

Greening of Consumer Products

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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Downturn in market leading to downturn in recyclables

Environmental Leader - Nov 14

As the global economy slows down, demand for recyclables is also dragging. This has caused scrap dealers from Sacramento to San Diego to stockpile collections and some even charge walk-in customers for their throwaways. The buildup of unsold garbage poses a potential public health hazard and could end up in landfills; making it hard for municipalities to comply with a state mandate to divert at least half of their waste from landfills.

Wal-Mart moves to sustainable packaging despite downturn in economy

Environmental Leader - Nov 11

At the Pack Expo 2008, Wal-Mart announced that it plans to expand its commitment to packaging source reduction and its Packaging Scorecard, despite a downturn in the economy. The changes will be announced at Wal-Mart's Sustainable Packaging Expo in April 2009. Wal-Mart says by February 2009, its suppliers will have improved reporting features through the scorecard software.

European Commission hosts first EU-China-US product safety summit

Europa - Nov 17

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has updated its guide for addressing environmental issues in product standards, according to The Environmental Leader. The new guide, ISO Guide 64:2008 offers product standards writers a step-by-step approach to identify and understand basic environmental aspects, as well as impacts related to the product's entire life-cycle. The guide recommends standard writers to conduct life-cycle evaluations of a product early on in the standard development.

EPA advisers seek review of perchlorate standard

Washington Post - Nov 14

Scientific advisers have urged the EPA to delay final action on its decision not to set a federal drinking-water standard for the chemical perchlorate, found in rocket fuel. Advisers said the computer model from the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology - which the EPA relied heavily upon in making its decision - has not been adequately evaluated by other scientists. They asked that the deadline for public comment be moved to early 2009.

Report finds BPA leaches from many 'safe' products

JS Online - Nov 15

Products that are meant for infants or labeled to be "microwave safe" still leach levels of bisphenol A that have been shown to cause neurological and

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developmental damage in lab tests on animals. The American Chemistry Council disputed the findings and said their publication represents a "serious disservice by drawing a conclusion about product safety that simply cannot be drawn from either this study or the overall body of scientific research."

FDA to delay scores of Chinese imported products due fear of melamine contamination

Consumer Affairs - Nov 14

The FDA will now detain scores of products imported from China due to concerns of melamine contamination. Under this action, dozens of Chinese-imported items that contain milk products will be held at the border until the importers can prove the items are not tainted with melamine or are not made with milk or milk-derived ingredients.

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