

Last week, e-waste and battery compliance scheme WEEE Ireland projected that as many as 400,000 televisions - mostly CRTs - will be recycled this year as Ireland officially switches from analog to digital television broadcasts on October 24. The total represents a 25 percent increase from 2011 when roughly 300,000 televisions were recycled.

The compliance scheme reminded residents that they can recycle their old TVs at no cost at designated centers when they purchase a new TV.

Get more information on the expanding Irish waste TV stream at <http://recyclefree.ie/downloads/getReadytoRecycle.pdf>.

Eco-Emballeges Reports 3 Million Tons Of Packaging Recycled In 2011

The French packaging compliance scheme Eco-Emballeges reported today that it recycled roughly 3 million tons of household packaging in 2011. The recycling rate increased three percent to 67 percent for the year. The rate has edged up steadily since 2005 when it was 59 percent. Eco-Emballeges as set a 75 percent packaging recycling target for 2016.

The packaging compliance scheme also outlined five priorities for 2013. They include encouraging source reduction by packaging producers, increasing sorting by households (in urban areas in particular), increasing the plastic packaging recycling rate, and improving the cost efficiency of its program.

More information is available at <http://www.ecoemballages.fr/presse>.

Mandatory Commercial and Multi-family Building Recycling Takes Effect In Austin, Texas

On Monday, a law phasing in mandatory recycling at commercial office buildings and large multifamily apartment complexes went into effect, beginning with commercial offices with more than 100,000 square feet of space and multifamily complexes with more than 75 units. The phase in will be completed by 2015.

At a minimum, owners and/or managers of covered properties must recycle the following materials: mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, and PETE and HDPE (plastic) containers. City officials said the law, which was passed in 2010, will help the Texas state capital to reach its goal of reaching a 90 percent landfill diversion rate by 2040.

A second phase of the mandatory recycling scheme, which is currently under development, will apply to retail stores, bars and restaurants, supermarkets and industrial and manufacturing facilities.

Get more information at <http://www.austintexas.gov/news/universal-recycling-ordinance-requires-property-owners-recycle>

British Plastics Federation Says Government Recycling Target Unlikely To Be Met

Last week, the British Plastics Federation issued an information release saying the UK's 2017 plastic recycling target of 57 percent is "*unachievable*" unless local governments are required by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to meet collection targets.

"The result of this ill thought out and fragmented approach will be that the companies obligated under these targets will be left to foot the bill for recycling that can't be delivered," said Philip Law, BPF Public & Industrial Affairs Director. *"This is a no-win for everybody including the Government who will have to explain their failure in the future."*

In 2009, BPF launched a voluntary plastics industry recycling program called Plastics 2020 Challenge that aims to double the plastic recycling rate by 2020.

BPF's full comments are posted at <http://www.bpf.co.uk/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleUid=6D6CCBF3-BEB1-4FF7-97BF-1DE487C24022>.

Hazardous Substances Need To Be Restricted In Certain Products Say Swedish Recyclers

Today, the Swedish Recycling Industries' Association released a four-page statement about what it sees are challenges to increasing recycling and resource recovery in Sweden and, more broadly, the European Union. Among the deterrents to are hazardous substances found in both virgin materials that can later contaminate recycling streams.

The statement identifies the following product categories as needing to be given priority attention: construction and building interior products, electrical and electronic products, clothing and footwear, and toys and children's products. The Swedish Recycling Industries' Association then called on the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate (KEMI) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to develop a "*work plan*" for facilitating the removal of hazardous materials for the aforementioned products.

The Swedish Recycling Industries' Association statement can be downloaded at <http://www.recycling.se/Templates/News1.aspx?PageID=6be17c47-54b9-4a53-b44c-af180c79f872>.

Business Initiatives

Established UK WEEE Compliance Scheme Expands Into Packaging Waste

European Recycling Platform (ERP) UK Ltd, which for years has operated compliance schemes for e-waste and waste batteries, announced today that it was approved by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to begin a compliance scheme for waste packaging.

ERP joins an already crowded field of packaging compliance schemes includes ValPak, Veolia Environmental Services, DHL Packaging Compliance, Recycle-Pak and about 40 others. ERP

said the move into packaging provide "one stop" services for existing and new EEE and batteries compliance clients.

The ERP UK announcement can be downloaded at http://www.erp-recycling.co.uk/get_document.php?id=412.

NY Restaurants Four-Bin Recycling Pilot Shows Encouraging Results

According to the Coalition for Resource Recovery last month, a pilot program in five New York City Pret A Manger restaurants that used a four-bin in-store waste separation system achieved a 55 percent waste diversion rate.

In addition to bins for recycling paper, plastic, glass and metal, a bin dedicated to customer food waste was used with the food waste being sent to composting. According to the Coalition for Resource Recovery, the food waste bin stream was 73 percent pure. Combined with food waste generated by the kitchens, the compostable stream for the five restaurants was 98 percent pure.

Also noteworthy - the bins dedicated to paper produced a nearly 400 percent collection increase by weight. The Coalition for Resource Recovery suggested that by switching to compostable napkins and paper towels the restaurants could increase their diversion rate further. Pret A Manger's waste diversion rate target is 75 percent.

An executive summary of the pilot program's results is available at

APR Launches Program To Help Supermarkets Recycle More Rigid Plastic Containers

Today, the Association of Postconsumer Plastics Recyclers (APR) launched "Recycle Grocery Plastics," a free informational program designed to help supermarkets recycle more of the roughly 350 million pounds of recyclable rigid plastics waste they generate each year.

The program is focused primarily on recycling high density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP), and offers a dedicated web site and a 45-page guide book. Topics in the guide book include training staff to recycle, in-store tracking and preparation of plastic waste, understanding recycling center logistics, managing plastics used primarily in pharmacies and industry trends.

APR said the program is based on knowledge gained from pilot projects conducted by Hannaford Supermarkets and the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company.

Get more information on the program at <http://www.recyclegroceryplastics.org/>.

South African Plastics Manufacturers Sponsor Summit Dedicated To Marine Litter

The industry association Plastics South Africa (Plastics/SA) recently announced it will be holding the first ever conference in Africa to dedicated to combating marine litter. The event will be held in Cape Town next month, but the agenda has yet to be published.

Plastics/SA also sponsors the Clean Up South Africa campaign, which includes an annual recycling day and periodic coastal clean up events.

According to Clean Up South Africa, container caps and lids, plastic beverage bottles, and plastic bags are the three most common items collected during marine litter clean up events.

Get more information at http://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/default.asp?CPH_ID=1791.

The Green Perspective

HealthyStuff.org Releases Study On Hazardous Substances In Mobile Phones

Today, Healthystuff.org and ifixit.com released results of testing for hazardous substances in 36 different mobile phones from ten manufacturers. The phones were disassembled and components were tested for lead, bromine, chlorine, mercury, cadmium and other substances using using an XRF analyzer.

“Even the best phones from our study are still loaded with chemical hazards,” said Jeff Gearhart, research director at the Ecology Center and founder of HealthyStuff.org. *“These chemicals, which are linked to birth defects, impaired learning and other serious health problems, have been found in soils at levels 10 to 100 times higher than background levels at e-waste recycling sites in China. We need better federal regulation of these chemicals, and we need to create incentives for the design of greener consumer electronics.”*

Healthystuff.org also published lists of the six best and six worse mobile phones and a ranking of the phones all in regard to the hazardous substances found.

Download the study, the lists and more information at <http://www.healthystuff.org/findings.100312.phones.php>.

Asthma-Allergy Denmark Launches Personal Care Products Database For Consumers

Last week, Asthma-Allergy Denmark, a nonprofit health association, launched KEMILEX, an online database of potential allergens found in 543 shampoos, soaps, deodorants, hair care and other personal care products sold in Denmark. Asthma-Allergy invited consumers to search the new database *“whenever you want to avoid unnecessary chemicals in everyday life.*

Ewa Daniel, a Asthma-Allergy Denmark spokesperson invited personal care products companies not currently listed in the database to submit information on their products ingredients and hoped the new consumer tool would encourage manufacturers to phase out the use of allergenic

substances in their product formulas. she also reminded consumers to check product packaging for the "Blue Wrath" symbol or "Swan" ecosymbol to ensure the a personal care product is generally allergen-free.

The new consumer database can be accessed at www.astma-allergi.dk.