

United Nations Releases Guidelines For Developing National Waste Management Strategies

Last week, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), released a 112-page document titled *Guidelines For National Waste Management Strategies*. In releasing the document, UNEP said that "3.5 billion people, half the world's population, are without access to crucial waste management services, posing significant environmental and health hazards and harming economies."

The guidelines, which will be of greater value to developing nations than industrialized ones, cover waste management concepts and principles; collecting waste data and information; setting objectives, goals and targets; implementing policies; supporting sustainable development; reducing marine debris; and moving toward zero waste, among other subjects.

UNEP said that progress in implementing national waste management strategies can be accelerated if "all the inefficiencies, losses and adverse impacts associated with generating and managing waste are reduced, or, for certain kinds of products, even eliminated completely."

Download the UNEP waste management guidelines at <http://www.unep.org/ietc/Portals/136/Publications/Waste%20Management/UNEP%20NWMS%20English.pdf>.

New Report Claims UK Produces 6.5 Million Tons Of Grocery Waste Annually

On Monday, the United Kingdom's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a largely government-funded agency, released a 57-page report on waste generated by food and drink producers and retailers, including packaging (essentially supply chain waste). Using 2011 data, the report estimates that food and drink manufacturers produced 4.9 million tons of waste and food and drink retailers another 1.6 million tons.

Of the total amount of waste, 4.3 million tons was of food, and 1.6 million tons was packaging. The report also says that from 2008 through 2011, waste from food and drink manufacturing declined two percent while waste from food and drink retailers increased by two percent. However, the report cautioned that the 2011 data was "more robust" than the 2008 data.

Download a copy of the report at http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Estimates%20of%20waste%20in%20the%20food%20and%20drink%20supply%20chain_0.pdf.

Dutch Waste Management Association Outlines Ideas For A National Circular Economy

Today, Vereniging Afvalbedrijven, the Waste Management Association of the Netherlands, published a list of five steps the government could take to transition the Netherlands to a more circular (recycling/reuse-driven) economy. The trade association also noted that the Dutch

recycling rate, which is 90 percent for combined waste streams, is already among the highest in the European Union

The five steps are 1) support municipal waste diversion targets, 2) optimize the value of recyclable materials through improved product eco-design and greater use of recycled materials, 3) position the Netherlands as a "*major processing center*" for the EU, 4) support greater imports of "*combustible waste*" as a renewable energy source, and 5) divert more organic and forest waste from landfill.

Get more information at <http://www.verenigingafvalbedrijven.nl/nieuws/nieuwsbericht/schouders-onder-circulaire-economie.html>.

US Sales Of Energy-Efficient Compact Fluorescent Lamps Continue To Decline

Tuesday, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) released Qtr. 2 data on incandescent bulb, compact fluorescent lamp (CFLs) and halogen A-line lamp shipments. Shipments of incandescent bulbs declined for a third consecutive quarter as expected under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which sets energy-efficiency requirements for lights. However, sales of more energy-efficient CFLs also declined - 8.5 percent from a year earlier.

Consumers increasingly are buying halogen A-line lamps, which rose 28.3 percent for the quarter, although they represent only 10.4 percent of the market. The cost and color quality of A-line lamps is similar to those of incandescent bulbs, only they are about 30 percent more energy efficient.

The latest NEMA lighting sales data is available at <http://www.nema.org/News/Pages/Incandescent-Lamp-Shipments-Wane-During-Second-Quarter.aspx>.

Business Initiatives

\$R 6.7 Billion Needed To Upgrade Brazil's Waste Management Structure, Claims Trade Association

According to a report last week by Agencia Brasil, Brazil's national news agency, the Brazilian Association of Public Sanitation and Special Wastes (ABRELPE) estimates 6.7 billion reales are needed in investment to transition the country from one that relies on landfill disposal to one of reuse, recycling and recovery. The investment would be about 0.15 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

ABRELPE estimates that by August 2014, the government deadline for implementing the key provisions of the National Policy on Solid Waste, only 60 percent of municipalities will have the required waste diversion services and facilities in place. ABRELPE also said that the country generates about 30 million tons of municipal solid waste for which there is no legitimate processing facility.

The Agencia Brasil report is available at <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/noticia/2013-10-03/brasil-precisa-investir-r-67-bilhoes-para-dar-fim-adequado-residuos-solidos-diz-associacao>.

Unilever Plant Is The First In Chile To Achieve Zero Waste To Landfill

Yesterday, the Chilean Ministry of Environment officially recognized a Unilever plant in Santiago as the first manufacturing facility in Chile to achieve zero waste to landfill. The plant generates about 2,700 tons of waste annually, but according to the Ministry all of it is reused or recycled.

Unilever launched the zero waste program at the plant in 2009, at which time about 63 percent of the waste generated was sent to landfill.

"The greatest challenge was to create a culture among plant personnel to adapt to new processes because without their cooperation and understanding of the importance of this initiative, the project could hardly have been carried out," said Sebastian Wodka, General Manager of Unilever Chile.

The Chilean Ministry of Environment announcement is posted at <http://www.mma.gob.cl/1304/w3-article-55201.html>.

French Plastics Industry Group Helps Fund Marine Litter Collection Pilot Project

The French Federation of Plastics and Composites and the National Committee on Marine Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture are coordinating on a pilot project to collect marine litter, according to an announcement last week by French Federation of Plastics. The first step in the pilot was collecting marine litter using fishing vessels last July and August. The litter is not being analyzed by Paprec Recycling to better understanding where it may have originated and develop avenues for recycling it.

The pilot project, which will continue into next year, is also evaluating how best to equip fishing vessels and determine whether a large scale deployment is economically feasible.

Get more information at <http://www.laplasturgie.fr/la-collecte-des-macro-dechets-marins-organisee-a-honfleur-le-7-octobre-a-ete-un-vrai-succes/>.

APC Encourages Signatories To Participate In ECO-Buy Research Project

In its October newsletter, the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) said it has begun working with ECO-Buy, an organization that promotes demand for and use of sustainable products and services, to *"identify organisations whose products and/or packaging contains recycled materials."*

APC said that ECO-Buy is *"undertaking a survey of brand owners and product/packaging manufacturers in order to develop a list of organisations and their products which contain recycled materials,"* and APC is encouraging its signatories to participate in the research. It also

encourages signatories to use recycled materials to get listed on ECO-Buy's ECO-Find online database of products that use recycled content.

More information on the ECO-Find database is available at <https://eco-buy.squarespace.com/ecofind/>.

The Green Perspective

Keep America Beautiful Launches Workplace Recycling Website

Late last month, the non-profit organization Keep America Beautiful (KAB) launched a website dedicated to encouraging more workplace recycling. The website, part of KAB's Recycling at Work initiative, provides information and promotional tools that support workplace recycling.

Companies that "*pledge*" to the Recycling at Work initiative can receive a 15 percent discount on recycling bins. To date, more than 180 companies have pledged. The goal of the initiative is to increase workplace recycling by at least 10 percent. Among the materials targeted are beverage containers, paper products and electronics.

The URL of the new website is <http://recyclingatwork.org/>.

Er Det Farlig? Cautions Public About Hazardous Chemicals In Rain Wear

Yesterday, Er Det Farlig? (Is It Safe?), a web site operated by the Norwegian Environment Agency, advised Norwegian consumers to purchase rain wear that is free of hazardous chemicals, specifically PVC clothing that often contains phthalates and textiles treated with the perfluorinated compound PFOA, which will be banned from use in clothing effective June 1, 2014.

Metal zippers would also be problematic since they may contain cadmium or lead.

As alternatives, Er Det Farlig? recommended purchasing rain wear made of nylon or plastic type polyurethane. To better ensure that rainwear is free of harmful chemicals, the agency recommended buying products bearing the Oeko-Tex eco-label.

The Er Det Farlig? communique is posted at <http://www.erdetfarlig.no/Artikler/Nyhetsartikler/utstyr-for-vate-dager/>

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Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com