



The draft revised CRT recycling regulation is available at [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/upload/CRT-Glass-Emerg-Reg-Text\\_081512.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/upload/CRT-Glass-Emerg-Reg-Text_081512.pdf).

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## Washington Department of Ecology Proposes Updated Rule For Composting Facilities

Last week, the Washington Department of Ecology proposed amending solid waste handling standards for composting facilities. According to the Department of Ecology, "*Growing pressure within the solid waste management system to process more diverse feedstocks in ever larger quantities has strained the capacity of the solid waste management system.*"

Among the proposed changes are requirements to control odor at larger facilities, establish quality standards for compost and related products, and to provide permit exemptions for small generators. New requirements for aerobic digesters are also included in the proposed update.

The proposed composting regulation and related documents are available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173350/1006.html>.

### Statistics & Trends

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## Nebraska DEP Awards \$1.7 Million In Recycling Grants

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Protection announced on Monday that it is awarding \$1.7 million in grants to waste reduction and recycling projects across the state. The grants were distributed to local waste authorities and other agencies, nonprofit groups and small businesses.

The two largest awards went to the City of Omaha (\$280,000) Nebraska Recycling Association (approximately \$140,000) and an electronics recycling firm, PC Recycling (approximately \$130,000).

The grants are distributed from the state's Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Fund, which is derived from landfill tipping fees, business fees and an ecotax on new vehicle tires.

The DEP recycling awards announcement can be reviewed at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/Press.nsf/ac84d33f3c051e1e862576f00057fa81/448f4a01b382f1ff86257a83005e3785?OpenDocument>.

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## New South Wales Awards \$900,000 In Grants For EPS Recycling Equipment

To help divert extruded polystyrene (EPS) from landfill, the New South Wales' Minister for the Environment announced it is providing \$500,000 in grants to help recyclers buy compactors, shredders and other equipment to process the material. The Australian Packaging Covenant is providing another \$400,000 to the initiative. Nineteen businesses, local governments and non-profit groups will be receiving grants.

Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker said that only about 10 percent of the EPS in the state is recycled, leaving 12,000 tons of EPS for landfill disposal each year.

*"Because of its bulk that equates to more than 240,000 cubic metres of landfill space taken up by this light packaging material every year," Parker said. "These grants will help to reduce that amount by installing compactors, shredders and cages to effectively handle bulky EPS material so that it can be re-used in local manufacturing processes or transported to international markets."*

The Environmental Ministry announcement is posted at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/EPRecycling.htm>.

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## Japanese Government "Green Car" Subsidy Exhausts Funds; Subsidy Ended

A Japanese Government program to encourage sales of more fuel-efficient vehicles and boost automobile manufacturing has been so successful, it has exhausted its funding and is being closed, according to an announcement last week by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

The so-called "eco-car subsidy," which began on April 2 of this year, generated 34,000 applications worth approximately 3.28 billion yen in government incentives to vehicle buyers. The program officially closed on September 21 with a negative balance in the fund.

The METI announcement can be found at [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2012/0921\\_02.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2012/0921_02.html).

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## French Agency Holds Meeting On Possible Health Risks From Radio Frequency Energy

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) sponsored a day-long program on Tuesday on potential research into possible health risks from repeated exposures to radio frequency (RF) energy. The program was attended by more than 300 scientists, environmentalist and telecommunications industry representatives.

The program focused on three areas of research: measuring RF exposure in humans, how RF exposure could effect cells and living organisms, and electromagnetic hypersensitivity or the possibly of particularly susceptible subpopulations.

While the intent of the program was to highlight ongoing research, ANSES also said a report from its working group on Radiofrequency Energy and Health is expected to be released next year.

Get more information at <http://www.anses.fr>.

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## UN SAICM Resolution Identifies Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals As Emerging Policy Issue

The United Nations Environment Program is the latest intergovernmental entity moving to restrict the use of endocrine disrupting chemicals, particularly in developing nations. A resolution adopted last week during the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management identified endocrine disrupting chemicals as an "*emerging policy issue*" and decided to "*implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders.*"

The resolutions calls for "*identifying or recommending potential measures that could contribute to reductions in exposures to or the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, in particular among vulnerable populations and "generating information and for assessing issues related to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in order to support decision-making, including the prioritization of actions to reduce risks.*"

Get more information at

[http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=96&Itemid=596](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=96&Itemid=596).

### Business Initiatives

## European Paper Industry Issues Updated Guidance On Paper In Food Contact Applications

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) released an updated version of its *Compliance of Paper and Board Materials and Articles for Food Contact* on Monday.

The 36-page document, which was released in its original version two years ago, offers advice for complying with EU Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004. Chapters cover chemical testing, good manufacturing practice, traceability guidelines, requirements for use with multi-layers, packaging layers not actually in food contact and best practicing during converting operations.

Download a copy of CEPI's updated guidance at

[http://www.cepi.org/system/files/public/documents/publications/foodcontact/2012/Industry\\_guideline-updated2012final.pdf](http://www.cepi.org/system/files/public/documents/publications/foodcontact/2012/Industry_guideline-updated2012final.pdf).

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## Revisions To R2 Electronics Recycling Standard To Be Unveiled Next Month

R2 Solutions, the nonprofit organization that manages the R2 electronics recycling certification program, announced this week that its Technical Advisory Committee would be holding a meeting next month in Chicago to unveil proposed revisions to the R2 Standard. Stakeholders are invited to attend and comment on the draft (labeled R2:2013).

R2 also said a 30-day public comment period would be launched in November.

The R2 announcement is posted at

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=pu6acdeab&v=001rBBS2uM5H39NNh6koZK>

[B-gk8tmGIQSrI8kcKSlr5Nu6R8kgMRCT1sczIKeh4x1CbK4cPHc5cCo-TRfGLQbabLoQ2I-DI5O4-69ydEPECoW8%3D](http://B-gk8tmGIQSrI8kcKSlr5Nu6R8kgMRCT1sczIKeh4x1CbK4cPHc5cCo-TRfGLQbabLoQ2I-DI5O4-69ydEPECoW8%3D).

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## Canadian Plastics Industry Launches Web Site Defending Single Use Plastic Bags

On Monday, the Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) launched a web site "*examining the facts and myths regarding plastic shopping bags*," according to a CPIA announcement. The launch comes only days for the Toronto City Council plans to consider a ban on single use plastic bags.

*CPIA claims the "has been structured around common myths that can impede informed decision-making." Among those myths are that paper and cotton shopping bags degrade in a properly engineered landfill, plastic bags are made from oil and reusable bags are better than single use bags, according to CPIA.*

*CPIA also argues that "the [Toronto] ban will not eliminate plastic bags from the city's waste system because residents will now have to purchase bin liners for their household waste, which are likely to contain considerably more plastic than conventional shopping bags and will cost them anywhere from 10 to 20 cents a bag."*

The URL for the new industry web site is <http://www.allaboutbags.ca>.

### The Green Perspective

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## German Environment Groups Call For Tax On Disposable Plastic Bags

On Monday, the German environmental organization Deutsche Umwelthilfe e. V. (DUH) launched a campaign encouraging residents to stopping using disposable plastic bags and announcing support for a tax on the bags called for by another German environmental organization, Stiftung Naturschutz Berlin.

*"The fact that in Germany more than 100,000 tons of plastic are wasted just for plastic bags is a scandal,"* said DUH National Manager Jürgen Resch. *"To change this, we need incentives to counter the convenience of free or very cheap plastic bags."*

Resch said Germans consume 5.3 billion plastic bags each year, and Berlin residents alone consume 225 million plastic bags. While encouraging a voluntary switch to reusable bags, DUH is also supporting an unspecified tax on disposable bags. The proceeds from the tax would be used to raise awareness about disposable bag consumption and its negative impacts on the environment.

Get more information about the campaign at <http://www.duh.de/?id=3705>.

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## International Research Vessel Finds Plastic Waste In Antarctic Ocean

Last week, the TARA Foundation, a non-profit association based in France, reported that a research vessel it sent to the Antarctic Ocean to study pollution found between 956 and 42,826 pieces of plastic waste per square kilometer it analyzed. The study is being conducted with the help of scientists from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, which is located in Long Beach, California.

The TARA Foundation also said it will release more information on plastic pollution in the Antarctic, South Pacific, and other oceans as the vessel slowly navigates the globe.

According to the TARA Foundation, "*These samples were collected at or near the ocean's surface and show that plastic pollution has found its way to the most remote parts of the globe.*"

For more information go to [http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org/en/study-reveals-widespread-plastic-distribution-in-antarctic-waters.php?id\\_page=808](http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org/en/study-reveals-widespread-plastic-distribution-in-antarctic-waters.php?id_page=808).

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## Philippine Public Interest Group Raises Concern About Massive Mercury-Containing Lamp Giveaway

On September 17, the Philippine Department of Energy announced it would be giving away free compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) as part of its Philippine Energy Efficiency Project. According to the DOE, free 10,000 CFLs would be available to each of the country's 188 congressional districts.

However, on Monday the EcoWaste Coalition, a group of community, church, school, environmental and health groups, raised concerns that once spent the mercury-containing CFLs could pose a significant environmental problem if not properly recycled. It issued recommendations to consumers on handling waste lamps and called for a new program to facilitate their safe collection and processing.

The EcoWaste Coalition said the Philippines faces a series of challenges in waste mercury-containing lamp handling, which includes "*the lack of producer responsibility or take back system for discarded lamps, the lack of mercury information and precaution on product labels, the lack of public education on mercury exposure and emergency response measures, the lack of a functional system for collecting busted lamps, including storage, and the informal recycling of busted lamps in dumpsites and junk shops that releases mercury vapor into the surroundings.*"

Get more information at <http://ecowastecoalition.blogspot.com/2012/09/ecowaste-coalition-reiterates-need-for.html>.