



## European Resource Efficiency Platform Outlines Manifesto For The Future

The European Resource Efficiency Platform of the European Commission on Monday said that *"the EU has no choice but to go for the transition to a resource-efficient and ultimately regenerative circular economy,"* and it outlined six broad steps to do so.

Among the six steps is *"creating better market conditions for products and services that have lower impacts across their life-cycles, and that are durable, repairable and recyclable, progressively taking the worst performing products off the market."* Another step is *"implementing, using and adopting smart regulation, standards and codes of conduct that a) create a level playing-field, b) reward front-runners and c) accelerate the transition, and d) take into account the social and international implications of our actions."*

The body said it would issue a more detailed set of short term policy recommendations in June.

The European Resource Efficiency Platform communique is published at [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-12-989\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-12-989_en.htm?locale=en)

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## US EPA May Allow For Expanded Use Of Recycled Plastic From Shredded ELVs

Last week, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it wants to loosen its interpretation of rules regarding scrap plastic separated and recycled from end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). At issue is whether the plastics can be recycled from automobile shredder residue relatively free of PCB contaminants.

The EPA was prompted to consider the regulatory interpretation in a February 2011 request from the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI). According to ISRI's request, *"resolving regulatory uncertainty could lead to investments and further development in innovative methods to separate plastics from ASR aggregate that would produce broad environmental benefits and increase global competitiveness."* The EPA also said, *"ISRI developed a set of voluntary procedures designed to prevent the introduction of PCBs that are regulated for disposal into recycled plastics recovered from shredder residue generated by metal recycling facilities."*

A public comment period on the EPA's proposed regulatory interpretation will remain open through January 11.

Get more information at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0902>.

### Statistics & Trends

## 40 Percent Of US Communities Now Have Carton Recycling Programs, Says Carton Council

On Monday, the US-based Carton Council, which includes carton manufacturers Elopak, SIG Combibloc, Evergreen Packaging and Tetra Pak, said that more than 47.9 million U.S. households - or about 40 percent of all households - have access to carton recycling, which has expanded by 128 percent since 2009.

The top ten largest cities to launch carton recycling programs since 2009 are (in alphabetical order) Charlotte, NC; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Denver, CO; and Jacksonville, FL., Los Angeles, CA; Minneapolis, MN; Philadelphia, PA; San Diego, CA; and San Antonio, TX, according to the Carton Council.

The Carton Council was founded by manufacturers Elopak, SIG Combibloc, Evergreen Packaging and Tetra Pak, in part to boost carton recycling.

More information can be found at <http://www.recyclecartons.com/>.

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## **French Recycling Scheme On Schedule To Meet 60,000 Ton Waste Tires Collection Goal**

Recyvalor, a nonprofit organization established in 2008 to remediate legacy waste tires in France, said last week that it has collected 31,000 tons of waste tires since its creation, indicating it is on pace to reach its cumulative 2016 collection goal of 60,000 tons or about 4.1 million waste tires.

Sixty-seven percent of the collected tires were used as fuel at cement-making factories, 20 percent were converted to crumb rubber and the remaining 13 percent were used in other applications. Recyvalor said the cost to collect the 31,000 tons of tires was 4.7 million euros, which was underwritten largely by tire stewardship fees.

For more information go to [http://www.recyvalor.fr/IMG/pdf/Conference\\_de\\_presse\\_-\\_11\\_decembre\\_2012.pdf](http://www.recyvalor.fr/IMG/pdf/Conference_de_presse_-_11_decembre_2012.pdf).

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## **Waste Generated By Services Sector On The Rise In Norway**

Statistics Norway, the government's statistical agency, released data last week on waste generated by the country's service industries. Combined, all services providers generated 1.5 million tons of waste in 2011, a six percent increase from 2010.

Trade services, such as automotive repair and maintenance providers, generated the most solid waste - a 51 percent share of the total. Retail services generated the second most - 44 percent.

While overall waste generation increased, some types of waste decreased including organic waste, scrapped vehicles and e-waste. Increases were seen in metal, concrete and mixed wastes.

For the complete Statistics Norway services industry waste data, go to <http://www.ssb.no/avfhandel>.

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## **Rio De Janeiro Government Kicks Off Third Annual Christmas E-Waste Collection Drive**

Last week, the Ministry of Environment for the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro launched a campaign in which residents may drop off end-of-life electronics at large temporary collection containers positioned at subway stations and other public locations. Devices ranging in size from mobile phones to televisions are being collected. Residents may also pick up information on the environmental benefits of electronics recycling at drop off locations.

In 2010, the first year of the e-waste collection campaign, 1.5 tons of e-waste were recovered. Last year, 12.2 tons was collected, and this year the collection total is projected to reach 15 tons.

The campaign is supported by several recycling and technology associations, government agencies and several corporations including Philips and Tetra Pak. It runs through December 21.

Get more information at <http://www.rj.gov.br/web/sea/exibeconteudo?article-id=1368102>.

## Business Initiatives

### PlasticsEurope Releases Progress Report On Efforts To Combat Marine Litter

PlasticsEurope released a 27-page progress report last week on efforts to reduce marine litter. The Global Declaration of the Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter was launched in March 2011 and has been signed by 58 plastics and petrochemical associations in 34 countries, according to PlasticsEurope.

While the progress report is short on statistics, it does indicate the status of more than 140 planned projects across the globe and examines six case studies covering projects from research on micro-sized plastics to methods to contain pelletized plastic.

Download the industry marine litter progress report at <http://www.plasticseurope.org/information-centre/press-room-1351/press-releases-2012/plastics-associations-report-progress-on-global-marine-litter-commitments.aspx>

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### German Scrap Industries Association Says Only Practical Use Of Bioplastic Waste Is As Fuel

Bundesverband Sekundarrohstoffe und Entsorgung e.V. (BVSE), the German recycling industries association, said last week that the best use of used bioplastic is for energy recovery. According to a BVSE expert, bioplastics contaminate traditional plastic waste streams and "*dissolve in the upstream washing and treatment processes.*" The quality of recycled PET in particular is threatened by bioplastic contaminants, according to BVSE.

Representing BVSE at the recent 7th European Bioplastics Conference in Berlin, Dr. Thomas Probst argued for keeping bioplastic items out of "yellow bag" curbside collections to minimize stream contamination. He said that bioplastics can change the color, mechanical properties and barrier qualities of rPET, reducing its market acceptance.

More bvse information is available at [http://www.bvse.de/33/5962/Verbrennung\\_ist\\_sinnvollster\\_Entsorgungsweg\\_fuer\\_Biokunststoffe](http://www.bvse.de/33/5962/Verbrennung_ist_sinnvollster_Entsorgungsweg_fuer_Biokunststoffe).

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## H&M Launches Global Clothing Reuse And Recycling Program

Global clothing retailer H&M (Hennes & Mauritz AB) announced last week that it will launch a global program to collect used clothing at many of its 2,700 stores worldwide. The Sweden-based company said it would accept "any pieces of clothing, from any brand and in any condition." The program begins next February.

The retail giant also said, "Long-term, H&M wants to reduce the environmental impact of garments throughout the lifecycle and create a closed loop for textile fibres. The aim is to find technical solutions to reuse and recycle textile fibres on a larger scale."

The H&M announcement is posted at <http://about.hm.com/content/hm/NewsroomSection/en/NewsRoom/NewsroomDetails/global-clothes-collecting-initiative.html>.

### The Green Perspective

## ChemSec Portal Now Includes 200 Safer Substitute Examples

Yesterday, the International Chemical Secretariat (ChemSec) said that a safer substitute chemicals portal it helped launch now includes more than 200 case histories or examples from which companies can learn. The nonprofit organization launched the portal to help compliance managers fulfill substitution requirements of REACH and other European Union legislation.

ChemSec also said it plans to add detail substitution examples next spring for 10 other chemicals including bisphenol A, various brominated flame retardants and various parabens.

The Subsport portal receives financial support from the European Union, Germany and Austria.

The URL for the Subsport case histories database is <http://www.subsport.eu/case-stories-database>.

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## Er Det Farlig? Issues Advisory About Toxic Products Purchased Online

Just in time for holiday shopping, Er Det Farlig?, a consumer web site managed by the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF), cautioned Norwegian shoppers to be careful when purchasing products online because some products may be in violation of European Union and Norwegian environmental and safety regulations.

The agency suggested customers look for online products that display the Swan or Flower ecolabels, or, if the product is a toy, the CE marking. Products that should require extra consumer investigation include toys, electronics, clothing, cosmetics and food. Imported products tend to have a higher chance of not meeting regulatory standards, according to KLIF.

The Er De Farlig? advisory is posted at <http://www.erdetfarlig.no/Artikler/Nyhetsartikler/var-obs-nar-du-julehandler-pa-nett/>.

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