

Cleveland Seeking RFPs to Build and Maintain City-Wide Recycling Center

The City of Cleveland published a request for proposals (RFP) on April 29 to design, build and operate the The Waste Reduction and Recycling Project, essentially a facility that will process Cleveland's municipal solid waste (MSW) so that the portion that cannot be recycled can be "sold as a fuel substitute to Cleveland Thermal." (Cleveland Thermal is the city's primary energy provider.)

In 2013, Cleveland received 217,266 tons of residential, commercial and self-hauled MSW. In 2007, it began rolling out single-stream curbside collection that is expected to reach 95% of city households sometime next year.

The deadline to submit proposals is June 29, 2014. (A handful of companies are already pre-approved to submit proposals.)

Get more information at

http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/Finance/RFP?piref34_136352_34_121844_121844._ora_navig=action%3Ddetails%26rfpld%3D5582.

Statistics & Trends

Landfill Disposal Down 7%, Recycling Up 3% in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Government reported last week that for the final quarter of 2013 landfill disposal fell seven percent from the same quarter a year earlier, while recycling increased nearly three percent. Waste generation for the final quarters of 2012 and 2013 was about the same.

All 26 local councils in Northern Ireland now provide curbside recycling collection. Additionally, the government aggressively encourages residents to compost garden and kitchen organic waste.

Get more information at

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-doe/news-doe-240414-landfill-rates-continue.htm>.

Dutch Organic Waste Collection Total Projected To Increase In 2014

According to Vereniging Afvalbedrijven (the Dutch Waste Management Association) on April 24, 2014 organic waste collection will likely increase by 5% in 2014, based on first quarter waste collection and historical trend data.

In making the projection, Vereniging Afvalbedrijven published two graphs showing how organic waste collection varies from month-to-month due to temperature changes that affect vegetative growth. The associated noted that "a warm winter and a wet summer guarantee a high [plant growth] yield." Interesting food for thought.

The announcement is posted at
<http://www.verenigingafvalbedrijven.nl/nieuws/nieuwsbericht/goed-weer-voor-gft-inzameling.html>.

Danish Clothing Exchange Diverts Tons of Clothing from Landfill

On Saturday, April 26, Copenhagen held its second Fashion Exchange, a "swap meet" for clothing. While statistics for this year's event have yet to be released, last year more than 2,000 people participated in the event, bringing more than 5.2 million tons of unwanted clothing and shoes. The event was hosted by the Copenhagen Fashion Festival and Copenhagen Fashion Summit and promoted by the Ministry of Environment.

"It's a brilliant idea, because it helps to extend clothing life," said Environmental Minister Kirsten Brosbøl. "If someone is tired of a sweater but lacks some cool summer shorts, one can get rid of their used clothes and in return update their wardrobe. It is a valuable event for consumers, and we also save a lot of pollution and materials use when we do not buy new clothes all the time."

Brosbøl noted that textiles are included in the draft waste reduction strategy her ministry is developing.

Get more information on the Fashion Exchange at
<http://mim.dk/nyheder/2014/apr/forny-garderoben-paa-gigantisk-modebyttemarked/>.

2013 San Diego Residual Recycling Rate Well Below Commercial Rate

The 2013 overall recycling rate for San Diego was 68% in 2013, according to data released last week by the Environmental Services Department. However, the rate for residual recycling was substantially lower - only 24%.

"When you take commercial, business and construction debris figures out of the disposal equation, we end up with low numbers in our residential communities. This shows that we clearly need a better recycling effort by our residents," said Ken Prue, San Diego Recycling Manager.

To identify low recycling neighbors, the Environmental Services Department published recycling data at the neighborhood level, including separate rates for organic and non-organic recyclables. San Diego has set a goal to recycle 70% of its municipal solid waste by 2020.

Get more information at
<http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/pdf/geninfo/news/2014/140422.pdf>

Austin Landfill Diversion Rate Almost 40% in 2013

Austin, Texas set a goal to divert 90% of its waste from landfills by 2014. Today, the Austin Resource Recovery released its 2013 annual report that indicates the city is making progress

toward reaching that goal. Last year, Austin diverted 39.58% of "*city-collected materials*" from landfill while recycling 54,206 tons of material.

In reducing organic waste sent to landfill, Austin composted 32,522 tons of yard waste. In a program that encourages reuse of post-consumer paint, the city also created 16,260 gallons of Austin ReBlend paint, which is distributed to residents at no charge at the Austin Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

The 2013 Austin Resource Recovery annual report may be downloaded at http://issuu.com/austinrecycles/docs/austin_resource_recovery_-_annual_r.

Council to Release Principles of Sustainable Purchasing Next Month

The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, a US-based non-profit organization established last year, announced that it will be unveiling "*a set of principles that define organizational leadership in sustainable purchasing*" that will "*serve as a 'moral compass' for the Council as it launches, in May, the development of a multi-sector program for guiding, benchmarking and recognizing leadership in sustainable purchasing.*"

Before the end of this year, the Council also plans to launch a training and credentialing program for professionals and a "*LEED-like rating system for sustainable purchasing.*"

The announcement is posted at <http://www.purchasingcouncil.org/pr/advisory-principles/>

Business Initiatives

First Sale Made through Rio de Janeiro Recyclable Materials Exchange

On April 25, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment announced the first sales transaction through the recently established Bolsa Verde do Rio de Janeiro (BVRio), a state exchange where catadores (collectives of street scavengers) sell recyclable materials they have collected and separated to scrap buyers. In the transaction, Grupo Boticario agreed to purchase 1,200 tons of scrap plastic (PET and PP) and glass.

Grupo Boticario produces personal care products and perfume, and it will use the recycled materials in its packaging.

In 2010, Brazilian enacted its National Policy of Solid Waste, transitioning the country from landfill disposal to recycling and producer responsibility. Exchanges such as BVRio engage Brazil's estimated 800,000 catadores in the recycling effort, providing income while boosting the country's recycling rate. The Ministry of Environment estimates Brazil loses R\$ 8 billion each year through the loss of recoverable materials.

Get more information at <http://www.bvrio.org/site/index.php/biblioteca-bvrio/eventos/324-lancamento-do-mercado-de-creditos-de-logistica-reversa-da-bvrio>.

European Aluminum Association Calls for Higher Recycling Targets, Landfill Ban

On Monday, the European Aluminum Association issued a statement that called for "*higher recycling targets and a phase out of landfilling of end-use recyclable goods.*"

"Bold policy measures are needed to secure the availability of aluminium scrap in Europe, a key resource for increasing recycling rates and one of Europe's energy security components," said EAA Director General Gerd Gotz. "We are calling for investment and innovation in the fields of collection and sorting, as well as greater consistency in reporting procedures, clearer definitions of recycling and the recognition of aluminium as a 'permanent material.'"

Gotz also called for more effective EU metal scrap export monitoring systems to eliminate illegal aluminum scrap shipments.

The EEA statement is posted at

http://www.alueurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/EAA-Press-statement_Waste.pdf.

US Polypropylene Recycling Locator Map Unveiled

Last week, Moore Recycling Associates, a consulting firm, and the Berry Plastics Group, an Indiana polypropylene recycling firm, unveiled an interactive online map which shows where polypropylene containers and non-containers can be turned in for recycling across the United States.

In 2012, over 435 million pounds of rigid polypropylene was collected for recycling in the US, according to the firm.

View the interactive map at

<http://recyclemoreplastic.org/map.html>

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