

the use of the toxics in packaging. At the time, the Commission agreed with industry officials wanting more time to migrate to new products that would be heavy metal-free.

The public consultation closes on May 31.

Access the KLIF consultation at <http://www.klif.no/no/Aktuelt/Horinger-og-kunngjoringer/2013/2011-1082/>.

Statistics & Trends

PVC Recycling Up In Europe In 2012

On Monday, VinylPlus, essentially a trade organization, announced 362,076 tons of PVC was recycled last year in Europe, a new record. European PVC producers have set a goal to recycle 800,000 tons of PVC by 2020.

VinylPlus also said that use of lead compound stabilizers in 2012 declined by 76.37percent, compared to 2007 levels. The industry's goal is to eliminate lead compound stabilizers by 2015.

A 2013 progress report on the current ten-year plan (2010-2020) was also published last week and is available for download.

The VinylPlus announcement is posted at <http://www.vinylplus.eu/mediaroom/101/52/Over-360-000-tonnes-of-PVC-recycled-in-Europe-in-2012-new-record-for-VinylPlus>.

Bulgaria Recycled 165,000 Tons Of Packaging In 2012

Yesterday, the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water reported that 165,000 tons of packaging were recycled in 2012, based on data provided by the country's packaging compliance schemes.

The 2012 recycling target set by Bulgaria's Ordinance on Packaging and Packaging Waste, which was enacted last year, is 52 percent. The Ministry said the targeted was exceeded at 55.85 percent. The targets for 2013 and 2014 are 54.9 percent, and 55 percent, respectively.

The Ministry of Environment and Water announcement is posted at <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=news&nid=1998>.

Austin, Texas Reports Modest Increase In Recycling In 2012

Last month, the Austin, Texas Department of Resource Recovery released its 2012 annual report. Recycling increased to 53,943 tons in 2012 from 52,401 tons a year earlier. The landfill diversion rate increased nominally in 2012 to 38.46 percent from 38.10 percent a year earlier.

While the amount of trash collected also increased to 128,714 tons in 2012 from 127,137 tons in 2011, the city added nearly 2,000 more households in 2012, increasing the potential for waste generation.

Two years ago, Austin became the first Texas city to adopt a zero waste plan. The 30-year plan calls for diverting at least 90 percent of discarded materials from landfills by 2040.

The Austin Resource Recovery's 2012 annual report is available at http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Trash_and_Recycling/AnnualReport2012_FINAL_web.pdf

Indiana DEM To Provide \$500,000 Grants For Recyclable Materials Market Development

Recently, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) announced it would be providing \$500,000 in matching grants to purchase equipment to "*remanufacture recyclable materials into finished products or industrial feedstocks.*" The 50 percent matching grants are available only to Indiana companies, and requests by individual companies must be between \$25,000 and \$200,000.

In 2011, grants totaling \$500,000 were made to seven businesses. Funding for the grants comes from the 50-cent/ton Indiana solid waste management fee placed on landfilled and incinerated solid waste.

The deadline to submit a grant request is June 3.

Get more information at <http://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/2358.htm>

R2 Solutions To Begin Charging Fees For E-Waste Recycling Certifications

Yesterday, R2 Solutions, the nonprofit organization that manages one of the two leading certification schemes for electronics recyclers, said it will begin charging a \$1,500 fee "*per facility each year at the time the facility is certified or has its surveillance audit.*" The fee will likely take effect on July 1 of this year.

The April issue of *R2 Update*, the organization's e-newsletter said that "*there is no way around the fact that for the R2 Standard to exist and thrive, a fee paid to R2 Solutions is necessary.*" The new fee is needed in part to cover costs of "*marketing, quality assurance, international growth, etc.*" according to the newsletter. The announcement follows an April 29 meeting of the organizations' board of directors.

The other leading certification schemes for electronics recyclers is the e-Steward program founded by the Basel Action Network (BAN), another nonprofit organization. BAN charges e-Stewards a marketing and licensing fee, which varies with the recycler's annual gross revenue. e-Steward recyclers must also pay additional fee to the independent certification body they select to use.

The April R2 Update can be reviewed at <http://www.r2solutions.org/news/r2-update-newsletter/>.

Professional Organization For Women In Sustainability Launched In Brazil

The first meeting of the Brazilian Women Leaders Network for Sustainability was held in Brasilia on Monday, according to an announcement by the Brazilian Ministry of Environment. The organization was conceptualized in 2011 by the Ministry of Environment, which is headed by a woman - Izabella Teixeira

About 120 women attended the launch event, in which a number of sustainability working groups were formed. Teixeira said that the organization will focus initially on changing consumer behavior. The country, which passed a National Policy on Solid Waste in 2010, is transitioning from landfilling its waste to waste minimization and recycling.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/9289-mulheres-em-prol-da-sustentabilidade>.

Business Initiatives

European Plastics Recyclers Announce Upcoming Plastic Packaging Recyclability Design Scheme

Last Thursday, the EU plastics recycling trade organization EuPC said a scheme called RecyClass™ would soon be available to *"assist designers in evaluating their creations from a recyclability point of view, in the addition it will help them in choosing the best options to improve their class."*

EuPC said the scheme would *"offer an easy method to determine the recyclability class of any plastic package, based on a scale from A to G (seven classes comparable to EU energy efficiency classes)." It will be unveiled in May 2014 at the Interpack in Duesseldorf.*

Get more information at <http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/news/today-plastic-packaging-design-threatens-new-eu-recycling-targets>.

CEA Says US "Responsible Recycling" Of Electronics Increased 27 Percent Last Year

According to the second annual report by the US Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) on the organization's eCycling Leadership Initiative, 585 million pounds of electronics were *"responsibly recycled"* (through third party certified recyclers) in 2012 by initiative participants, a 27 percent increase over 2011.

CEA says the goal of the Initiative, which is in its second year, is *"to make recycling electronics as easy as purchasing electronics - and to make responsible recycling of electronics an option for consumers in all 50 states."*

Among other highlights, the report notes that the initiative now features more than 8,000 locations for consumers to drop off e-waste and that *"99 percent of the recycling handled by eCycling Leadership Initiative participants was conducted in third-party certified recycling facilities."*

Download the eCycling Leadership Initiative report at <http://www.ce.org/CorporateSite/media/Government-Media/Green/eCycling-Leadership-Initiative-Year-Two-Report.pdf>.

EU WEEE Compliance Schemes Form New Standards Organization

Last week, 26 WEEE compliance schemes formed an not-for-profit organization named WEEELABEX. The organization was created to implement WEEELABEX standards developed in 2011, particularly in training on the standards, according to the WEEE Forum.

"The recast Directive requires the European Commission to request that standardisation organisations develop criteria for the treatment - including recovery, recycling, and preparing for re-use - of WEEE and that those standards should reflect the state of the industry, said Jaroslav Vladik, Chairman of the Executive WEEELABEX Governing Council. "We believe that WEEELABEX is the perfect response to this requirement."

Get more information at <http://www.weee-forum.org/news/launch-of-the-weeelabex-organisation>.

National Waste Association Conditionally Supports UK Government's Proposed MRF Standards

On Friday, the UK Environmental Services Association responded to a public consultation launched by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to establish standards (a code of practice) for material recovery facilities (MRFs).

While generally supportive of the Defra proposal, ESA said several adjustments were needed. First, the UK Environment Agency should be given enforcement responsibilities to better assure compliance. Second, "more robust" sampling of materials was to make the data more accurate should be required. Finally, sampling results should be made available to materials reprocessors, purchasers of MRF output

Approval of the proposal by the ESA, a trade industry group, is important because ESA represents about 85 percent of waste sector companies in the UK.

The ESA comments are available for review at http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/press_releases/130426_ESA_Responds_to_consultation_on_MRF_Code_of_Practice.pdf.

The Green Perspective

Deutschen Umwelthilfe Claims Victory In Court Battle Over Can Producer's Environmental Claim

German environmental group Deutschen Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH) claimed victory last week in a case it brought in Dusseldorf Regional Court against a leading beverage can producer, Ball Europe. The court challenge focused on Ball Europe's claim that beverage cans are "green," according to DUH.

While acknowledging that beverage cans are recyclable, DUH counter argued that refillable bottles are much greener because they simply are sanitized before reuse. Recycling is more energy intensive, which is why recycling is lower than reuse on the five-step waste hierarchy.

"Once again industry attempted to deceive the consumer can industry, has failed and lost their last bit of credibility," said DUH Director Jurgen Resch. "The environmental impact of beverage cans is significantly higher than that of eco-friendly reusable bottles - despite high response rates through the one-way deposit system. The consumer is well advised to draw conclusions from this gratifying clear judgment of the District Court of Dusseldorf and avoid drinks in aluminum and steel cans."

The DUH announcement is posted at

[http://www.duh.de/pressemitteilung.html?&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=3090&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=84](http://www.duh.de/pressemitteilung.html?&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=3090&tx_ttnews[backPid]=84).

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