

Ontario Needs To Reduce Landfill Gas Emissions, Says Environmental Commissioner

Last week, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario released an 88-page progress report on implementing the province's Climate Change Action Plan. Among the topics discussed were landfill gas emissions, which the Commissioner said "*may be underestimated by over 100 per cent.*"

The report states, "*To limit the generation of fugitive methane emissions the government must move expeditiously to prevent future organic residuals from entering landfill facilities.*" It also recommends that "*the Ministry of the Environment implement a phased-in ban on the landfilling of all organic residuals.*"

In 2010, the province's waste sector was responsible for 4.4 percent of the province's overall greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report.

Download the full report at <http://www.eco.on.ca/uploads/Reports-GHG2/2012/Climate-Change-Report-2012.pdf>.

New Foundland And Labrador Seeks Consultant to Help Reduce Organic Waste Disposal

Last week, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador issued a request for proposals for a consulting firm that would "*identify ways to address organic waste in the province.*"

According to Tom Hedderson, the Minister of Environment and Conservation, the province landfills about 300 tons of organic waste daily, and organic waste represents more than 30 percent of the provincial waste stream. Under the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy approved in 2007, the province plans to reduce landfill disposal by at least 50 percent.

Get more information at <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2012/ma/1206n05.htm>

EFSA Expert Panel Issues Opinions On PET Recycling Processes For Food Contact Applications

Last week, the EFSA Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF) published four separate scientific opinions on the safety of PET recycling process to produce rPET for food contact applications. Recycled plastic makers had submitted their processes for EFSA review.

The processes are Buhler C and FENC (recoSTAR PET-FG); RPET Nosinyec; and Starlinger IV+ technologies BTB, PRT, Valplastic, Fellinginger B and BariQ.

The scientific opinions can be found at
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2981.htm>
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2979.htm>
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2982.htm>
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2980.htm>

Links to all the opinions can be found under "Publications."

Statistics & Trends

New Zealand Stewardship Scheme Diverts More Than 230,000 Liters Of Paint From Landfill

On Sunday, the New Zealand Government announced that a government-accredited stewardship scheme diverted more than 230,000 litres of architectural paint and 90,000 kilograms of steel containers from landfill last year. The voluntary scheme called Paintwise is administered by the Resene Paints, which sells paints and wall coverings in New Zealand and Australia.

The stewardship scheme was accredited in New Zealand in August 2011 under the Waste Minimization Act. Resene collects and recycles its own brand paints at no charge, but charges \$1 per four liter or smaller cans on non-Resene brand paint.

The New Zealand Government announcement is posted at
<http://beehive.govt.nz/release/government-scheme-reduces-paint-going-landfill>.

Brazilian Farm Pesticide Container Recycling Rate Up Six Percent

Recycling of agricultural pesticide containers in Brazil during the first nine months of 2012 was up six percent over the same period last year, according to information released last month by the Instituto Nacional de Processamento de Embalagens Vazias (inpEV). The pesticide container stewardship scheme continues to serve as a model for other stewardship schemes under development in the country.

During the first nine months of this year, 31,633 tons of containers were collected. Most of the containers are chemically cleaned and recycled, and those that cannot be recycled are recovered as energy.

Get more information at
<http://www.inpev.org.br/educacao/noticias/br/noticiaView.asp?noticiald=7333333442344323443243442334334434447D368506161239D2241D4534D6121D12089407BAF>.

Norwegian Report Finds Asia A Leading Source Of DEHP-Containing Products

According to a report released on November 29 by the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF), an estimated 1,200 to 2,500 tons of Di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) was used in

Norway in 2009. The chemical is suspected of being a reproductive toxicant, and its use in children's products is banned in the European Union. Other restrictions are being considered.

DEHP's primary use is as a plasticizer in polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The report said that 95 percent of the DEHP in Norway is for that purpose. The report also said that although the use of DEHP in EU-made products is quickly declining, its use in imported products is not. "*Approximately half of the total import of DEHP in articles originates from Asia,*" states the report.

The report concludes in part, "*The consumption of DEHP in articles in Norway will consequently increasingly be dependent on the use of the substance in Asia.*"

Download a copy of the report at

<http://www.klif.no/no/Publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/2012/November/Kartlegging-av-ftalaten-DEHP-i-produkter-som-importeres-til-Norge/>

Israel Begins National Survey Of Waste Stream Composition

The Ministry of Environmental Protection announced on Monday that its Solid Waste Division had begun conducting a survey of Israel's non-hazardous solid waste streams - households, commercial and industrial. The data will be used to modify the national waste management strategy that focuses on increased recycling and reduced landfill disposal.

The last such national waste survey was conducted in 2005, and the results are published at <http://www.sviva.gov.il/InfoServices/ReservoirInfo/ResearchAndPublications/Pages/Publications/P0401-P0500/p0423.aspx>.

The Solid Waste Division is collecting data at landfills, transfer stations, treatment facilities, and recycling plants as well as from household waste containers in Tel Avid, Haifa and a dozen other municipalities.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection can be found at

<http://www.sviva.gov.il/InfoServices/NewsAndEvents/MessageDoverAndNews/Pages/2012/december12/SekerPsolet.aspx>

Japanese Environmental Ministry Adds Prefectures To Small Electronics Recycling Project

Late last month, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment announced that four additional prefectures (states) and districts have been selected to participate in a "demonstration project" to boost recovery of critical metals and other materials from small waste electronic devices. They are Okayama Prefecture, Yamaguchi Prefecture Ehime Prefecture and the Kyushu District. A half dozen prefectures were selected earlier.

The demonstration project was developed after approval of the Draft Law for the Promotion of Recycling of Small Waste Electronic Equipment in March.

The Ministry of the Environment announcement is posted at

<http://www.env.go.jp/press/press.php?serial=15988>.

Top Two Dutch E-Waste Compliance Organizations To Collaborate On Collections

Last week, ICT - Milieu, a firm that collects waste IT and communications equipment on behalf of its member manufacturers and importers, joined the NVMP Association, an organization that operates the Wecycle WEEE collection program.

"By joining NVMP we benefit from the economies of scale, knowledge and expertise of Wecycle," said Martin Trampe, IT -Environment Chairman. "Consumers are growing more familiar with Wecycle, so our waste collection message gets out better. This allows us to collect more of our members' waste ICT equipment."

According to an NVMP announcement, the new alliance between the two organizations will create a unified e-waste collection network with 10,000 drop off sites.

The NVMP announcement is posted at <http://www.producenten-verantwoordelijkheid.nl/index.php?id=144>.

New E-Waste Collection Agreement Reached In Sweden

Avfall Sverige (Waste Sweden) announced on Monday that it has facilitated an agreement on WEEE collection and compensation between EI-Kretsen, Sweden's WEEE compliance scheme and Swedish municipalities and counties (SKL). EI-Kretsen has scheduled eight meetings with municipal representatives between January 30 and February 14 to answer questions about the new agreement, which comes into effect on January 1, 2013.

SKL members operate municipal WEEE collection centers, and EI-Kretsen helps fund the collection centers' operating costs. The schedule of EI-Kretsen meetings is posted at <http://elkevent.omevent.se>. SKL members still need to sign contracts with EI-Kretsen in the weeks ahead.

Get more information from Avall Sverige at <http://www.avfallsverige.se/nyhetsarkiv/nyhetsvisning/artikel/foerslag-till-nytt-standardavtal-foer-hantering-av-elavfall/>.

ELFA Touts Recyclability Of Aluminum Wine Bottle Closures In New Promotional Campaign

The European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA) recently launched the Turn 360 campaign to make aluminum wine closures more accepted by wine producers and the public. Among the benefits being claimed for aluminum closures, *"A minimum 4 out of 10 aluminium closures consumed in Europe are already recycled today - either separately or together with the glass packaging fraction. This figure can be easily improved as long as the volumes of aluminium closures increase and simple and clear collection instructions are communicated widely to consumers."*

EFAA also claims that aluminum closures have a life cycle advantage because they prevent wine spoilage. EFAA says an estimated 2 to 5 percent of wine is discarded because of spoilage.

EFAA has launched a campaign web site and is planning "*press and public-relations activities throughout Europe during 2013.*"

The URL for the new web site is <http://www.aluminium-closures.org/turn-360/sustainability-recyclability/#.UMd2SKwg4mU>.

The Green Perspective

International NGO Offering \$50,000 For Best Solution To "Plastic Pollution Crisis"

The Plastic Pollution Coalition is conducting a competition "*for entrepreneurs working on solutions to the plastic pollution crisis.*" First prize in the Think Beyond Plastic competition is a \$50,000 investment plus a \$5,000 credit for legal costs for an existing business. An additional \$10,000 investment plus a \$3,000 credit for legal cost is being offered "*for the most innovative business idea.*"

Entries are being accepted being through January 6, 2013. Finalists and winners will be announced during the Think Beyond Plastic conference on March 22, 2013.

Applications and competition information for the contest are available at <http://thinkbeyondplastic.com/competition/apply/>.

Danish Eco Council Draws Attention To Green Tire Label Non-Compliance

On Friday, the Danish Ecological Council released a communique that points out that Mekonomen, an auto supplies retailer with 244 stores in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, has failed to comply with requirements to display energy rating labels for automobile in its online tire marketing. The energy rating labels were required on vehicle tires sold in the European Union starting last month.

The EU label provides consumers with information on the energy efficiency, noise generation and wet grip of each tire.

"*It is strange that a nationwide chain that Mekonomen can not figure out how to comply with the law and provide consumers with the important information they are entitled to,*" said Jeppe Juul, a Danish Ecological Council spokesperson.

The Danish Ecological Council communique can be found at <http://www.ecocouncil.dk/en/udgivelser/artikler/energi-og-klima/2054-autokaede-anmeldt-for-manglende-energimaerkning-af-daek>.

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