

The French decree featuring complete lists of examples is available for review at <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000028622308&dateTexte=&oldAction=dernierJO&categorieLien=id>.

UK Government Funds Review of Accuracy of Metal and Plastic Packaging Estimates

According to an announcement yesterday by Zerowaste Scotland, the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a largely government-funded agency, and ValPak, a UK packaging compliance scheme, will conduct reviews of the estimates of metal and plastic packaging being placed in the market. The two projects are being called MetalFlow 2014 and Plastic Market Flow 2014, and are being funded by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. (MetalFlow 2014 is already underway.)

According to the Zerowaste Scotland announcement, *"This work is being undertaken to: improve market transparency and information on plastic and metal packaging recovery and recycling in the UK; while also, identifying and evaluating possible risks to UK compliance this year, and in subsequent years."*

The Zerowaste Scotland announcement is posted at <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/new-research-will-help-improve-plastic-and-metal-market-transparency>.

Arkansas DEQ Opens Public Comment Period on Proposed Recycling Grants Program Changes

Last Friday, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality held a public hearing on proposed changes to state's Recycling Grant Program, required by passage of a bill last year in the state legislature. The changes would replace the program with a Recycling Fund and set criteria on how money in the fund would be used.

The deadline for submitting comments on the proposed regulatory changes is March 17, 2014.

The draft regulations are available for review at http://www.adeg.state.ar.us/poa/pa/pn_reg_notice.asp.

Statistics & Trends

Brazil Collects 404,000 Tons of Waste Tires Through Q3 2013

Earlier this month, Reciclanip, the Brazilian waste tire take back organization founded by tire producers and importers, said it collected 404,000 thousand tons of used tires - the equivalent of 80,800 passenger tires - from January through September of 2013. Once Q4 data is added, the total weight of collected scrap tires is expected to surpass the half million ton mark for the year.

The organization also said it has expanded its tire collection network to 819 sites across the country.

Since Reciclanip launched in 1999, it has collected and recycled 2.68 million tons of scrap tires. Most of the scrap tires are used for energy recovery at cement making plants and recycled into flooring, floor mats for automobiles, rain pipe and soles for shoes, according to the announcement.

The Reciclanip announcement is posted at <http://www.reciclanip.org.br/v3/releases/balanco--reciclanip-coletou-e-destinou-mais-de-404-mil-toneladas-de-pneus-inserviveis-ate-o-4o-trimestre-de-2013/58/20140206/>.

Small Metal Packaging Recycling Pilot Launched in France

Last week, Adephe, the French packaging compliance scheme, announced it was launching a trial pilot to collect and recycle small metal (steel and aluminum) packaging pieces such as small trays, lids, bottle caps, coffee pods, and foils. The organization said the project is expected to establish "*technical and economic criteria*" for sorting and recycling these materials leading to a widespread roll out.

While aluminum and steel cans are nearly 100% recyclable, metal packaging in forms other than cans is often disposed by consumers as waste. The project should take three years to complete and is being coordinated with the Association of French Mayors.

Get more information at <http://www.adelphie.fr/actualites/nouvelle-experimentation-pour-recycler-plus-de-petits-emballages-en-metal>.

Government-Sponsored Campaign in Peru Recycles PET bottles into Blankets

The Peruvian Ministry of Environment announced on Monday the 2014 launch of a campaign to convert waste PET bottles collected along Peruvian beaches into woven plastic blankets that would be distributed to residents of underserved regions of the country.

The Reeduca Playas campaign encourages beach goers to place their empty PET beverage bottles along with littered PET bottles found on the beach into large collection bins that can contain up to 3,100 bottles.

Last year, the same campaign collected more than 10 tons of PET bottles, some of which was used to manufacture 2,048 blankets distributed to families in and around Lima, the capital, and Puno, another municipality. A number of organizations are partnering with the Ministry in cosponsoring the campaign.

Get more information at <http://www.minam.gob.pe/notas-de-prensa/reeduca-playas-guardar-calor-para-abrigar-el-invierno/>.

France Launches Life Cycle Analysis Tools Web Site for Manufacturers

Today the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) launched a web site with tools and a database to help in calculating the environmental impact of consumer products. The Base IMPACTS(R) web site, which is offered as a free service to all manufacturers, is hoped to improve the ecodesign of products and make ecolabeling more relevant.

Eventually, manufacturers will be able to access tools for preparing calculations by specific product categories. Currently, however, "sector specific" tools are available on the site for only two categories - televisions and shoes.

While the site is free, registration is required.

The URL for the new web site is
<http://www.base-impacts.ademe.fr/>.

Michigan Reports Waste Disposal Increase in 2013 Caused by Imports

According to the *18th Annual Report of Solid Waste Landfilled in Michigan*, which was released on February 18 by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), landfill disposal increased by 1.4% in 2013 from a year earlier, which DEQ attributed to "an increase in waste from other states and Canada."

While disposal of Michigan-generated waste fell from 34,630,419 cubic yards to 34,447,978 cubic yards, disposal of Canadian-generated waste increased from 6,764,907 cubic yards to 7,681,315 cubic yards. Canada was responsible for 17.1% of all solid waste disposed in Michigan.

However, in terms of percentage, the biggest increase was due to Florida, from 4,779 cubic yards to 33,683 cubic yards. From Florida to Michigan - now that's a long haul.

The report states that based on the 2013 volume data, existing Michigan landfills have 28 years of capacity remaining.

You can download the report at
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deg/DEQ-OWMRP-SWS-SolidWasteAnnualReportFY2013_447054_7.pdf.

Nebraska DEQ Awards \$2 Million in Recycling & Litter Prevention Grants

Last week, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) said it awarded \$2,006,707 in grants to support recycling and litter prevention. The grants were awarded to 51 non-profit organizations, businesses and municipalities.

Funding for the grants program, established in 1979, comes from "a fee charged to certain manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of products that commonly contribute to litter."

The Nebraska DEQ announcement is posted at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>.

Business Initiatives

Waste Sweden Publishes Report on Measuring Resource Efficiency Progress

On February 21, Avfall Sveriges, the Swedish Waste Association, published a 32-page report that offers "indicators" for measuring progress in implementing resource efficiency. According to Avfall Sveriges, municipal waste policies and programs are the key to any national resource efficiency strategy.

Download the Avfall Sveriges report at <http://www.avfallsverige.se/fileadmin/uploads/Rapporter/U2014-01.pdf>.

Plastics Recyclers Europe Calls Biodegradable Plastic Bags A Myth

Plastics Recyclers Europe (PRE) is the latest industry group to sound off on the role biodegradable plastic bags should play in EU carryout bags reduction plans, and the comments may be getting more acrimonious. On February 20, PRE released a communique calling biodegradable plastic bags "a myth" and stating that "as little as 2% degradable material in the recycling stream is creating quality problems for recyclers." The release of the communique follows a PRE workshop on the issue.

"The European Parliament's ENVI Committee is likely to come with its positions in the next weeks and will need to change its strategy as biodegradable bags are not a solution," states the communique. *"All participants at the workshop confirmed that oxo-fragmentation of material is very bad for the environment, hence the need to stop using this type of material."*

The PRE communique is published at <http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/news/biodegradable-plastic-bags-are-myth>.

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