

On July 22, the Napa City (California) Council unanimously approved a first reading of a draft ordinance to ban single-use bags. The draft ordinance is expected to be approved during a second reading, thereby enacting the ordinance. The ban would take effect on January 1, 2015.

Under the ordinance, retail establishments also would be required to charge 10 cents for each recyclable paper bag distribution to customers. The paper bag charge would need to be itemized on customer receipts, and retail establishments would retain each 10-cent fee.

The draft ordinance broadly defines "retail establishment" as "any commercial establishment that sells Merchandise at retail directly to the Customer."

The Napa City draft ordinance is available for review at <http://www.napa-ca.gov/sirepub/cache/2/voiwc2q0zgi0swon0oc00grn/214076307252014031546569.PDF>.

Maui County, Hawaii Considers Polystyrene Foam Ban and Zero Waste Commitment

This week the Maui (Hawaii) County Council's Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee took up discussion on a bill to ban polystyrene disposable food service containers. The bill was originally drafted in 2009. Since then, the county banned the distribution of single-use plastic bags.

Rather than specify regulations, the proposed law would authorize the Director of Environment Services to promulgate them. Food service vendors violating the law would face fines, but the ordinance would permit one-year hardship exemptions.

The committee also approved a resolution to "adopts the principles of zero waste as a waste management policy for the County of Maui and a diversion goal of 70 percent by 2023." The measures next go to the full County Council for debate.

The draft bill and resolution are available for review at <http://www.co.maui.hi.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=206>.

Statistics & Trends

Nebraska Awards Nearly \$4.3 Million in Recycling Grants

Earlier this month, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) awarded 155 recycling grants to municipalities, businesses and organizations totaling \$4,296,58. The grants come from DEQ's Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Fund.

Among the distributions was \$120,505 to the Nebraska Pharmacists Association to help collect and properly dispose of unwanted prescription drugs, \$212,500 to the City of Lincoln to support yard waste composting, \$275,000 to the City of Omaha to support household hazardous waste collection and processing, and \$175,000 to Sioux Plastics for an "optical sorter that scans, sorts and compresses plastic."

Get more information at
<http://deq.ne.gov/Press.nsf/pages/PR070814>.

Michigan DEQ Awards another \$250,000 in Recycling Grants

Last week, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced it has provided \$250,000 in recycling grants to three organizations to help increase the state's recycling grant. The grants came from DEQ's Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program.

In April of this year, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder released a plan to boost the state's recycling rate, which is currently around 15%. DEQ provided an initial \$250,000 in recycling grants at that time to help launch the plan. Snyder wants every Michigan county to have residential recycling in place by 2019.

The Michigan DEQ announcement is posted at
<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135--333366--,00.html>.

Hong Kong Glass Bottle Recycling Network Reach 600 Collection Locations Milestone

Last week, the Government of Hong Kong announced there are now 600 locations to recycle glass beverage bottles, mostly at private housing estates. It said it hopes to have at least 1,000 locations established before the end of this year.

In February 2013, the Government of Hong Kong unveiled a plan to place an environmental levy on glass beverage containers to facilitate their recycling, primarily as pavers. The levy would be paid by beverage producers so the plan is a form of producer responsibility. However, a robust collection network is needed to effectively implement the plan.

The Government of Hong Kong announcement is posted at
http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/07/20140720_140146.shtml.

Brazilian Environmental Ministry Launches Solid Waste Management Best Practices Tool

The Brazilian Environmental Ministry said last week that it has help launch a "digital tool" to "bring together "initiatives involving environmental education and media in solid waste" and is soliciting best practices to incorporate into the tool until August 16. The tool is called the EducaRES Platform.

According to the announcement, the top 30 best solid waste management practices in the business, non-profit and government sectors will be included. The goal is to provide practical solutions in implementing the National Policy on Solid Waste, enacted in 2010.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/10249-experi%C3%A7%C3%A3o-ambiental-ganham-espa%C3%A7o>.

UK Single-Use Plastic Carrier Bag Consumption Increased in 2013

According to a report released last week by the United Kingdom's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), 8.3 billion single-use plastic carrier bags were used by consumers in 2013, a 3.2% compared with 2012.

The report also noted by the weight of a typical "thin-gauge" carrier bag decreased, so the total weight of single-use plastic bags distributed decreased by 4.4%.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland currently have approved levies to reduce single-use plastic bag consumption. A five-pence per bag levy will go into effect in October 2015 for England.

Download the WRAP carrier bag consumption report at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/node/24358>.

Chilean Environmental Minister Asks Public to Engage on Pending EPR Bill

At a public seminar on a bill to legally establish extended producer responsibility (EPR) in Chile, Environmental Minister Paul Badenier called for stakeholders to contact their legislators with their input. The EPR bill was introduced in the Chilean House of Deputies last year.

"We have come here to listen to you, to consolidate a second round of comments, and to 'hurry up the pace' of this project," said Badenier, according to a Ministry announcement on Friday.

Badenier hopes the bill will be approved by the Chilean Parliament within the next 12 months. A number of small, voluntary producer responsibility efforts have taken place in the country in the last few years.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.mma.gob.cl/1304/w3-article-56768.html>.

Business Initiatives

US Paper Industry Claims Continual 63% or Greater Recycling Rate

Last week, the American Forest and Paper Association released its 2014 Sustainability Report. Among the information presented in the report: "Over 63 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. has been recovered for recycling for each of the past five years, making paper the most recycled material in the nation."

The amount of energy recovered from waste paper also was impressive. According to the report, "The forest products industry is the second largest producer of combined heat and power electricity in the manufacturing sector."

Download the report at

http://www.afandpa.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sustainability2014_pages_final.pdf?sfvrsn=0.

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