

French Ministry of Ecology Sends Warning Letters Regarding Tire Stewardship Law Obligations

Aliapur, the French tire stewardship scheme, said yesterday that the French Ministry of Ecology, Durable Development and Energy has sent warning letters to vehicle tire manufacturers and importers warning them to fulfill their stewardship obligations under Ordinance 2010-1759. Manufacturers and importers are required to pay a 1.35 euro eco-fee on each tire brought to the French market.

According to Aliapur and the Ministry, each year 20,000 and 30,000 tons of scrap tires must be processed for which producers have not contributed eco-fees. The situation has placed a financial strain on the stewardship program, so the Ministry has sent warning letters to manufactures and importers. Such "free riders" could be fined up to 7,500 euro for each tire marketed without an eco-fee payment.

More information is available on the Aliapur web site at <http://www.aliapur.fr/actus/eco-contribution-le-ministere-hausse-le-ton>.

MassDEP Opens Public Comment Period On Draft Incinerator Material Separation Plans

Earlier this month, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) opened a public comment period on draft material separation plans for five municipal waste incinerators operating in the state. Two of the incinerators are operated by Covanta and the other three by Wheelabrator. The draft MSPs were submitted to MassDEP by the waste incinerator operators.

According to MassDEP, a MSP "*describes how the operator of a municipal waste combustor will prevent discarded items that contain mercury from entering the facility.*"

The public comment period closes on December 7. The MSPs cover a five-year period - January 2013 through December 2017.

More information on the MSPs can be accessed at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/solid/mspcomp.htm#facilities>.

Iowa DNR Offers Funding Help For Landfill Diversion Projects

Last Thursday, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said it is accepting applications from companies and government agencies for financial assistance under its Solid Waste Alternatives Program. Financial assistance comes in the forms of "*forgivable loans, zero interest loans, and 3 percent interest loans*" that are matched at least 25 percent by the applicant.

The funds can be applied to projects that support "reduction, recycling, reuse and education." They are typically used to purchase waste management, transport and recycling equipment; produce educational materials, forums and workshops; purchase products made with recycled content; or cover salaries directly related to implementation and operation of a covered project.

The deadline to submit applications is January 2, 2013.

Get more information at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/home/ctl/detail/mid/2822/itemid/1089>.

Statistics & Trends

US Steel Recycling Rate Increased To 92 Percent

The Steel Recycling Institute announced last week that the 2011 rate for US recycling steel rose to 92 percent - a US record. The recycling rate for steel packaging increased to 70.8 percent - another US record.

The recycling rate for steel appliances held steady at 90 percent. More than 2.9 million net tons of steel from end-of-life appliances was recycled. Steel construction beams and plates also held steady at 98 percent.

"While steel continues to be North America's most recycled material, there is still progress that can be made," said SRI Executive Director Gregory Crawford, Crawford. "Educating recycling coordinators and consumers on the inclusion of materials, especially empty steel aerosol cans, will increase the overall tonnage for the industry."

Get more information at <http://www.recycle-steel.org/>.

Catalonia Waste Agency Promotes Catalog Of GHG-Saving Products

A package of 500 sheets of A4 size recycled paper typically saves 2.4 kg in CO₂ emissions over a similar package of non-recycled paper according to a new online green products catalog produced by the Catalonia (Spain) Waste Agency (ARC).

Recycled paper is one of 635 of products featured in ARC's update Buy Recycled Network online catalog. ARC said last week that the online catalog *"has become a platform for exchanging vital for companies wishing to incorporate environmental criteria in making decisions about the design and production of goods and services."*

Access the online catalog at

<http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/arc/menuitem.ed59e7380cafa3dd624a1d25b0c0e1a0/?vgnnextoid=f0e3a2f32fab5210VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=f0e3a2f32fab5210VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=detall&contentid=2f3883882040b310VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD>.

Campaign Asks Londoners To Monitor Their Food Waste For Two Weeks

Over the past weekend, the nonprofit organization Recycle for London said it launched a "challenge" for London residents to keep a two-week long log of food they discard. The challenge began on Saturday, the first day of European Week for Waste Reduction 2012.

"We know that each year, Londoners typically throw away around 540,000 tons of food and drink that could have been safely consumed," said Andrew Richmond, Program Director for Recycle for London. "This costs the average London family around 50 pounds a month - our initiative aims to help people find simple ways to cut their food bills and avoid this waste."

The food waste log is only one activity in the Food Waste Challenge, an effort to reduce London food waste by 100,000 tons. During the second week of the waste log challenge, participants will get advice on how to reduce food waste and costs.

Get more information at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/are-you-great-london-%C2%A3ood-waste-challenge>

New Bins Boost Recycling By 42 Percent In Providence, Rhode Island

On October 1, the City of Providence, Rhode Island began distributing 65-gallon gray trash bins to households, and telling residents to use their existing 95-gallon green bins only for recyclables. Yesterday, city officials announced that since the addition of the gray trash bins the city's recycling rate increased from 15 percent to 20.6 percent - a 42 percent jump.

"I am very pleased by the progress we have seen with our recycling rate," said Mayor Angel Taveras. "The commitment of Providence's residents to recycle more will help us build a more sustainable city. It will also save us money."

According to the Providence Department of Public Works, the city recycled almost 10,000 tons of material last year, saving \$320,000 in waste management costs.

The City of Providence announcement can be found at <http://www.providenceri.com/mayor/big-green-can-improves-providences-recycling-rate>.

Business Initiatives

85 Percent Of European Beverage Cartons Were FSC Compliant In 2011, Says Industry Group

According to an Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE) report released yesterday, 85 percent of European beverage cartons produced in 2011 were "either FSC certified fibre or originated from FSC controlled wood." The total is up from 78 percent in 2010.

ACE, which represents carton producers Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc, said it was on track to meet a goal to "source 100% wood fibre that is traceable to legal and acceptable sources by 2015."

The ACE report is available at http://www.beveragecarton.eu/newsroom/34/60/Proforest-Report-2012/?cntnt01orderby=date+DESC&cntnt01limit=2&cntnt01template=display_home&cntnt01detailpage=media-hub&cntnt01origid=15.

Plastics Recyclers Europe Calls For Eco-Designing More Plastic Products

Plastics Recyclers Europe (formerly EuPR) said today it will "*introduce an eco-design for plastics products to make recycling more efficient and more accessible*" and called upon waste management agencies to "*stop landfilling of waste which could be destined for reuse and recycling.*"

The group said also expects growth in plastics recycling in the near future despite 2012 being a slow year.

Download the Plastics Recyclers Europe announcement at http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/sites/default/files/EuPR%20Press%20Release_More%20Plastics%20For%20Europe%20_22%20November%202012_0.pdf.

Two Agricultural Companies Awarded Brazil's Biodiesel Social Fuel Seal

The Brazilian Ministry of Agricultural Development (MDA) awarded its Social Fuel Seal to Cargill Agricola S.A and Bianchini Industria, Comercio e Agricultura S.A, for production of biodiesel fuel, according to an announcement last week in the Diario Oficial da Uniao (Brazil's Official Gazette).

The Social Fuel Seal is part of MDA efforts to encourage farmers to contribute to the country's production of biodiesel and ethanol and job creation in biofuels production. Producers can display the symbol for promotional purposes and benefit from tax incentives from biofuels manufacturing.

The addition of Cargill Agricola and Bianchini Industria, Comercio e Agricultura increases to 41 the number of firms awarded the seal.

Get more information at <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/arquivos/2012/11/16/duas-novas-concessoes-do-selo-combustivel-social-beneficiario-mais-de-5-mil-agricultores/view>.

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P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311
<http://www.raymond.com>