

food waste and that EEA will make \$3 million in funding available to businesses help construct needed aerobic digestion (AD) plants to process the waste.

The disposal ban is planned to take effect on July 1 of next year. Entities that produce more than one ton of commercial food waste per week will be required to "*donate or re-purpose the useable food.*" The remaining waste will be shipped to AD facilities.

The \$3 million in AD support funding will take the form of low-interest loans for AD plant construction. Massachusetts agencies hope to reduce the state's food waste stream by 30 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050.

Get more information at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2013/commercial-food-waste-ban.html>.

Kansas DHE Launches Public Consultation On Waste And Recycling Services

On Friday, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) launched a public consultation (online survey) to hear from residents on current and future solid waste generation, disposal and recycling services in the state. KDHE will use the findings to prepare a report for the 2014 legislature, a task required by recently enacted legislation.

"While KDHE will collect information from this survey and through meetings with interested stakeholders, we will also be assembling available data to summarize trends in recycling, composting and waste disposal," said Bureau of Waste Management Director Bill Bider. *"The report we deliver to the Legislature in January 2014 will help policymakers decide if existing trends are adequate or if new laws or regulations are warranted to improve practices."*

The public consultation closes on August 17.

The consultation can be accessed at <https://www.dhe.state.ks.us/Community/se.ashx?s=11B9BDC961995452>.

Third California City Bans Polystyrene Foam Shipping Materials

Last week, the Richmond City Council expanded an existing ordinance that prohibits the use of polystyrene foam food ware by food service providers to include a retail ban on polystyrene foam coolers, packing peanuts or other packaging materials. Similar bans of non-food related polystyrene foam products have also been adopted in two other California municipalities - Santa Cruz and Capitola.

The extended ban takes effect on January 1, 2014. Retailers that violate the ban will be guilty of a misdemeanor. The City Manager will be responsible for enforcement of the new ordinance.

A copy of the Richmond ordinance is available for review at <http://sireweb.ci.richmond.ca.us/sirepub/cache/2/0x2jwghzdtgvs1jgubc5vhqv/37770307222013113510580.PDF>.

EU To Increase Funding For Environmental Programs By 60 Percent

The European Union announced last Thursday that funding for the LIFE programme, which includes a wide range of environmental projects and initiatives, will increase to more than EUR 3.4 billion over the next seven-year period. Funding for the current seven-year period that ends this year was EUR 2.1 billion.

Despite the slow economy in the EU, EUR 2,592 million will be allocated to the environment and an additional EUR 864 million will be dedicated to climate change initiatives specifically. The funding period runs from 2014 through 2020.

"After the recent agreement on the 7th Environment Action Programme, it is especially pleasing to see this powerful funding instrument taking shape, which will help turn words into tangible actions," said EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik.

The EU announcement is posted at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-701_en.htm

Single Use Plastic Bag Consumption Up In UK In 2012

According to the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), consumption of single use plastic bags increased by 1.3 percent last year compared to 2011. WRAP said that *"8.1 billion thin-gauge (single-use) bags were used by supermarket customers,"* in a statement issued last Thursday.

While single-use plastic bag consumption across the UK overall increased, Wales, which enacted a plastic bag levy in 2011, experienced a 76 percent decrease in consumption.

The same announcement offered additional positive highlights. Since 2006, single use plastic bags consumption across the UK has decreased by 34 percent since 2006, and the amount of plastic used to make single-use bags also decreased last year due to thinner films being used.

WRAP also noted that about 60 percent of the supermarkets providing data said they have in-store recycling of used plastic bags.

More information is available at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/wrap-publishes-new-figures-carrier-bag-use>.

New Commission Will Advise German Government In Preparing Resource Efficiency Policies

Earlier this month, Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umwelt Bundes Amt or UBA) announced the official formation of the Resource Commission of the Federal Environment Agency to *"strengthen the protection of resources and the sustainable use of natural resources."*

UBA President Jochen Flasbarth is a member of the Commission, which includes other government officials as well as experts from leading German universities and research institutes.

UBA, the Oko-Institut e.V., and several other organizations have already help shaped government and industry efforts to use resources more efficiently, recycle valuable commodities and help preserve Germany's access the materials and energy resources needed to maintain the country's economic competitiveness.

The UBA announcement is posted at http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-presse/2013/pd13-029_ressourcenkommission_am_umweltbundesamt_gegruendet.htm.

Victoria, Australia To Provide \$2.4 Million More For Recycling Infrastructure Projects

Last week, Victoria's Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, announced that the government will provide \$2.4 million in funding to boost recycling in the state. The funding will go to seven projects to increase recycling of organic waste, waste tires, wooden pallets, glass, PET and other materials. The largest individuals grants are each \$500,000.

The \$2.4 million was the second round of funding, totaling \$5 million overall, in Victoria's Driving Investment for New Recycling Program.

The Ministry announcement is posted at [http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/\\$2_4_million_to_support_new_recycling_projects.pdf](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/$2_4_million_to_support_new_recycling_projects.pdf)

Quebec To Extend Environmental Fees To Video Game Consoles And Other Electronics

Last week, Quebec Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) announced that environmental handling fees (EHFs) would be placed on video game consoles and peripherals, computer servers, digital and video cameras, and some other electronics beginning on August 1. The environmental fees, applied to covered electronics at the time of sale, cover the cost of collecting and recycling the products once they reach end of life.

Quebec EPRA said the newly covered products bring the total number of products to which EHF's are being attached to more than 100. The fees are authorized under Quebec's Environment Quality Act.

The Quebec EPRA announcement is posted at http://recyclermeselectroniques.ca/eng/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Press-Release_July-15-2013_ENG_FINAL.pdf.

French Compliance Scheme Unveils Smart Phone App For Recycling Textiles And Shoes

On Sunday, ECO TLC, a textile compliance (EPR) scheme, announced the availability of a new app that locates the closest drop off location for unwanted clothing and shoes. The app also provides news and other information on clothing recycling.

The new app is available as a free download from either Apple or Google (Android) smart phones. Eco TLC represents more than 93 percent of the French clothing and footwear industry.

Get more information at <http://www.ecotlc.fr/actualite-67-lancement-de-l-application-mobile-quot-la-fibre-du-tri-quot.html#a67>.

Business Initiatives

EuPR Calls For Separate PET Tray Recycling

Last week, Plastics Recyclers Europe (EuPR), an international trade industry organization, issued a communique calling for the separate recycling of PET trays from bottles.

"Trays and bottles are two different types of products which cannot be recycled in the same recycling line," said EuPR Chairman Casper van den Dungen. "Their designs and chemical compositions are not the same and can create quality problems for existing PET recyclers."

EuPR said that 700,000 tons of PET trays are recycled each year and called for investment in facilities that recycle trays only to improve recycle quality.

The EuPR communique can be reviewed at <http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/news/plastics-recyclers-europe-warns-pet-trays-must-be-recycled-separately>.

French Press Organizations Agree To Support Paper Recycling Promotional Campaign

Last Thursday, EcoFolio, the French paper recycling compliance organization, said it had reached a voluntary agreement with seven newspaper/press organizations to promote paper recycling to the public. Under the agreement, which includes collaboration with the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, newspapers and magazines will make free space available for ads promoting the benefits of paper recycling.

The Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy has set a goal for EcoFolio to achieve a 60 percent paper recycling rate nationally.

Get more information at [http://www.ecofolio.fr/actualites/la-presse-ecrite-sengage-pour-le-recyclage-des-papiers-et-la-promotion-du-geste-de-tri?js=&page=&keys=&date_filter_1\[value\]\[date\]=](http://www.ecofolio.fr/actualites/la-presse-ecrite-sengage-pour-le-recyclage-des-papiers-et-la-promotion-du-geste-de-tri?js=&page=&keys=&date_filter_1[value][date]=).

The Green Perspective

New ToxFox Mobile App Provides Info On Endocrine Disruptors In Personal Care Products

BUND, the German chapter of Friends of the Earth, unveiled a free iPhone and iPad app yesterday that allows users to scan the bar code of personal care products to determine whether the products contain "*hormonally active chemicals* or endocrine disrupting chemicals. (Android phone users can access the ToxFox database using BUND's mobile site.)

According to BUND, nearly a third of the personal care products sold in Germany contain one of more hormonally active chemicals, and ToxFox can provide information on nearly 60,000 products.

Users can also donate to BUND through the app, which is available in German and English language versions.

Download the ToxFox app at <https://itunes.apple.com/de/app/toxf-ox-der-kosmetik-check/id665200272?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2>.

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