

Results of Public Consultation on Scottish Litter Strategy Published

Last week, Zero Waste Scotland published an 82-page report on the results from a public consultation conducted last year by the Scottish Government on a draft National Litter Strategy. While respondents supported a number of proposed initiatives, no initiatives had particularly outstanding support. Also significant, only 102 responses were received, and nearly half of those were from either local governments or nonprofit organizations.

There was support for more "recycling on the go" and improving product design to help prevent litter, respondents did not feel these initiatives would reduce littering significantly. Support for increasing the penalties for littering fly-tipping also received mixed support.

There appeared to be broader support for increased litter monitoring, prevention communications, local government clean up programs as well as extending enforcement to other organizations.

The final National Litter Strategy is expected to be released this summer.

Download the consultation results report at

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/National%20Litter%20Strategy%20Consultation.pdf>.

US Justice Department Takes Action Against Children's Products Containing Phthalates and Lead

Late last month at the request of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the US Department of Justice (DOJ) requested a federal court to issue an injunction against four companies allegedly importing children's products containing excessive lead and phthalates levels. The DOJ is asking that the companies' importation and sales activities be shut down.

Among the prohibited imported products were "*plastic dolls with impermissible phthalate levels,*" and "*numerous models of toy cars with impermissible lead content.*" In its announcement, DOJ noted that "*certain types of phthalates are banned from use in children's toys and other child care products.*"

"*Manufacturers, importers and retailers need to know that CPSC and the Justice Department are actively enforcing the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, a law that has strengthened the nation's product safety net,*" said Robert Adler, the Acting CPSC Chairman.

For more information on the US DOJ injunction, go to

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/February/14-civ-192.html>.

Statistics & Trends

Danish Government to Provide 70 Million Kroner to Develop Green Technologies

On March 18, the Danish Ministry of Environment announced it has 70 million kroner available in funding for proposals to develop new environmental technologies to be used domestically and for export.

"By subsidizing development of environmental technologies, we can boost green jobs," said Environmental Minister Kirsten Brosbol. "Green products have become one of the areas that are helping to create growth and jobs in the Danish industry with annual exports of more than 80 million kroner."

Brosbol said projects for which funding is sought should focus on water conservation, adaptation to climate change, the circular economy and recycling of waste, cleaner air, noise reduction, reduction of hazardous chemicals use and modernizing industrial environmental performance. The deadline for submitting funding applications is May 28.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://mim.dk/nyheder/2014/mar/70-mio-kroner-til-renere-vand-og-mere-genanvendelse/>.

French WEEE Collections Increased 2.1% in 2013

Last week, the French WEEE compliance organization Eco-systemes announced that in 2013 it collected 341,000 tons of e-waste, a 2.1% increase from 2012.

Eco-systemes also announced a new initiative to collect more category 1 WEEE (large kitchen appliances such as refrigerators, ranges/ovens and dish washers) by establishing collection arrangements with kitchen remodelers. The compliance scheme estimates such arrangements could bring in up to 20 tons of additional WEEE each month, increasing to 40 tons per month by 2016.

While Eco-systemes reported the a modest collections increase last year, the per capita collection level has remained around 7kg for the last three years, well below the 2019 14 kg target called for by the European Commission.

Get more information at http://www.eco-systemes.fr/backoffice/upload/CP_Eco-systemes_bilan_perspec_2014_VF.pdf.

Texas Recycling Programs Collected More Than 38 Million Pounds of E-Waste in 2013

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced on February 27 that separate state recycling programs collected 15,910,368 pounds of end-of-life TVs and 22,220,731 pounds of end-of-life computers in 2013.

Computer collections in 2013 decreased from a year earlier when 24,093,143 pounds were collected. Under the Texas Recycles Computers Program, a quasi-product stewardship scheme launched in 2009, manufacturers are required to register with the state, ensure their covered devices are labeled (identified) and provide free and convenient program for collecting and recycling home business and personal computer equipment.

2013 was the first year for the Texas Recycles TVs Program, so no year-to-year comparison data is available. According to a legislative report, next year "*individual manufacturers will be required to recycle their market share allocation.*"

The 2013 legislative report on the Texas Recycles Computers Program is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/news/releases/2-14Recycling2-28>.

The 2013 legislative report on the Texas Recycles TVs Program is available at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/114-13.pdf.

Boulder, Colorado Bag Fee Cuts Disposable Carryout Bag Distribution by 68%

On July 1, 2013, a 10-cent fee was charged on each single-use plastic and paper carryout bag distributed by retailers in Boulder, Colorado. On March 10, city officials said the fee has led to a 68% decline in disposable bag distribution so far, preventing nearly 5 million bags from entering the waste stream.

"This is very positive news," said City of Boulder spokesperson Jamie Harkins. "*The bag fee arose from community concerns about the negative environmental and economic impacts of disposable bags in Boulder, and this progress report shows that we are addressing those concerns and doing so effectively.*"

The City of Boulder announcement is posted at <https://bouldercolorado.gov/pages/march-10-2014-disposable-bag-fee-reduces-grocery-checkout-bags-by-68-percent>.

Russian Authorities Identify Nearly 76,000 Illegal Dump Sites

According to a 14 March announcement from the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, government authorities identified 75,956 illegal dump sites - some large but most small - across the federation over the past two and a half years.

Since August, 2011, the government has been identifying the dumpsites and trying to determine who is responsible for the waste there. According to the announcement, administrative actions were taken in 4,350 cases with fines totaling about 62.5 million rubles. But that is only a fraction of the estimated clean up cost - more than 900 million rubles - for all dump sites combined/

The Ministry also said it is implementing new measures to make fly-tippers aware of the penalties for breaking the law.

The Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.mnr.gov.ru/news/detail.php?ID=134013>.

French Recycling Industry Association Proposes Building Technical Research Center

The French Government recently proposed building 60 waste sorting centers across the country to divert materials from landfill. On March 14, the French Federation of Recycling Enterprises (FEDEREC) issued a communique saying the proposal "*does not seem at all suited to the reality on the ground,*" and would be detrimental to small and medium enterprises and some other organizations.

Instead FEDEREC proposed that the French Government help establish a Center for Technical Research on Recycling as well as consider changes to the General Tax on Polluting Activities (TGAP) to encourage recycling over landfill disposal and incineration, which FEDEREC says remains too economically attractive.

FEDEREC also said it has 61 development projects to recommend that would contribute to increased recycling, create 900 jobs and contribute 270 million euros to the French economy.

Download the FEDEREC announcement at http://www.federec.org/sites/default/files/cp_federec_14_mars.pdf.

EcoFolio Publishes Guide on Environmental Labels for Paper

Yesterday, EcoFolio, the French paper recycling compliance scheme, published a 21-page guide titled, "*Understanding Logos and Environmental Standards for Paper Products.*" The publication was prepared with assistance from the French Environment and Energy Management Agency.

According an EcoFolio announcement, the guide "*makes it easy for businesses and governments implementing a responsible purchasing policy to use products with low environmental impact.*" Sections in the guide cover ecolabels relating to the origin of paper fiber and to finished products, marks and standards used at paper production sites, the use of logos for favorability in green procurement and a glossary of terms.

Download the EcoFolio paper environmental labels guide at http://www.ecofolio.fr/sites/default/files/pdf_files/ef-labels.pdf.

German Industry Associations Voice Criticism of DSD for Lack of Transparency

On March 12, the German Federal Retail Association (HDE), the Confederation of German Food and Drink Industries (BVE) and Markenverband, three leading trade associations, sent an open letter to Duales System Deutschland (DSD), Germany's Green Dot packaging compliance scheme, complaining about a lack of transparency on regarding collections and financial data.

Recent reports in the German news media indicate DSD, which collects curbside recyclable packaging in special yellow bins on behalf of Green Dot member firms, is being hurt financially because significant non-Green Dot (unauthorized) packaging is being placed in the yellow bins.

Corrective changes have been called for by some legislators to add more stability to the Green Dot system.

The letter from the three trade associations called for several immediate corrective actions including better transparency in conducting market research studies and ensuring uniform criteria is used by auditors.

The associations' letter to DSD can be downloaded at <http://www.einzelhandel.de/index.php/presse/aktuellemeldungen/item/123841-offener-brief-an-die-betreiber-des-dualen-systems.html>.

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