

Newsletter from November 22th, 2007

1. England's recycling rate for municipal waste exceeds 30 per cent!

- *England is making "good progress" towards meeting its EU targets to send less biodegradable household waste to landfill!*
- *The report found that England was 20 per cent under its 2006/07 allowance and around 350,000 tonnes away from meeting its first EU target for 2010!*

Statistics released last week by England's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that the country's recycling and composting rate has cracked 30 per cent for the first time. In 2006/07 the proportion of municipal waste sent for recycling or composting was 30.7 per cent, up from 27.1 per cent in the previous year. The amount of waste generated also climbed, but volumes sent to landfill were down in 2006/07, Defra said. In a separate announcement, the Environment Agency for England and Wales (EA) reported that England is making "good progress" towards meeting its EU targets to send less biodegradable household waste to landfill.

The total amount of municipal waste collected in England increased to an estimated 29.1m tonnes in the most recent reporting year according to Defra, compared to 28.7m tonnes in 2005/06. This represented an increase of 1.4 per cent, the department said. Over the last five years, from 2001/02 to 2006/07, the average annual increase in municipal waste generation was 0.2 per cent.



The recovery rate reached 41.8 per cent as 12.2m tonnes of municipal waste were recovered in some form, including materials recycling, waste-to-energy and secondary recovered fuels. These figures had risen from 37.2 per cent and 10.7m tonnes in 2005/06.

The proportion of waste incinerated with energy recovery increased from 10 per cent in 2005/06 to 11 per cent in 2006/07. The regional variations in recovery and recycling rates were once again wide, with the recovery rate spanning a bracket from 34 per cent achieved in the North West to 58 per cent in the West Midlands. The recycling rates varied from 22 to 35 per cent.

Landfilling was on the decline last year in England, both in relative and absolute terms, according to Defra's figures. The proportion of municipal waste being disposed of in landfill fell from 62 per cent in 2005/06 to 58 per cent in 2006/07. The volume of municipal waste sent to landfill has also decreased again from 17.9m tonnes to 16.9m tonnes in 2006/07.

In 2006/07, household sources accounted for 89 per cent of municipal waste or about 25.9m tonnes. This was equivalent to around 509 kg per capita, of which 352 kg was residual waste. The amount of waste collected from household sources increased by 1.6 per cent last year, from 25.5m tonnes in 2005/06 to 25.9m tonnes in 2006/07.

The proportion of household waste recycled (including composting) continued to increase, Defra said, rising to 30.9 per cent on average in 2006/07 from 26.7 per cent in previous year. This increase of 4.2 percentage points was the same as had been recorded in 2005/06. In absolute terms, the volume of household waste sent for recycling or composting increased by 17 per cent, from 6.8m tonnes in 2005/06 to 8.0m tonnes in 2006/07.

The Environment Agency (EA) says England is making "good progress" towards meeting its EU targets to send less biodegradable household waste to landfill in the reporting year 2006/07. A report published in late October on the Landfill Allowances and Trading Scheme (LATS) showed that none of the 121 local authorities in England exceeded their landfill allowances and none were subject to penalties. The scheme is the UK's instrument for reaching the EU Landfill Directive's diversion targets. Under the scheme, local authorities are granted allowances for landfilling biodegradable municipal waste (BMW), based on the amount the landfilled in 2001/02. The authorities can meet their allocation through diverting waste to other management routes such as recycling and composting, or by borrowing against future allowances or by buying LATS allowances from other authorities.

The report found that England was 20 per cent under its 2006/07 allowance and around 350,000 tonnes away from meeting its first EU target for 2010. Barbara Young, EA's chief executive, commented: "This continues the downward trend in the amount of biodegradable municipal waste we are sending to landfill and this is thanks to a lot of hard work by Local Authority staff." Under the EU's Landfill Directive, the UK must reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) going to landfill to 75 per cent of the amount landfilled in 1995 by the year 2010, then to 50 per cent by 2013 and finally 35 per cent by 2020.

According to the report, England's total allowance allocation for 2006/07 was set at 14.5m tonnes but the country only sent 11.55m tonnes of BMW to landfill in that year. This volume was down by 0.8m tonnes in comparison to the previous year.

Source: EUWID

2. Europe must do more to cut e-waste, report finds!

- *Europe must do more to improve the collection and recycling of electronic waste!*
- *Europe produces 10.3 million tonnes of electronic waste a year, around a quarter of the world's total!*

Europe must do more to improve the collection and recycling of electronic waste, according to a new report for the European Commission by a United Nations University (UNU)-led consortium.

Europe produces 10.3 million tonnes of electronic waste a year, around a quarter of the world's total, and this figure is predicted to rise to 12.3 million tonnes per year by 2020. The EU's 2002 Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive is designed to increase levels of recycling in the sector.

The new report reveals that currently just 25% of Europe's medium-sized household appliances and 40% of larger appliances are collected for salvage and recycling. The figure for small appliances is close to zero. This leaves 'substantial room for improvement', the report states.

'The study suggests possible long-term collection rate targets of around 60% for small appliances like MP3 players and hairdryers, as well as for medium sized audio equipment, microwaves and TVs and 75% for large appliances like refrigerators and washing machines,' said Ruediger Kuehr of the UNU. 'If implemented, these targets would lead to a reported European harvest of roughly 5.3 million tonnes of e-

waste by 2011, up from 2.2 million tonnes today.'

The report shows wide differences in performance by different Member States, both overall and for different categories of WEEE. The authors note that this could be due to a number of factors, including availability of collection points, geographical location, culture, waste collection ways and financing mechanisms.

The composition of electrical waste is also changing as new products enter the market. For example, flat screen televisions are replacing cathode ray tube (CRT) models, and CFCs are being phased out of fridges.

Another point raised by the report is the fact that the environmental advantages of recycling vary from product to product, covering issues such as reducing toxic pollution, conserving natural resources, reducing energy consumption and preventing emissions that cause global warming and ozone layer depletion. The report's authors therefore recommend differentiated collection targets for different e-waste categories.

'For instance the top environmental priority is to gain control over the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in old refrigerators,' said Dr Jaco Huisman of the UNU. 'By increasing the reported EU27 collection rate from the 27% achieved in 2005 to the suggested 75% by 2011, a major reduction of chemicals destroying the ozone layer would be achieved but also, because CFCs are a powerful greenhouse gas, it would save the equivalent of roughly 34 million tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere.'

The report sets out a series of recommendations to improve the situation. The authors call for more research into the influence of new products such as flat screen TVs on the waste stream composition and for studies on better treatment options for these products.

For medium-sized appliances, they recommend research into the value of splitting high value products from other small appliances, as is already done in some countries.

Another key priority identified by the report's authors is raising consumer awareness to stimulate greater levels of e-waste collection.

'Electronic products have a great positive impact on our lives,' said UN Under-Secretary-General and UNU Rector Konrad Osterwalder. 'However, their increasing availability and affordability means that they also present a growing environmental problem, one we all personally need to address. The old saying - reduce, reuse, recycle, applies particularly well to electronic waste.'



Source: United Nations University

3. The waste plastics market in Germany!

- *The hikes in sea freight rates to the Far East had not yet been fully felt on the German waste plastics market by the end of October!*
- *EUWID has also learnt that Chinese customs inspections were becoming more rigorous!*

The hikes in sea freight rates to the Far East had not yet been fully felt on the German waste plastics market by the end of October. Some prices had been reduced by about €15-20 per tonne, but this mostly affected the better used PE film grades such as 98/2 and 95/5. Prices for lower film grades often remained stable, because some sellers decided to hold on to their material while waiting to see how the market



would develop. Quotes for post-consumer PET bottles and post-industrial PVC and PE regrind remained relatively unchanged whereas PS regrind reportedly dropped dramatically in some cases.

Every exporter interviewed by EUWID complained about the increasingly weak US dollar. "This month I was glad not to receive deliveries," said one exporter. However, not all Far East traders shared this subdued mood. Some traders reported being able to ship goods more cheaply than expected; containers were available for USD800 in October instead of the announced USD 1,000. Market insiders told EUWID that not all exporters still had open sales channels to the Far East.

EUWID has also learnt that Chinese customs inspections were becoming more rigorous. Only the best quality clean material could be shipped to China—even shipments of post-industrial waste plastics had been returned to Germany. The export firms reacted to the weak US dollar with more price cuts. At the end of the month, some exporters started offering €10 less for PE film waste.

Source: EUWID

4. IPC and JEDEC host technical conference on going green!

- *Hot environmental topics affecting manufacturers in today's marketplace include electronic waste and recycling, lead free, low halogen and energy use!*
- *IPC and JEDEC will host a technical conference to examine the drivers behind "green" trends!*

Hot environmental topics affecting manufacturers in today's marketplace include electronic waste and recycling, lead free, low halogen and energy use. IPC and JEDEC will host a technical conference to examine the drivers behind "green" trends, including environmental directives and regulations such as RoHS, REACH and EuP, as well as consumer and nonregulatory pressures.

The conference, titled "The Challenges of Going Green," will be held January 7, 2008 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, in conjunction with the Consumer Electronics Show. More than a dozen industry experts will cover environmental, cost and technical implications of the regulations, while major original equipment manufacturers, such as Hewlett-Packard, Texas Instruments and Intel Corporation will provide an overview of their environmental roadmaps.

Conference topics will include issues related to lead-free rework, evolving environmental strategies, eco-technology opportunities, cost-effective approaches to environmental compliance and global environment, health and safety directives and regulations impacting electronics.

"The PCB industry is painfully aware of the impact of 'going green' on their pocketbooks, not to mention all the extra resources needed to comply with environmental regulations. IPC and JEDEC hope participants learn valuable information from the seminar that they can apply directly to their own production processes," says Jean Hebeisen, IPC director of professional development.



Source: emsnow.com