

In a first step three months ago, CalRecycle released "*informal draft regulatory text*" and opened a brief public comment period. Yesterday, CalRecycle announced that at its May 20 public meeting it would seek approval to proceed with the formal rulemaking process.

Get more information on the May 20 CalRecycle meeting at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/Documents%5C85%5C20142014%5C1032%5CAgenda.pdf>

Portland, Maine City Council to Vote on Polystyrene Foam Food Packaging Ban

Last month, the Transportation, Sustainability and Energy Committee of the Portland City Council approved a revised draft ordinance that would ban polystyrene foam carryout food packaging, effective July 1, 2015. Retail food vendors and food packagers that violate the ordinance could receive a fine of up to \$250 for a first time offense, and up to \$500 fine for a second and each subsequent offense.

In addition to banning containers for prepared foods, the ordinance would also ban the retail distribution of polystyrene foam packaging "*for meat, eggs, bakery products or other food.*"

The proposed ordinance states, "*There is no economically feasible means of recycling polystyrene foam locally.*" It also states that polystyrene foam is "*a common pollutant that fragments into smaller, non-biodegradable pieces that are ingested by marine life and other wildlife thus harming or killing them.*"

The proposed Portland, Maine is available for review at <http://me-portland.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/354?fileID=1859>.

Statistics & Trends

US Paper Recovery Rate Fell 2.4% in 2013

Last week, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced that the 2013 recovery rate for US paper was 63.5%, a decrease from 65.1% in 2012. While the decrease may not seem large numerically, it was the greatest annual decrease since AF&PA began publishing records.

According to the AF&PA, "*The decline was attributable to a 6.3 percent reduction in U.S. exports of recovered paper due to economic weakness in certain key customer markets.*"

AF&PA set a goal to recovery at least 70% of US paper by 2020.

Get more information at <http://www.paperrecycles.org/statistics/paper-paperboard-recovery>.

Brazilian Pesticide Container EPR Scheme Reports 13% Recovery Increase In 2013

As one of the world's leading agricultural producers, Brazil uses a very large quantity of pesticides. Last month, Instituto Nacional de Processamento de Embalagens Vazias (inpEV) reported that in 2013 6.769 tons of pesticides containers were recovered - a 13% increase from 2012.

With the exception of Parana, all reporting Brazilian states had increases. Three Brazilian states had triple digit increases - Tocantins at 100%, Santa Catarina at 162%, and Piaui at 179%.

inpEV, an industry-founded organization, administers product stewardship for agricultural pesticides containers and Brazil's oldest, and arguable most successful, stewardship organization.

More information is available at

<http://www.inpev.org.br/saiba-mais/noticias/dados-de-destinacao/brasil-destina-67-mil-toneladas-de-embalagens-vazias-de-defensivos-agricolas.fss>.

Ministry Claims Waste Sector Creating 27% of All Green Jobs in Spain

On May 6, the Spanish Ministry of Environment published a six-page report on the future of Spain's waste sector. Based on requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive, the fact that Spain's per capita recycling level at 464 kilograms is below the EU average, and other factors, the waste sector economy will grow in the years ahead and be responsible for 27% of all green jobs in the country, an important projection given that Spain has one of the highest unemployment rates among EU Member States.

The report also says that Spain has a challenge in meeting 2020 recycling and reuse targets called for by the Waste Framework Directive. Spain's construction and demolition waste recycling rate is 40% and its residential recycling rate is only 27%, both well below the 2020 targets.

Download the Ministry of Environment report at

http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/prensa/14.05.06%20NP%20Publicaci%C3%B3n%20residuos_tc_m7-326594_noticia.pdf.

Illinois EPA Helps Remove More Than 3,000 Waste Tires at Two Sites

Last week, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency announced it funded the recent clean up of more than 3,000 waste tires at two sites in Peoria and Ogle Counties. The site in Peoria County contained 2,130 waste tires.

Funding for such clean ups comes from a \$2.50 fee consumers pay on each new replacement tire they purchase, a requirement of the Used Tire Management Act of 1992. Since 1989, the Illinois EPA has helped clean up more than 10 million waste tires.

The Illinois EPA announcement is posted at

<http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=29&RecNum=12203>.

Brussels Environment Offers Funding for Sustainable Public Events Planning

Bruxelles Environnement, the environmental and energy agency of the Brussels Capital Region, said today that it has funding available to help support "*sustainable events*" - up to 15,000 euros per event.

Candidate events must be recurring and take place (indoor or outdoor) in the Brussels Capital Region, and the general public must be the target audience. Fost Plus, Belgium's packaging compliance organization, is collaborating in the project.

Brussels Environment said it is particularly interested in public events that eliminate disposable tableware and drink containers. Other issues that projects may address are sustainable prepared food practices, improved waste management, and noise reduction efforts. The deadline for submitting funding requests is June 25.

Get more information at

<http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/news.aspx?id=40150&langtype=2060>.

Business Initiatives

Walmart and Other Corporations Pledge \$100 Million toward US Recycling Infrastructure Projects

Last week, a group of global companies lead by Walmart announced they would soon launch the Closed Loop Fund to "*invest \$100 million in recycling infrastructure projects and spur private and public funding for transforming the recycling system in the United States.*"

While the announcement was a bit short of substantive details, among the companies participating in the initiative are Campbell Soup, Coca-cola, General Mills, Johnson & Johnson, Kellogg, Monsanto, Procter & Gamble, PepsiCo, and Unilever. All are Walmart suppliers.

Get more information at

<http://news.walmart.com/news-archive/2014/04/29/walmart-convenes-key-partners-at-first-ever-sustainable-product-expo-to-accelerate-supply-chain-innovation>.

Sao Paulo Food Waste Trial Using BASF Compostable Bags Deemed Successful

Six months ago, CETESB, the pollution prevention agency for the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo, launched a food waste separation trial using 700 families in the city of Mogi Mirim. A key element in the trial was the use of ASTM D 6400 certified biodegradable plastic bags provided by BASF for segregating food waste for composting.

On April 22, CETESB reported that it considered the trial to be successful. During the six month period, 30 tons of residential food waste was collected, and food waste disposed with garbage fell to only 1%. The collected food waste generated 24 tons of compost. A survey of participating

residents conducted at the end of the trial found 100% believed the scheme could be expanded city-wide, according to CETESB.

An executive of Visafértil, the composting company used in the trial, said that the BASF biodegradable bags presented no problems during compost production and that their use should prove scalable. Mogi Mirim officials are considering expanding the bagged food waste separation scheme.

Get more information on the Mogi Mirim trial at

<http://www.ambiente.sp.gov.br/geral/projeto-piloto-promove-a-compostagem-de-residuos-domesticos-no-interior-de-sao-paulo/>.

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