

Another California Municipality Bans Polystyrene Foam Carryout Food Packaging

Last week, Walnut Creek, a city of 66,000 residents, became the latest California municipality to ban the distribution of polystyrene foam food service ware when the city council passed a new ordinance. Prohibited items include "*plates, cups, bowls, trays and hinged or lidded containers, also known as clamshells.*"

The material ban applies to all food vendors in the city, as well as at all city-permitted events. The ordinance also prohibits all city departments, agencies, franchises, contractors and vendors from purchasing or using polystyrene foam food service ware.

The ban takes effect on December 18, 2014.

You can download the new Walnut Creek ordinance at

<http://search.walnut-creek.org/sirepub/cache/0/poct0wehyukhop45y1u3nm45/306951906102014060920651.PDF>.

Statistics & Trends

Brazil's First Mechanized Dry Waste Sorting Facility Begins Operation

Last week, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment announced that the country's first mechanized facility for sorting dry waste for recycling opened in the city of Sao Paulo. The new facility will process about 80,000 tons of waste annually, separating and baling paper, plastics and metals.

According to the Ministry, the facility is expected to increase the city's recycling rate from 1.8% to at least 10%. Much of the profit from the center will provide support to catadores, street scavengers who are the current foundation of the city's current recycling system. In 2010, Brazil adopted a National Policy on Solid Waste that is transitioning the country from one dependent on landfill disposal of waste to one of waste reduction and recycling.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at

<http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/10187-s%C3%A3o-paulo-inaugura-primeira-usina-de-reciclagem-mecanizada-da-al>.

Bruxelles Environnement Offers Funding for Projects to Reduce Unnecessary Packaging

Last week, the government agency Bruxelles Environnement announced it is seeking projects to "*reduce unnecessary packaging*" and has 20,000 EUR in funding available for worthwhile idea. Cited examples of ways to reduce unnecessary packaging include developing designs with less material (i.e., not over-packaged) or are refillable to changing consumer attitudes about how products are provided to consumers and making consumers aware of actual product amount versus packaging size. used.

Businesses, associations, institutions and individuals are eligible to submit proposals. The deadline to do so is September 1, 2014.

Get more information at

<http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/news.aspx?id=40411&langtype=2060>.

Second Mobile E-Waste Collection Campaign Launches in Romania

The Romanian Ministry for Environment and Climate Change launched the second round of its ECOBANCA campaign on June 3. The campaign uses mobile collection sites to take back WEEE and waste batteries and accumulators, primarily across Bucharest. The program also allows residents to register online so they can receive points for the end-of-life devices and batteries they turn in. At the end of each campaign, residents may use their accumulated points to select prizes.

During last year's campaign, which ran from June 1 through September 18, more than a thousand participants turned in about 18 tons of WEEE and batteries.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change announcement is posted at

<http://mmediu.ro/new/?p=5372>.

87% of Welsh C&D Waste was Reused, Recycled or Recovered in 2012

Yesterday, the Welsh Government reported that in 2012, 87% of construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated was reused, recycled or recovered as energy. The Government set a target to divert 90% of C&D waste from landfills by 2019/2020.

The same Industrial and Commercial Waste survey conducted by the Welsh Government also found 50% of industrial waste and 68% of commercial waste were re-used, recycled or composted, respectively.

"These results from 2012 demonstrate that there is still much we can do to prevent waste going to landfill in Wales, but the construction, demolition and commercial sector results in particular make it clear that high recycling rates are achievable, as we move towards a circular economy in Wales," said Minister for Natural Resources and Food Alun Davies.

Get more information at

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2014/140610wastesurveysreport/?lang=en>.

Danish Study Finds Residential Food Waste Higher in Downtown Areas than Suburbs

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a 74-page report last week on what residents in multi-family residential buildings throw away. The data comes from a survey of the waste from approximately 700 households in living in multi-story buildings.

As expected, the largest components of the waste stream were food. On average, the families surveyed generated 174 kilograms of waste per year of which 101 kilograms, or 58%, was food. The study suggested that the actual percent of food waste was likely still higher because many of the residential units in the study had food (sink) disposers.

The Danish EPA also pointed out that the percentage of food waste from the multi-family units in municipalities was significantly higher than that generated from single-family houses in the suburbs - 1.14 kilograms versus 0.81 kilograms of food waste per week. (A study on food waste from single-family homes was conducted earlier for the EPA.)

You can download the Danish EPA report at <http://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publikationer/2014/05/978-87-93178-52-6.pdf>.

Record High Battery Recycling Rate Projected for Canada in 2014

On June 5, Call2Recycle, the largest North American battery recycling organization, said it expects the collection rate for waste batteries in Canada to reach a new record level this year. The projection is based on the organization reaching its 1 kilogram collection milestone earlier this year than in any previous year.

At the provincial level, British Columbia has collected 34% more batteries so far this year than at the same time in 2013. Quebec is also 16% ahead of its collection totals for 2013.

Call2Recycle said the increases were due largely to collection network expansion. The organization said 91% of Canadian now live within 15 kilometers of a drop off location.

The Call2Recycle announcement is posted at <http://www.call2recycle.org/canada-one-million-kilograms/>.

CalRecycle Announces \$1.7 Million in Waste Tire Clean Up Grants

Yesterday, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) announced it is awarding \$1.7 million in grants to 23 California cities and counties to help clean up waste tires. The city of Madiera and the Imperial Valley Resource Management Agency each received more than \$245,000 in funding.

The grants are used for the collection, removal, transportation, recycling, and disposal of waste tires from illegal tire piles and areas along public right-of-ways.

The CalRecycle announcement is posted at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/NewsRoom/2014/06June/15.htm>.

Business Initiatives

Brazilian Recycled Products Firm Launches "Adopt A Scientist" Program

WiseWaste is a Brazilian company that specializes in making products from recycled materials. Last week, the firm announced a new program called "*Adopt A Scientist*" to stimulate applied research in recycled materials engineering at the university level.

In partnership with Mackenzie University, WiseWaste will provide support for an employee or student to conduct research and development on how a particular waste could be converted into a material that would have commercial value. The goal is to prevent the precursor from being disposed in landfills. WiseWaste also said the concept supports Brazil's 2010 National Policy on Solid Waste, which focuses on increasing recycling and recovery while reducing landfill disposal.

Get more information at
<http://www.wisewaste.com.br/>.

ERP Expands WEEE Compliance Services into Sweden

The European Recycling Platform (ERP), an international EPR compliance scheme for electronics, batteries and packaging, announced earlier this month it had signed an agreement with the Swedish Electronics Recycling Association (Elektronikatervinningsforeningen) to "*provide its full range of services on the Swedish market.*"

"I look forward to a long-term and close cooperation with ERP," said Elektronikatervinningsforeningen Managing Director Josef Tapper. *"I'm sure that this cooperation will bring about improved and increased recycling of electronics in Sweden and even healthier competition for producer responsibility on the Swedish market."*

With Sweden's addition, ERP now provides WEEE compliance services in 16 European countries.

For more information, go to
<http://erp-recycling.org/news/erp-expands-to-swedish-market/>.

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