



The letter from Lord de Mauley is posted at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/250013/waste-seperate-collection-201310.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/250013/waste-seperate-collection-201310.pdf).

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## Los Angeles Public Works Department Calls For EPR Scheme For Waste Solar Modules

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for making new rules to establish a system to recycle end-of-life solar modules (solar panels), the first such regulations in the United States. Earlier this summer DTSC published draft regulations and launched a public comment period, which closed in August. On Friday, DTSC published comments it received from the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, the state's largest municipal waste agency.

The Department of Public Works recommended that DTSC revise the draft regulations to implement extended producer responsibility for solar modules, something the current draft regulations do not do.

*"We strongly recommend DTSC incorporate EPR into these proposed regulations,"* stated the Department of Public Works comment letter. *"Not only would EPR lift some of the burden away from local governments in managing post-consumer solar modules, but it would aid the intent of the regulations which is to keep these products away from municipal landfills and thus protect public health and the environment. Moreover, EPR would incentivize producers to create a new generation of solar modules that are less toxic and easier to recycle."*

The LA Department of Public Works response letter can be downloaded at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/upload/15-Day-Notice-Comments-Received.pdf>.

### Statistics & Trends

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## US PET Bottle Recycling Rate Reaches 30 Percent

According to a 13-page report released last week by the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR) and the Association of Postconsumer Plastics Recyclers (APR), the US recycling rate for PET containers reached 30.8% last year. The weight of the collected PET containers was 1.718 billion pounds, and 930 million pounds of recycled PET (rPET) were produced.

*"The increase in the PET recycling rate is clear evidence of continued strong, domestic end-market demand for recycled PET, and we believe there's considerable scope for U.S. industry to readily absorb more recycled PET material if available,"* said Tom Busard, who chairs both organizations.

The report also says the PET reclamation plants are operating at only 63% of capacity and are underutilized.

The APR and NAPCOR report can be downloaded at [http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/images/stories/doc/apr\\_napcor\\_2012ratereport.pdf](http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/images/stories/doc/apr_napcor_2012ratereport.pdf).

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## Sydney Begins Collecting Waste Batteries And Lamps

According to the City Government of Sydney, Australians dispose of roughly a million mercury-containing lamps per week and 16,000 tons of batteries per year. On Monday, officials launched a network of 10 waste lamp and battery collection facilities across the city to keep these end-of-life products out of landfills. The network consists of neighborhood service centers and libraries.

Accepted lamps include compact fluorescent lamps, LEDs and halogen lamps, and accepted batteries include AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, 6V lantern and button batteries. Automotive batteries are not included. The collected waste will be processed by ECOACTIV, a Victoria-based firm.

For more information, go to

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/live/waste-and-recycling/recycling/battery-mobile-and-light-bulb-recycling>

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## US Drug Take Back Day Scheduled For Later This Month

The Drug Enforcement Agency of the US Department of Justice has scheduled the next National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day for Saturday, October 26. Consumers can find the nearest approved collection sites by accessing a search page on the DEA web site.

During its last National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day held on April 27, 371 tons of prescription drugs were collected at 5,829 locations. For the sixth take-back days held so far, the DEA says 1,409 tons of meds were collected.

Get more information at

[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html)

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## Hong Kong Launches E-Waste Collection Service In Schools

On Sunday, the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (EPR) announced it has launched a new service to collect used computers from 143 primary and secondary schools and students, teachers and alumni. In addition to computers, waste rechargeable batteries and small appliances will be accepted.

Devices that can be refurbished will be donated to charity organizations, and those beyond repair will be recycled.

EPD said that it has been operating similar e-waste collection services in housing estates for eight years.

The Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department announcement is posted at

<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201310/13/P201310110520.htm>

## Waste Sweden Publishes Municipal/Regional Waste Management Efficiency Report

Pulling data from its online databases, the trade association Waste Sweden (Avfall Sverige) published a 104-page report that provides waste and recycling data and ranks municipalities and countries in their 2012 waste management operations. The report provides comparative recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill disposal data, weighting the data on municipal/regional population.

While admitting the report does not include every municipality and region in the country, Waste Sweden hopes the report will stimulate friendly competition among local governments to improve recycling and recovery and minimize landfill disposal. The report also provides historical and trend data on the country's waste management activities.

Download a copy of the Avfall Sverige report at [http://www.avfallsverige.se/fileadmin/uploads/Rapporter/Statistikrapport\\_U2013.pdf](http://www.avfallsverige.se/fileadmin/uploads/Rapporter/Statistikrapport_U2013.pdf).

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## Irish Government Extends Repak Packaging Compliance Agreement

Earlier this month, Irish Minister of Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan announced that the packaging compliance (EPR) scheme Repak has been re-approved to operate through 2013.

*"In taking this decision, I am very conscious of the central role that Repak has played in moving Ireland from a very low level of packaging recovery and recycling to being among the top performers in Europe,"* said Hogan. *"2011 was the fifth straight year that Repak exceeded the targets set down in the EU Packaging Directive."*

More than 2,000 companies participate in Repak's scheme, which covers about 60% of the packaging distributed in Ireland.

Get more information at <http://www.repak.ie/Repak-Licence-extended-by-Environment-Minister-news11.html>

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## Reducing Packaging Part Of New French Beverage Industry Sustainability Charter

The French Beverage Federation (La Federation Nationale des Boissons) released a new sustainability charter last week that covers 2014-2016, and it asked federation members to voluntarily implement the actions outlined in the charter. Among them are working with suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging put in the market, to embrace the use of refillable containers and a circular economy, and to promote responsible consumption and greater recycling.

The charter also encourages beverage producers to reduce waste, water consumption and greenhouse gases; use more renewable energy in their operations, favor the use of "clean vehicles" and optimize delivery routes to reduce the emission of air pollutants.

The charter was applauded by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency.

Download a copy of the FNB sustainability charter at  
<http://ademe.typepad.fr/files/fnb-chartedeveloppementdurable-1.pdf>

## The Green Perspective

### ChemSec Calls For Restricting Groups Of Flame Retardants Under EU RoHS Directive

Last week, NGO International Chemical Secretariat (ChemSec) released a communique calling for adding brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and chlorinated flame retardants (CFRs) to the list of restricted substances under the RoHS Directive. It stated that "*EU Commission consultants don't prioritise brominated and chlorinated flame-retardants*" even though they "*fulfil the criteria of the RoHS directive and have representative substances that meet the human health or environmental hazard criteria set out in the methodology.*"

*"We urge the Commission to revise the priority list and add brominated and chlorinated flame-retardants, organochlorines, organobromines and chloroalkanes, since the results show that these substance groups fulfill the criteria in the directive for restriction as well as the criteria set out in the methodology for priority evaluation,"* said Frida Hok, a ChemSec policy advisor.

The communique also noted that "*at least four BFRs and PVC are listed as priority substances for restriction in RoHS in the near future.*" However, ChemSec is concerned that banned BFRs could be replaced by other problematic BFRs and wants "*groups of substances*" to be considered for prioritization.

To read the ChemSec communique, go to  
<http://www.chemsec.org/news/news-2013/july-september/1204-eu-commission-consultant-states-that-brominated-and-chlorinated-flame-retardants-fulfil-the-criteria-for-rohs-restriction-but-will-not-be-prioritised-for-evaluation>.

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### Danish NGO Publishes List Of Toxics-Free Children's Lunch Boxes And Food Containers

On Monday, the Danish Information Center on Environment and Health, a NGO funded largely by the Danish Ministry of Environment, published an online illustrated list of children's lunch boxes which are free of phthalates, PVC, bisphenol-A and polyfluorinated substances. The list extends beyond lunch boxes to include various plastic containers for sandwiches and other foods that come into direct contact with plastic.

The Information Center said it welcomes manufacturers and retailers to submit similar products for testing, which will be added to the list if they are found to be free of the targeted chemicals. It also provided information on the potential health risks that have been associated with the chemicals.

The Information Center list can be found at  
<http://www.forbrugerkemi.dk/test-og-rad/mad/madkasser-uden-visse-problematiske-stoffer-liste-over-gode-valg-2013/madkasser-uden-visse-problematiske-stoffer-liste-over-gode-valg-2013>.

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