

Get more information about the expert group at <http://echa.europa.eu/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/substances-of-potential-concern/substance-specific-groups/endocrine-disruptor-expert-group>.

Philippine Senate Resolution Calls for Restricting BPA in Infant Food Containers

On January 16, 2014, Philippine Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago introduced a resolution calling for the Senate to conduct an inquiry into the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in baby bottles and sippy cups as preparation to possible restrictions. Last year, Senator Santiago introduced a bill (SB 3121) to ban the sale of baby bottles and sippy cups containing BPA, but the bill has progressed little through the legislature.

The resolution also calls on the Philippine Department of Health - Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) to "*fast track the approval of an Administrative Order pending since May 2013.*"

You can review a copy of Philippine Senate Resolution 447 at <http://www.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/18502156651.pdf>.

US FTC Settles Charges with Diaper Products Maker Over Environmental Claims

Last week, the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced that it had settled charges with Down to Earth Designs, Inc (doing business as gDiapers) over "*deceptive claims about its products' biodegradability, compostability, and other environmentally friendly attributes.*"

In its settlement announcement, the FTC alleged that "*the company made false or misleading representations in marketing gRefills and gWipes as biodegradable*" and that "*the company has not obtained independent, third-party certification of biodegradability.*" The FTC made a number of other allegations against gDiapers, including that its diapers were plastic-free as claimed.

According to the FTC, the settlement order with gDiapers "*bars gDiapers from making claims alleged in the complaint, unless they are true and not misleading, are adequately substantiated, and meet specific requirements in the FTC's recently revised Green Guides.*"

The FTC settlement announcement can be reviewed at <http://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2014/01/down-earth-designs-inc-settles-ftc-charges-its-environmental>.

Sonoma County, California Close To Approving Plastic Bag Ban

Last week, the members of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency approved a first reading of a draft ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags. The draft ordinance had been under evaluation for months, and if approved, would take effect on September 1, 2014.

Retailer establishments could make recyclable paper bags available to customers for a minimum charge of 10 cents each, itemizing the bag charges on customer receipts. They must also maintain records on the number of paper bags distributed and the fees charged for a minimum of three years.

A copy of the draft ordinance is available for review at http://www.recyclenow.org/pdf/reports/carryout_bag_ordinance_proposed.pdf.

Statistics & Trends

Swedish Energy Agency Approves 100 Million Kroner For Biogas Development Projects

Today, the Swedish Energy Agency announced it has approved 100 million kroner in funding for 12 biogas projects. Among the innovative projects are construction of a facility that converts fish and other marine harvest waste into biogas. Other biogas generation projects use more traditional feedstocks such as sludge and plant waste. Additional projects aim to improve the quality of the waste feedstock or to remove contaminants from biogas such as hydrogen sulfide.

From 2010 through 2012, SEA had provided another 233 million for biogas development, making Sweden one of the world leaders in development of the alternative energy source.

The SEA announcement is posted at <http://www.energimyndigheten.se/Press/Pressmeddelanden/100-miljoner-till-12-biogasprojekt/>.

German Aluminum Packaging Recycling Rate Reaches 89%

Last week, Deutsche Aluminium Verpackung Recycling GmbH or DVAR, the Germany aluminum packaging recycling industry group, said that in 2012 (the latest reporting year), the national recycling rate for aluminum packaging reached 89%, and 83,500 tons of empty aluminum containers were collected.

DVAR credited the high recycling rate in part to "*modern separation technologies*" and the yellow-bin curbside system in use in Germany. It also said that the CO₂ emission reduction equivalents from recycling aluminum packaging now average about 390,000 tons.

The DAVR announcement is posted at <http://www.davr.de/index.php/en/news/climate-protection-improved-through-recycling-of-aluminium-packaging-recycling-rate-is-now-at-89-per-cent>.

Ontario Beverage Carton Recycling Rate Increases to 38%

The beverage carton recycling rate in Ontario, Canada increased to 38% in 2012 (the latest reporting year), according to an announcement last week from the Carton Council of Canada. In 2011, the rate was 26%.

The recycling rate for refrigerated, gable-top cartons was 48%. However, for "*shelf stable cartons*" such as juice cartons the rate was only 16 per cent, limiting overall recycling rate increase.

The Carton Council of Canada also noted that 96% of Canadians now have access to residential beverage carton recycling.

The Carton Council of Canada announcement can be found at <http://www.recyclecartons.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Ontario-carton-recycling-rate-continues-to-increase.pdf>.

Australian Capital Territory Recycles More Than 1,500 Tons Of E-Waste

Last week, the Government of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) reported that 1,539 tonnes of televisions and computers were turned in at recycling centers in 2013, ACT's first reporting year.

"The ACT was the first jurisdiction to implement the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme on 15 May 2012 and it is pleasing to see the community continues to embrace the opportunity to appropriately dispose of unwanted e-waste for free," said ACT's Minister for Territory and Municipal Services Shane Rattenbury.

Rattenbury also said that the territory has had *"a significant drop in illegal dumping of televisions and computers since the scheme commenced."*

Under the Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011, manufacturers and importers of covered devices are required to fund and implement recycling services for their end-of-life-devices.

For more information, go to http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/rattenbury/2014/1,500-tonnes-of-tvs-and-computers-recycled-in-2013.

Hong Kong Glass Bottle Recycling Network Expands To Cover A Quarter Of All Residents

Last year, the Government of Hong Kong launched a major push to divert glass bottles from landfills. The effort involves the restaurant and hospitality industries, beverage producers and consumers.

On January 19, 2014, the Government reported that glass bottle collection points had been set up at 321 residential sites, providing coverage to about 24% of Hong Kong residents. Since last November, collection sites have been placed in 60 housing estates and 32 primary and secondary schools. With more collection sites planned, the governments expects that at least 50% of the population will have a convenient bottle collection point before the end of this year.

Get more information at

http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2014/01/20140119_112426.shtml.

San Francisco Launches Zero Waste Textile Initiative

Last week, the City and County of San Francisco launched an effort to prevent the landfill disposal of 39 million pounds of textiles annually. Called the Zero Waste Textile Initiative, the effort will use "*untapped reuse and recycling markets by expanding textile drop-off locations in San Francisco and accepting worn out items such as old athletic shoes and torn jeans that were previously considered trash.*"

The government said it is coordinating with non-profit organizations such as Goodwill, the Salvation Army and I:Collect as well as retail business in the effort, which includes a dedicated web site where consumers can find the nearest drop off location or schedule pickup of unwanted textiles. Apartment buildings, business and other organizations can order a textile recycling bin through the website.

Get more information at the Zero Waste Textile Initiative

<http://www.sfenvironment.org/textiles>.

Business Initiatives

Leading EU WEEE Compliance Providers Join in Multinational Service Offering

Nine of the leading WEEE compliance organizations in the European Union announced they are teaming up to provide a single point of service for EEE and battery manufacturers , importers, wholesalers , retailers and distributors. The single-source services will become available in January 2015.

Saying their single-source service will "*reduce the complexity of a non-harmonized legislation*" and provide "*coherent pan-European reporting,*" WEEE Europe member organizations include Eco-systemes (France), Elretur (Denmark), Elretur (Norway), Ecotic (Spain), Repic (United Kingdom), Remedia (Italy), Wecycle (the Netherlands), Swico et Sens (Switzerland) They formed WEEE Europe in October of last year.

Get more information on WEEE Europe's service offering at

<http://www.weee-europe.com/>.

British Plastics Federation Study Questions Accuracy of Government Plastics Packaging Data

According to a study sponsored by the British Plastics Federation (BPF) and released by BPF last week, the amount of plastics packaging introduced in the marketplace has been "*over-stated by 300-400KT per annum.*" If true, the actual UK recycling rate for plastic packaging is higher than has been reported. (The study was conducted by the consulting firm 360 Environmental Ltd.)

"The mistaken assumptions on which business targets are calculated can lead to unnecessarily high costs and with the EU considering higher recycling targets later in the decade could put the UK at a further disadvantage to other Member States," stated BPF in an a press statement. "We need legislation based on facts and this report provides independent and authoritative validation of factors we are fully aware of in our own businesses, said Bruce Margetts, Chairman of the BPF's Packaging Group. "There has been a slowdown in consumer expenditure on packed goods and that through the Corporate Social Responsibility programmes we are responding to there has been significant progress made in the light weighting of packaging."

Get more information at

<http://www.bpf.co.uk/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleUid=e9ee5d79-03c5-4150-95a4-2e7703f730c8>.

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