



More information on the current status of disposable plastic bags in Toronto is available at <http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/index.htm>.

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## Victorian Government Allocates \$6.5 Million For Large Recycling Infrastructure Projects

Last week, the Ministry for Environment and Climate Change of Victoria, Australia announced that \$6.5 million is available in funding for "*the development of major infrastructure to recycle and recover commercial and industrial waste and boost jobs in the sector.*" The Ministry said it was particularly interested in *large scale projects that process more than 100,000 tons of C&I waste annually.* The money is coming from Victoria's Resource Recovery Infrastructure (RRI) Fund.

*"The funding will be focused on encouraging the development of several large-scale infrastructure projects to significantly boost the processing and recovery of commercial and industrial waste,"* said Ryan Smith MP and Environmental Minister. *"We want to help recover and process more of the commercial and industrial waste, such as cardboard, metals, plastics, glass and timber that is going to waste in our landfills."*

Expression of interest for funding will be accepted by the Ministry through March 15, 2013.

Get more information on the funding at <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/3552-resource-recovery-infrastructure-fund.asp?intSiteID=4>

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## French Agency Announces Funding For R&D Construction And Demolition Waste Projects

Last month, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) issued a call for research and development projects that reduce construction and demolition (C&D) waste generation or increase C&D waste recycling and recovery. ADEME said submitted proposals should be focused on construction products design/deconstruction, technologies and processes that improve C&D waste sorting and recycling, and characterization of C&D waste.

ADEME will provide funding of up to 250,000 euros for selected R&D projects and up to 50,000 euros to support eco-innovation projects submitted by small and medium size enterprises.

Companies and public research organizations are eligible to submit proposals. The closing date for submissions is March 29, 2013.

Download ADEME's 17-page Call for Projects at <http://www2.ademe.fr/servlet/getDoc?cid=96&m=3&id=85573&p1=1>.

## Denmark Exported 80 Billion Kroner In Green Products And Services In 2010

Last week, the Danish Ministry of Environment reported that more than 22,000 Danish companies are producing and selling green products and services, generating 250 billion kroner in revenue or about 9.2 of business revenue in 2010.

The Ministry also reported that 80 billion kroner in green products and services were exported in 2010 or 10.4 percent of all Danish exports, claiming the top spot among the EU-15 countries. Forty-five percent of Danish green product and services exports were to three countries - the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The Ministry also said that the Danish green economy employees about 1,080,000 workers.

The Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at [http://www.mim.dk/Nyheder/20121128\\_gronstatistik.htm](http://www.mim.dk/Nyheder/20121128_gronstatistik.htm).

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## Latest UK Waste Battery Collection Rate Very Close To 2012 Target

On Monday, the United Kingdom's Environment Agency released data on 3rd Quarter 2012 portable waste battery collections, and the news was encouraging. The collection rate for 2012 had risen to 24.45 percent. The 2012 target is 25 percent, which battery producers and retailers considering challenging.

The weight of portable batteries entering the market in 2012 so far was 22,147.01 tons, and the amount collected was 8,795.006 tons.

Collection weights by battery technology year-to-date were cover lead-acid - 7,297.005 tons; nickel-cadmium - 131.183 tons; and "other" chemistries - 1,366.818 tons.

Download the latest UK waste battery collection data at <http://npwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/Public/Batteries/PublishedReports.aspx>.

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## French Agency's Working Group On Nanomaterials And Health Holds Initial Meeting

An experts group on nanomaterials and health established by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) met last month for the first time.

While the expert group's first meeting did not produce major announcements, ANSES said research projects could be announced in the near future that would support the groups mission to monitor nanomaterials industry developments and applications from a safety perspective.

For more information go to <http://www.anses.fr/index.htm>.

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## Brazilian Federal Agencies Discuss Pharmaceuticals Product Stewardship Models

Late last month, the Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) and Agency for Industrial Development (ABDI) conducted a meeting of experts to discuss the "*technical and economic feasibility of reverse logistics in the pharmaceutical chain.*" The meeting featured presentations on reverse logistics of expired and unused pharmaceuticals by experts from other countries.

According to ANVISA Deputy Director Luciana Takara Shimizu, a leading model being considered is a voluntary stewardship agreement among all elements in the pharmaceuticals supply chain that would be monitored by the federal government. Passage of the National Policy on Solid Waste in 2010 established a legal foundation for product stewardship programs.

Presentations from the ANVISA-ANDI meeting are available at [http://residuosmedicamentos.abdi.com.br/SitePages/pos\\_evento\\_apresentacoes.aspx](http://residuosmedicamentos.abdi.com.br/SitePages/pos_evento_apresentacoes.aspx).

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## Hong Kong Government Unveils New Food Waste Minimization Campaign

On Monday, the Government of Hong Kong unveiled its latest program in its battle against food waste - a public awareness campaign called Food Wise Hong Kong. A steering committee headed by the Secretary of Environment has been formed to help direct the campaign.

According to the announcement, "*the Government plans to table waste charging proposals at the Legislative Council this year.*"

Other efforts to battle food waste in Hong Kong include voluntary food waste minimization efforts by restaurants and implementation of food waste recycling (composting) in the district's large residential living complexes. Food accounts for 40 percent of Hong Kong's solid municipal waste, according to the government.

The Government of Hong Kong announcement is posted at [http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2012/12/20121203\\_124218.shtml](http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2012/12/20121203_124218.shtml).

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## Connecticut DEEP Joins Reuse Marketplace

Last week, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) became the latest the Reuse Marketplace, an online database of reusable and surplus products and materials maintained by the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). Other state agencies include the Massachusetts and New Jersey Departments of Environmental Protection, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporations, and the Delaware Solid Waste Authority.

The Reuse Marketplace lists products in 35 categories ranging from architectural salvage and construction and building products to electronics. Some of the products listed are available for free while others have a price.

The URL for the Reuse Marketplace is <http://raymond.com/www.reusemarketplace.org>.

### **Business Initiatives**

## **French Paper Producers Increase Financial Support For Municipal Paper Recycling Programs**

Late last month, EcoFolio, the industry-supported paper recycling scheme, met with French mayors to present its plan to increase paper recycling. At the center of the plan is an increase in financial support for municipal paper recycling from 65 to 80 euros per ton. The financial boost is expected to improve and expand collection and sorting efforts by the municipalities.

EcoFolio is under pressure from the Ministry of Ecology, Durable Development and Energy to recycle 60 percent of paper by 2018.

The EcoFolio announcement is posted at [http://www.ecofolio.fr/sites/default/files/pdf\\_files/cp\\_ecofolio\\_salon\\_des\\_maires.pdf](http://www.ecofolio.fr/sites/default/files/pdf_files/cp_ecofolio_salon_des_maires.pdf).

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## **Green Dot Germany CEO Warns Of Falling Packaging Recycling Rate Under New Regulations**

Last week, the CEO of Duales System Deutschland GmbH (DSD), also known as Green Dot Germany, said the costs to operate packaging stewardship programs in the country could increase as German municipalities gain more control over local recyclable materials under revised waste management regulations.

According to CEO Stefan Schreiter, packaging that would normally be recycled might be diverted to waste-to-energy facilities that municipalities support. As a result, recycling rates could fall, and operating costs for stewardship programs would increase as materials are diverted to incinerators.

Schreiter's remarks echo ones recently made by BVSE, Germany's recycling industries association.

The DSD CEO's remarks are posted at <http://www.dsd-holding.de/kommunikation/presseinformationen/ansicht/article/privatwirtschaft-entlastet-kommunale-haushalte.html>.

### **The Green Perspective**

## **Indian Company Debuts At Top Of Latest Greenpeace Greener Electronics Guide**

Last week, Greenpeace International published its latest edition (18th edition) of the Guide To Greener Electronics, which ranks 16 leading international electronics manufacturers on 12 criteria such as energy efficiency, reduction or elimination of hazardous substances, use of recycled content and optimization of product life cycles.

At the top of the latest rankings with a score of 7.1 is Wipro, an Indian IT services company headquartered in Bangalore and a newcomer to the ranking. According to Greenpeace, Wipro "*shows leadership in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing its use of renewable energy*" and "*receives maximum points for placing energy efficient products in the market.*" The company also "*continues to receive the maximum score for its effective take-back policy and performance on the collection and recycling of post-consumer e-waste. It provides convenient take-back service to its customers through 17 direct and 300 authorised collection centres, the highest in India by any PC manufacturer.*"

Hewlett-Packard was second on the list with a score of 5.7. The three lowest ranking companies on the list were Sharp, Toshiba and RIM, with scores of 3.1, 2.3 and 2.0, respectively. The maximum attainable score is 10.

The 18th edition of the Guide to Greener Electronics is posted at <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/climate-change/cool-it/Campaign-analysis/Guide-to-Greener-Electronics/>.

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## Swedish Environmental Organization Identifies The Country's Most Energy Efficient Tires

On Thursday, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) announced it has identified what it says are the most efficient automobile tires on the Swedish market. The tires appear as a new category on a product energy efficiency web site maintained by the Swedish environmental organization. Three of the most energy-efficient tires listed on the web site are made by Italian manufacturer Pirelli.

According to SSNC, if all Swedish vehicle owners switched to the most energy efficient tires, Sweden could reduce fuel consumption by up to 10 percent, saving up to 500 million gallons of gasoline annually.

To review SSNC's most energy efficient-rated tires and other consumer products, go to <http://www.toptensverige.se/>.

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