

To access the ECHA public consultation, go to http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13608/mb_06_2013_mawp_2014_2018_draft_for_public_consultation_en.pdf

US EPA Issues Draft Regulations On Formaldehyde Emissions From Composite Wood Products

Today, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two rules to reduce exposure to formaldehyde from composite wood products. The rules are authorized under the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act of 2010.

The first rule would limit the amount of formaldehyde being released composite wood in products ranging from sheets of plywood and particle board to finished wood furniture. The second rule would establish a third-party certification framework for composite wood products.

Public comment period are open for both proposed rules.

The two proposed rules and related information are available at <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/chemtest/formaldehyde/index.html>

Statistics & Trends

Survey Finds US Waste CRTs Proving Problematic For Some Recyclers

According to a recent survey funded by the US Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) and conducted by the Northeast Recycling Council, about 20 percent of recyclers "*reported difficulties*" for waste CRT glass and are concerned they may have to start stockpiling the material. Eighty-two recycling firms participated in the survey conducted in March and April.

CEA says that while "*ample markets and downstream vendors currently exist*" for many recyclers that were surveyed cost is a problem for smaller volume recyclers. It also said that for the majority of recyclers surveyed "*market supply of CRTs is relatively stable or even decreasing.*"

For more information go to <http://www.ce.org/News/News-Releases/Press-Releases/2013-Press-Releases/Electronics,-Recycling-Associations-Seek-New-Solut.aspx>

Government Subsidies Help Collect More Than 50,000 Waste TVs In New Zealand

Earlier this month, the New Zealand Ministry of Environment announced that more than 50,000 end-of-life TVs, mostly cathode ray tube devices, have been collected since the government launched a TV take back program last September. Under the program, the government subsidizes the cost for consumers to recycle their old TVs, paying no more than \$5 per device.

The take back support program was launched to ease the boost in waste TV generation as New Zealand transitioned from analog to digital TV broadcasting. The program continues to roll out with collections to commence later this year on New Zealand's North Island.

Consumers may drop off their old devices through a network of TV collection sites or participating retailers.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://beehive.govt.nz/release/50000-televvisions-collected-govt-recycling-scheme>

Collection Of German Biowaste Little Changed In 2012, Says Industry Group

Despite calls by the European Commission for improved recycling and composting of biowaste, collections were about the same in Germany in 2012 compared to a year earlier, according to a statement from bvse e.V, Germany's scrap and recycling industries association, last week.

"There is still room for improvement for organic waste collection," said Volker Hegewald, Chairman of BVSE's Organic Waste Committee. *"About 4 million tons go unseparated, and about 50 percent of citizens are do not yet organic waste collection services available. We need a sensible expansion."*

The BVSE announcement is posted at http://www.bvse.de/33/6489/Biogene_Abfaelle_Leichter_Rueckgang_in_Erfassung_Potenzi_ale_ausschoepfen

Waste Scotland Plans First Ever Transport Litter Week of Action

Noting that *"an average 7 bottles and cans can be found along every 100 metres of major roads,"* Waste Scotland, a largely government-funded nonprofit agency announced today that it is hosting a Transport Litter Week of Action during the week of August 19. The agency's Transport Litter Group is responsible for the effort.

According to the Waste Scotland announcement, volunteers and supporting organizations are needed to *"carry out educational and enforcement activities during this week, reaching out to users and pushing the key messages."*

Get more information at <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/Transport-Litter-Week-of-Action>

Eco-Emballages Issues Call For Alternative Plastic Packaging Waste Processing Proposals

On Monday, Eco-Emballages, the French Green Dot program, issued a call for proposals for demonstration projects on "*alternative uses*" waste plastic packaging, specifically chemicals and energy production. In making the announcement, Eco-Emballages noted that about a million tons of packaging is used in France each year but only about 230 tons is being recycled. It also said that some types of plastic packaging waste are impractical to recycle and must be processed using alternative methods.

Eco-Emballages said it would fund up to 50 percent of the cost for selected proposals (in the form of matching grants), assuming an average proposal request of EUR 200,000. The proposed projects would need to be completed in six to twelve months after approval.

The deadline to submit proposals is June 28 and selected proposals will be announced no later than August 30.

More information is available at

http://www.ecoemballages.fr/fileadmin/contribution/pdf/presse/2013/communiquede_presse_AP_PLASTIQUE.pdf

Leading UK Retail Chain Pledges To Divert All Food Waste From Landfill By Year's End

The Co-operative Group, a leading UK retailer with 2800 stores, said yesterday that it plans to direct all its food waste for reuse, composting or energy recovery by the end of this year. The retailer, which generates about 34,000 tons of food and other organic waste each year, had already implemented a food waste diversion program at more than half of its stores.

The Co-operative Group is an unusual business entity owned by seven million "*consumer members*." Among its other environmental achievements, the Co-operative Groups claims a 29 percent reduction in primary packaging and a 40 percent reduction

in greenhouse gas emissions since 2006. It also claims to have eliminated the distribution of at least a billion single use plastic bags through voluntary efforts.

Get more information on The Co-operative Group food waste diversion effort at <http://www.co-operative.coop/corporate/>

Waste Sweden Publishes Municipal Recycling Center Design Guidance

On Monday, Avfall Sverige (Waste Sweden), a waste management and recycling industries association, published a free 62-page guidance on designing new recycling centers and modifying existing ones to increase efficiency. The publication's primary target audience is small and medium-sized municipalities.

Among the topics discussed are conducting a needs evaluation, accommodating waste transport and addressing traffic, access control systems, configuration effective sorting lines and equipment, storage containers and placement, addressing storm water management and soil protection, selecting appropriate lighting and HVAC systems, facilities maintenance and personnel, providing visitor safety and regulatory compliance.

Download a copy of the Waste Sweden manual at

<http://www.avfallsverige.se/fileadmin/uploads/Rapporter/Utveckling/U2013-09.pdf>

SITA France Signs Recycling Agreement With Leading PVC Products Maker

Earlier this month, SITA Recycling Polymers of France, a waste management and recycling division of Suez Environnement, announced it signed an agreement with REHAU, a leading France polymer maker providing products to the construction industry, among others. The agreement will create essentially a closed loop for scrap PVC.

Under the agreement, SITA will collect scrap PVC at sites designated with REHAU and transport it to a processing plant to make PVC pellets that REHAU will use to make new PVC products such as window frames. REHAU will promote the PVC recycling service to carpenters and other construction professionals who buy REHAU products.

SITA and REHAU said that up to 3,000 tons of scrap PVC will be processed annually under the agreement.

The SITA announcement is posted at http://www.sita.fr/cms/sita_13/upload/files/cp-rehau.pdf

The Green Perspective

The Global Reporting Initiative Releases Updated Sustainability Reporting Guidelines

Last week, the nonprofit Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) released its G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines during an international conference in Amsterdam. The standards are intended to be used by corporations and other organizations to provide economic, environmental, social and governance performance in consistent and agreed to manner.

According to GRI, version G4, which replaces version G3.1, contains a number of new features including up-to-date disclosures on governance, ethics and integrity, supply chain, anti-corruption and GHG emissions. The Guidelines also provide up-to-date harmonization and reference to all available and internationally-accepted reporting documents and the ability to include local and regional reporting requirements and frameworks in sustainability reports.

Get more information at <https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/g4/Pages/default.aspx>

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