



## Redwood City Is The Latest California Municipality To Ban Single-Use Plastic Bags

On Monday, Redwood City became the latest California locality to ban single-use plastic bags. Meanwhile a bill to ban single-use plastic bags statewide (SB 405) is under consideration in the California State Legislature.

Redwood City retail establishments will need to stop distributing single-use plastic bags by December 31, 2014, but may provide recyclable paper bags at a fee of ten cents each. The paper bag fee increases to 25 cents on January 1, 2015. The ordinance defines retail establishment as *"any commercial establishment that sells perishable or nonperishable goods including, but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer; and is located within or doing business within the geographical limits of the City of Redwood City."*

To review a copy of Redwood City's ordinance go to <http://agendas.redwoodcity.org/sirepub/cache/0/zkicr055aeeer2450k3hycnw/723700328201312492936.PDF>.

### Statistics & Trends

## Irish Economic Downturn Responsible For Improvements In Country's Waste Diversion Rate

On Monday, the Irish Environmental Protection Agency said municipal solid waste generation has fallen by 17 percent since 2007. Unfortunately, the EPA attributes much of the decrease to the country's economic recession.

Other 2011 metrics include a 79 percent packaging recovery rate and a 7.6 kg per person WEEE collection rate.

*"Ireland is well advanced towards achievement of all of its EU obligations across a broad range of waste legislation, in particular in relation to recovery and recycling,"* said EPA spokesperson Jonathan Derham. *"In fact, a recent European Environment Agency report showed that Ireland was one of the countries in Europe with the fastest growing recycling rates. However, Ireland continues to show a substantial reliance on recovery of municipal waste abroad."*

The Irish EPA announcement is posted at <http://www.epa.ie/news/pr/2013/name,51205,en.html>.

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## Australian Packaging Recycling Rate Reached Nearly 64 Percent In 2012

Earlier this month, the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) published 2012 recycling data. According to the APC, Australia recycled 63.8 percent of post-consumer packaging. In 2003, the nation's packaging recycling rate was only 39 percent.

For 2012, the plastic packaging recycling rate was 41.5 percent and the paper recycling rate was 76.8 percent, both increasing from 2011. Recycling rates for other packaging are in the report.

Download the report at <http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/pages/apc-recycling-data.html>.

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## European Glass Container Recycling Up In 2011

According to an announcement last week by the European Container Glass Federation, more than 11 million tons of glass containers were collected in the European Union in 2011, increasing the recycling rate to above the 70 percent mark. The EU has a 60 percent glass container recycling target.

*"We have no problems in absorbing more recycled glass provided that this is of high quality," said Stefan Jaenecke, FEVE President. "Glass recycling is the key component of the circular economy - because recycling closes the loop. Glass recycling saves raw materials and energy and reduces production costs."*

Get more information at <http://www.feve.org/FEVE-STATIS-2013/Recycling-2011.html>.

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## French Government Agency Publishes Consumer Guide Promoting Energy-Efficient Lighting And Recycling

On Monday, the French Environment and Energy Agency (ADEME) published a 7-page consumer guide on selecting energy-efficient lighting - primarily compact fluorescent lamps and light emitting diodes or LEDs.

According to ADEME, the average French household has 25 lamps that consume between 325 and 450 kWh per year. By choosing more energy-efficient lamps, consumers save money in the long term through reduced energy costs, and they help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The guide provides data supporting these points. The guide also discusses the recyclability of lamp technologies and the hazardous materials some technologies use (e.g., mercury in CFLs).

Download a copy of ADEME's guide at [http://ademe.typepad.fr/files/guide\\_ademe\\_choisir\\_eclairage.pdf](http://ademe.typepad.fr/files/guide_ademe_choisir_eclairage.pdf).

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## Oregon E-Waste Collection Up Three Percent In 2012

Today, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality released final e-waste recycling data for its Oregon E-Cycles Program in 2012. Overall collections increased three percent to 26.7 million pounds.

DEQ claims that the 6.9 pounds per capita per year rate achieved in 2012 is the highest in the United States.

The DEQ announcement is posted at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/prDisplay.asp?docID=4051>.

## German Industry Associations Call On European Parliament For New Recycling Supportive Policy

Yesterday, the German Association Of Scrap Industries (BVSE), the Association of Steel Recycling Industries (BDSV) and the Federation of German Waste, Water and Raw Materials Management Associations issued a joint statement calling on the European Parliament to approve "*an ambitious European policy for waste recycling.*" The statement comes as the Parliament's Environment Committee prepares a preliminary version of a 7th Environmental Action Plan (EAP) for the EU.

Among the specific initiatives the industry associations wanted implemented are a phase out of landfill disposal of untreated waste, limitations on energy-recovery from waste (thereby encouraging recycling), a "*strict application of the waste hierarchy,*" and removal of what the associations deemed market barriers to effective waste management.

The associations claimed by implementing the proposed initiatives, the EU would create as many as 400,000 jobs and save business and governments 72 billion euros.

Get more information at <http://www.bvse.de/33/Pressemeldungen>.

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## Tetra Pak Says Recycling Of Its Packages Rose 10 Percent In 2012

Earlier this month, Tetra Pak International said recycling of its cartons increased to 581 kilotons, a rise of 10 percent from 2011. A company goal is to recycle 40 percent of all Tetra Pak packaging by 2020.

The company also said that in 2012, 26.4 billion Tetra Pak cartons carried the FSC label, a 40 percent increase over 2011. Tetra Pak's goal is to use only 100 percent renewable materials.

Get more information at [http://www.tetrapak.com/about\\_tetra\\_pak/press\\_room/news/Pages/2020\\_environmental\\_targets.aspx](http://www.tetrapak.com/about_tetra_pak/press_room/news/Pages/2020_environmental_targets.aspx).

### The Green Perspective

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## Biodegradable Plastics Research Website Launched By EU Universities

BIOCLEAN, a European Commission-funded research project coordinated by the University of Bolgna, launched a web site late last month.

BIOCLEAN's goal is to "*to find smart and robust biotechnological solutions for the degradation and detoxification plastic waste existing landfills, plastic fragments entering waste composting and anaerobic digestors, plastic fragments occurring in marine habitats, thus contributing to mitigate the current impact of plastics in marine ecosystems,*" according to the web site.

Nineteen other European universities and research institutes are participating in the project, which is funded through September 2015. The project was initiated last September.

The URL of the new web site is <http://www.biocleanproject.eu/>

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## **EU NGOs Launch New Campaign To Restrict Use Of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**

Last month, 25 environmental and other nonprofit organizations joined together to launch the EDC-Free Europe campaign, which includes a new website. Among the members organizations are the European Environmental Bureau, Greenpeace, the International Chemicals Secretariat and the Center for International Environmental Law.

*A statement on the website explains, "2013 is a crucial year for EU action on hormone disrupting chemicals (also known as Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals or EDCs). We have a unique opportunity to prevent suffering and reduce rising costs of health care associated with EDCs."*

The campaign calls for implementing EU-wide restrictions on EDCs, but also promotes national online petitions on related issues, such as one in France to ban bisphenol A and other EDCs in toys.

The URL for the new website is <http://www.edc-free-europe.org/>.

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