

The Department of Ecology announcement is posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2013/050.html>.

Sacramento Moves Forward With Draft Plastic Bag Ordinance

Last week, the Law & Legislation Committee of the Sacramento City Council approved moving forward with drafting a single-use plastic bag ordinance and conducting a public consultation. Several city council members requested the Committee consider the matter.

If the ordinance is adopted, Sacramento, California's capital and a municipality of roughly a half million residents, would join dozens of other California municipalities and counties adopting single-use bag ordinances. If Sacramento's ordinance is consistent with the others, single-use plastic bags would be banned, and a charges would be placed on recyclable paper bags.

Get more information on the Committee's decision (item #3 on meeting agenda) at http://sacramento.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=25&clip_id=3183.

Danish Environmental Ministry Allocates Two Million Kroner To Study EDCs In Sun Screens

On Monday, the Danish Ministry of Environment said it is allocating two million kroner this year to gather information on endocrine disrupting UV filtering chemicals. The Ministry said that more needs to be known about their presence and effects in sunscreen lotions, clothing and food packaging.

"If we are to legislate against endocrine disruptors, so it is vital that we have the necessary knowledge," said Ida Auken, Minister of Environment.

The Ministry is particularly interested in UV filtering chemicals used in children's products.

The Ministry of Environment announcement can be found at http://www.mim.dk/Nyheder/20130225_uvfiltre.htm.

Statistics & Trends

2012 Dutch E-Waste Collections Fell, Reports Compliance Scheme

Yesterday, the Dutch WEEE compliance scheme Wecycle released its 2012 annual report, which shows e-waste collections fell to 121 million kilograms last year, a drop of seven million kilograms (kg) from 2011. Wecycle said 2012 was the first year ever for a decline in collections.

The ICT category has the largest decline - 15 percent - resulting in 15.5 million kg collected. The other nine categories fell by four percent to a combined total of 102.3 million kg.

Wecycle attributed to the collections decline to a decline in new electronics and appliance sales and to a drop in cathode ray tube (CRT) recycling. Wecycle said most unwanted CRTs may have already been collected.

Download the 2012 Wecycle annual report at <http://www.producenten-verantwoordelijkheid.nl/index.php?id=156>.

2012 European Recycled Paper Production Falls Slightly

According to the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) use of used paper to make recycled paper likely fell by one to one and a half percent in 2012, based on preliminary data from CEPI members. Paper and board production appears to have declined by 1.7 percent.

CEPI also reports that "*overall consumption of paper and board in CEPI countries in 2012 decreased by between 4% and 5% when compared to 2011.*" The report, which was released last week, does not explain the decline, but the EU continues to suffer from a slow economic recovery.

Download CEPI's 2012 preliminary data at http://www.cepi.org/system/files/public/documents/publications/statistics/2013/PrelimStats2013_spread_V06.pdf.

Beverage Container Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Launches In Scotland

Last year, the Scottish Government announced it would provide 900,000 pounds in funding to pilot the use of reverse vending machines to increase Scotland's beverage container recycling rate. Last week, the pilot was kicked off at an IKEA store in Edinburgh. In all, nine companies, local governments and other entities will serve as reverse vending machine locations during the trial, which will run through September.

"Years ago, we thought nothing of taking our empty glass bottles back to the shops with the added bonus of getting cash back in our pocket," said Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment Richard Lochhead. *"Now thanks to modern technology we are breathing new life into this traditional approach through the Recycle and Reward scheme. By offering customers incentives such as money back or vouchers for recycling their glass bottles and cans when out shopping, at college or travelling to work, I hope we can encourage more people to recycle on the go."*

The reverse vending machines will redeem glass, aluminium and PET beverage containers at the rate of 10 pence per container, providing the redemption value as either an in-store voucher or a donation to a charity.

The announcement by the Scottish Government is posted at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/02/recycling21022013>.

US Plastic Bag And Film Recycling Reached One Billion Ton Mark In 2011

According to an announcement on Monday by the American Chemistry Chemical (ACC), the United States recycled an estimated one billion tons of plastic bags, film and wrap in 2011 - a four percent increase from 2010 and a record high for a one-year period. The data comes from a 13-page report commissioned by ACC and prepared by Moore Recycling Associates, Inc.

Of the reclaimed plastic, 58 percent was used by US processors. Of that amount, 55 percent was used to make plastic lumber, 16 percent was used for produce new film and sheet, and 29 percent was used for other applications.

The data in the report was derived from "19 U.S. and 3 Canadian processors of postconsumer film and 37 companies that export postconsumer film," according to the authors.

The 2011 plastic film recycling report can be downloaded at <http://www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/Recycling-of-Plastic-Bags-Wraps-and-Film-Rises-to-One-Billion-Pounds-Annually.html>.

Business Initiatives

South Korea Announces Development Of Non-PVC IV Bag Sets

Products made with PVC have been targeted by environmental groups because of substances added to the resins, among them phthalates - endocrine disrupting chemicals being restricted by government regulatory agencies around the world.

The South Korean Ministry of Environment banned the use of di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) in medical IV bags but allowed its use in the vinyl tubes attached to the bags because of a lack of a safe substitute. Yesterday, the Ministry announced the Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI) has developed a IV bag and tubing set made from polyolefin and that it considers the sets to be "harmless to humans."

KEITI officials said they hope to export the new IV bag and tubing sets to the European Union, where IV bags made from PVC will be banned starting next year, according to the Ministry.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at http://eng.me.go.kr/board.do?method=view&docSeq=11286&bbsCode=new_news.

Number Of Dutch Retailers Accepting Waste Lamps Jumped 24 Percent

The number of dutch retailers accepting waste waste increased 24 percent last year compared to 2011, according to an announcement on Tuesday by LightRec, the Dutch waste lamp recycling scheme, on Tuesday. In the EU, waste lamps are a category of WEEE that must be recycled.

LightRec says an estimated 83 percent of retailers that sell new lights now accept end-of-life lights for recycling. In 2011, only 63 percent of retailers accepted waste lamps and only 50 percent in 2010. The data is derived from "mystery shopper" surveys conducted as part of a LightRec-commissioned study.

Waste lamp recycling in some EU Member States has been criticized for low collection rates. Instore collection receptacles often are missing and a significant number of store employees are

not trained on waste lamp recovery. LightRec has been working with retailers to improve the situation in the Netherlands.

The LightRec announcement is posted at <http://www.lightrec.nl/nieuws/nieuws/inname-spaarlampen-door-winkels-sterk-verbeterd.html>.

The Green Perspective

UNEP/WHO Report Calls For More Increasing Efforts To Address Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

Last week, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) published a 296-page report on endocrine disruptors chemicals (EDCs), arguing that more research needs to be conducted to more fully understand how EDCs affect human health and to develop more efficient test methods. The report also calls for reducing exposure to EDCs and identifying "endocrine active" chemicals.

Among the report's conclusions is that *"New sources of exposure to EDCs, in addition to food, have been identified and include indoor environments and electronics recycling and dumpsites (of particular concern in developing countries and countries with economies in transition). The sources and routes of exposure to EDCs need to be further investigated."*

Another conclusion is that *"While the active ingredients in pharmaceuticals and pesticides have to be documented on the final product, this is not the case for chemicals in articles, materials and goods. Personal hygiene products and cosmetics require declarations of the ingredients, and the number of chemicals applied in this sphere of uses counts in the thousands. Many sources of EDCs are not known because of a lack of chemical constituent declarations in products, materials and goods."*

Download the UN/WHO report on endocrine disrupting chemicals at <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/endocrine/en/index.html>.

SVTC About To Update Hazardous Waste Generation Rankings For Solar Panel Makers

San Francisco-based Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC), said last week it will soon begin surveying manufacturers of photovoltaic modules (solar panels) to prepare an updated "Solar Scorecard," a manufacturer environmental ranking similar to the environmental ranking of consumer electronics manufacturers prepared by Greenpeace.

On its website SVTC states, *"Since the 2009 launch of our solar campaign and Solar Scorecard, SVTC has warned that solar manufacturing technologies are similar to those of the semiconductor industry and that the solar industry risks having the same damaging life-cycle impacts. The difference of course is, that this industry is supposed to be 'clean and green,' and its purpose is to create energy without hurting the environment."*

The current SVTC Solar Scorecard ranks 22 manufacturers in the United States, the European Union and Asia.

Get more information at <http://svtc.org/blog/solar/hazardous-waste-from-solar-energy/>.

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