



The Brazilian Senate announcement is posted at <http://www12.senado.gov.br/noticias/materias/2014/05/30/cma-pode-atribuir-a-industria-farmaceutica-custeio-de-logistica-reversa-de-medicamentos>.

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## European Parliament Seeks Experts to Assist with Environmental Policy Development

Recently, the European Parliament published a call for tenders to provide assistance to its Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) as it develops environmental (including waste and recycling), sustainable development and other policies. The experts will provide support to MEPs assigned to ENVI.

In the past, ENVI has led development on policy matters that have ranged from reducing plastic waste to protecting against harmful chemicals.

Contracts are renewable and are worth 625 000 EUR for 12 months. The deadline to submit proposals is July 10.

Get more information at <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:179766-2014:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0&tabId=1>.

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## Two Organizations Say Data Lacking to Prove Effectiveness of US Scrap Metal Theft Laws

Last week, the Council of State Governments released a brief (report) on the effectiveness of new US state laws to deter theft and sale of recyclable metals. The study was conducted with assistance from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

A key finding in the Council report is that "*metal theft data for states are not available for analysis.*" The Council went on to say, "*Moving forward, it is unlikely data will be available on a scale necessary to perform meaningful analysis unless a widespread effort is launched to create systems to document, track and report metal theft crime uniformly and consistently. CSG researchers recommend continued discussion regarding the development of a uniform tracking system for metal theft or modifications to current systems.*"

The Council also noted that during the past two legislative sessions, 200 bills concerning metal theft prevention were introduced and 51 were passed.

Get more information at [http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/system/files/MetalTheft\\_Final%20%2805282014%29.pdf](http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/system/files/MetalTheft_Final%20%2805282014%29.pdf).

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### Statistics & Trends

## Dutch Environmental Secretary Announces Initiative to Separate Beverage Cartons for Recycling

Today, Dutch Secretary of Infrastructure and the Environment Wilma Mansveld announced that beginning January 1, 2015, municipalities will be expected to begin separating beverage cartons from other recyclables. The initiative will phase in across the Netherlands over three years.

The national government will help finance the initiative using the Packaging Waste Fund, although Mansveld said the amount of funding to be provided and any recycling targets remain to be determined.

According to the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment announcement, the country treats about 70,000 tons of waste beverage cartons each year primarily by incineration. Mansveld wants to cut the amount of waste incinerated or disposed in landfills by 50%.

Get more information at

<http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ienm/nieuws/2014/06/04/mansveld-afspraken-maken-over-gescheiden-inzamelen-drankenkartons.html>.

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## Recent ACT Law Leads to 36% Fewer Plastic Bags Disposed in Landfills

According to an announcement today from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government, a ban on the distribution of single-use plastic bags enacted in 2011 has produced a 36% drop in the number of such plastic bags being disposed in landfills.

*"Using information from major retailers in the territory, we estimated 171 tonnes of plastic bags were sent to landfill, a 36% decrease on the 266 tonnes sent to landfill in the six months prior to the ban,"* said ACT Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development Simon Corbell.

Corbell also said most ACT consumers now support the bag ban, basing his claim on a March survey of shoppers conducted for the government by an independent research firm.

*"Seventy-one percent said they did not want the ban overturned, and 68% said the ban should be implemented nationally,"* said Corbell. *"Those supporting the ban said they did so for environmental reasons and agreed the ban has had a positive effect on the environment."*

The ACT Government announcement is posted at

[http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open\\_government/inform/act\\_government\\_media\\_releases/corbell/2014/plastic-shopping-bags-ban-successful](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/corbell/2014/plastic-shopping-bags-ban-successful).

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## UK Launches Innovation in Waste Prevention Fund

The United Kingdom's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) said last week, that it is making £ 800,000 in funding available for the next two years to support *"communities to take forward innovative waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas."* The funding comes from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Individual grants ranging from £ 5,000 to £ 50,000 are now available to *"two or more parties working together."* Parties can include local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses and trade associations and educational institutions.

The deadline for submitting applications is September 1.

Get more information at  
<http://www.wrap.org.uk/iwp>.

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## Voluntary Industry Agreement in Singapore Prevented More Than 20,000 Tons of Packaging Waste

According to an announcement yesterday from the Singapore National Environment Agency (NEA), the voluntary Singapore Packaging Agreement, which was first signed by companies in 2007, has resulted in saving 20,000 tons of packaging waste so far.

A second Singapore Packaging Agreement was started in 2012 and currently has 149 signatories. The primary goal of the second agreement is to eliminate another 6,500 tonnes of packaging waste by 2015. The NEA said that as of May 31 of this year, 5,370 tons of packaging waste had already been saved under the new pact.

The NEA announcement is posted at  
<http://app2.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/newsroom/news-releases/companies-reap-over-44-million-in-savings-from-taking-steps-to-reduce-packaging-waste>.

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## Queen Elizabeth Mentions Plastic Bag Tax in Her Speech to the UK Parliament

Among the topics, Queen Elizabeth chose to include in her speech at the opening of the new session of Parliament was the upcoming five pence per plastic bag tax that is scheduled to take effect in October 2015.

While Queen Elizabeth did not say she supports the tax, she said it was one of the initiatives that "*her government*" would be taking to help protect the environment.

Wales and Northern Ireland currently have financial incentives in place to reduce bag use, and a bag tax is scheduled to take effect in Scotland later this year.

For more information, go to  
<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/occasions/stateopening/>.

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### Business Initiatives

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## DigitalEurope and CECED Concerned about Proposed EU Reusability/Recyclability/Recoverability Standards

Last week, DigitalEurope, a European digital technology industry organization representing more than 10,000 EU firms, and CECED, an association of European appliance manufacturers, published a six-page position statement in response to reusability/recyclability/recoverability

(R/R/R) standards proposed by the European Commission. The standards would be established under an update of the EU Ecodesign Framework Directive.

The statement says in part, "*CECED and DIGITALEUROPE are of the opinion that none of the above criteria can be met at the moment and that trying to standardise treatment technologies would stifle innovation and make it less likely that environmentally beneficial innovations, such as extracting rare earth metals, would be developed.*" More specifically, it states, "*Requirements leading to avoidance of the use of critical raw materials may hinder innovation. Criticality of a material is a socio-economic issue and not an environmental one. Standards should provide a framework for finding suitable alternatives for environmentally harmful materials (replace or redefine critical to harmful).*"

It also states, "*Recyclability should never compromise the safety of the product. Recyclability also depends on recycling technology. It should be considered how the product would be recycled in ten years.*"

However, the two trade organizations also said that they are "*willing to contribute to the process*" of establishing standards but that that "*any standards should be based on reliable, accurate and reproducible procedures and methods.*"

Download the full DigitalEurope and CECED R/R/R position statement at <http://www.digitaleurope.org/>.

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## New Entity Assumes Responsibility for R2 Electronics Recycling Standard

Today, R2 Solutions announced it is assigned responsibility for developing and promoting the R2 Standard to a newly formed entity called Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI).

"*Current and future R2 recyclers can rest-assured that nothing is changing for the R2 Standard,*" said SERI Executive Director John Lingelbach in a media release. "*The R2 Standard has been tremendously successful. Over 540 R2 certified facilities are now operating in 17 countries, but still many regions of the world are underserved or without access to responsible electronics recycling. The incredible growth of electronics use in the developing world necessitates that more be done. Both the R2 Standard, as well as the new activities of SERI, are all critical to meeting this challenge.*"

The announcement also stated that all current R2 Solutions staff, its board of directors and its R2 Technical Advisory Committee have been transferred to SERI.

Get more information at <http://www.sustainableelectronics.org/>.

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## DeWalt Offers Purchase Discount for Turning in Waste Rechargeable Batteries

Power Tool producer DeWalt has begun offering Canadian consumers a 10% discount on rechargeable DeWalt batteries when they turn in waste batteries for recycling at time of purchase,

according to an announcement by Call2Recycle, the North American rechargeable battery stewardship organization that will be collecting and processing the spend batteries.

The discount promotion will run through the end of this year. However, the battery discount will be available only the ten factory-owned service centers in Canada.

For more information, go to

<http://www.call2recycle.org/dewalts-sponsors-rechargeable-battery-trade-in-event/>.

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