

Retailers violating the ordinance could be fined up to \$250.

A copy of Shoreline's new ordinance is available for review at <http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2013/staffreport042913-8b.pdf>.

Michigan DEQ Issues RFP To Develop Household Waste Drug Collection Programs

Last week, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) opened a request for proposals to develop and implement household drug collection programs. Local governments and health departments, regional planning agencies, nonprofit organizations and other non-commercial organizations are eligible to submit proposals to receive funding through grants. Up to \$100,000 may be requested in grant funding but must be matched at least 25 percent by the submitting organization or entity.

The goals of the proposals should be to develop and implement a household drug collection program that provides a free, convenient, and simple method for collecting drugs, identify demographic indicators that have an impact on the success or failure of the drug collection program, collect information, increase the deployment of equipment needed for the collection of both controlled and non-controlled pharmaceuticals, and serve as a resource for other organizations interested in implementing a drug collection program.

Proposals are being accepted by DEQ through the end of this month. Get more information at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3585_62565-10949--,00.html

Statistics & Trends

EU Beverage Can Production Continues Increasing In 1st Qtr 2013

According to statistics released yesterday by industry organization Beverage Can Makers Europe (BCME), sales of beverage cans rose 2.3 percent in the first quarter of this year, compared to the previous quarter. Sales of soft drink cans were up 4.2 percent and beer cans up 0.5 percent. A trend of increasing beverage can sales began late last year, according to BCME.

Among BCME market countries, sales in Turkey and the Scandanavian countries were up the most in the first quarter - 23.7 percent and 13.3 percent, respectively. Sales were down in Spain and Austria/Switzerland by 6.4 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively.

Expect an increase in EU can recycling if the can sales trend continues through this year.

Download the new BCME data at http://www.bcmelaboiteboisson.com/assets/images/banques_images/Stats%20de%20ventes%20news%20letter%20Mai%202013%20%5Blecture%20seule%5D.pdf.

Japan Steel Can Recycling Rate Hits Record Level

Recently, the Japan Steel Can Recycling Association released its 2012 annual report, which provides data on FY 2011. According to the report Japan recycled 90.4 percent of the steel cans produced, a one percent increase from FY2010. The country consumed 682,241 tons of steel cans and recycled 616,699 tons.

The association attributed the increase to increasing global demand for scrap steel and to "*the quality of raw materials in steel scrap cans has improved year by year, since separate collection has been well promoted through citizens' cooperation, separate collection systems from municipalities as well as business activities has been fully equipped, and the accuracy of separation and processing at the recycling facilities and scrap processors have improved.*"

FY 2011 marked the fifth consecutive steel can recycling rate increased, according to the report.

Download the 2012 JSCRA annual report (in English) at <http://www.steelcan.jp/english/annualreport/fy2012/2012-AnnualReport.pdf>.

Local UK Governments Curbside Collection Of Drink Cartons Hits 50 Percent

According to an announcement yesterday by the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE), half of the local governments in the United Kingdom now provide for curbside collection of drink cartons, a 1200 percent increase from 2006.

ACE said more local governments will probably begin collecting drink cartons once a carton processing center becomes operational later this year. The facility, the first in the UK, will have the capacity to recycle 25,000 tons of cartons annually.

The UK consumes approximately 60,000 tons of drink cartons annually.

Get more information at <http://www.ace-uk.co.uk/media-centre/news/half-of-uk-local-authorities-now-offer-kerbside-recycling-of-beverage-cartons/>.

Norwegian Agency Considers Wider Use Of Underground Waste And Recycling Systems

On Monday, the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF) released a 30-page report prepared by the consulting firm Hjellnes Consult AS that examines the pros and cons of underground waste collection and recycling systems. The Ministry of Environment directed KLIF to conduct the study and consider whether to propose changes to Norway's Pollution Act to give municipalities the authority to make greater use of such underground systems.

While the report provides little statistical evidence proving that underground waste systems are more effective than ground level collections, it does list a number of benefits of underground systems. They include reduced waste transport costs, reduced noise from collection vehicles, recovery of space for other uses, improved neighborhood aesthetics, fewer pest control problems, less litter and "*always available containment volume for the customer.*"

Underground waste collection systems, usually vacuum-driven, are in use of larger cities in a number of countries, including Norwegian neighbor Sweden, which is credited with launching waste vacuum technology in the 1960s.

Download a copy of the KLIF report at

<http://www.klif.no/no/Publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/2013/Mai/Avfallssug--effekter-pa-materialgjenvinning/>.

Netherlands And Hong Kong Sign Waste Management Collaboration Agreement

The Government of Hong Kong reported on Monday that it has signed an agreement with the Netherlands Government to work together on waste management issues and technologies at the government, industry, and education/research levels.

According to the Government of Hong Kong, the collaboration will "*boost information exchange; training and experience sharing on the formulation, development and implementation of waste policy; management plans; recycling networks and facilities; regulatory and economic instruments; and, waste-to-energy, and other treatment and disposal facilities.*"

The announcement is posted on the Hong Kong web site at

http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2013/05/20130506_152214.shtml.

Recycling Helps Lower North Carolina Landfill Disposal Rate For Second Consecutive Year

Late last month, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported a decrease in the state's solid waste disposal rate for the second consecutive year. For FY 2011-2012, North Carolina disposed of 9,443,380 tons of solid waste in both in-state and out-of-state landfills, a decrease of 23,665 tons from a year earlier.

DENR also said the state per capita disposal rate fell below one ton per person per year for the first time since base year 1991/1992, the first year landfill disposal statistics were kept. DENR attributes the decreases to increased recycling efforts.

"We are pleased to see the progress that municipal and county recycling programs are making," said DENR Secretary John Skvarla. *"Recyclable commodities are increasingly important feedstocks for North Carolina manufacturers, and community collection services are a vital part of the material supply chain."*

The FY2011/2021 data is in a new annual report available at

http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=4649434&folderId=9377383&name=D_LFE-65922.pdf.

Dutch E-Waste Compliance Scheme Reports Eight Percent Drop In Collections

The Netherlands primary e-waste compliance scheme, Wecycle, reported last week that an eight percent drop in collections occurred during the first quarter of this year when 33.9 million kilograms of devices were collected.

Wecycle said the fall in collections follows a fall in sales of new devices in 2012, likely due to slow economic conditions in the Netherlands. Wecycle said it expects collections to increase later this year.

The Wecycle announcement is posted at <http://www.wecycle.nl/nieuws/wecycle-rapporteert-34-miljoen-kilo-e-waste-over-eerste-kwartaal.html>.

Danish Businesses Generating Green Tech Patents And Jobs From Government Grants Program

For the past few years, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency has been providing grants to Danish businesses to develop and bring to market new environmental technologies with the hope the country can become a leading provider of green technologies to the world. Last week, Environmental Minister Ida Auken provided an update on the results of the program.

According to Auken, the program has led to "tens of patents with many more on the way" and almost half the green tech companies receiving grants said they have hired new employees. Of the types of green technology projects receiving support 57 percent addressed clean water issues, 15 percent addressed clean air issues, and 13 percent addressed waste management issues.

The size of the grants have ranged from 49,000 to 2.275 million kroner.

For the entire Danish EPA announcement go to http://www.mst.dk/Virksomhed_og_myndighed/Gron_strategi/Nyheder_gron_strategi/rapport_evaluering_stotteordning.htm.

The Green Perspective

BAN Issues Alert On Proposal By IT Manufacturers Council To Declassify Some E-Waste

Last week, the Basal Acton Network (BAN) issued an alert to supporters and news media that some IT manufacturers had presented a draft document to declassify some types of e-waste as repairable used electronics. The declassification would exempt the devices from the so-called Basal Ban Amendment.

The title of the document, which was presented at the Basel Convention meeting last week, is "*Draft Technical Guidelines on the Transboundary Movements of Electronic and Electrical Waste (e-Waste)*."

"This is really a very shocking effort to further widen the floodgates of a tide of toxic techno-trash already inundating ports and dumps in Africa and Asia," said BAN Executive Director Jim Puckett. "Industry claims this will foster re-use, which we fully support, yet they fail to adequately explain why re-use can't be done in accordance with established Basel Convention rules. Truly caring about re-use, would mean that manufacturers would make equipment that lasts longer, is upgradable, and does not contain toxic chemicals. It's all just a bit disingenuous to claim that exporting broken, obsolete toxic equipment to developing countries is best for the environment."

The full BAN alert can be reviewed at <http://www.ban.org/2013/05/03/electronics-industry-lobbies-to-classify-e-waste-as-non-waste-to-allow-export-to-developing-countries/>

Ecology Center Testing Finds Phthalates And BPA Leach From Plastic Garden Hose

The Michigan-based Ecology Center reported yesterday that testing of water that sat in new garden hoses in the sun for two days contained " *BPA levels of 0.34 to 0.91 ppm in the hose water, a level that is 3 to 9 times higher than safe drinking water standards. The phthalate DEHP was found at concentrations of 0.017 to 0.011 ppm in the hose water, which is 2 times higher than federal drinking water standards.*"

To conduct the tests the Ecology Center purchased 21 new garden hoses from Lowe's, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Target and Kmart. Sixty-seven percent of the hoses purchased were made of PVC. Testing was conducted for a range of "*chemicals of concern.*"

The recent tests followed ones conducted in 2012 by the Ecology Center. The 2012 tests also discovered "*high levels of hazardous chemicals.*"

More information on the tests by the Ecology Center is available at <http://www.healthystuff.org/>.

Greenpeace Takes On Coca-Cola Australia In Northern Territory Container Deposit Scheme Battle

When the Australia's Northern Territory's container deposit scheme went into effect in January 2012, Coca-Cola Amatil took the battle to court, successfully arguing the scheme in effect violated the free movement of goods across Australia's states and territories. (The Northern Territory is trying to resolve issue through the Council of Australian Governments.) In response, Greenpeace launched a campaign called 'Stop Coca-Cola Trashing Australia,' which features an alarming photograph of a dead bird presumably killed by ingesting plastic litter. Alongside the image are the words "*brought to you by Coca-Cola.*"

On its website, Greenpeace has been urging supporters to write to their elected officials to support the Northern Territory's container deposit scheme and to tweet Coca-Cola and leave messages on its facebook page criticizing the company's actions. Recently, it ran its dead bird ads in leading newspapers. However, recent media reports have circulated saying that Greenpeace is raising funds to buy TV time to take the message to a new audience - Australian football viewers.

Greenpeace's Stop Coca-Cola Trashing Australia web page can be found at
<http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/en/news/oceans/-Stop-Coca-Cola-trashing-Australia-3-things-you-can-do/>.

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