

Last week, the City council of Glendale, California, a municipality of 192,000 residents in Los Angeles County, passed an ordinance that bans single-use plastic bags by supermarkets and drug stores with at least \$2 million in annual gross sales and at least 10,000 square feet of retail space. These retailers must charge a 10-cent fee on each recyclable paper bag distributed. The bag fee must be itemized on customer receipts.

The ordinance takes effect on July 1, 2013. However, on January 1, 2014, other retailers, such as smaller grocery stores and convenience stores, will need to comply with the ordinance

The Glendale ordinance may be reviewed at http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/public_works/plastic_carryout_bag_ban_ordinance.aspx.

Michigan DEQ Offers Grants To Support Scrap Tire Applications

On Friday, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality said it is accepting applications for grants to fund activities and equipment that "*support the development of increased markets for scrap tires.*"

The Scrap Tire Market Development Grant Program will fund up to 50 percent of the cost to purchase scrap tires, scrap tire recycling equipment and/or research and development in applications using scrap tires. The deadline to submit applications is February 15.

Get more information at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4122-82217--,00.html.

Statistics & Trends

North American Waste Battery Collection Increased 16 Percent In 2012

Call2Recycle (formerly the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation), a battery stewardship program operating in the United States and Canada, announced on Monday that 10 million pounds of waste batteries were collected in 2012 - a 16 percent increase from 2011 and a record amount. More than one million pounds were collected in the state of California alone.

Canada also collected more than a million pounds of waste batteries. In Quebec, 2012 collections in Quebec increased by 357 percent from 2011. The increase was attributed largely to a new battery recycling agreement with RECYC-QUEBEC.

The Call2Recycle announcement is posted at <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Battery-Recycling-Program-Reports-Double-Digit-Collections-in-2012-1752902.htm>.

German Government Agencies Support Regulating Nanomaterials Under REACH

Last week, three German government agencies - the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Federal Environment Agency -

jointly proposed that EU regulation of nanomaterials should be conducted using the EU's REACH Regulation and have proposed a concept for doing so.

According to the three agencies, "*The European REACH Regulation already covers nanomaterials as chemical substances.*" Reporting of substances can be accomplished under the process of registration. Threshold tonnages for registration and some other existing requirements would need to be amended, but many of the same types of information requirement would apply to nanomaterials. Any requirements that would be unique to nanomaterials could be added as another REACH annex.

More information on Germany's position is available at http://www.bfr.bund.de/de/presseinformation/2013/02/nanomaterialien_mit_der_reach_verordnung_wirksam_regeln-132642.html.

South Korean Environmental Ministry Expands Financial Support For SME Carbon Footprint Labelling

The South Korean Ministry of Environment (MoE) wants more small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to participate in a carbon footprint labeling program that the Ministry helps administer. According to an announcement by MoE last week, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute, will now be cutting the cost of certification fees for the program by half.

The Ministry is also providing free consulting services to more SMEs that need help calculating their carbon emissions, a step required to achieve certification.

The voluntary carbon footprint label certification program was established in 2009 by MoE to promote "*low carbon green growth.*"

The Ministry of Environment announcement can be found at http://eng.me.go.kr/board.do?method=view&docSeq=11187&bbsCode=new_news.

Hong Kong EPD Launches Annual E-Waste Collection Drive

Late last month, the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department launched its annual Chinese New Year WEEE Recycling Collection Service for the seventh time. During the 18-day campaign, managers of housing estates (high-rise residential complexes) may call the EPD for a contractor to pick up residential e-waste including large and small appliances, computers, rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, and other items

According to the Hong Kong government, 370 housing estates signed up this year, an 20 percent increase over previous years. Hong Kong generates about 70,000 tons of e-waste each year.

Get more information at http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2013/01/20130129_184411.shtml.

Luxembourg Government Rolls Out Updated Web Site Promoting Green Products

Late last month, the Luxembourg Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure announced the completion of a revision of the Oekotopten web site - a catalogue of environmentally friendly products.

The web site, which provides recommendations for 70 product categories that range from office products to construction materials, is also now available in a version for smart phones.

The URL for the new Oekotopten web site is <http://www.oekotopten.lu/>.

Business Initiatives

European Chemicals Industry Concerned About REACH's Effects On SMEs

Following a recent European Commission review of the REACH Regulation, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) issued a statement that REACH has not yet to affect small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), and that could present a problem for industry.

"REACH is functioning so far thanks to the efforts of all players involved," said Cefic Director General Hubert Mandery. *"Consequently, there is no need for a revision."*

However, the Cefic statement went on to note, *"The review, however, covers only the first of three phases of the REACH process, a period that mostly involved larger companies. The report accurately points out that during the next phases thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses not familiar with the legislation will face immense challenges complying with it. As compliance costs for industry have already swelled beyond the European Union's projected estimate, SMEs will need further support to avoid being suffocated in the process."*

Cefic also said that the effects on REACH on the competitiveness and innovation of the European chemicals industry has not yet been determined. It called on EU policy makers to conduct a "competitiveness check on REACH."

To review the complete Cefic statement go to

[http://www.cefic.org/PressReleases/Statement%20REACH%20Review%20Cefic%20February%2005%202013%20\(2\)%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.cefic.org/PressReleases/Statement%20REACH%20Review%20Cefic%20February%2005%202013%20(2)%20(2).pdf).

EU PET Recycling Industry Claims Bottle Recycling Rate Is A Problem

According to a statement released by Plastic Recyclers Europe (EuPR) on Monday, *"The PET recycling industry is threatened by persistent structural market failures across Europe."*

The industry association said that *"the collection of PET bottles is stagnating around 50% whereas the balance of the uncollected PET is still landfilled or incinerated."* It also claims there is an increased demand for recycled PET and that EuPR members have invested to fill the need.

However, because of the amount of landfilled and incinerated bottles, PET recycling facilities are opening at about only 75 percent capacity.

"We will need support from other stakeholders and especially the EU institutions if the goals of the present and future EU Waste and Recycling Directives are to be achieved," the statement concluded.

Download the EUPR statement at

http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/sites/default/files/EuPR%20Press%20Release_PET%20Recycling%20Market%20Failures_0.pdf.

The Green Perspective

New Report Raises Concern About Nanoparticles In Food Products

Today, As You Sow, a nonprofit organization focused on corporate social responsibility issues, released a report on a survey it conducted on 2,500 food companies about their use of nanomaterials. It also tested food samples and found that two products contained nanoparticles. The report is titled, "*Slipping Through the Cracks: An Issue Brief on Nanomaterials in Food.*"

In its report announcement, As You Sow described nanoparticles as follows: "*Because of their small size, nanoparticles can go places in the body that larger particles cannot. Nanoparticles in food or food packaging can gain access via ingestion, inhalation, or skin penetration. When ingested, these nanoparticles can penetrate cell walls and pass into the blood and lymph system. From there, the particles can circulate through the body and reach potentially sensitive target sites such as bone marrow, lymph nodes, the spleen, the liver, the heart, and cross the blood brain barrier.*"

As You Sow also said it plans to conduct additional tests of food products to identify others containing nanoparticles.

Download a copy of the As You Sow report at <http://www.asyousow.org/>.

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