

PET Bottle Recycling Rate In Brazil Hit 59 Percent In 2012

According to data released late last month by the Associação Brasileira da Indústria do PET, the PET bottle recycling rate in Brazil in 2012 reached 59 percent, an increase of 12.6 percent from 2011. A total of 331,000 tons of PET bottles were recycled in 2012 compared to 294,000 tons in 2011.

Despite the high recycling rate, Abipet President Auri Marcon said PET recyclers still have unused capacity and that bottle collection - not rPET sales - is now the association's largest concern.

More information is available at <http://www.abipet.org.br/index.html>.

Survey Finds 80 Percent of EU Residents Concerned About Environmental Impact Of Products

Most European residents are concerned about the environmental impact of products, according to a recent survey sponsored by the European Commission and released last week.

According to the survey findings, 77 percent of respondents said they were "*willing to pay more for environmentally-friendly products if they were confident that the products are truly environmentally-friendly.*" However, only 55 percent of respondents said they felt adequately informed about the environmental performance of products.

The survey also found 66 percent of respondents were "*willing to pay more for a product if its guarantee of reliability was extended to five years.*" Ninety-two percent of respondents said that life expectancy of a product should be indicated on the product, its packaging or elsewhere.

The telephone survey was conducted using 25,568 residents in 28 Member States.

Get more information at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-653_en.htm?locale=en.

Melbourne Household Batteries Recycling Network Expands To 34 Collection Sites

Sustainability Victoria, a state government-funded agency, announced on July 1 that Batteryback, a program to collect and recycle household batteries, has expanded to 34 retail recycling sites, across Melbourne, the capital of Victoria.

Only five percent of the 350 million batteries imported in Australia each year are recycled. However, the Batteryback program has recycled more than 8,000 kilograms of batteries since its launch in 2007. The program could serve as a model for a national battery recycling scheme, an idea growing more popular among more environmentally-minded Australian legislators.

The Sustainability Victoria announcement is posted at http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/Batteryback_media_release_010713.pdf.

Environment Brussels Issues Call For Proposals To Reduce Supply Chain Packaging Waste

On July 1, Bruxelles Environnement announced it is accepting proposals for projects to reduce packaging and packaging waste generated by retailers and other businesses. The goal is to reduce packaging and waste in the supply chain. Examples of such measures are reusable and refillable packaging and shipping products in bulk. According to Bruxelles Environnement, packaging represents about 30 percent of Brussels household solid waste.

Approved projects will receive 15,000 EUR in co-funding (50 percent of costs must be covered by the applicant) from Bruxelles Environnement. Proposals must be received by August 19, and approved projects should begin by October and be completed in 12 months.

Get more information at <http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/news.aspx?id=37953&langtype=2060>.

Western Australia Begins Plastic-Free July Campaign

Last week, the Western Metropolitan Regional Council and the Western Australia Waste Authority launched Plastic-Free July, a campaign to encourage residents, businesses and other groups in the Australian state to reduce their consumption of "*plastic shopping bags, plastic cups, straws, plastic packaging...basically anything that's intended only to be used once and then sent to landfill.*"

Now in its third year, Plastic-Free July encourages participants to register online, then track how much single-use plastic they do not consume. The website offers advice on how to avoid using single-use plastic items when shopping, cooking and cleaning.

More information is available at <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/index.html>.

Business Initiatives

BVSE Criticizes German Green Dot System For Too Much Energy Recovery Of Packaging

Yesterday, Bundesverband Sekundarrohstoffe und Entsorgung e.V. (BVSE), the German recycling industry association, said that the Duale Systeme (Germany's Green Dot scheme) directs too much recyclable packaging for energy-recovery (incineration). The loss of higher quality recycle is hindering the use of recycled materials for new packaging.

BVSE said Duale Systeme is more concerned with processing through put than ensuring the highest quality recycling stream. BVSE also said that better sorting is needed to prevent higher

quality recyclables from being sent to energy recovery. It leveled some other criticisms of Duale Systeme.

The BVSE communique is posted at

http://www.bvse.de/33/6645/Duale_Systeme_verantworten_zu_viel_Verbrennung_und_ermoenlic_hen_zu_wenig_Recycling.

UK Waste Industry Voices Concern About Government Funding To Fight Waste Crime

Due to government budget tightening, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had its most recent budget reduced, and government funding for the Waste Resources Action Programme was slashed by nearly 60 percent. Given such dramatic funding cuts, the United Kingdom's Environmental Services Association (ESA) said late last month that the government must not cut funding to fight waste crime.

"Defra Ministers will now need to make some difficult choices in allocating the reduced spend, but it is vital that funding for tackling waste crime is protected," explained the ESA announcement. "At a time when the Environment Agency is still identifying new illegal waste sites more quickly than it can shut down existing ones, any let up on the criminal behaviour which both blights communities and undermines legitimate business must be avoided."

The ESA announcement is posted at

http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/press_releases/130626_ESA_reiterate_call_to_protect_funding_to_tackle_waste_crime.pdf

French Compliance Schemes Claim 100,000 Tons Of Packaging Saved Since 2007

Last Thursday, French packaging compliance scheme Adelphe announced that an important waste prevention milestone had been reached - the prevention of 100,000 tons of packaging between 2007 and 2012. Adelphe estimated that roughly 10 billion fewer pieces of packaging had been produced during that five-year period. Achieving the milestone was a goal of Grenelle de l'environnement, the broad French environment law.

According to Adelphe, the largest reductions in packaging (by material) were for plastic (44 percent) and glass (39 percent). The data was collected and presented in collaboration with Eco-Emballages.

Download more information on France's packaging reduction data at

<http://www.adelphe.fr/actualites/bilan-et-chiffres-cles-2012>.

The Green Perspective

Carbon Trust To Launch Waste Reduction Certification Standard For Organizations

The Carbon Trust, a UK-based not-for-profit corporation with offices in the United States and China, said last Wednesday it would be offering "the world's first international standard for organisations to certify that they are managing and reducing waste." The certification standard will be available later this year.

According to the announcement, the certification standard "will require organisations to measure, manage and reduce their solid and hazardous waste. To achieve the standard organisations will need to demonstrate that waste streams are being reduced every year, or disposed of more effectively, for example through increased reuse, recycling or energy recovery."

Five years ago, the Carbon Trust launched a standard for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and more recently it launched a second standard for water consumption reduction.

Get more information at <http://www.carbontrust.com/about-us/press/2013/07/carbon-trust-to-take-on-waste/>.

ACR+ Publishes Comprehensive Report About Plastic Bag Policies Around The World

The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) said late last month it has a new report available that analyzes plastic bag policy options and instruments. The bulk of the report covers on a country-by-countries basis the policies and instruments in the European Union, Non-EU Europe, North Africa/Middle West and the rest of the world.

ACR+, an international association based in Brussels, recently sponsored an international conference on plastic bag waste. While the report, which is more than 100 pages long, is free to ACR+ members, non-members must purchase copies.

Get more information at <http://www.acrplus.org/module/news/display/newsdisplay.aspx?news=227>

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