposal through (1) planning of purchasing and design of menu, (2) storage of food materials, (3) handling of food materials, (4) donation of surplus food, and (5) recycling of food waste. Restaurant tables will also feature small signs encouraging patrons to "*not be a big waster.*"

EPD hopes to reduce the amount of food sent to landfills by 40% by 2022.

More on the Food Wise Hong Wong campaign is available at http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/05/20140510_211906.shtml.

Norwegian Industry Association Wants More Academic Support for Waste Management Studies

Last week, Avfall Norge, the Norwegian waste industry association, said it was concerned about dwindling academic support for "*recruitment, training and research in the field of waste treatment,*" and it said it is supporting a "*petition*" for more higher education institutions to offer more degree programs in the field, up to PhD level. The petition effort is being led by the Waste Research network.

Avfall Norge said getting more college students interested in waste management studies will be highlighted at a national waste conference that opens later this week in Trondheim. Student interest in the field appears to be waning, and fewer waste engineers and managers are graduating from Norwegian universities.

"The challenges for the industry in collecting and recycling waste will only increase in the future, and we must begin this initiative now to keep up with future expertise needs," said Nancy Strand, chairman of Waste Research.

The Avfall Norge announcement is posted at <http://www.avfallnorge.no/nyheter1.cfm?pArticleId=33679&pArticleCollectionId=2556>.

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