

The Ministry of Environment announcement can be found at <http://www.sviva.gov.il/InfoServices/NewsAndEvents/MessageDoverAndNews/Pages/2013/july2013/WasteLaw23.aspx>.

French National Assembly Bill Calls For Indexing Drug Residues In Surface Waters

Last week, National Assembly Representative M. Elie Aboud introduced a bill to implement a persistence-bioaccumulation-toxicity (PBT) index for drug residues from in French surface waters. Representative Aboud's bill notes that Sweden has had a PBT index in place since 2005.

Under the measure, the l'Agence Nationale de Securite du Medicament et des Produits de Sante (ANSM) would require pharmaceutical makers to determine the PBT index data of their products as part of the drug approval process.

The bill was referred to the National Assembly Committee on Social Affairs.

A copy of Proposition de Loi No. 1306 is available at <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/propositions/pion1306.asp>.

Australia Proposes Restrictions On Dibutyl Phthalate Use

Last week, Australia's National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) proposed restricting the use of the common plasticizer dibutyl phthalate (DBP) in cosmetics and personal care products. However, NICNAS said that "*restrictions on the use of DBP in children's toys and childcare articles are not warranted.*"

NICNAS opened a public conclusion on its recommendations, and the consultation closes on August 21.

DBP is on the European Chemical Agency's Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern because it is considered "*toxic for reproduction.*" For the same reason, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment set a Maximum Allowable Dose Level for the chemical.

More information on the NICNAS proposal is available at http://www.raymond.com/www.nicnas.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0009/6111/NICNAS-DBP-Report.docx.

Statistics & Trends

South Australia Announces WEEE Recycling Infrastructure Grants Ahead Of Landfill Ban

South Australia's Environmental Minister, Ian Hunter, announced earlier this month that his state will provide local governments with another \$90,000 in WEEE infrastructure project funding. The announcement comes in advance of a landfill ban on WEEE that takes effect on September 1.

"Funding can be used to assist council-owned sites with the collection of televisions and computers including those sites which are, or will become, a collection point under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme," said Hunter." The funding can also be used to assist with the collection and storage of other electronic and electrical waste, including fluorescent tubes."

In addition to computers and television, other end-of-life electronics banned from landfill disposal include other electronic home/office equipment, audio/video equipment, and small household appliances.

The Government of South Australia announcement is posted at <http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/upload/resource-centre/media-releases/media-releases-2013/e-waste%20grants%20for%20councils%20FINAL.pdf>.

Romania Explores National Biogas Generation Options

Last week, the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change announced it met with a British delegation to explore, in part, Romania's options for producing energy from waste. Romanian Environmental Minister Rovana Plumb noted that up to 2.5 million Romanian homes could be heated using energy produced from waste.

The Romanian Government seems particularly interested in converting food waste to biogas, which would also reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions and meet European Union organic waste landfill diversion goals.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change announcement is posted at <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/comunicate-de-presa/rovana-plumb-marea-britanie-va-acorda-consultanta-romaniei-in-domeniul-obtinerii-de-energie-din-deseuri/>.

Zero Waste Scotland Announces Funding For Product Reuse Organizations

Noting that "Scotland's re-use sector currently diverts around 450,000 tonnes of unwanted materials from landfill every year," Zero Waste Scotland announced last week a new fund to support re-use organizations. The initial funding is set at £ 150,000, and individual organizations can request grants for capital purchases including machinery, equipment and infrastructure for up to £ 10,000.

Applications must be received by Zero Waste Scotland by September 30, 2013.

The Zero Waste Scotland announcement is posted at <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/funding-available-increase-re-use-activity>.

Lithuanian Ministry Of Environment Launches Pollution Prevention Stamp Design Contest

The Lithuanian Ministry of Environment wants to increase public awareness of pollution prevention efforts in the Baltic Sea. Today, the Ministry announced it will conduct an open contest to design and produce a "Let's Save The Baltic Sea" postage stamp to help achieve that goal.

The design contest rules are posted online (www.zaliasiskodas.lt), and design submissions will be accepted through September 23. The top three entries will receive cash prizes from the Ministry.

The Let's Save The Baltic Sea postage stamp will be available to the public in February.

Get more information at <http://www.am.lt/VI/index.php#a/13418>.

Business Initiatives

EU Industry Group Warns Recycling Costs Will Rise With NiCd Battery Ban Extension

Earlier this summer, EU legislators agreed in principle to end the NiCd (nickel-cadmium) battery ban exemption for cordless power tools. While generally supportive of the legislative agreement, the European Battery Recycling Association (EBA) said earlier this month, removing the exemption will increase EU battery recycling costs.

"The battery recycling industry is not against the adoption of a ban on NiCd batteries used in cordless power tools, stated EBRA. "However, a proper transition must be planned taking into account the effects of such ban on the recycling industry. For this reason, implementing a ban as from 2017onwards implies a severe increase of the cost of recycling. This cost increase is necessary to ensure a sustainable recycling of NiCd batteries and accumulators while accelerating the developments of recycling processes for the future alternatives to NiCd in cordless power tools."

The three-page statement focused on three issues - the economic impact on the collection and recycling industry, NiCd battery and accumulator recycling efficiency, and battery cost efficiency issues.

The EBRA media statement is posted at <http://www.ebra-recycling.org/sites/default/files/20130710-PP%20EBRA%20Ban%20NiCd%20in%20CPT.pdf>.

Canadian Trade Association Says Recycled Plastic Clothing Is Becoming Trendy

According to the Canadian Plastic Industry Association (CPIA), "eco-chic" clothing is catching on among younger and more environmentally-minded consumers. In a communique released yesterday, CPIA identified H&M and Modrobes as two major clothing retailers that offer clothing made from recycled plastic - mostly bottles.

CPIA also stated, *"At first, recycled plastic fabrics were usually only used for heavy, outdoorsy clothing, but now manufacturers can produce fabrics with a much wider range of weights and textures. Recycled plastic fabricis being used by both established and up-and-coming designers to create the light, airy blouses, dresses, and skirts that have been all over the runways."*

The CPIA communique is posted at
http://www.plastics.ca/files/file.php?fileid=newsJQAxXeBHG&filename=file_NR_EcoChic.pdf.

The Green Perspective

EEB Unhappy About New EU Guidance For Identifying Future RoHS Chemicals

The European Environmental Bureau sent a letter to EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik last week criticizing a new ROHS *"methodology manual."* The manual was *"developed by industry stakeholders"* to help identify substances for possible future restrictions, a requirement established by RoHS2.

According to EEB, the manual has three shortcomings. First, it does not *"take into account the most important substances and group of substances of concern in electronics today"* such as brominated and chlorinated flame retardants and PVC. Second, the criteria do not include hazardous *"transformation products"* from non-hazardous substances. Third, the manual does not address small amounts of WEEE that are transported outside the European Union for processing under less than safe environmental conditions.

A copy of EEB's letter to Commissioner Potocnik is posted at
<http://www.eeb.org/EEB/?LinkServID=A3ECF1A2-5056-B741-DB979044FFF67AEB&showMeta=0>.

German Environmental Group Say Mercury-Containing Lamp Recycling Remains Problematic

On Monday, the German environmental group Deutschen Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH), said it had conducted another round of random inspections of Germany waste lamp recycling collection points and concluded that problems remain. DUH said only 15 percent employees at retail waste lamp collection locations inform their customers about *"the risks and return opportunities of energy saving lamps."* and fewer can educate customers about how to safely manage a mercury-containing lamp break. It also said that the current take-back program offers *"few consumer-friendly return opportunities,"* noting that less than half the locations of one leading German retailer provides convenient waste lamp collection boxes.

As a remedy, DUH called for a *"nationwide take-back obligation"* on producers, similar in design and operation as the one for waste batteries.

For more information, go to [http://www.duh.de/pressemitteilung.html?&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=3150](http://www.duh.de/pressemitteilung.html?&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=3150).

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