

distributed to customers, effective April 22, 2013 (Earth Day.) The bag fee increases to 25 cents on January 1, 2015. Bag fees must be itemized on customer receipts.

The ordinance applies to every Foster City "*commercial establishment that sells perishable or non-perishable goods including, but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items.*" Public eating establishments are exempt.

Retailers violating the law are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$500, depending on whether the violation is a first-time or repeat offense.

Download a copy of the Foster City plastic bag ordinance (item 5.2.1 on agenda document) at <http://citydocs.fostercity.org/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=472&doctype=AGENDA>.

Maryland MDE Schedules Public Hearing On Controversial Proposed Waste Incinerator

Late last month, the Maryland Department of Environment announced it has scheduled a public hearing for a proposed waste-to-energy incinerator for Frederick and Carroll Counties, Maryland that would process up to 1,500 tons of waste per day. The proposed incinerator is opposed by the No-Incinerator Alliance and other environmental organizations.

The hearing is scheduled for January 30 at a Frederick, Maryland high school. Wheelabrator Technologies has proposed building the facility, but according to media reports, Carroll County may opt out of the arrangement, leaving Frederick County with the need to downsize the facility if a replacement locality can not be found.

If approved, construction of the facility is expected to begin later this year.

The Maryland MDE announcement is posted at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/Documents/FrederickWTEfacilitypublicnotice.pdf>.

Statistics & Trends

Decrease In French Tire Sales Helps Hold Down 2013 Stewardship Fees

In France, waste tire recovery is managed by Aliapur, an organizations founded by tire makers Michelin, Pirellia, Bridgestone, Continental, Dunlop Goodyear and Kleber. Last week, the organization announced that due to slower tire sales in France in 2012, the stewardship fees that producers and importers must pay will not increase in 2013.

The organization's Board of Directors reasoned that waste tire generation will likely decrease since tire sales have decreased. However, rather than reduce stewardship fees, the Board decided to hold them steady in case tire sales increase later this new year.

The 2013 Aliapur fee structure and related information is available at <http://www.aliapur.fr/actus/eco-contribution-tarifs-inchanges-en-2013>.

Hong Kong Hotels Recycled Six Million Glass Containers

On Saturday, the Government of Hong Kong reported that a voluntary, government-endorsed program for hotel glass container recycling has collected more than 2,300 tons of waste glass through the end of last November. The announcement came during a ceremony marking the five-year anniversary of the program.

Most of the glass collected in the program is recycled into paving and construction material. In 2007, the year before the program launched, an estimated 130,000 tons of glass was buried in Hong Kong landfills.

During the anniversary ceremony, Hong Kong's Secretary for the Environment, KS Wong, said the hotel glass recycling program will serve as a model for other glass recycling programs. The program, which is funded by industry and endorsed by the Hong Kong Hotels Association (HKHA), has diverted about 6 millions glass containers from landfills so far.

The Government of Hong Kong announcement is posted at http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2013/01/20130105_170308.shtml.

Austrian Environmental Ministry Publishes New Brochure On Harmful Chemical And Newborns

On Monday, the Austrian Ministry announced the availability of a new government 13-page brochure. The brochure was produced to help protect pregnant women and newborns from potentially harmful chemicals found in common consumer products.

"Hidden chemicals in consumer products or food can have serious health consequences on the health of pregnant women and newborns," said Environmental Minister Niki Berlakovich. *"To support this particularly vulnerable group in maintaining lifestyles free of harmful chemicals the ministry has created a new brochure, "Healthy Start in Life," to identify sources of pollution and provide valuable tips for avoiding harmful chemicals."*

Among the chemicals addressed in the brochure are ones found in cosmetics, foods, baby care products and clothing, toys, and household cleaning chemicals.

Download a copy of the new brochure at http://www.lebensministerium.at/publikationen/umwelt/gefaehrliche_stoffe/gesunder_start.html

French Government Agency To Host European Conference On Potential Health Risks From Nanomaterials

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) recently announced it will host an international conference next month to discuss the potential health and environmental risks from nanomaterials. The NANOGENOTOX Conference will be held in Paris on 22 February.

The conference is only one element in a larger effort that seeks to 1) collect, analyze and disseminate health information and knowledge about nanomaterials, and 2) promote a reliable methodology at the European level for testing potential genotoxicity of nanomaterials by exchanging best practices. Government agencies from 11 EU Member States are participating in the effort.

In a related matter, on January 1, 2013, a French law took effect that requires manufacturers, importers and distributors of nanomaterials - either pure or used in products - to declare information about their nanomaterials using a government managed online portal.

Get more information at <http://www.nanogenotox.eu/>.

Business Initiatives

French Chemicals Industry Association Announces Voluntary Sustainability Goals

Today, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) announced that the Union des Industries Chimiques (UIC) has agreed to pursue a number of sustainability goals. Among them is increasing to 15 percent the amount of biobased chemicals in the market by 2017, improve eco-efficiency in production methods and support eco-innovation in chemistry.

Other broad goals of the agreement include reducing CO₂ emissions from chemicals production by an unspecified amount and reducing CO₂ and to begin organizing life cycle data on chemicals used in cosmetics, cleaning products and DIY products.

As part of the voluntary agreement, UIC will submit an annual progress report to ADEME on the efforts the industry is making.

More information on the agreement is available on the ADEME website at <http://ademe.typepad.fr/presse/>.

Green Dot Norway Uses 1.6 Million Kroner Lottery To Lure Carton Recyclers

Late last month, Green Dot Norway encouraged consumers to recycle their waste beverage cartons, which not only is good for the environment but could lead to a 100,000 kroner lottery prize. Green Dot Norway said that in 2013 it would make 1.6 million available for the carton recycling lottery - 120 prizes of 10,000 kroner and four grand prizes of 100,000 kroner.

To enter the lottery, a consumer needs to rinse, flatten and strap together at least six waste beverage cartons. The consumer's (or designee's) name and phone number need to be written on the strapped cartons (using a marker pen or other permanent ink) and dropped off at a designated recycling center.

The carton lottery began 16 years ago and has distributed about 30 million kroner since then. It is a key reason why 72 percent of Norwegians recycle their beverage cartons, according to Green Dot Norway.

The Green Dot Norway lottery announcement is posted at <http://www.grontpunkt.no/nyhet/sorterer-seg-til-gevinst>.

The Green Perspective

UK Agency Offers Free Review To Help Producers Green Their EEE Designs

On Monday, the United Kingdom's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), an agency financially supported by the government, highlighted its free electrical product design review service. According to WRAP, the review can help producers improve product durability to reduce returns, reduce materials use, and optimize designs for disassembly and repair.

The WRAP website offers sample design reviews on microwave oven, televisions and washing machines. According to WRAP, a review undertaken for a washing machine manufacturer saved the company 550,000 pounds sterling in costs while eliminating 740 tons of CO₂ per 100,000 units sold.

Get more information on the service at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/electrical-product-design-reviews>.

Er Det Farlig? Website Urges Norwegian Consumers To Recycle Old Mobile Phones

Er Det Farlig? (Is It Safe?), a web site maintained by Norway's Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF), last week urged consumers to not throw old cell phones into the trash because the phones contain substances "*you do not want on your dinner plate.*"

The communique noted that while phone battery chemistry has evolved from technologies that used toxic mercury to less toxic lithium, other mobile phone components such as LCD displays and internal components still contain toxic substances that can leach into landfills. The same problem occurs with other small mobile devices such as MP3 players.

KLIF also said that gold, neodymium and other valuable materials need to be retrieved by recyclers and used to make new phones, helping to reduce mining and processing of raw materials costs.

The Er Det Farlig? communique is posted at <http://www.erdetfarlig.no/Artikler/Nyhetsartikler/ikke-kast-mobilen-i-sopla/>.

National Wildlife Federation Study Finds US Textbook Recycling Rate Low

Yesterday, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), in collaboration with McGraw-Hill and NewPage Corporation (a recycled paper producer), released a 52-page report that found, "*Almost 40 percent of K-12 and higher education schools are storing or throwing away textbooks that are dated, damaged or have otherwise reached the end of their productive life.*" The report also

highlights a 2009 US EPA statistic that 640,000 tons books in general are discarded into the landfill annually.

The NWF report discusses the lifecycle of textbooks, from production through disposal, and offers recommendations for establishing textbook recycling programs at schools and in communities. It concludes that textbook recycling can be improved "*given enough incentive, education, and implementation of proven methods of disposal and processing.*"

Keep more information at <http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Our-Partners/Textbook-Recycling-Program.aspx>.

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