

***The Bulletin* - 12 September 2012**

A quick scan of some recent waste, recycling and environmental developments from around the globe...

Regulatory Issues

Norwegian Agency Orders Lead-Containing Toys Ordered Removed From Stores

On Monday, the Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF) announced it has ordered stores to stop selling a particular type of crab-shaped toy because the toy contains lead. The toy is made in Sweden by JaBaDaBaDo AB.

According to KLIF, approximately 1,800 copies of the crab-shaped toy have been sold in Norway, and a recall has been initiated. Consumers may return the toys to stores where they were purchased or drop them off at hazardous waste collection centers. KLIF asked consumers not to discard the toxic toys in the trash.

KLIF has also begun investigating records of the importing stores, which could be fined up to 25,000 kroner if they failed to follow Norwegian product registration regulations.

The KLIF announcement can be found at <http://www.klif.no/no/Aktuelt/Nyheter/2012/September-2012/Ma-trekke-tilbake-ulovlig-leketoy/>.

Brazil Opens Consultation On Chemical Limits In Cellulosic Food Packaging

Last week, the Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), which is similar in function to the US Food and Drug Administration, opened Public Consultation 51 to update standards for paper and other cellulosic materials that come into contact with food as packaging.

The standards cover testing methods and maximum allowable concentrations of metals and minerals, bisphenol A, formaldehyde, phthalates resins, bleaches and other a range of chemicals that could leach from cellulosic packaging into food.

The public consultation closes on November 3.

The ANVISA public consultation document can be downloaded at <http://portal.anvisa.gov.br/wps/content/anvisa+portal/anvisa/consultas+publicas/em+aberto/2012090551>.

USDA To Conduct Free Seminar On Federal Government's BioPreferred Program

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced it will be conducting a free online seminar to discuss requirements and market opportunities around the government's BioPreferred biobased products program. The one-hour seminar is scheduled for September 27 and is open to anyone.

Among the topics to be covered are an overview of the program and how it integrates into federal procurement requirements and preferences, biobased product growth opportunities and federal resources available to develop US biobased products.

Get more information on the seminar at <http://seminar.us.com/course/seminar.php?orgCode=USDABIO&courseID=201202>.

US National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Planned For September 28

The US Drug Enforcement Agency recently announced that its fifth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will be held on September 28 at police stations, community centers, churches and other locations across the country. All collection events will be administered by local law enforcement agencies.

The Isdy National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, which was conducted on April 28, collected a record 276 tons of waste medications. Approximately, 1.5 million tons of waste medications have been collected since the program began.

Get more information at http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

Statistics & Trends

WRAP Publishes Guidance On Developing Small Scale Energy-From-Waste Projects

While reducing waste generation, reusing products and materials and recycling are the preferred landfill diversion practices, "*recovering energy from unavoidable residual waste may be preferable to landfill*," according to the United Kingdom's Waste Resources

Action Programme (WRAP). To assist businesses in developing small scale energy from waste (EfW) projects WRAP has produced a free 71-page guidance document.

Among the subjects addressed in the guidance are EfW project funding sources, conducting a feasibility analysis, planning, environmental permitting regulations, feedstock (recycling residuals, wood/bio waste, and other combustible solids) energy output and renewable energy generation financial incentives.

Download the guidance at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/node/10693>.

Swedish Energy Agency Offers Energy-Efficient Lighting Smart Phone App

In the European Union, the phaseout of incandescent bulbs concluded on September 1, leaving some Europeans confused about which lighting products to use as incandescent bulb replacements.

Today the Swedish Energy Agency announced the availability of a free smartphone app (Lampguiden) to help consumers select the most cost effective energy-efficient lighting. Consumers can use the app while in stores to evaluate a potential lighting purchase. The app includes advice on finding the right incandescent bulb alternatives, a watt-to-lumen conversion table, and information on how and where to recycle mercury-containing lamps and other newer technology lighting products.

Apple and Android versions of the app are available.

Get more information on the Swedish Energy Agency's new app at <http://www.energimyndigheten.se/sv/Press/Pressmeddelanden/Ny-app-Lampguiden-gor-lampvalet-enklare/>.

Slovak Republic Exceeds 2011 E-Waste Collection Target

Late last month, the Ministry of Environment for the Slovak Republic reported that e-waste collections in 2011 totaled 23,140 tons, an eight percent increase from 2010 and in excess of the 2010 target by 6.5 percent.

Get more information at <http://www.minzp.sk/oblasti/odpady-obaly/>.

First Welsh Town Reaches 75 Percent Waste Diversion Rate

Wales hopes to become a zero waste to landfill nation by 2050, but the country currently disposes of almost half its municipal waste. Therefore, when the town of Presteigne recycled 75 percent of its waste during the second quarter of this year, the government highlighted the accomplishment.

"Over the past two years the community of Presteigne and Norton has pioneered waste reduction and increased recycling that has set [Wales] on course to achieve Zero Waste," said Environmental Minister John Griffiths yesterday. *"I am hugely encouraged by what I've seen here and I believe that by embedding the principles of Zero Waste in communities across Wales we can promote social change and the achievement of wider sustainable development outcomes."*

Nearly all homes in Preseigne have curbside recycling that includes separate collection of food and organic waste.

The Welsh Government announcement can be found at <http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2012/6605121/?lang=en>.

Business Initiatives

European Bioplastics Publishes Industry Guide To Combat "Greenwashing"

On Monday, European Bioplastics, an industry association with more than 80 member companies, published a free 30-page environmental guide to help reduce *"false or misleading communication of environmental product properties."*

In addition to reviewing ISO compliant guidelines for environmental communication, the guide *"provides recommendations regarding relevant claims for bioplastics such as biobased, biodegradable, compostable or CO2 neutral."*

To compliment the guide, European Bioplastics announced it would also be holding a workshop on environmental communication in Berlin on November 5.

Download a copy of the free guide at <http://en.european-bioplastics.org/registration/?ee=1>.

US Cleaning Products Industry Releases Chemical Ingredients Inventory

Last week, the American Cleaning Institute (ACI) released an inventory of more than 900 ingredients used in laundry, dish cleaning and surface cleaning products. The list was created for "regulators, researchers, and cleaning product industry formulators and suppliers, looking for a comprehensive list of the ingredients used in consumer cleaning products," according to ACI.

The release of the ingredients list was described as a first step in ACI's voluntary Cleaning Product Ingredient Safety Initiative. A second step, identification of publicly available hazard data, is expected to be completed next year.

Among ACI's more than 100 member companies are Clorox, Dow, DuPont, Proctor & Gamble, SC Johnson and Unilever.

The ACI ingredient inventory is posted at www.ACIsience.org.

Alcoa Takes Control Of Largest Aluminum Can Recycling Company

Last week, Alcoa took full ownership of Evermore Recycling LLC, which Alcoa describes as "*the world leader in beverage can recycling*." Previously, Novelis and Alcoa were joint owners of Evermore.

The US aluminum industry has set a goal to recycle 75 percent of aluminum beverage containers by 2015. The current recycling rate is 58 percent, so Evermore will likely play a critical role in advancing the industry toward its target.

The Alcoa announcement is posted at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20120831005703en&newsYear=2012.

The Green Perspective

PEER Petitions US Government For Warnings On Artificial Turf Made From Waste Tires

Last week, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) petitioned the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue heat guidelines on artificial turf made from shredded waste tires, plastic and other synthetic materials. However, the petition also raised questions about toxic chemicals PEER says can be released from artificial turf at elevated temperatures.

"As fields heat, noxious materials can be absorbed in gases that can become 10 to 20 times more toxic than the materials themselves," PEER claimed in a news statement. PEER referenced "carbon black, lead, mercury and an array of other toxins."

PEER also said, "Shredded tires, the main components of these fields, contain tire ingredients, such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, mercury and a number of dangerous hydrocarbons with potential toxicity especially in direct contact with children."

The PEER announcement is posted at

http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1627&title=ARTIFICIAL%20TURF%20FIELD%20HEAT%20DANGERS%20REQUIRE%20SAFEGUARDS

The **Bulletin** provides weekly news briefs on important and unusual developments in recycling, producer responsibility, resource recovery, waste management, ecolabeling, green public procurement, chemicals and materials management and related environmental regulations, trends and initiatives around the world. Please forward this page to any colleagues that may be interested in the subject area.

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