

Responding to complaints from residents, the Cambridge, Massachusetts City Council voted on February 10 to direct the city manager to meet with the producer of a plastic-bagged package of weekly, home-delivered circulars to cut down on the amount of waste they create.

According to the meeting agenda document, the circulars are delivered in red plastic bags "*made from #4 Low Density Polyethylene, which is not biodegradable and, if not properly recycled, creates a serious environmental hazard that has been reported to last for 500 to 1,000 years or longer.*"

The agenda reports that "*Although many residents have made numerous attempts to opt-out of the circulars and have repeatedly confirmed that they have been unsubscribed with Globe Direct staff, they continue to receive the circulars on a weekly basis.*" It goes on to note that the "*delivery of unwanted circulars does not promote the City of Cambridge's expressed goal of environmental sustainability.*"

For more information, go to

http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityClerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?item_id=41170.

Statistics & Trends

162,000 Waste Appliances Collected In Recently Launched Korean Program

Last year, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) of South Korea, in collaboration with the Korea Association of Electronics Environment, launched a program for residents to call for free pickup of end-of-life appliances including TVs, refrigerators and washing machines. On February 7, MOE released 2013 results for the program.

162,000 waste appliances were collected in six metropolitan areas, including Seoul where 91,174 appliances were collected. The most collected appliances were TVs (69,444 units), refrigerators (45,106 units) and washing machines (10,928 units).

Satisfied with the results to date, MOE plans to expand the program.

Get more information on the program at

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=340149>.

Indian Government Agency Recommends Plasma Pyrolysis for Plastic Waste Disposal

Last month, the Indian Central Pollution Control Board released a final version of its report on plasma pyrolysis technology as a method to dispose of the nation's growing volume of plastic waste while at the same time generating needed energy. The report follows emissions tests of plasma pyrolysis on plastic bags and other plastic waste by the Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council and the Institute for Plasma Research

The executive summary of the 54-page report states, "*In order to make plasma pyrolysis technology economically viable, energy recovery possibilities from plastic waste have been discussed in the report because plastic contains high calorific value and it would be possible to recover surplus energy from the system. It is therefore recommended to use [a] plasma pyrolysis*

system to re-solve the problems associated with plastic waste disposal. Further, there is an advantage that plasma pyrolysis systems can be installed at hill stations, tourist places, etc. to demonstrate decentralized disposal of plastic waste."

Download the Central Pollution Control Board report at

http://www.cpcb.nic.in/upload/Latest/Latest_85_ReportPlasticWasteDisposalThroughPlasmaPyrolysisTechnology.pdf.

Peru Launches National Solid Waste Management Program

Last month, the Peruvian Ministry of Environment announced that \$100 million (USD) in funding had been approved to implement Programa de Desarrollo de Sistemas de Gestión de Residuos Sólidos, a national program to promote sustainable development and modern waste management practices across the country. Last week, the Ministry met with the mayors of municipalities who signed letters of commitment to help implement the program.

The municipalities, organized into 16 development zones, will be required to work cooperatively on waste infrastructure improvements including better waste collection and transport services and the construction of sanitary landfills and recycling centers.

More information is available at

<http://www.minam.gob.pe/notas-de-prensa/minam-se-reune-con-alcaldes-de-todo-el-peru-y-presento-informes-sobre-proyectos-de-gestion-en-residuos-solidos/>.

First Dutch Advanced Plastic Sorting Facility Begins Operating

On February 10, Dutch Secretary of Environment Wilma Mansveld attended the start up of a new mixed plastics sorting facility owned by Attero, a Dutch waste recovery firm. Mansveld said the sorting facility supported the Ministry's plan to repurpose waste into a valuable resource and was the first of its kind in the Netherlands.

Using infrared sensing technology, the facility automatically sorts mixed waste into five streams including PET, PE, PP and plastic films and bags.

For more information, go to

<http://www.attero.nl/nl/bedrijf-organisatie/nieuws/actueel/attero-neemt-sorteerinstallatie-kunststoffen-in-bedrijf/>.

Swedish Government Survey Finds Conflicting Consumer Beliefs About Food Waste

On February 10, the National Food Agency of Sweden released data from a recent survey of consumers regarding food waste in the country. The telephone survey of 850 residents was conducted by the research firm Ipsos, which also conducted four consumer focus groups as part of its research.

The survey found most Swedes believe that food waste is "a *societal problem*," but that in their own households it is not. When questioned about which foods they throw away uneaten, most respondents mentioned fruits and vegetables the most, while meat and fish, generally more expensive foods, were tossed out the least.

According to the NFA, Swedes throw away 239,000 tons of edible food annually, contributing to landfill consumption and greenhouse gas generation. The value of the unconsumed food is estimated at 16-23 billion SEK.

Get more information at

<http://www.slv.se/sv/grupp3/Pressrum/Nyheter/Pressmeddelanden/Andra-slangar-mat--inte-jag/>.

R2 Solutions Reaches 500th Certification Milestone

On February 7, R2 Solutions, a leading electronics recycling certification organization, announced that it has certified more than 500 electronics recycling facilities.

"R2 certified facilities are now present in 14 countries, and we expect this number to grow significantly this year," said Henry Leineweber, the organization's program director.

Last year, R2 established an updated version of its certification standard and said all organizations certified under its original version will need to meet the updated version this year.

Get more information at

<http://www.r2solutions.org/>.

Business Initiatives

Design Smart Material Guides for Packaging Now Available to Everyone

The Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) recently announced its Design Smart Material Guides, previously available only to signatory companies, are now available for free to anyone. The APC decided, "*this important resource should be available to all who may benefit from the information.*"

Among the packaging materials covered in the guides are aluminum, glass, rigid plastic, flexible plastic, steel, fiber based packaging, compostable plastic packaging, and composite packaging.

Download the smart design guidelines at

<http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/resources.php/24/design-smart-material-guides>.

UK Textile Industry Sets Voluntary Waste Reduction Targets

On February 11, the United Kingdom's Wrap Resources Action Programme (WRAP) announced that clothing manufacturers and retailers have pledged to reduce waste sent to landfills by 15% by 2020. Additionally, they agreed to reduce waste generated during product lifecycles by 3.5% and cut their carbon footprint by 15% under the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) 2020.

If the plan signatories meet their goals, waste would be reduced by a projected 16,000 tons and CO₂ emissions would be cut by more than 1,200,000 tons.

In addition to textile producers and retailers, among the SCAP 2020's 53 signatories are two dozen industry associations, nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

Get more information at

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/scap-2020-commitment>.

TetraPak Launches Detachable Plastic Top Cartons to Facilitate Recycling

Last week, TetraPak, a leading manufacturer of drink and food cartons, announced the launch of a new carton design to facilitate recycling. According to the announcement, "*Consumers can easily separate the plastic top from the sleeve with a simple thumb press.*"

Two Scandinavian beverage producers already have signed agreements to use the new packaging designed for "*chilled products and ambient still drinks, such as milk and fruit juices*" The containers are available with tops and openings featuring either screw caps and with tear off openings.

Get more information at

<http://www.tetrapak.com/about-tetra-pak/press-room/news/product-innovation-recycling-tetra-top-separable-top>.

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