

Among other requirements in the bill is a provision for the Commissioner of Sanitation to conduct a study on improving community composting and present the findings to the city council.

Download a copy of Int 1107-2013 at

<http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1450676&GUID=7743FA15-9A38-4854-8877-31C725522D90&Options=ID|Text|&Search=Int+1107-2013>.

Portland City Council Delays Polystyrene Foam Packaging Ordinance Passage

On Monday, the Portland City Council delayed approval of Order 37-13/14, a draft ordinance to ban the use of polystyrene foam packaging for carryout food. The delay came after local businesses raised concern about the possible economic effects of the proposed ordinance.

The bill was tentatively approved by the city council during a first reading on August 5 and was scheduled for a second and final reading on September 9. However, the second reading was delayed a week, and on Monday the draft ordinance was voted to be sent back to the Transportation, Sustainability and Environment Committee for revision.

Last year, Portland Public Schools eliminated the use of disposable polystyrene foam food trays in its cafeterias prompting some city council members to support a packaging ban.

More information is available at <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/ccminutes/fy14/09-16-2013minutes.pdf>.

Statistics & Trends

Swedish Biogas Production Up 8 Percent From A Year Earlier

Today, the Swedish Energy Agency released a 24-page report on national biogas production that shows production in 2012 increased to 1,589 GWh, a nearly eight percent increase from 2011. The biogas output was enough to heat 90,000 homes for a year.

Wastewater treatment and food waste digestors were the largest biogas producers by category. Biogas from farm biodigestion is a small but fast growing contributor to Sweden's biogas generation portfolio, according to the report. The country has 242 biogas production facilities of one type or another.

Download the Swedish biogas production report at

<http://www.energimyndigheten.se/Global/Produktion%20och%20anv%C3%A4ndning%20av%20biogas%202012.pdf>.

Catalan Waste Agency Launches Battery Recycling Public Information Campaign

According to the Catalan Waste Agency, only 32 percent of residents in the Catalan region (of Spain) are aware they can return waste batteries and accumulators to the retailers from which the

batteries were purchased. The agency also said 82 percent of residents do not know what happens to waste batteries and accumulators after they have been collected.

To bridge this information gap, the agency launched a public information campaign earlier this month to better educate consumers about battery recycling. The campaign slogan is "*When batteries run out, separate them.*"

The 2012 battery recycling rate for the Catalan region was 32.42 percent, which was above the current 25 percent national target. However, the national target increases to 45 percent in 2015, and the agency wants to better engage the public in recycling activities.

Get more information at

<http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/arc/menuitem.ed59e7380cafa3dd624a1d25b0c0e1a0/?vgnnextoid=2045dfbcc9025210VgnVCM1000000b0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=2045dfbcc9025210VgnVCM1000000b0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=detall&contentid=1875e025ae2e0410VgnVCM2000009b0c1e0aRCRD>.

Netherlands Compliance Scheme Expands Waste Lamp Collection Using Supermarkets

The Dutch WEEE compliance scheme Wecycle announced on Monday it has expanded its waste lamp collection network by adding 200 new drop off containers at supermarkets across the country. Wecycle said research it funded indicated that more consumers would return waste lamps if a more convenient collection system existed.

Wecycle estimates that about 35 million kilograms of e-waste - primarily waste lamps and small electronics - is disposed in the Netherlands as trash each year.

With the additional supermarkets adding lamp collection, Wecycle said its WEEE collection network now includes more than 6,000 stores across the country.

The Wecycle announcement is posted at <http://www.wecycle.nl/nieuws/200-nieuwe-inleverpunten-voor-spaarlampen-bij-supermarkten.html>

South African Ministry Announces Youth Environmental Service Program

Today, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa announced the launch of a program that will train young people for jobs in waste management, biodiversity management, environmental education and related areas.

The official launch of the Youth Environmental Service (YES) Programme is Friday. The Ministry says 100 youth from each of South Africa's nine provinces will be accepted into the national training program, which follows three years of pilot programs from 2008 to 2011.

For more information go to

https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/mabudafhasi_yesprogramme.

Walmart Announces New Green Chemistry Policy For Its Suppliers

During Walmart's Global Sustainability Milestone Meeting last week, company executives said Walmart will begin labeling its private brand products using the Design for the Environment (DfE) scheme created by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The policy will begin next January.

Walmart executives also said that a year later the company will require its suppliers to provide to the public online lists of the chemicals used in their products. Walmart also has prepared *"prioritized a list of approximately ten chemical ingredients, as its initial list of high priority chemicals, for continuous reduction, restriction, and elimination, using informed substitution principles, and will regularly review if additional chemicals should be prioritized."* However, Walmart has yet to release the list.

Walmart identified *"household cleaners, personal care, beauty and cosmetics categories"* as examples of the types of products wants that should use environmentally safe ingredients.

Get more information at <http://news.walmart.com/news-archive/2013/09/12/walmart-highlights-progress-on-the-sustainability-index>.

European Aluminum Association Calls For Improving Packaging EPR

Last Friday, the European Aluminum Association released a statement that said packaging EPR regulations must be more effective and consistent at the EU and national levels.

"Efficient collection and sorting systems are essential steps in the fight for higher recycling ambitions," said the EAA. *"The aluminium industry encourages policy makers and all actors to implement best practices and consistent approaches throughout Europe."*

The EAA called for EPR packaging full coverage of geography, population and packaging materials with no cherry picking of materials; transparent and accurate data harmonized across Europe, minimum performance criteria related to high quality collection, sorting and recovery; and improved *"on the go"* consumer recycling programs.

Get more information at <http://www.alueurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/EAA-Press-Release-Waste-legislation-20130910.pdf>.

Environmental Services Association Says Product Eco-Design Key To Increased Recycling Rates

Last week, the Environment Services Association (ESA), a UK waste industry association, issued a statement relating to new EU recycling targets proposed in a European Commission consultation. The ESA expressed doubt that some EU Member States will be able to meet the targets based on their current performance, and that the UK and other Member States should be

allowed to set their own more achievable targets. In the UK, ESA said a 70 percent or higher recycling rate is possible with the proper government policies and financial incentives.

However, the ESA also said, "*Where the EU does have a vital role is in regulation to tackle issues which can only be addressed at an EU-wide level because of the Single market. The most important of these is eco-design for recyclability where we look to the EU to take firm action.*"

The ESA position statement is posted at

http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/press_releases/130910_ESA_React_to_EU_Waste_Targets_Consultation.pdf.

US Industry Associations Highlight Innovative CRT Waste Processing Solution

Last week, the US Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries and InnoCentive announced the winning technology solution submitted in their second annual "CRT Challenge". The winning entry proposed using recycled CRT glass for the vitrification of nuclear waste whereby the glass and nuclear waste are melted together and when cool form a more manageable radioactive material.

Each year the three organizations sponsor the CRT Challenge "*with the goals of raising awareness, helping to create market demand for used CRT glass, and encouraging government consideration of these approaches.*" The winner receives a \$10,000 cash prize. More than one hundred entries were received this year.

The CRT Challenge announcement is posted at

http://www.isri.org/ISRI/Whats_New/2012/Consumer_Electronics_and_Recycling_Industries_Announce_the_Winners_of_the_Second_Recycling_CRT_Glass.aspx.

The Green Perspective

New Global Initiative To Fight Pollution Launched In Australia

The Global Contamination Research Initiative (GCRI) was launched yesterday at a conference in Melbourne.

"*Clearly this is an issue demanding immediate and worldwide research - but the current effort is fragmented across different countries, industries and disciplines,*" said Ravi Naidu, a GCRI Coordinator at Professor at the University of South Australia. "*The idea behind GCRI is to help bring focus to a global effort to clean up our world.*"

According to the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment, which is hosting the GCRI, the Initiative will aggregate existing knowledge and conduct research, train experts, develop new pollution assessment and clean-up technologies and advise governments and industry.

Get more information at <http://www.crccare.com/news/australia-leads-bid-to-clean-up-the-world>.

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