
California Supreme Court Lets San Francisco Carryout Bag Ordinance Stand

On April 16, 2014, the California Supreme Court denied a petition from the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition to overturn a decision by an Appellate Court (First Appellate District, Div. 2) affirming the validity of San Francisco's plastic bag ordinance.

The ordinance, first adopted in 2007 and later amended, bans the retail distribution of single-use plastic bags. It allows the distribution of compostable bags and recycled paper bags if a 10-cent fee is charged on each bag.

The Save the Plastic Bag Coalition challenged the municipal bag ordinance by arguing it was preempted by the California Retail Food Code. The Appellate Court disagreed.

The California Supreme Court decision noticed is posted at http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/disposition.cfm?dist=0&doc_id=2068890&doc_no=S216469.

Statistics & Trends

US Electronics Industry Program Recycled 630 Million Pounds of Electronics in 2013

The US Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) said on Monday that 620 million pounds of electronics had been recycled last year under the eCycling Leadership Initiative. The 2013 collection total was more 35 million pounds greater than in 2012 and more than twice what was collected in 2011 when the initiative was launched. The initiative was a goal to recycle one billion pounds of electronics annually by 2016.

In a four-page report on 2013 results, CEA applauded 10 companies in particular that manufacture or sell electronics. Among them were Apple, Best Buy, Dell and DirecTV, which recycled more than 125% of consumer hardware recycling goals set for 2013.

Get more information at <http://www.ce.org/CorporateSite/media/environment/eCycle/eCycling-Leadership-Initiative-Year-Three-Report.pdf>

Catalonia Recovered 230,000 Tons of Industrial Waste Byproducts in 2013

The Waste Agency of Catalonia (Agencia de Residus de Catalunya or ARC) announced on April 11 that in 2013 the semi-autonomous region of Spain recovered 230,000 of industrial byproducts (waste) through the Catalonia Byproduct Exchange.

ARC said 3,700 companies are registered to participate in the Exchange. Registered companies can offer for sale byproducts they have available while other companies can solicit byproducts

they can use for their production processes. ARC says the Exchange not only prevents disposal of waste but generates more than a thousand commercial contracts a year.

The ARC announcement is posted at

<http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/arc/menuitem.ed59e7380cafa3dd624a1d25b0c0e1a0/?vgnnextoid=2045dfbcc9025210VgnVCM1000000b0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=2045dfbcc9025210VgnVCM1000000b0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=detail&contentid=1aac2ff94df45410VgnVCM2000009b0c1e0aRCRD>.

Newfoundland and Labrador Offer \$100,000 in Funding for Solid Waste Management Innovation

Earlier this month, the Newfoundland and Labrador Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) announced it was making \$100,000 available in grants to provincially-owned and or operated businesses, industry associations and non-profit organizations for "*initiatives that support solid waste management in Newfoundland and Labrador at any stage of the waste management hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle or recover).*"

The grants come from the Solid Waste Management Innovation Fund. The MMSB said it welcomes applications from "*innovators and entrepreneurs who are developing new or improved technologies, products, services or processes that will not only help achieve our 50 per cent diversion target as set out in the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy, but also will maximize economic and employment opportunities.*"

The deadline for submitting applications is May 12.

Get more information at

http://www.mmsb.nl.ca/uploads/file/NewsReleases/SWMIF_Release_April2014.pdf.

Wisconsin DNR Joins Industry Plastic Film Recycling Program

Last week, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced that it will participate in the Wisconsin Wrap Recycling Action Program, a statewide effort to increase plastic (HDPE #2 and LDPE #4) film recycling and thereby reduce landfill disposal. DNR said it is joining the effort "*to make Wisconsin the first and model state for the WRAP initiative.*"

WRAP is a collaborative effort launched by the American Chemistry Council's Flexible Film Recycling Group, the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, and the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers. The effort in Wisconsin was unveiled last summer, and Milwaukee, the state's largest municipality, joined the effort in October.

The Wisconsin DNR participation announcement is posted at

http://dnr.wi.gov/news/BreakingNews_Lookup.asp?id=3181.

Austin Pilot Program Helps Subsidize Small Business Recycling and Composting

On April 11, the Austin (Texas) Resource Recovery announced it would provide up to \$1,800 in rebates for small businesses to meet recycling and composting requirements that will take effect in October. Up to \$600 in start-up materials cost and another \$1,200 for collection (hauling) services is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Multifamily properties having 5 to 24 units and commercial properties with 10,000 or fewer square feet of space are eligible to apply for the financial support.

Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance went into effect October 2013. The ordinance supports a city goal to reduce the amount of waste sent to area landfills by 90 percent by 2040.

Get more information at
<http://austintexas.gov/commercialrecyclingrebate>.

Business Initiatives

Institute of PVC and Plastivida Begin Third Year of Credit Card Recycling Program

Earlier this month, Plastivida (the Brazilian Socio-Environmental Institute of Plastics) and the Brazilian PVC Institute began their third year of an initiative to recycle credit, gift, identification and other wallet size cards made from PVC. The two industry organizations say their program supports reverse logistics and the National Policy on Solid Waste, but that less than 10% of Brazilian municipalities have any systems in place to securely handle PVC cards for recycling.

"Our goal is to end cutting and throwing plastic cards in the trash," said Renato Soares de Paula, President of the Programa de Reciclagem de Cartoes. "We want everyone to be aware that credit cards, gift cards and other cards can be recycled 100 percent"

According to a Plastivida announcement, magnetic strip material and chips are removed from card in a secure environment, and the remaining PVC is shredded and can then be used to make new cards.

Get more information at
http://www.plastivida.org.br/2009/Releases_087.aspx.

Ecovidrio Expands Bottle Recycling Bin Network in Spanish Municipality

On April 16, Ecovidrio, the Spanish glass packaging compliance scheme, announced it is expanding a glass container recycling program in Santander, a coastal municipality with a population of roughly 180,000 residents. Ecovidrio will be placing 200 additional recycling bins dedicated to glass containers only at additional locations across the city. Additionally, five special bins designed to look like giant soccer balls will be placed near the largest sports facilities.

Ecovidrio and Santander currently operate 626 municipal glass container recycling "igloos." In 2012 Santander recycled 2,933 tons of glass containers for a per capita rate of 16.4 kilograms.

The Ecovidrio announcement is posted at
<http://www.ecovidrio.es/noticiasdetalle.aspx?id=835>

Dutch Clothing Chain Offers Shoppers Sales Discounts for Bringing in Their Used Clothes

On April 19, Zeeman, a leading Dutch clothing retailer, launched a four-week campaign that offers shoppers a 10% discount on their new clothing purchases when they bring in "a large bag of clothing and / or shoes." Zeeman said no coupons or vouchers were required. Shoppers need only to drop off their bag of used clothes and/or shoes at cash registers during the "*Deliver Your Old Clothes for a New Beginning*" campaign.

Zeeman follows the Swedish-based clothing retailer H&M in launching an in-store clothing recycling program. H&M, which does not give shopper a discount when they drop off used clothes, does direct revenue generated from the used clothing it recycles to support social responsibility efforts. H&M said in 2013 it collected and directed to reuse or recycling 3,047 tons of garments.

Get more information at
<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=nl&u=http://www.zeeman.com/&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dzeeman%2Bnetherlands%26biw%3D974%26bih%3D533>

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