

BASEL WASTE NEWS

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BASEL CONVENTION COORDINATING CENTRE FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

EUROPEAN CITIES TURN WASTE INTO A RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

The conversion of solid waste into biomethane may help reduce landfill and meet cities' energy needs, according to

findings from the UrbanBiogas project. The three-year project, which was funded by

the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) programme, helped five partner cities to confront the dual challenges of waste reduction and energy production by converting significant amounts of waste into biogas using anaerobic digestion. Project results showed a direct correlation between the level of political will and the likelihood of successfully integrating biogas into the

**WE MUST DEVELOP A
BETTER SENSE OF
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OUR TOTAL ENVIRONMENT.**

Jon Wynne-Tyson

municipal energy mix.

Following the 1999 EU Landfill Directive and the 2006 EU Waste Directive, there is significant pressure on local governments to reduce the amount of potentially recyclable waste being sent to landfill. The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive also placed an emphasis on the need for

increased investment in renewable energy. By upgrading the biogas produced

through anaerobic digestion to biomethane quality and incorporating it into the natural gas network, the UrbanBiogas project aimed to help cities comply with all three Directives.

See more:

<http://www.sustainable-procurement.org/newsroom/news-archive/?c=search&uid=9a0ecfdc>

Culled from the **Sustainable Procurement Resources Centre**

STUDY LISTS DANGEROUS CHEMICALS LINKED TO BREAST CANCER

Certain chemicals that are common in everyday life have been shown to cause breast cancer in lab rats and are likely to do the same in women, US researchers said Monday.

The paper in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* lists 17 chemicals to avoid and offers women advice on how to minimize their exposure.

They include chemicals in gasoline, diesel and other vehicle exhaust, flame retardants, stain-resistant textiles, paint removers, and disinfection byproducts in drinking water.

"The study provides a road map for breast cancer prevention by identifying high-priority chemicals that women are most commonly exposed to and demonstrates how to measure exposure," said study author Ruthann Rudel, research director of the Silent Spring Institute.

See more: <http://thanhniennews.com/health/study-lists-dangerous-chemicals-linked-to-breast-cancer-26272.html>

Culled from Thanh nien news.com

GOVERNMENT DENIES OWING WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has denied claims that it owes waste management contractors an amount of GH¢16 million.

The waste management contractors have accused the ministry of not making due payment of the said amount for treating garbage brought to the Compost plant for treatment.

The Environmental Service Providers Association (ESPA) on Tuesday threatened to close the Accra Compost and Recycling Plant if government does not settle the amount by May 19, 2014.

Business Development Manager of the Plant, Michael Tuwor noted that since the inception of the Plant more than two years ago, the Ministry of Local Government has not fulfilled its part of the contract signed.

But sector Minister, Akwasi Opong Ofori told Joy News the Ministry does not owe the waste management companies.

Meanwhile, operations at the Kpone Landfill site have resumed, following the restoration of electricity to power the

electronic weighing machine at the site.

Scores of waste collection trucks were stuck at the site Tuesday, as a result of the frequent power outages, making it difficult to offload garbage since the electronic weighing machine used in clearing the trucks was ineffective as a result of a power outage.

But Joy News' Michaela Anderson reports from Kpone Wednesday, that power has been restored to the site, adding that majority of the trucks had cleared their load as at midday.

See more: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/541196/1/government-denies-owing-waste-management-companies.html>

Culled from Modern Ghana News

DELL FUNDS COLLECTION SITES OF EAST AFRICA'S FIRST E-WASTE HUB

IT giant Dell is funding two collection sites for the first large-scale e-waste recycling facility in East Africa and has plans for 40 more.

The opening of the East Africa Compliant Recycling in Nairobi marks the introduction of a new regulatory model tailored for developing countries. The model

was developed by Kenyan officials and representatives from non-governmental organisations and the IT and e-recycling industries and requires electronics companies to meet certain thresholds for e-waste collection and treatment.

Other African nations have monitored the development of new regulatory model, with a view to replicating the approach.

At the heart of the business model are shipping container-housed collection points located throughout Kenya. Each collection point functions as its own independent small businesses, purchasing e-waste from newly-trained individual collectors. To date, four collection points have been established – two funded by Dell – with at least forty more planned.

Once a shipping container is filled to capacity, its contents are resold to the main hub where the e-waste is sustainably processed into material fractions and sold back to the technology industry. Each stage of the model is designed to be profitable for participants, from individual collector to collection point to hub.

See more: <https://www.ethicalperformance.com/article/8137>

Culled from Ethical Performance.com

10 DIE OF SUFFOCATION DUE TO CHEMICAL WASTE IN PAKISTAN

At least 10 people died of suffocation and eight others fell unconscious here on Friday while passing through a water channel that carries chemical waste from industries, mainly from Chasma Sugar Mills-2, to the Indus River.

Nazir Ahmed, the reporting officer at the Purwa Police Station, said that a girl had fallen unconscious in the nullah. About 15 people who went in to rescue the child also fell unconscious.

Station House Officer (SHO) of Purwa Police Station, Muhammad Nawaz told Dawn.com that the victims hailing from Kacha area most likely fell unconscious due to toxic fumes.

He said they had taken out two bodies so far and more than 15 unconscious people to the hospital but their status was not yet known. Four bodies including that of a child and a women has been brought to the Purwa Hospital and five of the dead belong to one family.

"Most of them died from suffocation as due to chemical wastes there was shortage of

oxygen, and when these people were passing thorough this water channel they fell unconscious and subsequently died," Dr Jehangir, a local who runs a clinic in the area told Dawn.com.

See more:

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/10-die-of-suffocation-due-to-chemical-waste-in-Pak-59918.html>

Culled from Asia News Network

TANZANIA: WASTE MANAGEMENT FIRM PLANS EXPANSION

A CHINESE plastic recycling company based in Dar es Salaam plans to expand and create more jobs.

The company, Fusun Investment Co. United Limited officials said in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a media tour of the plant in Kurasini area that 300 jobs have been created so far.

"As our business grows, chances are that we will be able to employ more people", said, Mr Jiang Jiaying, a director with the company.

He said the company founded in December 2010 collects 700 tonnes of plastic

bottles from the local people every month and crushes them into scrap for export to China.

Moreover, he said, the company has also opened two factories in Mabibo and Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam and plans are underway to extend wings to other regions upcountry.

"We have contributed to the Tanzanian economy in many ways such as earning the country foreign currency, pay taxes and levies as well as complement government efforts in protecting the environment", he said, adding: "Just imagine, what would have happened if the 700 tonnes of plastic bottles were left littering the streets?. It would be a total disaster".

Latest reports indicate that Dar es Salaam faces a serious crisis in waste management. As the third fastest growing city in Sub-Saharan Africa and the 9th fastest in the world, it faces an uphill task in managing its waste output.

Studies conducted in the 1980s estimated that Dar es Salaam produced around 1,200 tonnes of solid waste daily, but the latest researches estimate that waste output in the city

now stands at well over 2,500 tonnes a day.

See more:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201405051903.html>

Culled from Allafrica.com

MINE WASTE TRANSFORMED TO TAP WATER FOR 80,000 CONSUMERS

Anglo American Plc (AAL) was the first company to transform the wastewater from its coal mines into something 80,000 people drink. Now they're seen as a model.

Purifying contaminated waters from three sites in South Africa has proven so successful that Anglo's plant in Witbank is doubling in size and being replicated elsewhere in the country by BHP Billiton Ltd. (BHP), the biggest mining company, and Glencore Xstrata Plc. (GLEN)

While the \$130 million plant won't upend the \$600 billion world water industry, Anglo's treatment center provides as much as 12 percent of the area's municipal drinking supply and serves as a template for how the industry could treat waste in the future. It also shows how companies and municipalities are finding new ways to confront an increasingly water-stressed planet.

Water of a different sort -- sewer water -- is similarly about to be treated, purified and pumped back to residents in Wichita Falls, Texas, to augment shortages caused by growth and the area's worst drought on record.

Mines often treat wastewater to some extent yet until the Emalaheni water-reclamation plant, 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of Johannesburg, none was of drinking quality. This plant "is a model," said Marius Keet, acting head of the Department of Water Affairs in the Gauteng region. "It's a very good example of how it should be done."

See more:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-01/mine-waste-transformed-to-tap-water-for-80-000-consumers.html>

Culled from BloombergNews

TURNING SCRAPS INTO CHIC FROM ONE OF THE PHILIPPINES' LARGEST LANDFILLS

Manila's Payatas dump site is more than a simple landfill, it's an entire human eco-system.

Located to the northeast of the Philippines' capital, it supports a population of almost half a million people many of whom eke out a precarious living sifting through garbage.

Over the decades, an informal cottage industry grew up around women who earned money weaving recycled scrap fabric into rugs -- a job that allowed them to earn at least some money while they took care of their children at home.

Their work came to the attention of middlemen who exploited them by controlling the supply of fabric as well as their access to the market.

With the help of some of the Philippines' top designers, including sought-after names such as Rajo Laurel, Amina Aranaz-Alunan, Olivia d'Aboville and Oliver Tolentino, the company began producing high-end fashion accessories made by the women of Patayas and other communities around the Philippines.

According to Rags2Riches president Reese Fernandez-Ruiz, in a short six years the company has built an international brand with a growing reputation.

The company has so far trained more than 800 artisans producing everything from handbags, wallets and even wine bottle covers that retail in fashion houses as far away as London and New York.

See more:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/20/business/philippines-rags-to-riches-business/index.html?eref=edition>

[&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter](#)

Culled from CNN

DELL INTRODUCES NEW PACKAGING TAKES GREENHOUSE GASES OUT OF THE AIR AND BUILDS PCS REUSING PLASTIC FROM RECYCLED ELECTRONICS

Dell designed packaging leverages Newlight Technologies' carbon-negative AirCarbon material that's more sustainable and cost effective than traditional oil-based plastics

Dell is first to offer a computer made with certified closed-loop recycled plastics with the launch of the OptiPlex 3030 All-in-One. Dell is first to receive third-party certification from UL Environment for its closed-loop plastic recycling initiative

Dell recently announced new sustainability initiatives designed to increase the ways that its IT solutions make lasting contributions to the planet. Dell is the first in the IT industry to introduce carbon-negative packaging, through a partnership with Newlight Technologies, inventor and manufacturer of AirCarbon. Dell also is the first to use UL-Environment certified closed-loop recycled plastics in the manufacturing of computers, in partnership with Wistron GreenTech, a global original design manufacturer and one of Dell's official environmental partners. The independent, third-party verification of a closed-loop plastics process establishes the first industry standard for closed-loop and supports a circular economy for IT.

Earlier today, at Fortune Brainstorm Green, Dell CEO Michael Dell said today's announcement is the next milestone in Dell's 2020 Legacy of Good plan, which includes 21 ambitious sustainability and social goals Dell is committed to reaching by 2020. The

overarching goal is to ensure that the good that comes from Dell's technology will be ten times what it takes to create and use it. "We have a long-standing commitment to conduct our business responsibly," said Mr. Dell. "Air Carbon packaging and closed-loop recycled plastics are terrific innovations and big steps forward as we work with our customers and partners toward our 2020 goals."

See more:

http://www.pollutiononline.com/doc/dell-introduces-air-and-builds-pcs-reusing-plastic-from-recycled-electronics-0001?sectionCode=News&templateCode=Single&user=2903187&source=nl:40223&utm_source=et_6214185&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=POL_2014-05-28&utm_term=097F1B20-6273-47C9-8395-6B5F967B3CB9&utm_content=Dell%20is%20The%20First%20to%20Build%20the%20IT%20Industry%20to%20Introduce%20Carbon-Negative%20Packaging

Culled from: Pollution Online

ABOUT BCCC-AFRICA

The Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa) was established on 20th Of September 1994 by the defunct FEPA (which has been absorbed into the Federal Ministry of Environment in June 1999). The Center has a dual mandate to serve as a National Institution as well as a Regional Institution. As a National Institution, it is to serve as a Federal Ministry of Environment linkage center with the University of Ibadan. This linkage center has a mandate for Cleaner Production Technology and Hazardous Waste Management. The Center also, as a Regional Institution, has the mandate to serve as the Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Center for Africa, to assist African Countries implement the 1989 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their disposal. The Centre also coordinates the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Arabic-speaking African countries based in Egypt, French-speaking African countries based in Senegal and English-speaking African countries based in South-Africa respectively. This is the only Linkage Center of the Ministry that is a United Nations designated capacity building center with mandate to service Wastes and Chemicals Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), these are the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

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All correspondence to:

Omotayo Sindiku

Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region

1, Ijoma Road, University of Ibadan

Ibadan,

Nigeria

Website: www.baselnigeria.org.ng

E-mail: thayor@basel.org.ng, info@basel.org.ng