

The Committee also called on Defra to not exempt small businesses from the upcoming tax. It said the proposed small business exemption "*sets the English policy apart from the successful universal schemes introduced in Wales and Ireland and will limit the benefits it brings in terms of reducing litter, waste and harm to wildlife.*"

Get the latest information on the English carrier bag tax at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news/plasticbagsgvresponse/>.

CalRecycle Approves Modest Increases in E-Waste Recycling Payment Rates

At a June 17 public meeting, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) approved increasing the Standard Statewide Recovery Payment Rate from \$.16 to \$.18 cents per pound, and the Standard Statewide Combined Recovery and Recycling Payment Rate from \$.43 to \$.44 per pound. The new rates will take effect on July 1, 2014.

The payments help support the electronics recycling industry under California's Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003.

Get more information at

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/Documents%5C39%5C20142014%5C1131%5CRequest%20for%20Approval%20CEW%20Payment%20Rates%202014.pdf>.

Statistics & Trends

Croatia Says It Will Spend More than \$23 Million to Upgrade Three Landfills

On June 12, the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection announced it is allocating 130 million kuna (about \$23.3 million USD) to repair and/or add recycling facilities at existing landfills in Samoboru, Semeljcima and Pakracu. The Samoboru project alone has a 95.7 million kuna budget.

According to the announcement, Croatia expects to close or upgrade all of its 301 landfills by 2018 and construct 10 new waste management/recycling facilities. The improvements are also expected to double the number of workers in the waste management/recycling sector from 6,000 to 12,000.

"The establishment of a sustainable waste management system is of highest priority," said Environmental Minister Mihael Zmajlovic. *"It's an economic issue, a job creation issue, and it promotes the rational management of valuable raw materials and resources."*

The Croatian Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection announcement is posted at

<http://www.mzoip.hr/default.aspx?id=19807>.

German Environmental Agency Publishes Report on Green Public Procurement at State Level

In Germany, much public procurement occurs at the state level. Last week, the Federal Environment Agency (Umwelt Bundesamt or UBA) published a 48-page report discussing green public procurement policies at the state level. The report indicates implementation is uneven with Berlin, Bremen and North Rhine having "*ambitious*" guidelines while the other 13 states less so.

The report looks particularly at implementation of mandatory guidelines in procurement of energy efficient products and services and sustainable wood products. It finds most German states do not have set requirements, and purchasing officials have broad discretion in deciding how to specify and buy environmentally-friendly products. However, the report includes no suggestions for new legal requirements.

Download a copy of the UBA green procurement guide at http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/texte_44_2014_regulungen_der_bundeslaender_beschaffung.pdf.

Toronto Collects 6,327 Tons of Litter during Six Week Campaign

The City of Toronto announced last week that during a six-week clean up campaign this spring, 6,327 tons of litter and other waste was collected, up from 3,582 tons collected last year. City officials described the effort as "*much needed*."

One reason for the dramatic increase in the collection amount was an increase in volunteers - 72,000 people participated in 262 community cleanups, 135 corporate cleanups, and 192 school cleanups.

Among the larger waste items collected were 830 scrap tires, 725 abandoned appliances and 60 shopping carts.

The City of Toronto announcement is posted at <http://wx.toronto.ca/inter/it/newsrel.nsf/7017df2f20edbe2885256619004e428e/7a5cab05f8c3fa4a85257cef005324ae?OpenDocument>.

Grant Helps Columbus, Ohio Businesses Recycle 87 Tons of Glass

Last week, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said that since the start of this year, food and drink businesses on High Street in downtown Columbus have recovered 87.03 tons of glass containers for recycling due in part to a special agency grant.

The Ohio EPA said 90 percent of the state's glass containers are disposed in landfills, but that "*Ohio businesses can use this untapped supply of glass to lower their energy costs, create new products and jobs and save valuable natural resources.*" The agency said it has committed \$1 million to support glass container recycling efforts.

Get more information at
<http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/nr/Recycling%20on%20High%20event%20release.pdf>.

Phoenix to Roll Out Curbside Organic Waste Collection on July 7

The Phoenix Department of Public Works recently announced it will begin providing curbside collection of "green organics" (yard waste) beginning July 7. The collected waste will be converted into mulch.

Participation is voluntary, but residents that opt in will pay \$5 a month and receive a tan organic waste bin. Residences already pay a monthly fee for trash pick up, so city officials say the voluntary organics addition could save residents money long-term by reducing the amount of waste disposed in landfills and minimizing the resulting landfill costs.

For more information, visit
<http://phoenix.gov/publicworks/recycling/pwdnewprograms.html>.

Business Initiatives

US Battery Producers Propose Model Consumer Battery Stewardship Bill

Last week, leading US battery producers released a 28-page model bill intended for use by state legislators as they may consider drafting such legislation in the future. The model bill's release follows passage last month of a battery stewardship bill by the Vermont State Legislature.

Four industry organizations support the model legislation. They include Call2Recycle, the Corporation for Battery Recycling, the Rechargeable Battery Association and members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

The model bill includes a timeline for implementation, requirements in stewardship plans including "a 10-percent collection rate two years after the date the program is implemented and a 20-percent collection rate five years after the program is implemented," annual reporting requirements. It also includes an administrative filing fee of up to \$5,000 for submitting a stewardship plan to the designated state agency and specifies administrative penalties (fines) for non-compliant producers.

"We commend the industry in working together to further battery recycling awareness," said Call2Recycle CEO and President Carl Smith. "By offering a comprehensive solution for all batteries, consumers benefit with less confusion."

Download a copy of the draft legislation at
http://www.call2recycle.org/wp-content/uploads/Model_All_Battery_Bill.pdf.

Industry Association Publishes Unofficial Quality Standards for UK Recyclates

On Monday, the United Kingdom's Resource Association launched an online portal "for understanding reprocessors' recycle quality requirements" that are key to the UK's implementation of recycling requirements under the EU Waste Framework Directive. The online portal is called Recycling Quality Information Point or ReQIP.

Resource Association Chief Executive Ray Georgeson described ReQIP as "*necessary information for councils as they work out whether their collection schemes are compliant with legislation,*" although he conceded the information provided should be considered official (government-approved.)

ReQIP provides a series of quality specifications for recyclable materials that include food waste, green waste, cardboard, mixed papers, glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic bottles, plastic bags and film, cartons, textiles, small WEEE and batteries, among others.

As example, for cardboard ReQIP advises, "UK manufacturers want less than 1% contamination as a norm," and it highlights EN643, which calls for "*a maximum level of 1.5% contamination limit for 'non paper components'; and a maximum level of between 2.5% & 3% for 'non-paper components and other unwanted material combined'.*"

Access ReQIP at
<http://resourceassociation.com/regip-recycling-quality-information-point>.

Ecovidrio Offers Free Reusable Bags to Increase Glass Packaging Recycling

To encourage consumers to return more waste glass containers for recycling, the Spanish glass container recycling organization Ecovidrio is providing shoppers at the city's open market in Algemesi with free reusable bags. Consumers can drop off waste glass containers at a recycling "igloo", then use the bags to carry home produce and other foods from the market.

Ecovidrio already had placed 89 glass only recycling bins at public locations throughout Algemesi, which helped achieve a 18.1 kilogram per capita glass recycling level for the city. In 2013, Algemesi residents recycled 508,026 kilograms of glass packaging.

Get more information at
<http://www.ecovidrio.es/noticiadetalle.aspx?id=886>.

Philadelphia Renews Contract with RecycleBank

On June 12, the City of Philadelphia announced it is renewing its contact with recycling rewards firm RecycleBank. Philadelphia was the starting point for RecycleBank in 2004 and today remains one of its largest customers.

According to a RecycleBank announcement, Philadelphia recycled more than 125,000 tons of material in fiscal year 2014, and it has a 21.5% curbside recycling diversion rate. The city has a goal to attain a 25% residential recycling diversion rate by 2015.

The RecycleBank model uses financial incentives (points for discounted merchandise and services) to encourage residents in "partnering" cities to divert materials from their trash. Sensors in special recycling bins communicate the amounts of the recyclables as they are collected by specially-equipped vehicles, and the collection data is sent to participating residents' accounts.

Get more information on the Philadelphia contract renewal at
<https://www.recyclebank.com/corporate-info/newsroom/press-releases/235>.

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