

and illegally redeeming them. CalRecycle said it was "*undertaking a major and multipronged effort to protect the recycling fund, including new approaches to curb fraud.*"

The CalRecycle announcement is posted at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/NewsRoom/2014/04Apr/12.htm>.

Washington State Testing Finds Most Manufacturers Comply with Children's Safe Product Act

On April 14, the Washington Department of Ecology said that tests it recently conducted on more than 200 children's products sold in Washington found most manufacturers "*are following laws that regulate the use of toxic chemicals,*" specifically the Children's Safe Product Act. However, Ecology said "*15 potential violations on phthalates and seven potential violations on lead or cadmium*" were found and the manufacturers were notified of the problem. Ecology also notified the US Consumer Product Safety Commission for possible violations of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

According to the report on phthalates, "*Substantial amounts of phthalates continue to be used in children's products. One product contained such a large amount that it comprised over 44% of the product by weight.*"

The children's products were also tested for metals (lead, mercury, cadmium, antimony and cobalt), parabens, formaldehyde and 15 other volatile organic chemicals.

The Children's Safe Product Act limits the amounts of specified hazardous chemicals in children's products and authorizes Ecology to develop a much larger list of chemicals of high concern.

Four separate reports on the levels of phthalates, metals, parabens and formaldehyde/other volatile organics found in the children's products are available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/index.html>.

Ontario Developing Standard for Battery Recycling

On April 9, Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) announced it has retained the Recycling Council of Ontario RCO to help develop an "*an end of life single-use battery recycling standard, including a definition and method for calculating battery recycling efficiency.*" A review by RCO is expected to be finished in September, but WDO did not indicate when the standard might be unveiled.

WDO said a advisory committee will be formed that includes battery makers and other stakeholders and public consultations will make the review open to all. Eventually, the effort will lead to the establishment of an Industry Stewardship Plan for single-use batteries, which Call2Recycle would manage.

Get more information at http://www.wdo.ca/files/7813/9713/3051/Battery_Recycling_Standard_Apr_9_14.pdf.

First Computer Displays Having 85% Minimum Recycled Plastic Are Certified

TCO Development, a Swedish Certification Organization, said on April 10 that it had certified the first computer displays that use a minimum of 85% post-consumer plastic. The displays, made by Lenovo, join seven other categories of electronics certified to meet recycled content minimums. The other products include desktop and notebook computers, tablets, projectors, headsets, "all-in-one" devices and smart phones.

"The growing use of recycled materials among IT brands is a positive step toward greater producer responsibility and turning the tide of the e-waste crisis," said Stephen Fuller, a TCO Development spokesperson.

The TCO Development announcement can be found at <http://tcodevelopment.com/news/sustainability-certification-raises-bar-recycled-content-products/>

German Agency Helps Monitor Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

Last week, Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umwelt Bundesamt or UBA) hosted a two-day international workshop in Geneva on the effects of pharmaceuticals on the environment. The workshop follows research commissioned by UBA that found *"traces of more than 630 different pharmaceuticals and their degradation products"* at locations around the world. The trace amounts were found in water, soil, sewage sludge and animals.

UBA reported that one drug in particular, Diclofenac, a prescription nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, had been detected in the waters of 50 countries. In 35 of those countries, the level of the drug was at least 0.1 microgram per liter of water sampled.

Information from UBA's pharmaceuticals workshop will soon be available from the agency.

Get more information UBA efforts on pharmaceuticals at <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/presse/presseinformationen/arsneimittel-in-der-umwelt-sind-eine-globale>.

San Franciscans Get Back Free Compost from their Food Waste

The San Francisco Department of the Environment announced on April 12, that 12 free truckloads of *"nutrient-rich planting mix"* would be give away to residents in celebration of Earth Day this year. The material is derived from the food and other organic wastes that residents separate for curbside collection.

"Composting is no longer a new bold idea; it has become a way of life for San Franciscans," said Mike Sangiacomo, President and CEO of Recology, the company that collects the city's organic waste. *"The Compost Giveaway also allows San Franciscans to create healthy, thriving gardens with the compost they helped create."*

A number of other large cities, including Los Angeles and Montreal, also have annual compost or mulch giveaways to help encourage organics recycling. However, most of the San Francisco-derived compost is sold to California farms and other agricultural operations.

For more information, go to

<http://www.sfenvironment.org/news/press-release/major-compost-giveaway-draws-thousands-of-residents-to-four-locations-throughout-sf>.

Business Initiatives

Australian Packaging Covenant Launches Portal to Determine Recyclability of Materials

On April 9, the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC), an organization with business, government and non-profit group members, announced the availability of an online tool to *"help packaging suppliers decide whether their packaging can be classified as recyclable in Australia."* However, the online tool, which is called the Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP), will be available to APC signatories only, at least initially.

PREP will help suppliers determine 1) the *"technical recyclability"* of packaging materials, and 2) the *"degree of access to kerbside recycling services for the item."*

"Until now, there has been no centralised point where brand owners and packaging designers can access clear, consistent and validated information about the recyclability of specific packaging formats from an Australia-wide perspective, for example a PET bottle with label and closure," stated Stan Moore, APC's CEO.

The APC announcement is posted at

http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/data/Media/PREP_Media_Release.pdf.

Canadian Industry Association Publishes Comparative Study of Eleven Packaging EPR Programs

Late last month, the Packaging Association of Canada (PAC) published an 88-page comparative review of 11 leading extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs for packaging. Covered countries include Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia. Provincial programs in Canada include British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec are also covered.

Analyzing the data, the report authors suggest the following characteristics are common in a *"high performing"* EPR program: coverage of household, commercial and industrial streams; acceptance all types of packaging material; output of high quality materials; convenience; cost effectiveness; high collection and recycling targets, and implementation of full producer responsibility.

The report also finds the following support initiatives appear to boost the effectiveness of packaging EPR programs: pay-as-you-throw waste charging, landfill bans for recyclable materials and container deposit schemes.

Download the PAC global packaging EPR programs study at http://www.pac.ca/press_releases/pdf/epr-report.pdf.

New R2 Solutions Document Addresses R2:2013 Standard and International Waste Agreements

Last week, R2 Solutions, a leading EEE recycling certification scheme, announced the availability of a 10-page Q&A document that answers the most frequently asked questions regarding the R2:2013 Standard and international agreements governing hazardous waste trade.

According to R2 Solutions, the organization's 2013 standard *"is 'fully consistent' with the Basel Convention and international law."*

Download the R2 Solutions document at <http://asoft10298.accrisoft.com/r2solutions/clientuploads/R22013%20International%20Law%20Memo%20March%2024%5EJ%202014.pdf>.

Industry Group Expects 2012 EU Glass Recycling Rate To Exceed 70%

While the official 2012 EU statistics for glass recycling won't be released until later this year (2014), the European Container Glass Federation (FEVE) said on April 2 that it expects the 2012 EU glass recycling rate to reach at least 70%. The group also noted that the EU glass recycling rate increased by 131% between 1990 and 2012, although consumption of glass packaging during the same period increased only 39%.

According to FEVE, glass packaging collection rates varied widely among European countries. The countries with the highest glass packaging collection rates in 2012 were Switzerland and Luxembourg at 96%, Sweden and Belgium at 94% and Norway at 91%. The countries with the lowest collection rates in 2012 were Cyprus at 34%, Turkey at 21% and Malta at only 17%.

The FEVE announcement is posted at <http://www.feve.org/FEVE-Glass-Recycling-Stats-Year-2012/>.

Sao Paulo Beverage Producer Signs First State-Wide Packaging Take-Back Agreement

On April 4, 2014, the Government of Sao Paulo announced it has signed a packaging take-back agreement with soft drink producer Bebidas Poty Ltda, which is headquartered in the Brazilian state. The Sao Paulo Department of Environment (SMA) said the take-back agreement (called Terms of Agreement for Post-Consumer Responsibility) is the first addressing beverage packaging, although 13 other similar agreements with have signed with covering other product sectors.

Under the agreement, Bebidas Poty Ltda will have responsibility for collecting and recycling all glass, PET and polypropylene drink packaging distributed in Sao Paolo, Brazil's most populated state. Aluminum containers will be added to the scheme next year.

In Sao Paolo, SMA Resolution 38/2011 sets the legal foundation for producers to take back waste packaging and end-of-life products.

The Government of Sao Paolo announcement is posted at
<http://www.ambiente.sp.gov.br/acontece/noticias/sma-e-fabricante-de-bebidas-assinam-terminos-de-responsabilidade-pos-consumo/>.

Copyright, 2014
Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com