



Vernon, California operated by Exide Technologies, Inc. Last week, Exide Technologies challenged the temporary suspension order in court.

The *Bulletin* will follow developments.

A copy of the Exide's challenge of DTSC's suspension order may be reviewed at <http://dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/NoticeofDefenseExide.pdf>.

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## Statistics & Trends

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### Call2Recycle 2012 Battery Collections Reach 10 Million Pounds

Call2Recycle, formerly the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, released its 2012 annual report late last month. According to the report, Call2Recycle collected 10 million pounds (4.7 million kilograms) of batteries in North America in 2012, an 11 percent increase over 2011.

Collections in Canada increased by 55 percent for 2012. More than a million pounds of waste batteries were collected both in Canada and California during the year.

2012 rechargeable battery collections totaled 7.9 million pounds (3.5 million kilograms), a three percent increase from 2011.

For more Call2Recycle waste battery collection data, download the 2012 annual report at [http://www.call2recycle.org/wp-content/uploads/2012\\_annualreport.pdf](http://www.call2recycle.org/wp-content/uploads/2012_annualreport.pdf).

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### Weekends Pilot Collections Program Takes In 6.4 Tons Of E-Waste In Brazilian Municipality

As Brazil prepares for mandatory product stewardship for electronics and appliances, a pilot program in the city of Sao Jose dos Campos collected 6.4 tons of e-waste in just four weekends. The pilot was organized with the help of the Brazilian Association of Consumer Electronics and Appliances Recyclers (ABREE).

According to city officials, e-waste collections were conducted during four weeks at two locations. Among the most common end-of-life products consumers dropped off for recycling were computers, televisions, washing machines, and microwave ovens. City officials say residents want more weekend collections in the future.

ABREE is analyzing the collections data as it prepares to submit a draft EEE reverse logistics plan to the Brazilian Ministry of Environment next month. The Ministry has set a goal to have at least 17 percent of covered end-of-life products recycled by 2018.

Sao Jose dos Campos is a city of roughly 640,000 residents in the state of Sao Paulo.

The city government announcement is posted at [http://www.sjc.sp.gov.br/noticias/noticia.aspx?noticia\\_id=13654](http://www.sjc.sp.gov.br/noticias/noticia.aspx?noticia_id=13654).

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## CalRecycle Awards \$7 Million In Tire Recycling Grants

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) announced last week that it was providing \$7 million in grants to counties and municipalities through its Waste Tire Enforcement Grant Program. The program is funded by an environmental fee placed on each new tire sold in the state.

Riverside County received the largest grant of \$577,000. Los Angeles County received the second largest grant of \$528,000.

According to CalRecycle, Californians generated 40.8 million waste tires in 2011, and 88 percent were diverted from disposal.

The CalRecycle announcement is posted at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/NewsRoom/2013/05May/07.htm>.

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## Scheme Launched In UK To Certify Tire Merchants As Environmentally Responsible

Each year, about 40 million waste tires are generated in the United Kingdom. A new voluntary certification scheme for tire retailers and garages will help ensure that waste tires from passenger cars and trucks they accept are properly recycled. The scheme, which was announced on Monday by the UK's Tyre Recovery Association, is called the Responsible Retailer Initiative.

Participating retailers receive an annual certification to display onsite and education materials for consumers on proper disposal of waste tires. The scheme has received an endorsement by the UK's Environment Agency, the agency responsible for enforcing tire disposal regulations.

The Responsible Retailer Initiative also has a new website. The URL is <http://www.tyrecorerecovery.org.uk/about-tra/responsible-retailer/>.

### Business Initiatives

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## APR Forms Label Working Group

Last week, the Association of Plastics Recyclers (APR) announced the formation of a Label Working Group. APR, whose members include the majority of plastic bottle recyclers in North America, acknowledged that full bottle shrink wrap labels are being increasingly affixed to plastic bottles and that the labels present a contamination issue for recyclers.

*"While they are extremely popular with brand owners, they represent a nightmare for most recyclers, and render the containers they cover mostly unrecyclable,"* said APR Director Steve Alexander.

APR said there are two major problems with recycling plastic bottles with shrink wrap labels: 1) sorting equipment has difficulty reading resin codes on bottles covered with the labels and 2) many of the labels are not completely removed during the washing process, leading to resin contamination.

Get more information at <http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/news/news-archives/58-press-release/228-plastic-recyclers-form-group-to-work-on-full-wrap-shrink-label-contamination-issue>.

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## Industry Working Group Launched To Connect Smart Consumer Electronics To US Smart Energy Grid

The US Consumer Electronics Association said last week it is forming a working group to "develop a new standard to enable home electronics to communicate energy use data to smart energy management systems and apps." The new standard will be called the CE-Energy Usage Information (CE-EUI) Standard and be compatible with the electrical industry's Green Button "Download My Data" and "Connect My Data" initiatives.

"Product manufacturers already understand how much energy a device will use during operation, based on its design," said Brian Markwalter, a senior vice president at CEA. "By programming that information into the device and enabling the device to calculate how much energy it uses over time, manufacturers can help homeowners accurately capture the data for their energy management systems and applications."

The CEA announcement is posted at <http://www.ce.org/News/News-Releases/Press-Releases/2013-Press-Releases/CEA-Announces-New-Standard-Group-for-Connected-Hom.aspx>.

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## British Supermarkets Agree To Cut Food Waste By Another Five Percent

According to a British Retail Consortium (BRC) announcement last week, British supermarkets that are signatories to the voluntary Courtald Commitment have agreed to reduce food and drink waste by five percent by 2015 (using 2012 data as a baseline.)

The agreement, now in its third phase, includes the "grocery supply chain and improving packaging design to minimise its carbon impact, according to the BRC.

The Courtald Commitment is a voluntary packaging waste agreement by businesses negotiated by the UK's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP). According to WRAP, the third phase of the Courtald Commitment is expected to reduce waste by 1.1 million tons and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2.9 million tons.

The BRC announcement is posted at [http://www.brc.org.uk/brc\\_news\\_detail.asp?id=2441](http://www.brc.org.uk/brc_news_detail.asp?id=2441).

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## Think Brasil Says The Future Of Plastics Recycling In The Country Is Strong

According to the latest newsletter from Think Brasil, a campaign sponsored by the National Institute of Plastic and several other pro-plastic industry groups, Brazil's plastic recycling rate at 22 percent is catching up with the rate in the European Union as a whole. However, Think Brasil

notes a major difference between the two markets - very little plastic in Brasil is recovered as energy, which Think Brasil argues gives the country the edge when it comes to resource efficiency. The data and conclusions come from a recent study by Maxiquim, a leading Latin American consulting firm.

Think Brasil points out that only about 10 percent of Brazilian municipalities currently source separate waste, so the potential for increasing plastics recycling is substantial. Further, the National Policy on Solid Waste enacted in 2010 requires municipalities to establish recycling programs and close open air dumps.

Get more information at <http://www.exportplastic.com.br/2009/Default.aspx?p1=pt-BR>.

**The Green Perspective**

## **EEB Makes Recommendations To European Commission On Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**

Last week, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Europe's largest coalition of grassroots environmental organisations, sent a letter to the European Commission outlining recommendations for a new policy on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). Work has already started at the committee level to prepare such a policy.

Essentially, the EEB made three recommendations: 1) comprehensive criteria to identify EDCs, 2) possible changes to REACH to "*promote the replacement of EDCs with safer alternatives,*" and 3) "*a screening and testing strategy that addresses the complexity of the endocrine system, to correctly identify which chemicals are EDCs. The existing testing requirements in the legislation are not able to do this currently.*"

A copy of the EEB's letter is available for review at <http://www.eeb.org/EEB/?LinkServID=253EFBEB-5056-B741-DBC53834981EDF83&showMeta=0>.

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