

The ECHA announcement is posted at http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/public-consultation-on-inclusion-of-new-substances-in-the-authorisation-li-1.

European Commission Recommends Daily Quarter Million Euro Fine Against Italy For Waste Law Violations

Italy has struggled to meet some landfill disposal requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive, and threats of legal action by the European Commission have yet to bring Italy into compliance - at least not the Campania region of the country.

Last week, Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik called for referring Italy's non-compliance back to the European Court of Justice with a recommendation that the court fine Italy EUR 256,819 for each day it remains non-compliant.

The Commission stated it is *"concerned at the delays that have halted construction of most of the planned plants for recovering organic waste, incinerators and landfills. There is now a risk that many of the planned installations will not be ready by the end of 2016, i.e. within a reasonable period of the first Court ruling."*

The European Commission announcement is posted at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-575_en.htm?locale=en.

Defra Slashes Funding For Waste Resources Action Programme By 60 Percent

It was acknowledged today that the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), arguably a driving force behind waste reduction and recycling in the United Kingdom, will have its largely government-funded budget slashed by 60 percent. Much of WRAP's funding comes from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which recently launched a public consultation on WRAP's mission.

"This funding reduction from Defra is clearly significant but is neither unexpected nor surprising given the UK Government's commitment to reducing the budget deficit," said WRAP CEO Liz Goodwin. *"WRAP has been determined to play its part in that, and we have been actively engaged with Defra during this process. We will still be receiving significant funding which will allow WRAP to continue to make a major contribution to boosting economic growth and achieving improved use of resources."*

Funding will drop from its present annual level of £ 25.7 million to £ 15.5 million in 2015/2016.

Get more information at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/wrap-response-defra-budget-settlement>.

California Electronics Recycler Agrees To Correct Waste CRT Handling Problems

Despite a glut of waste CRTs in California, laxity by waste CRT handlers will not be tolerated by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Last week, Global E-Recyclers Inc of Santa Fe Springs, California, agreed to a consent order issued by the DTSC to remedy alleged waste CRT and other violations. Specifically, the company "*failed to contain any CRT in a container or package that is structurally sound, adequate to prevent breakage of the CRT and compatible with the contents of the CRT.*"

Global E-Recyclers agreed to pay a fine and take corrective action.

The DTSC consent order is posted at

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/Global_ERecyclers_ENF_CO2_013.pdf.

New Jersey DEP Seizes Control Of Stinky Legacy Landfill

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today it had seized control of a legacy landfill in Roxbury Township, Morris County to begin "*an emergency remediation project to protect the environment by controlling substances and odors emanating from the site.*"

The seizure occurred after Governor Chris Christy signed a new law giving DEP the authority to take control of old legacy landfills that pose an imminent threat to the environment.

Residents near the old landfill complained about an odor. DEP found the odor was hydrogen sulfide - a toxic and flammable gas that smells like rotten eggs. DEP said it plans to seal 18-acres of the landfill with a vapor barrier and install a gas-flaring system.

Get more information at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/newsrel/2013/13_0067.htm.

Statistics & Trends

ADEME Says French Public Waste Collection Costs Dropped 5 Percent From 2008 To 2010

Yesterday, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) said the per capita cost for waste collection decreased by five percent from 2008 through 2010. ADEME presented the information at the 5th Symposium on Waste Prevention and Management.

ADEME said the per capita cost to collect waste was 85 EUR, based on data it analyzed. The five percent cost decline should be good news to cash-strapped municipalities, said ADEME.

Get more information from ADEME at <http://ademe.typepad.fr/files/cp-ademe-gestion-des-dechets-250613.pdf>.

Solid Waste Disposal In Virginia Fell Last Year By 2.3 Percent

Earlier this month, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality released its 2012 Solid Waste Report. (A separate annual report is prepared on recycling.) According to the 30-page report, the amount of solid waste received at Virginia landfills fell 2.3 percent last year to 20,255,675.15 tons.

Roughly three-fourths of the solid waste was generated within Virginia, and the remaining quarter was imported from other eastern states - primarily Maryland, New York, the District of Columbia, New Jersey and North Carolina.

The report also estimates that Virginia has a total available landfill capacity of 219,134,023.05 tons. At the present disposal rate, capacity should be adequate for roughly 22 more years.

Download Virginia's 2012 Solid Waste Report at http://www.deq.state.va.us/Portals/0/DEQ/Land/SolidWaste/2013_Annual_Solid_Waste_Report.pdf.

Government Study Finds Packaging Is Third Most Littered Item In Ireland

Packaging is the third most littered item in Ireland behind cigarette butts and "food related litter," according to a recently released national report by the Irish Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Packaging accounts for 13.2 percent of all litter, but cigarette butts account for 52.7 percent.

The report concludes that "*passing pedestrians are the most significant single cause of litter pollution for every type of local authority. It is also clear that passing motorists, retail outlets, fast food outlets and gathering points are considerable sources of litter for all local authority types.*"

A positive statistic in the report is "*plastic bags constitute 0.30% of litter pollution nationally compared to an estimated 5% prior to the introduction of the [plastic bag] levy.*"

Download the Irish 2012 litter monitoring report at <http://www.environ.ie/en/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownload,33554,en.pdf>.

Australia Government Publishes Report On Sustainable Public Procurement Practices

Anyone interested in national sustainable public procurement policies might want to review a 25-page report published earlier this month by the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

According to the report, the Australian government spent about \$41 billion on goods and services in 2011-2012. The focal point for public procurement is the Department of Finance and Deregulation, which has established a number of mandatory whole-of-government procurement arrangements. The arrangements include telecommunications equipment and services, motor vehicle leasing and fleet management, travel services, major office machines, desktop hardware, data center facilities and migration services, and stationery and office supplies.

The report also lists the environmental policies that include procurement requirements, such as Energy Efficiency in Government Operations, the Australian Packaging Covenant, the National Waste Policy, and the ICT Sustainability Plan 2010-15. It also provides examples and case studies of procurement of specific goods or services by a various government agencies and departments.

Download a copy of the report at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/publications/pubs/sustainable-procurement-2013.pdf>.

Business Initiatives

R2 Solutions Announces Updated Electronics Recycling Certification Standard

On Monday, R2 Solutions announced "*significant updates*" to its certification standard for EEE recyclers that will take effect on July 1.

Among the updates, all R2 certified facilities should have an approved environmental, health and safety management system; improvements to data security and destruction requirements; and improved enhanced export requirements to both OCED and non-OCED nations.

According to R2 Solutions, more than 400 recycling facilities are now using their standards.

Get more information at

<http://www.r2solutions.org/clientuploads/Final%20R22013%20Release%206%2021%2013.pdf>.

TetraPak Brasil To Use Sugar Cane-Derived LDPE For Food And Drink Packaging

Yesterday, TetraPak Brazil announced it had signed an agreement with Braskem, the largest plastics manufacturer in Latin America, to begin using sustainable low density polyethylene (LDPE) produced from cane sugar in its layered packaging. TetraPak Brazil

claims that by using corn-based LDPE 82 percent of TetraPak materials will come from renewable sources.

Braskem said converts cane sugar to ethanol, which its later used to make ethylene then polyethylene. While produced from bio-based material, the LDPE is not biodegradable.

"Our Green™ polyethylene has the same characteristics as conventional polyethylene such as being inert, durable and recyclable, with the advantage of having renewable sources, which contributes to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases by absorbing CO2 the atmosphere during the growth process of cane sugar," said Braskem President Carlos Fadigas.

The TetraPak Brazil announcement is posted at http://www.tetrapak.com/br/sobre_a_tetra_pak/imprensa/noticias_e_releases/Pages/tetrapak_braskem.aspx.

Plastics South Africa Continues Leading Role In Addressing Marine Litter In Africa

Last week, the industry association Plastics South Africa announced it would be coordinating South Africa's participation in the International Coastal Clean Up, an event scheduled for September. The announcement came on the heels of Plastics South Africa participation in the African Marine Debris Summit held earlier this month.

"Marine debris is an international concern not only because it washes up on beaches and shorelines worldwide, but also because debris can be transferred between countries, serving as a vector for alien animals and plants via ocean currents," said Plastics SA Executive Director Anton Hanekom. *"International cooperation is needed to create public awareness whilst developing ways to decrease the amount of debris in oceans around the globe."*

Plastics South Africa was the only African organization to sign the Declaration for Solutions on Marine Litter in 2011.

The Plastics South Africa announcement is posted at <http://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/images/4573.pdf>.

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