



In 2010, the Austrian Government adopted an action plan on nanotechnology including initiatives to address health and safety concerns, and called for a report on implementation of the action plan after its first two years. Last week, the Ministry of Environment published that report.

The Ministry of Environment admits the 52-page report lacks a wealth of hard data, but it does include highlights of initiatives launched. Among them were the creation of a NANO EHS entity and participation in the European Union's NanoReg Project and EURO-NanoTox. The NANO EHS program is described in the report as "*having successfully bundled the Austrian resources for nano-risk research.*"

The report also discussed voluntary efforts by industry including initiatives "*to provide specific information on products, for instance on the added value of nano-products compared to that of similar conventional products, or proof of nano-specific effects and/or modes of action,*" and the use of ecolabels. The report states that, "*products with nanotechnology can only be certified after their benefit has been demonstrated, potential negative effects on humans and the environment have been illuminated and the materials have been deemed harmless.*"

Download the Ministry of Environment's report (in English) at <http://www.lebensministerium.at/umwelt/chemikalien/nanotechnologie/nano-umsetzungsb2012.html>.

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## KLIF Issues Reminder About Exporting "Contaminated" Scrap Electrical Cables

On Friday, the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF) issued a communique reminding e-waste exporters that shipping scrap electronic and electrical cables that contain hazardous substances to non-OECD is illegal.

*"Discarded cables may contain high levels of contaminants such as lead and brominated flame retardants,"* stated the KLIF information release. *"KLIF was made aware of this by Rena, a WEEE recycling company, which through its testing found high levels of pollutants in waste cables."*

KLIF said a large amount of scrap cables are exported to China, a non-OECD nation. The communique also includes a link to information from the European Commission on waste export requirements.

The KLIF communique is posted at <http://www.klif.no/no/Aktuelt/Nyheter/2013/Juni-2013/Eksport-av-kasserte-kabler-som-inneholder-miljogifter-er-forbudt-ut-av-EOSOECD/>.

### Statistics & Trends

## Dutch End-Of-Life Vehicle Recovery Rate Remains Above 96 Percent

ARN, the Dutch end-of-life vehicle (ELV) recovery system, said yesterday that the recovery rate for ELVs in 2012 remained at 96.1 percent in 2012, nearly unchanged from 2011 when the rate was 96.2 percent. The EU target is only 85 percent.

Reuse of parts or recycling of scrap material accounted for 83.7 percent of ELVs (by weight) and another 12.4 percent was recovered as energy. Officially, 237,207 ELVs were generated in 2012,

according to government titling data. ARN said its affiliate companies processing 82.9 of those vehicles.

Get more information in ARN's latest 2012 Sustainability Rate at <http://www.arn.nl/ARN/Nieuws/Recyclingprestatie-autowrakken-onveranderd-hoog>.

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## Auckland's White Pages Opt-In Will Prevent 300 Tons Of Waste Paper Annually

According to an announcement today by the New Zealand's Minister of Environment, Amy Adams, a recently approved "opt in" of white pages telephone directories in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, will prevent the waste of more than 300 tons of paper.

In March, the government approved a trial of the opt-in program, which provides for delivery of white pages phone directories only if an Auckland resident wants it. The government said only about four percent of Auckland's 1.3 million residents opted in.

*"Given a choice, the vast majority of Aucklanders appear comfortable with finding the information they need electronically, and do not require a printed directory," said Adams. "The Auckland results suggest that giving people a choice about whether or not to receive a printed residential phone directory may be an option for other parts of New Zealand."*

Get more information at <http://beehive.govt.nz/release/consumers-move-online-phone-directory-information>.

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## Survey Finds 93 Percent of Germans Separate Their Waste For Recycling

Lightcycle, Germany's waste lamp recycling organization, recently sponsored a national telephone survey to learn more about German recycling behavior. The survey found 77 percent of participants said they always separate their waste for recycling, and another 16 percent said they usually separate their waste. Women more than men were more attentive to separation, while residents over age 50 were more attentive compared to 14-29-year olds, according to the survey.

The survey also found 76 percent of Germans say they separate waste lamps for safe recycling. Of those 51 percent would leave them at a recycling center while only 21 percent turned them at drug stores, hardware stores, and other businesses participating as collection points.

One thousand and three residents over 14 years of age participated in the survey, which was conducted in May by an independent research company.

For more information go to <http://www.lightcycle.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2013/04062013-93-prozent-der-deutschen-sind-mulltrenner.html>.

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## California Awards More Than \$26 Million For Green Transport/Energy Projects

Today, the California Energy Commission approved more than \$26 million in funding for new projects to *"boost the number of alternative fuel vehicles on the state's roadways, and expand the fueling infrastructure to keep them running."*

Among the projects receiving funding were a biofuel facility that will convert organic waste into natural gas, new compressed natural gas fueling infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging stations at grocery stores in Southern California. Twenty-seven California institutions and businesses received some of the state funding.

Get more information at [http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2013\\_releases/2013-06-12\\_awards\\_for\\_green\\_transportation\\_nr.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2013_releases/2013-06-12_awards_for_green_transportation_nr.html).

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## Wisconsin DNR Announces Recycling Grants Availability for FY2014

Yesterday, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced it would begin accepting applications on July 9 for two types of recycling grants - basic recycling grants and recycling consolidation grants - for FY2014. Only municipalities, counties, solid waste management systems and other local *"responsible units"* with DNR-approved recycling programs are eligible to apply.

Both recycling grant programs help cover local residential recycling and yard waste program costs. The total amount that DNR has available for FY2014 funding was not announced. In 2013, DNR award 1,040 grants totaling nearly \$20 million.

Get more information at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Grants.html#tabx5>.

### Business Initiatives

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## Australian Packaging Covenant Offers First Design Smart Material Guide

Recently, the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) made available the first of its Design Smart Material Guides, described by APC as providing *"a 'checklist' of sustainability considerations to keep in mind when designing and/or specifying packaging based on particular materials."*

The first guide is a 18-page introduction that includes sections on the benefits of more sustainable packaging, design principles, comparative environmental impacts, environmental claims and labels, and conducting packaging assessments. Nine more guides are planned by APC.

Download a free copy of the introductory Design Smart Material Guide at [http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/data/Resources/APCO634\\_1\\_Introductory\\_Design\\_Smart\\_S9.pdf](http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/data/Resources/APCO634_1_Introductory_Design_Smart_S9.pdf).

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## Recoup Publishes Design Guide To Improve Recyclability of Plastic Packaging

Last month, Recoup, the leading United Kingdom's non-profit plastics recycling scheme, released a free 64-page guide to help plastic packaging designers create more sustainable products. The guide is titled, "*Plastic Packaging - Recyclability By Design.*"

*"Packaging should be designed to satisfy technical, consumer and customer needs in a way that minimises environmental impact,"* according to Recoup. *"This means packaging should be designed to use the minimum amount of resources to serve its core purpose, and once it has completed its job to maximise the opportunity for recyclability."*

Subjects covered in the guide include material specific guidelines for bottles, material specific guidelines for other plastic packaging, bioplastics, recycling of plastic packaging, a detailed explanation of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC), a glossary and other information.

Download a copy of the plastic design guide at [http://www.recoup.org/design/docs/22RBD\\_Low\\_Res.pdf](http://www.recoup.org/design/docs/22RBD_Low_Res.pdf).

### The Green Perspective

## EEB Releases Guidance On Establishing New Green Public Procurement Policies

Today the European Environmental Bureau, a coalition of more than a hundred environmental organizations across Europe, released a 21-page document titled, "*Guidance To Foster Green Public Procurement.*" The document offers advice for consumers and environmental activists that want their local and/or national governments to implement green government procurement programs. It also offers tips on "*where to start and how to do it.*"

The report notes that the various levels of European governments spend a combined two trillion EUR annually on goods and services, accounting for about 19 percent of the European Union's gross national products. But a number of deterrents exist to more widespread adoption of green public procurement. They include lack of expertise, higher costs for some greener products, the time and resources required to implement new government policies, and, in some instances, legal barriers.

The guidance discusses how to research possible public procurement policies and setting green procurement targets, and presenting arguments to implement policies to government officials, using the media to draw attention to the issue and following up with government officials once policies are drafted.

Download a copy of the guidance at <http://www.eeb.org/EEB/?LinkServID=7073853F-5056-B741-DB185D44F5C2CB4E&showMeta=0>.

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