

involve risks to the environment. We must put our foot down and put pressure on the Commission. Science and health must be paramount."

In 1999, the Commission adopted a Community Strategy for Endocrine Disruptors but since then has not made any regulatory progress. A set of criteria for testing for suspected endocrine disruptors was supposed to be in draft state by now, but that has not happened.

The Swedish Ministry of Environment statement is available for review at <http://www.government.se/sb/d/18521/a/241118>.

Swedish EPA Upset over Sale of 30 Tons of Metallic Mercury

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that 30 tons of liquid mercury supposedly destined for stabilization and underground storage has instead been sold by a German firm. The Swedish EPA identified the firm as DELA GmbH.

"Is it true that the mercury was resold instead of being disposed, so a very serious environmental crime was committed," said Jon Engström, a Swedish EPA supervisor. *"The good part of this situation is that it was discovered."*

The Swedish EPA is coordinating with German officials about the matter and said *"two people have been arrested."*

Get more information at

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Nyheter-och-pressmeddelanden/Misstankar-om-olaglig-hantering-av-kvicksilver-fran-Sverige/>.

Statistics & Trends

Dutch E-Waste Recycling Rate Fell in 2013

On Tuesday, the Dutch WEEE recycling scheme Wecycle reported that 133.7 million kilograms of e-waste was collected in 2013, down four percent from a year earlier. Collections of end-of-life television declined the most, down 14% from 2012. Wecycle attributed the decreases to *"the current economic situation,"* meaning purchases of new electronics continue to be slow.

Leading the collections were small electronics and ICT equipment at 51.7 million kg, followed by large household appliances at 30.4 million kg, TVs and monitors at 24.5 million kg, refrigerators/freezers at 23.6 million kg, and lamps and lighting fixtures at 3.5 million kg.

The Wecycle announcement is posted at

<http://www.lightrec.nl/nieuws/nieuws/wecycle-rapporteert-134-miljoen-kilo-e-waste.html>.

Welsh Government Reports Recycling Rate Up in Final Quarter of 2013

The Welsh Government announced last week that for the quarter ended last December reuse, recycling and composting combined rose to 53%, up two percent from the same quarter a year earlier. It also reported that household waste generation fell during the same quarter, although it provided no supporting data.

Wales plans to achieve zero waste by 2050, and has set a series of interim targets to lead to that goal. So far, the country is hitting those targets.

For more information, go to

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2014/140522waste/?lang=en>.

Lithuania to Roll Out Small WEEE and Battery Collection Bin Network

Last Friday, the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment announced it will begin establishing a network of 3,600 public collection bins for small end-of-life electronics, batteries and waste fluorescent lamps such as CFLs. Each Lithuanian municipality will receive up to 60 collection bins, which comes in several sizes, according to the Ministry.

The Ministry said the collection networks will aid the country in meeting EU targets established under the recast WEEE Directive, particularly for small WEEE.

Get more information at

<http://www.am.lt/Vl/index.php#a/14665>.

Brazil Environmental Ministry Launches Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign

On May 26, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA) announced that in coordination with some other government ministries and offices it launched a national campaign to collect unwanted electronics and electrical equipment (EEE). The collected devices will be delivered to the Organização da Sociedade de Interesse Público Programando o Futuro, which will separate working and refurbishable devices for reuse and make them available to schools, libraries, and other public institutions. Those that can not be reused will be recycled.

The Organização da Sociedade de Interesse Público Programando o Futuro will train young people to evaluate and repair usable devices, leading to green jobs creation, according to the announcement.

Among the devices being accepted are computers and peripherals, televisions, CD and DVD players and recorders, VCRs, MP3 players, digital cameras, stereo equipment, mobile phones and telephones, and some smaller appliances. Waste batteries will also be accepted at the collection locations.

For more information, go to

<http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/10152-mma-e-parceiros-lan%C3%A7am-campanha-de-coleta-de-res%C3%ADduo-eletr%C3%B4nico>.

UNEP Publishes Food Waste Prevention Guidance

Last week, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released version 1.0 of a 132-page guidance under a program launched last year called "*Think. Eat. Save: Reduce Your Foodprint*". The guidance offers advice and informational support to local governments, businesses and other organizations to reduce household and commercial food and drink waste.

The guidance consists of four modules: 1) Mapping and Measuring Food and Drink Waste, 2) Options for Developing National or Regional Policies and Measures for Food and Drink Waste Prevention and Reduction, 3) Developing and Implementing Programs to Prevent and Reduce Household Food and Drink Waste, and 4) Preventing and Reducing Food Waste in the Food and Drink Business Supply Chain. Each module includes an overview, a number of implementation steps and a summary.

Download a copy of the guidance at

<http://thinkeatsave.org/downloads/UNEP-FW-Guidance-content-VERSION-WEB.pdf>.

European Commission Adds Silicon and Other Substances to Critical Raw Materials List

On Monday, the European Commission added the following substances to the EU critical raw materials list: borates, chromium, coking coal, magnesite, phosphate rock and silicon metal. One substance was removed from the list: tantalum.

The communique noted that the substances on the list "*represent the life-blood of today's industry and are fundamental for the development of environmental technologies and the digital agenda.*" Efforts to recover greater amounts of the substances on the critical raw materials list should be expected.

Other substances already on the list include antimony, beryllium, cobalt, fluorspar, gallium, germanium, indium, magnesium, natural graphite, niobium, platinum group metals, heavy rare earths, light rare earths and tungsten.

The European Commission announcement can be found at

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-599_en.htm.

Business Initiatives

93% of European Beverage Cartons Now Made from Sustainable Fiber

On Monday, the European industry organization Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE) announced that in 2013, 93% of the fibers used to make European beverage cartons were "*FSC-certified or FSC controlled wood,*" up from 88% in 2012. ACE said the statistics were verified by Proforest, a London-based forest sustainability organization.

ACE also said that 89% of the ACE converting plants are now Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain-of-Custody certified so their products can display the FSC label.

ACE set a goal to use 100% FSC compliant fiber by 2015.

For more information, go to

<http://www.beveragecarton.eu/mediaroom/56/50/Verified-traceability-of-beverage-carton-industry-s-globally-sourced-wood-fibre-reaches-93>.

Dell Announces Packaging and Recycled Plastics Environmental Initiatives

Yesterday, Dell announced it would be the first IT manufacturer to be using "*carbon-negative packaging*" by using a plastics manufacturer from "*air and greenhouse gases that would otherwise become part of the air.*" The CarbonAir plastic is being produced by a relatively new firm called Newlight Technologies, and it will be used for packaging sleeves for a series of Dell's notebook computers.

Dell also announced it would be operating "*closed-loop supply chain developed in partnership with Wistron GreenTech will turn plastics from recycled electronics back into new systems, helping drive a circular economy for IT.*" The certified closed-loop plastic will be incorporated in one of Dell's desktop computers.

To review the full Dell announcement, go to

<http://www.dell.com/learn/us/en/uscorp1/secure/2014-05-20-dell-environment-closed-loop-recycling-aircarbon-packaging>.

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