



## Former California Hazardous Waste Transporter Receives Jail Time and Fines

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced the successful prosecution of a former hazardous waste transporter, Roy Paul Gressly, for six felony violations of the Hazardous Waste Control Act. Gressly was sentenced to 120 days in jail and three years probation, and to pay \$228,000 in restitution to former customers and landlords and a \$7,500 fine.

According to the DTSC announcement, Gressly stockpiled hazardous waste "at three unauthorized locations in the Los Angeles area and abandoned some of the waste at two of those locations. A spill from a leaking tanker truck prompted the investigation that discovered the violations."

The California DTSC announcement is posted at [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News\\_Release\\_T-01-141.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News_Release_T-01-141.pdf).

### Statistics & Trends

## Israeli MoEP to Provide Another NIS 160 million to Establish Local Recycling Efforts

Yesterday, Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) announced it would provide 160 million shekels to 23 local governments to help them establish source separation and recycling programs. To date, the MoEP has provided more than NIS 1 billion in funding to dozens of other local governments to establish programs and to build a national recycling infrastructure.

According to MoEP, once the new 23 municipalities have programs operating, about 2.5 million Israelis will be separating their waste into two streams - wet (largely food waste) and dry (recyclable materials such as metal, plastic, glass and paper). The MoEP is also closing open air dumps across the country in an effort to modernize its waste management.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection announcement can be reviewed at <http://www.sviva.gov.il/InfoServices/NewsAndEvents/MessageDoverAndNews/Pages/2014/January2014/160MillionsReecycling.aspx>.

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## Call2Recycle Waste Battery Collections Up 11% in 2013

Last week, Call2Recycle, a large battery product stewardship program spanning the US and Canada, announced waste battery collections in North America increased by 11% in 2013 from a year earlier. More than 11 million pounds of waste batteries were collected in 2013.

The organization also said 2013 was the 17th consecutive year of increased collection. Today, according to Call2Recycle, "89 percent of people in the U.S. and Canada reside within a 10-mile (15-kilometer) radius of a Call2Recycle drop-off site."

The Call2Recycle announcement is posted at <http://www.call2recycle.org/battery-recycling-program-celebrates-17-consecutive-years-of-increased-collections/>.

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## Household Organic Waste Collections Up 5.3% in Ontario

On January 10, Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) released the latest (2012) organic waste collection data for the province. According to the 122 municipalities operating organic waste collection programs, the amount of waste collected increased 5.3% from a year earlier. In 2012, 927,351 tons of household organic waste was collected.

Of the 2012 organic waste stream, 46.3% was food waste and the remainder was various types of yard waste and leaves.

WDO said that since 2007, household organic waste collection in the province has increased 39%.

Get more information at  
[http://www.wdo.ca/files/1613/8938/1912/2012\\_Organics.pdf](http://www.wdo.ca/files/1613/8938/1912/2012_Organics.pdf)

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## Industry Association Survey Finds Most Americans "Interested" in Composting Organic Waste

According to survey results released last week by the National Waste & Recycling Association (NSWMA), 67 percent of Americans that currently do not compost their food waste "*would be willing to if it were more convenient to do so in their community.*" Most Americans - 72% - Americans do not compost their food waste.

Of non-composting Americans, 68% would be "*willing to manage another bin to separate food waste from recyclables and other trash if their community implemented a program requiring them to do so.*"

"*While America's waste and recycling industry has developed innovative composting technologies, there are hurdles inhibiting such changes,*" said NSWMA President and CEO Sharon H. Kneiss. "*Challenges include the collection and transportation of food waste and the siting of food waste composting facilities more broadly. But a far greater hurdle inhibiting an organics revolution may involve a lack of understanding by the American public about the value of such a change.*"

The survey of 2,000 Americans was conducted online for the NSWMA by Harris Interactive.

The NSWMA announcement can be reviewed at  
<http://www.environmentalistseveryday.org/news-solid-waste-industry/press-releases-2013/Association-survey-finds-most-Americans-would-compost-if-it-was-convenient-20140108.php>.

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## Phthalate Approved by ECHA as First Ever Authorization under REACH

Last week, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) announced a small milestone in the REACH process - it approved the first authorization (approved restricted use) of a substance of very high concern (SVHC) on its Authorization List. The authorization application from Rolls-Royce plc was to use DEHP (Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate) in making aircraft engines.

DEHP is one of only 22 substances currently on the Authorization list, which contains three other phthalates - BBP, DBP and DIBP.

In its announcement, ECHA said that only eight applications for authorization were received in 2013. For 2014, it said it "*expects approximately twice that number of applications, in particular for chromium-containing substances and the solvent trichloroethylene.*"

The ECHA announcement is posted at [http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/authorisation-to-use-a-substance-of-very-high-concern-first-opinions-adopted](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/authorisation-to-use-a-substance-of-very-high-concern-first-opinions-adopted).

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## San Diego Mayor Urges Residents to Voluntarily Switch to Reusable Carryout Bags

While the San Diego City Council works on a bill to ban single-use plastic bags (draft legislation has been approved by the Council's Rules and Economic Development Committee), Interim Mayor Todd Gloria launched the "Bring Your Own Bag San Diego" campaign yesterday.

The announcement states that the city is "*looking to local businesses and organizations to join in sponsoring or partnering with the campaign such as SeaWorld-San Diego has done, committing 25,000 reusable bags to the outreach program.*"

Two other major California cities - San Francisco and Los Angeles - have enacted plastic bag ordinances as have dozens of counties and smaller municipalities. The San Diego City Council expects to have final legislation to vote on later this year.

The San Diego government announcement is posted at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/pdf/geninfo/news/2014/2014YOB-FS.pdf>.

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## Germany Federal Environment Agency Launches 2014 Eco-Design Contest

On January 13, Umweltbundesamt (the German Federal Environment Agency) in coordination with BMUB (the German Ministry of Environment) launched the 2014 Federal EcoDesign Contest. The event is open to all companies and designers and includes four categories: products, services, concepts and youth (dedicated to entries from students and recent graduates).

The deadline for submitting entries, which can be done online, is April 14.

Get more information at <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/presse/presseinformationen/kreative-ideen-fuer-oekologisches-design-gesucht>.

## American Chemistry Council Forms Plastics-to-Oil Technologies Alliance

Yesterday, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) announced the formation of a new group - the Plastics-to-Oil Technologies Alliance - dedicated to *"to enhance public policy in support of technologies that convert non-recycled plastics into petroleum based products."*

According to the ACC announcement, *"Plastics-to-oil technologies are a promising solution for repurposing used plastics that would otherwise end up in a landfill,"* said Jon Angin, a vice president with Agilyx Corporation, one of the alliance's three founding companies.

Get more information at

<http://www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/ACCs-Plastics-Division-Forms-New-Plastics-to-Oil-Technologies-Alliance.html>.

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## Swedish Waste Industry Report Discusses Role of Waste Incineration

While many recycling industry groups believe less waste material should be used for energy recovery, the industry group Waste Sweden (Avfall Sverige) outlines arguments supporting waste incineration in a 16-page report released last Friday.

According to Waste Sweden Report E2013:08, incineration, in addition to generating electricity, helps improve recycling by disposing of *"contaminated material and confidential material"* and residue from recycling processes and making landfill bans practical. And until a high degree of waste sorting becomes the norm, energy-recovery remains preferable to disposal.

Download the Waste Sweden incineration report at

<http://www.avfallsverige.se/fileadmin/uploads/Rapporter/F%C3%B6rbr%C3%A4nning/E2013-08.pdf>.

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## "Optimized Bottle Bill" Outlined in Glass Packaging Institute Study

As US state legislatures are reconvening to approve new environmental laws, the US-based Glass Packaging Institute announced findings of a study by the consulting firm Resource Recycling Systems that discusses the features of an *"optimized bottle bill"* or OBB. Among the findings, *"OBB systems result in increased recovery of materials: OBBs are estimated to increase statewide recovery by at least 11% over a comprehensive single stream system and recovery of bottle bill materials by 162%."*

Among the features of an OBB are a network of convenient container redemption depots to supplement curbside recycling, a provision to compensate curbside collection programs and/or material recovery facilities to keep them cost neutral and retention of the unclaimed deposits to support system financial stability.

Get more information at

<http://www.gpi.org/news-events/new-study-identifies-optimized-recycling-and-recovery-model-beverage-containers>.

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## British Plastics Industry Argues in Parliament against Biodegradable Plastic Bags

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) said on Friday, that a representative from its Recycling Group testified against the reported environmental benefits of biodegradable plastic bags during a hearing before the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee. The Committee is considering whether to exempt biodegradable plastic bags from an upcoming fee on single-use carrier bags.

According to the BPF announcement, Jessica Baker, who is the Managing Director of Chase Plastics, *"told MPs that biodegradable bags which will degrade very quickly under specific circumstances will then not be reprocessible and that reprocessing jobs will be at grave risk in the sector."*

Instead of a fee exemption for biodegradable plastic bags, Baker argued for a fee exemption for plastic bags with a high plastic recycled content.

The BRF announcement is posted at

<http://www.bpf.co.uk/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleUid=57192E60-1B64-41EA-8FE3-7246AB8E8D56>.

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## Brazilian Supermarket Chain Triples Size of Its In-Store Recycling Network

Carrefour Brazil, the French-based supermarket chain, recently announced it is partnering with Mondelez Brasil, a global producer of snack and other foods, to expand its in-store recycling network from 44 to 128 locations. The 44 existing locations will be "renovated" with a new look and extend the network into 13 Brazilian states.

The recycling stations will collect not only recyclable food packaging, but all types of packaging, batteries and used cooking oil. The stations will be up in time for the 2014 World Cup, which is being hosted by Brazil and presents an environmental public relations opportunity.

Get more information at

<http://www.carrefour.com.br/>.

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