



current emissions standards. The incinerator, which is located in the town of Skaftarhreppur in southern Iceland, failed to pass emissions tests in 2011 when dioxin levels were found to be 58 times higher than the permissible level.

In May, the incinerator operator requested an exemption to the standards through 2015. While the incinerator's operating license expired earlier this month, the incinerator operators have until January 11 to try to convince the Ministry to reverse its decision.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/frettir/nr/2304>.

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## Updates To Ontario's Blue Box, Tire And Household Hazardous Waste Stewardship Regulations Coming Next Month

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) reports that updated rules for Blue Box, Household Hazardous Waste and used tire stewards have been approved by the organization's Board of Directors and will be published in January. According to WDO, the updates "*provide further clarity*" for product stewards about their obligations and include 2013 steward fees supporting the Blue Box program.

The WDO report also said that a cost recovery plan for Ontario Electronics Stewardship is being finalized but did not indicate when the plan will be officially released.

Download the December WDO Board update at <http://www.wdo.ca/news/?id=178707>.

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## California DTSC Revises Safer Consumer Products ISOR

Last week, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) published a revised Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) for the pending Safer Consumer Products regulations, and it launched a 30-day public comment period that closes on January 22.

Most of the revisions appear to be clarifications and technical corrections to the earlier ISOR. Examples: what is meant by the term "*bioaccumulation*" and what is a product "*component*" that is subject to safer alternatives analysis.

The landmark green chemistry regulations, which have been under development since early 2011, should be finalized early next year.

Download the updated 225-page ISOR and consultation documents at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SCPRegulations.cfm>.

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## Mountain View Among Latest California Cities To Ban Plastic Bags

The City Council of Mountain View, California (population: 75,000) recently enacted Ordinance No. 10.12, which bans single use plastic bags and places a minimum 10-cent charge on

recyclable paper and reusable bags. The Mountain View ordinance is modeled after one enacted earlier by San Mateo County..

Retailers must itemize bag sales on customer receipts and keep and maintain bag sales records for a minimum of three years. The ordinance takes effect on April 22 (Earth Day), 2013.

Download a copy of the new ordinance at

<https://www.mountainview.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=10427>.

## Statistics & Trends

### Scotland Recycled 40 Percent of Household Waste In 2011

On Friday, the Scottish EPA (SEPA) released official 2011 data on household waste recycling. Scotland generated 2,606,662 tons of household waste in 2011 and recycled 1,045,148 tons for a 40.1 percent recycling rate.

According to SEPA, 4.1 percent of household waste was recovered as energy and 55.8 percent was disposed in landfills.

Scotland's Zero Waste Plan calls for achieving an 70 percent overall recycling rate and a 5 percent landfill disposal rate by 2025.

Download the 2011 Scottish household recycling data at

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste\\_data/waste\\_data\\_reports/lacw\\_reporting/household\\_waste\\_reporting.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_data/waste_data_reports/lacw_reporting/household_waste_reporting.aspx).

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### Norway Recycled 56 Percent Of C&D Waste Recycling In 2011

On Thursday, Statistics Norway, the government's statistical agency, published data on construction and demolition (C&D) waste in 2011. For the year, 1.6 million tons of C&D waste was generated, a four percent increase over 2010. About 40 percent of the C&D waste was bricks and concrete; mixed waste was 18 percent; and asphalt and wood for each 14 percent.

Statistics Norway calculated the C&D recycling rate in 2011 was 56 percent. The EU Waste Framework Directive sets a 70 percent C&D waste recycling rate for 2020.

The new data also shows the almost of C&D waste considered to be hazardous nearly doubled in 2011 from a year earlier.

The 2011 Statistics Norway C&D waste data is available at <http://www.ssb.no/avfbyggnal/>.

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### French Environmental Agency Issues Advice On Municipal Waste Incineration Practices

Last Thursday, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) issued a six-page notice (advisory statement) on waste incineration - a list of broad recommendations to

industry and municipalities. In the notice, ADEME takes the position that while incineration of waste help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and is preferable to landfill disposal of waste, it must not divert needed materials from recycling streams and requires increased monitoring to prevent toxic emissions.

ADEME said that value of the energy produced from waste must be maximized by considering its caloric value, the design of the incineration plants must provide for "*a more holistic view of waste management in a territory, taking into account ambitious prevention and recycling,*" and that improved separation of hazardous materials from waste incinerator streams is needed to reduce toxic emissions.

Download ADEME's waste incineration notice at  
[http://ademe.typepad.fr/files/avis\\_ademe\\_incineration\\_2012.pdf](http://ademe.typepad.fr/files/avis_ademe_incineration_2012.pdf).

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## Business Initiatives

### Swedish Recycling Association Provides Advice On VAT Adjustments On Some Scrap

Last week, the Swedish Recycling Industries' Association published a notice discussing a change ("*reverse charge*") to the value added tax (VAT) paid on some scrap materials. Among the materials are some types of scrap metal, batteries and accumulators (battery chargers).

The VAT change, which benefits scrap buyers, goes into effect on January 1, 2013. The Association has made available a fact sheet with instructions on completing VAT forms. Download them at  
<https://ssop1.skatteverket.se/download/18.2b543913a42158acf800021472/56401.pdf>.

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### UK Reprocessing Industry Report Quantifies Cost Of Poor Recyclate Quality

The Resource Association, a UK advocacy body for the reprocessing and recycling industries, released a report last week that says poor quality recyclate costs materials reprocessors at least 51 million pounds sterling per year or about 15.6 pounds per ton on average. The data comes from a study of nine reprocessors using recyclate from mixed plastic bottles, aluminum and paper.

*"The drive for quantity has come in part at the expense of quality, and what might be seen as the delivery of cost savings at the collection end of recycling appears simply to be shifting costs into the manufacturing end of recycling,"* said Resource Association Chief Executive Ray Georgeson. *"We question how long must the UK reprocessing sector carry this burden."*

The Resource Association used the report to call for better regulation of the output of MRFs, including implementation of a "*mandatory MRF Code of Practice,*" better enforcement of TFS regulations, and government research to "*understand better the relationship between collection systems, public behaviour and contamination of recyclate.*"

Download the Resource Associations' report at  
<http://www.resourceassociation.com/news/resource-association-costs-contamination-report-2012-%E2%80%93-poor-and-inconsistent-quality-recyclat-0>.

## Nordic Ecolabel Toughens Requirements For Textiles And Upholstery

The Nordic Ecolabel said last week that has increased requirements for manufacturers of textiles and leather products seeking the Swan ecolabel award. According to an announcement from the organization, antibacterial chemicals, nanomaterials in finishes, and silicon treatments are prohibited. Cellulosic fiber must not come from protected forests and manufacturers should demonstrate reduced water and energy consumption in making their products.

The organization also said it would like to see greater use of organic cotton and more use of recycled fiber.

Get more information at <http://www.svanen.se/Nyheter/2012/12/Hojda-krav-for-textilbranschen/>.

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## Danish Environmental Center Broadens Surveillance Of Perfluorinated Compounds

Environmental groups have been investigating the potential health and environmental risks of perfluorinated compounds for years with perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) as a focal point of concern. Last week, however, the Danish Center for Environment and Health expanded its concern to include a related group of waterproofing and surfactant agents - polyfluoroalkyl phosphate surfactants (PAPS).

According to the Center, PAPS "*have the potential to affect the hormone balance,*" and it found the substances present in a number of paper baking cups it tested. The Center said that more research needed to be conducted on PAPS and cautioned consumers to use baking materials as well as paperboard packaging that is ecolabeled to ensure safety.

The Center for Environment and Health announcement is posted at <http://www.forbruger kemi.dk/nyheder/mad/nye-fluorstoffer-generer-hormonerne>.

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