



The report identifies three waste reduction options: 1) maintain current non-mandatory practices, 2) require counties to set waste reduction goals and thoroughly evaluate the feasibility of implementing enhanced waste reduction programs, or 3) establish new state laws and regulations requiring counties to develop and implement updated solid waste plans that adopt new waste reduction practices.

The 2014 Kansas State Legislature is in session through April 29.

Download a copy of the waste reduction report at <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/reportspublications/AdeqWastePractices13.pdf>.

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## BC Waste Management Firm to Pay \$145,000 Fine for Operating Unlicensed Facility

According to a Metro Vancouver announcement last week, Super Save Disposal Inc, a regional waste management firm, agreed to pay a \$145,000 fine for violating the Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw.

Specifically, the announcement states that the waste management firm *"was charged with owning or operating a transfer station or a material recovery facility without a valid licence. Super Save Disposal Inc. continued to operate the facility for over 14 months, even after receiving multiple warnings from Metro Vancouver bylaw enforcement officers that a licence was required."* Among the waste items found at the facility were *"household items, construction and demolition waste, as well as salvaged materials such as metals, wood, and tires."*

The Metro Vancouver announcement is posted at [http://www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/Media%20Releases/Court\\_orders\\_Super\\_Save\\_Disposal\\_to\\_pay\\_fine.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/Media%20Releases/Court_orders_Super_Save_Disposal_to_pay_fine.pdf).

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## Waste Diversion Ontario Preparing New WEEE Collection Targets

Earlier this month, Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) released a seven-page update (report) on plans to revise the WEEE compliance scheme in the province. Among them, WDO is gathering data to replace the current collection targets that expire this year. In doing so, it will evaluate *"the dramatic trend towards smaller, lighter and more multi-functioned Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) and its effect on how the collection of WEEE has been historically measured."*

WDO said it also is trying to measure *"recycling that occurs outside of the program as a result of business-to-business agreements"* and *"test assumptions made by the discard model that is used by the WEEE Program to determine the amount of material available for collection in a given year,"* and evaluate other aspects of the program. WDO welcomes stakeholder feedback on the points discussed in the update.

Download the WDO WEEE program update at [http://wdo.ca/files/2913/8963/6402/WEEE\\_Update\\_Jan\\_2014.pdf](http://wdo.ca/files/2913/8963/6402/WEEE_Update_Jan_2014.pdf).

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## Alameda County, California Agency Proposes Annual HHW Fee

To cover increasing costs for the collection and treatment of household hazardous waste (HHW), the Alameda County Waste Management Authority is considering imposing a \$9.55 per residential unit annual fee. The fee would be added to local property taxes. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for March 26.

According to the agency, the cost to collect and treat HHW in the county has been funded through a landfill disposal fee. However, the disposal fee has not increased since 2000 while HHW program costs have risen. The agency said that "*the program either needs to be cut back dramatically or provided with additional funding.*"

Get more information at

<http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=33&recordid=336>.

### Statistics & Trends

## Government Study Finds 20% of Swiss Trash Could Be Recycled

Although Switzerland has one of the highest waste diversion rates among European Union Member States, an analysis released on January 28 by the Swiss Federal Office of Environment (FOEV) found that about one fifth of household waste is actually recyclable or compostable. That was one of the findings in the latest study of the composition of Swiss household waste. The waste study is conducted every ten years.

About 66% of Swiss recyclable waste is food waste that can be converted in biogas and compost. Glass and paper are the leading non-compostable but recyclable materials still being discarded in significant levels as trash.

FOEN found that annual household waste in Switzerland is now above 1.6 million tons, an increase of about eight percent from the last study ten years ago. However, FOEN said that in municipalities where pay-as-you-throw systems (taxed waste bags) have been implemented, the average per capita waste generation is 80 kilograms less.

Download the study and get additional information at

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/medieninformation/00962/index.html?lang=fr&msgid=51815>.

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## Hong Kong Landfill Disposal Up 2.9%

According to data released on January 28 by the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (EPD), landfill disposal of solid waste increased by 2.9% in 2012 (the latest reporting year) from a year earlier, not good news for the special administrative district as it struggles with rapidly dwindling landfill capacity.

The average daily amount of solid waste landfilled in 2012 in 13,844 tons. For 2012, solid waste recovery fell by three percent or 860,000 tons.

The EPD also said that during the past several years, the quantity of recovered waste plastic has "*fluctuated significantly*". The department said it has hired a consultant to study the reasons for the

fluctuations and will "review whether the present method of estimating the municipal solid waste recovery rate is appropriate."

Get more information at

[http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/01/20140128\\_190046.shtml](http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/01/20140128_190046.shtml).

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## Recycling Rate In Northern Ireland Reaches 45.1%

For the July-September 2013 quarter, the recycling rate for Northern Ireland was 45.1%, an increase of two percent from the same quarter a year earlier, according to data released on January 22 by the Government of Northern Ireland. Landfill disposal also fell during the same period to "the lowest quarterly landfill rate on record."

Composting contributed to the beneficial gains. For the quarter, 62,742 tons of organic waste was sent to landfill - 8.3% less than the same quarter a year earlier.

The Northern Ireland Government announcement is posted at

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-doe/news-doe-230114-recycling-rate-reaches.htm>.

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## Recoil To Launch City-Wide Cooking Oil Recycling Project In Danish Municipality

On February 1, RecOil, an EU cooking oil recycling initiative supported by the European Commission, will launch a five-month pilot project to collect used cooking oil and fats from residents and convert it into biodiesel fuel. The pilot project will take place in the Danish city of Viborg, which has a population of approximately 35,000 residents.

The pilot is actually in its second stage because an earlier smaller trial of 20 private households over a two-month period yielded an encouraging collection result - 875 grams per household.

The RecOil announcement said that "If all Danes collected used cooking oil and fat it could amount to approx. 17,500 tonnes per year and thereby increase the Danish biodiesel production - currently taking place at DAKA Biodiesel - by a third."

Get more information at

<http://www.recoilproject.eu/index.php/en/new-events-cat/106-collection-of-used-cooking-oil-and-fat-from-households-changes-expenses-to-sustainable-resources-in-denmark>

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## MassDEP Approves Major Food Waste-To-Biogas Project

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) said on January 23 that it has approved permitting for a large aerobic digestion facility that will convert on average 95 tons per day of unsold food into biogas. Mass DEP said the facility will generate about 1.137 megawatts (MW) power while producing a "fertilizer byproduct."

The facility will be operated in Freetown, MA, by the Stop and Shop supermarket chain.

MassDEP noted intends to reduce landfill disposal of food and other organic waste 450,000 tons per year by 2020.

The MassDEP announcement is posted at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/releases/massdep-approves-stop-and-shops-project-in-freetown.html>.

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## California OEHHA Funds Study on Exposure to Chemicals in Children's Markers

On January 23, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) announced it is funding a study on "*children's exposure to chemical ingredients in markers used in California classrooms and homes.*" The study is being conducted by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health.

Currently an online survey of preschool and early elementary (up to 2nd grade) teachers and parents and is being conducted to gather information on the brands of markers used and the amount of time children use them.

The survey closes on March 1. OEHHA did not indicate when the study is expected to be completed.

The OEHHA announcement is posted at

<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/education/art/survey.html>.

### Business Initiatives

## Compostable Plastics Not So Incompatible With Traditional Plastics, Claims EU Industry Group

The industry association European Bioplastics announced last week that according to three studies, "*Up to 10 percent compostable plastics mixing with conventional plastics in post-consumer recycling streams show no or negligible impact on the mechanical performance of the recyclates.*"

"*Studies and field trials have demonstrated that in the uneventful case a small fraction of compostable plastics ends up in the PE recycle stream, this does in no way negatively impact the quality of the recycling stream,*" said Francois de Bie, European Bioplastics Chairman.

"*Remaining amounts are easier to handle than other residual wastes in the polyethylene (PE) stream such as polystyrene, or polypropylene.*"

To support its claim, European Bioplastics released a four-page "*meta-study*" that includes research by the University of Applied Arts and Sciences Hannover and the Italian National Packaging Consortium.

The compatibility of compostable and non-compostable plastics is a major issue in the European Union as it considers separate directives on plastic bag consumption and plastic waste.

The European Bioplastics announcement and the meta-study are posted at [http://en.european-bioplastics.org/blog/2014/01/20/pr\\_20140120/](http://en.european-bioplastics.org/blog/2014/01/20/pr_20140120/).

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## Industry-Founded Organization Helps 332 Scottish Organizations Recycle Their Beverage Cans

Founded in 2008 by the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation and several other industry groups, the organization Every Can Counts aims to increase beverage can recycling "*outside the home.*"

To that end, on January 23, the organization said it has helped 332 organizations in Scotland establish beverage can recycling programs. The accomplishment is noteworthy because under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations that went into effect on January 1, 2014, all businesses and organizations need to separate their recyclable materials.

In 2012, Every Can Counts efforts were launched in Scotland, where 30% of canned beverages are consumed outside the home.

The Every Can Counts Scotland announcement can be found at <http://www.everycancounts.co.uk/news/every-can-counts-helps-over-300-scottish-organisations-get-recycling/>.

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## ISRI Publishes Guide To US Scrap Metal Laws

On January 28, the US Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) released its first guide to state scrap metal theft laws. According to the ISRI announcement, the guide "*serves as a tool to help recyclers, law enforcement and other stakeholders better understand the laws that apply in each individual state, as well as an important resource to what other states are doing.*"

The guide, an online document, will be updated throughout the year as new state laws are passed or amended. Already this year, bills concerning scrap metal theft have been introduced in several US state legislatures. According to ISRI, every state except Alaska has some type of scrap metal theft law.

A copy of the guide can be downloaded at [http://www.isri.org/ISRI/Whats\\_New/2012/ISRI\\_Releases\\_Compliance\\_Guide\\_to\\_State\\_Metals\\_Theft\\_Statutes.aspx](http://www.isri.org/ISRI/Whats_New/2012/ISRI_Releases_Compliance_Guide_to_State_Metals_Theft_Statutes.aspx)

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