

Operators will be required to attend a one-day course "*designed to help operators succeed by ensuring they have a clear understanding of the rules,*" and have a minimum 80 percent score on a test.

The CalRecycle announcement is posted at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/NewsRoom/2013/12Dec/29.htm>.

Dutch Authorities Intercept 220,000 Kilograms of E-Waste

According to Wecycle, the Dutch electronic waste compliance scheme, last month officials from the Dutch Environment and Transport Inspectorate and Rotterdam Customs intercepted 220,000 kilograms (222 metric tons) of illegal e-waste headed to South Korea and China.

The WEEE, which filled 10 cargo containers, came from Germany and Poland. The containers were erroneously labeled as carrying scrap metal. Authorities are trying to determine if the mislabeling was intentional or accidental.

Get more information at <http://producenten-verantwoordelijkheid.nl/2/151/sluitend-inzamelsysteem-voorkomt-illegale-export-e-waste.html>.

Statistics & Trends

Report Claims Plastic Bag Recycling Now Accessible To 93% of Canadians

According to a report recently prepared by the firm CM Consulting, 93% of Canadians have access to systems for plastic (polyethylene) bag/film recycling through either municipal recycling programs or retail (store) recycling bins. The report was prepared for the Canadian Plastics Industry Association and released by the organization last month.

Consumer access to store recycling depots varied significantly by province, from 94% in British Columbia to 64% in Newfoundland and Labrador. Ontario, Canada's most populated province has 90% consumer access.

The report considers "*having access*" means living within 16 kilometers of a retailer offering bag/film recycling.

Download a copy of the CM Consulting plastic bag report at http://www.plastics.ca/files/file.php?fileid=itemCtRFfWCUM&filename=file_ES_Canadian_Population_Access_to_Recycling_of_Plastic_Shopping_Bags_and_Other_Polyethylene_Plastic_Film.pdf.

German Environment Agency Publishes Paper on Increasing German Resource Efficiency

Last month, Umwelt Bundesamt or UBA (the Federal Environment Agency) published a 24-page position paper on German resource efficiency requirements including "*possible starting points for the development of an overarching national resource protection laws.*"

The position paper says that "*it is necessary to decouple economic growth and consumption of resources*" and that the efficient use of German national resources must increase at least ten fold to prevent future economic harm. It suggests how the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, the Product Law and the Recycling Law relate to improving resource efficiency and how they might be modified to increase efficiency.

Download the UBA resource efficiency position paper at http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/ressourcenschutzrecht_position.pdf.

New South Wales Commits \$465 Million to Fund Recycling and Waste Prevention Programs

Late last month, the New South Wales (NSW) Government announced it is committing \$465.7 million in funding over the next five years to promote waste avoidance, increase recycling and fight illegal dumping and littering. The funding supports NSW's recently announced Waste Less, Recycle More: Waste and Resource Recovery Initiative.

Eight different types of grants are being progressively rolled out in the first round of funding. The grants support various elements in the initiative ranging from building a network of community recycling centers to helping local governments collect organic waste and direct it to processing facilities.

The deadlines to apply are from February 3 to April 14, 2014. Requests for grants are being accepted from businesses, local governments and nonprofit and civic organizations, depending on the type of grant.

Get more information at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/wasteless.htm>.

French Government Agency Publishes List of Preferred Environmental Labels

To help French consumers interpret an expanding array of ecolabels, last month the French Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) published a handy two-page pocket guide of the top 50 ecolabels. The graphics are organized under the following headings: food and drinks, hygiene and beauty products, cleaning and maintenance products, paper, multimedia and audiovisual products, toys, home furnishings, garden products, and tourism and recreation.

ADEME says all of the featured ecolabels "*meet specific environmental requirements and take into account the environmental impacts of the product throughout of its life cycle*" and that they "*are certified by an independent organization that ensures compliance with the criteria.*"

Download the ADEME ecolabel list at
http://ecocitoyens.ademe.fr/sites/default/files/ademe_MemoLogos.pdf.

Northern Territory Beverage Container Redemptions Fell for Second Consecutive Quarter

In December, the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Agency released 3rd quarter data on the Australian territory's container deposit scheme (CDS). The CDS was launched in January 2012, and the law recreating it was challenged in court by beverage producers. During the court challenge a number of redemption depots closed due to lack of financial support, which had a significant effect on the redemption rate.

For the third quarter, the container redemption rate declined to only 35.65%. The rate was 67.6% in the first quarter of this year, and 45.4% in the 2nd quarter.

For 2013 to date, aluminum cans have been the most redeemed type of covered beverage containers at 7,897,875 units. Following aluminum cans were glass bottles (3,840,908 units) and PET bottles (2,363,888 units).

The overall redemption rate for the CDS since its launch is 39.84%.

Download the latest data on the Northern Territory's CDS at
http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/349917/cds_quarterly_report_q3_July_sept_2013.pdf.

Business Initiatives

Dutch Compliance Scheme Finds Most Professional Lighting Installers Not Recycling Fixtures

The Dutch lighting compliance scheme LightRec said today that according to a recent study conducted by the research firm Mobius, electricians and professional lighting installers are recycling end-of-life lamps at a lower rate than consumers recycle compact fluorescent lamps and tube fluorescent lamps.

Perhaps more problematic is that professionals are recycling only an estimated 15% of the end-of-life lighting fixtures generated each year. Under the EU WEEE Directive, both lamps and fixtures should be recycled.

"Old fixtures can be harmful to the environment if they are not properly processed," said LightRec Jeroen Bartels. *"In particular, the capacitors have to be removed before anything else is done."*

Bartels elaborated that capacitors found in old fluorescent lamp fixtures often contain PCBs, and he said his organization would increase efforts in communicating with installation professionals on complying with the law.

The LightRec announcement can be found at
<http://www.raymond.com/>.

US Scrap Industry Association Helps Launch New E-Waste Recycling Push

Today, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industry (ISRI) announced it has teamed with Earth911 to launch Project Reboot, which ISRI said "*aims to bring together businesses, corporations, and civic groups to educate the public on the need to responsibly recycle electronics.*"

Project Reboot seeks to educate electronics users on the needs to use "*a recycler certified to handle electronics at the highest level of environmental, health and worker safety standards, and that guarantees secure destruction of all personal data.*"

The educational effort will include print materials and social media. The level of success will be measured by "*surveying consumer knowledge and attitudes as well as available statistics on the collection rates of household used electronics.*"

Get more information at

http://www.isri.org/ISRI/Whats_New/2012/Tis_the_Season_to_Recycle_Project_Reboot_Launch_ed_to_Increase_Electronics_Recycling.aspx.

Waste Sweden Supports Tougher EU Waste Export Regulations

On Monday, industry association Avfall Sverige (Waste Sweden) published its response to a consultation on tougher waste export regulations proposed by the European Commission. Avfall Sverige said it supports the Commission's recommendations (amending EC Regulation No 1013/2006), noting that the changes would likely reduce illegal waste exports. However, Avfall Sverige argued against advanced publication of the inspections schedule because that could limit the effectiveness of the inspections, resulting in fewer illegal waste interceptions.

Avfall Sverige also recommended giving local police new authority to help enforce the proposed regulations, explaining that a significant amount of the illegal waste shipments contain materials stolen locally.

Avfall Sverige's position is outlined at

http://www.avfallsverige.se/fileadmin/uploads/Arbete/Remissvar/AvfallSverige_2013_24.pdf.

Brazilian Industry Group Highlights Study on Plastic Bag Laws And Household Spending

As Brazil prepares to adopt national single-use plastic bag regulations, the Instituto Socio-Ambiental dos Plasticos (Plastivida) released data from a study conducted by the Economic Research Institute Foundation (FIFE) that found alternative food transport packaging costs and waste disposal would rise from 0.1335% of an average household budget to 0.328%. While the actual increase may seem small, the rate of increase - 146.1% - appears significant. The survey data was released by the Brazilian plastics industry organization, Plastivida.

To give perspective to the increase, by comparison 0.393% of the average household family is spent on a Brazilian food staple - dried beans.

According to Plastivida, "*low-income consumers would be the biggest losers, as their current spending on grocery transport carts and waste disposal packaging practically do not exist because they use almost exclusively plastic grocery bags for these purposes.*"

For more information, go to
http://www.plastivida.org.br/2009/Releases_086.aspx

The Green Perspective

NERC Developing Guidance for Recycling Drop-Off Sites

According to the January 2014 issue of *NERC News*, the Brattleboro, Vermont-based Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) is developing a guidance document on "*on staffing options, lighting recommendations, fencing and surveillance, among other things specifically for Recycling Drop-Off sites.*" The guidance is being prepared with funding from the Illinois Recycling Association.

NERC previously published a guidance document on Best Operational Practices for Recycling Facilities, which is available on its web site.

For more information or a copy of the upcoming guidance contact NERC Projects Manager Athena Lee Bradley at athena@nerc.org.

Silicon Valley Environmental Group to Launch Solar Devices Recycling Incubator

The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a San Francisco-based environmental organization, will soon launch a solar (photovoltaic) devices "*incubator*" in Central Malawi in Africa. The incubator will focus on recycling "*off-grid solar devices such as solar lanterns and small solar home systems.*"

According to SVTC, the data collected from the incubator will be used to "*to develop criteria for more sustainable off-grid products and to pilot recycling and reuse strategies*" universally. SVTC has chosen remote Central Malawi because solar products are generally not in use there but would be a practical addition and would allow for a controlled environment for study. Microloans will be provided to Central Malawi residents to purchase consumer photovoltaic products, and eventually SVTC will help establish a collection and recycling system for the end-of-life devices.

In the United States, only California has enacted regulations addressing end-of-life photovoltaic devices.

Get more information at
<http://svtc.org/our-work/off-grid-recycling-incubator/>.

Copyright, 2013
Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com