

Switzerland Reports 93 Percent Beverage Container Recycling Rate For 2012

On Tuesday, Switzerland's Federal Office for Environment (FOEN) reported that the country recycled 93 percent of its beverage packaging last year. Glasses bottles had the highest recycling rate at 96 percent, followed by aluminum cans at 92 percent and PET bottles at 81 percent.

Because the recycling rates are above the government established 75 percent minimum target, mandatory deposit fees are not imposed.

Despite the high recycling rates, FOEN claims that 17 percent of the country's litter is used beverage containers. It also said the Swiss Federal Council is considering new legislation to make highway littering a federal offense.

Get more information on 2012 Swiss beverage container recycling at <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/medieninformation/00962/index.html?lang=fr&msgid=50084>.

Europe Reports 71.7 Percent Paper Recycling Rate For 2012

According to an announcement by the European Recovered Paper Council (ERPC), Europe recycled 71.7 percent of the paper and paperboard it used in 2012. Paper consumption continued to decline, likely due to slow economic conditions in the EU. The data is contained in an 8-page report released last week.

The ERPC report noted that the European paper recycling rate has increased by 45 percent since 1991, and that 12 European countries now exceed the 70 percent target voluntarily set by the paper industry.

Download the 2012 ERPC paper recycling monitoring report at http://www.paperforrecycling.eu/uploads/Modules/Publications/WEB_lowres_Monitoring%20report%202012.pdf.

First Ministry-Funded Modern Recycling Center Prepares To Open In Israel

On Sunday, Israeli Environmental Minister Amir Peretz attended a cornerstone laying ceremony at a new recycling and waste processing center near the city of Jerusalem. The center is the first of its kind co-funded by the Ministry of Environment as Israel transitions from landfill disposal to landfill diversion of its waste. Once the center begins operating in two months, the Ministry will begin the process of closing down a nearby landfill in Abu - Dis.

The new facility will process about 1,300 tons of solid waste per day. The Ministry of Environment provided NIS 17.6 million to help construct the facility.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.sviva.gov.il/InfoServices/NewsAndEvents/MessageDoverAndNews/Pages/2013/september2013/WasteRecyclingFacility.aspx>.

London Waste Agency Makes Available £ 1.2 Million In Recycling Infrastructure Grants

On Monday, the London Waste And Recycling Board (LWARB) said it has £ 1.2 Million available for local boroughs to "*put in place infrastructure to increase recycling in the capital.*" The maximum available per project is £ 200,000 as part of the Driving Up Performance Fund.

LWARB is interested in proposals for dry recycling collection, food and green waste recycling collection, bulky waste re-use or recycling collection, and recycling services provided at Household Waste and Recycling Centers.

The LWARB announcement can be found at <http://www.lwarb.gov.uk/page/?identity=driving-up-performance-fund>.

New Delaware MRF Will Now Keep Recyclable Materials Within The State

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) announced the opening last week of a new materials recovery facility (MRF) owned by Charlotte, NC-based ReCommunity and the signing of a 20-year agreement with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority for the MRF to serve Delaware statewide.

Previously, recyclable materials were collected at a transfer stations and shipped out of state. The new facility (more accurately a \$15 million upgrade of a existing facility) will allow recyclables to be processed within Delaware and supports Delaware's transition to universal recycling.

The DNREC announcement is posted at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/News/Pages/ReCommunity%E2%80%99s-Materials-Recovery-Facility-celebrates-grand-opening;--.aspx>.

Business Initiatives

Dutch WEEE Compliance Scheme Launches Small Electronics Drop Off Box Network

To help boost the collection of small WEEE, the Dutch compliance scheme Wecycle launched a network of conveniently-located WEEE drop boxes in Leeuwarden on Sunday. A new dedicated website allows users to enter there address to find the nearest drop-off box.

Among the devices that can be deposited in the bright orange metal boxes are mobile phones, hair dryers, MP3 players, electric tooth brushes and shavers, electric tools and electric toys.

According to Wecycle, about 35 million kilograms of small WEEE are discarded as trash annually - about 2 kilograms per resident.

Get more information at <http://www.wecycle.nl/acties/leeuwarden/home.html>.

APR Publishes Summary Version Of Its Design For Recyclability Guide

Although the Association of Postconsumer Plastics Recyclers (APR) has published a guide on design for recyclability for a number of years, the group announced late last month the availability of a 15-page summary version of the guide.

According to APR Executive Director Steve Alexander the summary version "*will help to provide a broader audience with an understanding of how the technical aspects of container and packaging design will have an impact on the ability of the package or product to be recycled.*"

The summary discusses caps and closures; bottles made of PET, HDPE and PP; use of labels and ink; plastic colorants; and the use of additives, layers and fillers

Download a copy of the design for recyclability guide summary at http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/images/stories/doc/apr_dfr_executive_summary_08_2013.pdf.

Canadian Paper Industry Launches Web Site Defending Paper Carryout Bags

Late month, the Canadian Paper and Paperboard Packaging Environmental Council (PPEC) launched a web site focused on preventing bans or fees on paper bags because "*they unfairly penalise products that are made from renewable resources and renewable energy; are often high in recycled content; and are widely recyclable and compostable.*"

The stakeholder education web site does not oppose landfill bans on paper bags because they "*supply the paper packaging industry with the additional used paper material it needs to make new packaging,*" and also "*reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill, extend landfill life, and save taxpayers' money.*"

The web site also challenges life cycle analyses (LCAs) that suggest paper bags are little or no better for the environment than single-use plastic bags.

The URL of the new web site is <http://paperbagscanada.org/>.

Fishing For Litter Project Collects Three Tons Of Marine Trash

Today, the German environmental group NABU said that fishermen participating in its Fishing for Litter Project have so far collected three tons of marine litter. The collection campaign, which was launched two years ago, is focused on trash in the North and Baltic Seas.

Among the leading items collected are plastics (17 percent), textiles (8.5 percent), wood (5.4 percent) and glass (3 percent). However, fishermen have also caught metal barrels and cans containing paints and chemicals. By weight, metal trash accounted for 56 percent of the collected waste.

Get more information at

<http://berlin.nabu.de/modules/presseservice/index.php?popup=true&db=presseservice&show=9041>.

US NGOs Write FCC And FDA For New Cell Phone Radiation Standards

According to an announcement by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), 12 non-government organizations (NGOs) have sent letters to the US Federal Communications Commission and the US Food and Drug Administration seeking tougher new mobile phone radiation standards "to better protect both young people and adults."

"There are now numerous scientific studies showing potential links between cell phone radiation and cancer, declines in sperm count and other health problems," states announcement. "While more research and evidence is needed, we know enough to act protectively and proactively. Caring for our children - for future generations - is common sense."

The announcement continues, *"The outdated FCC standards do not take into account the fact that children's brains absorb radio frequency energy differently than adult brains and provide consumers with little guidance as to which phones and wireless networks are likely to expose them to the least radiation. Consumers who hold their phones directly against their bodies or use smartphone cases may exceed FCC safety limits."*

Beside EWG, some of the other NGOs signing the letters are the Center for Environmental Health, the Product Policy Institute, the Breast Cancer Fund, the Center for Health, Environment & Justice and the Consumer Federation of California.

The EWG announcement is posted at <http://www.ewg.org/release/health-consumer-groups-call-new-cell-phone-radiation-standards>.

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Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com