



Last week, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced it is seeking industry input about business confidentially claims relating to exports of particular types of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste when responding to public inquiries under the Federal of Information Act. The types of hazardous waste are cathode ray tubes and spent lead-acid batteries, and the time period concerned is prior to this year.

The EPA said "*affected businesses*" would likely include waste transporters and consignees.

The deadline for submitting comments is February 13, 2013.

The US EPA notice can be reviewed at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/01/14/2013-00575/waste-import-and-export-inquiry-to-learn-whether-businesses-assert-business-confidentiality-claims>.

### Statistics & Trends

On Monday, the French waste lamp recycling scheme Recylum announced that 35 million waste lamps were collected in France last year, an increase of five million units from 2011. Last year 4,270 tons of lamps were collected.

Sixty-two percent of French residents turned in waste lamps through Recylum last year, more than double the participation rate four years earlier. Recylum attributes the increases in part to the expansion of its waste lamp collection network, which grew to 19,000 collection sites last year.

The Recylum announcement is posted at <http://www.recylum.com/les-francais-ont-adopte-le-geste-de-recyclage-des-lampes/>.

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## United Nations Launches Campaign To Reduce Global Food Waste

Yesterday, the United Nations Environment Programme announced the launch of a new campaign called "Think.Eat.Save" with the hope to "*dramatically cut the 1.3 billion tonnes of food lost or wasted each year and help shape a sustainable future.*" The campaign is being cosponsored by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and is partnering with a number of other organizations such as the United Kingdom's Waste Resources Action Programme.

The campaign offers advice and information for consumers, retailers and producers on minimizing food waste. The campaign's web site notes, for example, that "*For food to compost properly, it needs light and air. In the landfill, it has neither. Instead, food devoid of light and air produces methane gas, which contributes to global warming.*"

The URL for the campaign's web site is <http://www.thinkeatsave.org/>.

### Business Initiatives

## Energy Value Of Canadian Plastic Waste Focus Of New Industry Sponsored Study

Last week, the Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) released a 28-page report on a study by the University of Waterloo on the energy value of plastic waste. The study was sponsored by CPIA, and it states that there "*appear to be limits to the efficient recycling of plastics. At their end-of-life, plastics that are not recycled, can be re-purposed and used as an alternative energy source.*"

According to *Energy and Economic Values of Non-recycled Plastics Currently Landfilled In Canada*, 2.8 million tons of non-recycled plastics were landfilled in Canada in 2011. The landfilled plastic had an energy value of 87 million GJ - the equivalent of 14 million barrels of oil or 79 billion cubic feet of natural gas - enough energy to supply 499,232 households with electricity.

The report provides statistical information on non-recycled plastic energy reserves and briefly discusses the technique of pyrolysis.

Download a copy of the study at

[http://www.plastics.ca/files/file.php?fileid=itemVifKSeNoub&filename=file\\_Haight\\_Energy\\_Value\\_of\\_NRP\\_Study\\_Final.pdf](http://www.plastics.ca/files/file.php?fileid=itemVifKSeNoub&filename=file_Haight_Energy_Value_of_NRP_Study_Final.pdf).

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## Dutch E-Waste Scheme Calls For Certification Of Reusable Electronics

Last week, NVMP Foundation, an association of Dutch e-waste compliance organizations, called for establishing a system for issuing certificates for reusable or refurbishable electronics destined for export, especially outside the European Union. According to NVMP, electronics supposedly being shipped for reuse or refurbishment to developing nations in Africa or Asia are in reality too old or damaged and can only be scrapped.

While governments could oversee the issuance of such reuse and refurbishment certificates, legitimate traders and refurbishers should be able to issue the certificates themselves, according to NVMP. To be eligible for a certificate, an electronic device should be functioning properly or if it is to be recycled, the processing is done in a responsible manner with any toxic substances removed and valuable materials recovered prior to export.

The NVMP announcement can be found at <http://www.producenten-verantwoordelijkheid.nl/index.php?id=152>.

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## US Biogas And Composting Councils Agree To Collaborate On Organics Recycling

Earlier this month, the US Biogas Council and the US Composting Council announced they had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to "*help accelerate the growth of the organics recycling industry.*"

According to the announcement, "*Composting and biogas systems both use natural processes which yield a variety of saleable products from the organic materials you feed into them. Both reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recover valuable soil-nutrients, and reduce the need for additional landfill or incineration capacity.*"

However, no details about any collaborative efforts were included in the announcement. Together the two industry councils represents more than 900 organizations and businesses.

The Memorandum of Understanding announcement is posted at <http://compostingcouncil.org/?news=american-biogas-council-and-us-composting-council-join-forces/>.

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## Industry Association Says British Plastic Recycling Reached Milestone In 2011

Yesterday, the British Plastics Federation said that in 2011 its members recycled 517 kilotons of plastic, "*breaking the one-half million tonne barrier for the 1st time.*" The statistic is one of many in the BPF Recycling Group's 2011 report.

Recycling of polyethylene led all other plastics at 271,855 tons. Polyethylene was followed by PET at 114,559 tons, polypropylene at 85,588 tons and polystyrene at 20,251 tons.

The report indicates that 20.8 percent of the combined collected plastics were exported.

The Recycling Group's Roger Baynham voiced concern over exports, stating, "*the increased packaging recycling targets set by the government are challenging and will only be achieved by creating a credible route map which must address the UK's over-reliance on export markets for its plastics waste.*"

The 2011 BPF data can be downloaded at [http://www.bpf.co.uk/Recycling/Position\\_Statements/Default.aspx](http://www.bpf.co.uk/Recycling/Position_Statements/Default.aspx).

### The Green Perspective

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## Canadian Zero Waste Organization Launched

Claiming its goal is "*to restore Canada's status as an environmentally progressive nation,*" a new non-profit organization called Zero Waste Canada (ZWC) was officially launched last Friday.

ZWC, which supports the model developed by the Zero Waste International Alliance, says its foundation is based on seven principles that include "*waste must be avoided, not minimized or reduced*" and "*waste is evidence of poor design.*"

"*Wood, metals, chemicals, minerals, organics, aggregates and other resources are valuable and should never be burned or buried,*" said ZWC Director Erich Schwartz. "*It just doesn't make sense. In a world of finite resources and diminishing renewable resources, we need to reduce what we take while continuously reusing and recycling the resources that we do use.*"

The URL for Zero Waste Canada is <http://zerowastecanadanow.ca/>.

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## Swedish Nature Conservancy Calls For A Ban On BPA In All Food Contact Materials

Citing a recently enacted French ban on bisphenol-A (BPA) in all food contact materials, the Swedish Nature Conservancy (Naturskyddsforeningen) on Monday called on the Swedish government to implement a similar ban.

*"The Chemicals Inspectorate Action Plan for non-toxic living focuses on protecting children to a greater extent because they are more vulnerable than adults in regard to the negative health effects of chemicals,"* stated the Naturskyddsforeningen announcement. "Particularly vulnerable are the unborn and very young children. If we are serious about this goal, we must also take action that provides protection to our children."

The Naturskyddsforeningen announcement can be reviewed at <http://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/nyheter/forbjud-bisfenol-i-livsmedel>.

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## Environmental Defense Fund Cautions About Bisphenol-S As A Safer Substitute

With all the negative publicity surrounding the use of bisphenol-A (BPA), some manufacturers have switched to a related chemical - bisphenol-S (BPS) - in order to claim their products are BPA-free. However, last week, Richard Denison, a senior scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, said that BPS is also *"an estrogen-mimicking chemical."* Denison cited a peer-reviewed paper recently published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* that questions the safety of BPS.

*"Add this example to the long list of so-called 'regrettable substitutions' - or the more vernacular 'whack-a-mole' - whereby companies under scrutiny for their use of one toxic chemical rush to use a less well-studied or less-regulated but closely related chemical,"* said Denison.

More information from Denison is available at [http://blogs.edf.org/nanotechnology/2013/01/17/regrettable-if-predictable-bisphenol-s-mimics-estrogen-just-like-its-better-studied-cousin-bisphenol-a/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+nanotechnologynotes+%28Chemicals+%26+Nanomaterials%29](http://blogs.edf.org/nanotechnology/2013/01/17/regrettable-if-predictable-bisphenol-s-mimics-estrogen-just-like-its-better-studied-cousin-bisphenol-a/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+nanotechnologynotes+%28Chemicals+%26+Nanomaterials%29).

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