**December Articles**

**Basel amendments create uncertainty in global plastics and e-waste markets**

Dec. 29, 2020

…Under the Plastics Amendments, end-of-life plastic waste, both homogenous and mixed streams, will now be regulated under the Basel Convention (subject to some exemptions) and their transboundary transfer will either be:

* Prohibited as “hazardous”; or
* Controlled by domestic regulators through disclosure/Prior Informed Consent (PIC) requirements as “other wastes”.

Gone are the days of unregulated transfers of mixed (often municipal) plastic wastes which became the subject of minor international incidents in the months leading up to the Plastics Amendments. But how do exporters of end-of-life plastics know whether their material is banned, controlled, potentially exempt under the convention, or otherwise not considered a waste at all?... <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=2228164a-3a63-4a80-808c-75448458fed3>

**New International Requirements for the Export and Import of Plastic Recyclables and Waste** Dec. 22, 2020

In May 2019, 187 countries decided to significantly restrict international trade in plastic scrap (recyclables) and waste to help address the improper disposal of plastic waste and reduce its leakage into the environment. As a result of these changes, transboundary shipments of most plastic scrap and waste will be controlled, or regulated, for the first time under a treaty called the [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal](https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/international-agreements-transboundary-shipments-hazardous-waste#basel), effective January 1, 2021. Moving forward, international shipments of most plastic scrap and waste will be allowed only with the prior written consent of the importing country and any transit countries.

<https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/new-international-requirements-export-and-import-plastic-recyclables-and-waste>

Recycling Operators Sound-off on Packaging EPR Dec. 22, 2020

…Packaging EPR programs are currently in place in parts of Europe, [Canada](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/04/13/an-epr-evolution/) and elsewhere, but to date, this system hasn’t reached the U.S. In recent years, proposals have been discussed in [California](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2017/10/17/california-identifies-priority-packaging-mandatory-policy/), [Connecticut](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2018/02/27/little-agreement-conn-packaging-epr/), [Indiana](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/02/19/packaging-stewardship-bills-hit-states/), [Maine](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/01/21/northeast-state-takes-next-step-toward-epr-for-packaging/), [New York](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/02/25/packaging-epr-legislation-lands-in-new-york/), [Oregon](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/02/04/how-packaging-epr-could-take-shape-in-oregon/), [Vermont](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/05/29/vermont-passes-sweeping-single-use-plastics-ban/), and [Washington](https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/09/29/pacific-nw-states-ponder-paper-and-packaging-epr/).

“The U.S. stands alone here as a nation that has zero of these laws, but we do expect that to change in the next year,” said Scott Cassel, CEO and founder of PSI….

<https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/12/22/recycling-operators-sound-off-on-packaging-epr/>

**Demystifying Biopolymers And Compostable Packaging** BioCycle Dec. 15, 2020

*A new report from Closed Loop Partners, an investment firm and innovation center, examines how and where biopolymers fit in a “truly circular economy” for plastics.*

<https://www.biocycle.net/demystifying-biopolymers-and-compostable-packaging/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20Weekly%20Roundup:%20Waste%20Dive:%20Daily%20Dive%2012-19-2020&utm_term=Waste%20Dive%20Weekender>

[**ISRI Testimony Supports New Jersey Legislation Aimed at Expanding Use of Recycled Plastics**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TjClSXNIBIEmH8XKkNRnuElQMFuGfDD2SRdLcS0-MG4d2gwervoO8bN8iLSd953FSH6Z_pFZMyWIn0_QtZtWn1Ox9pi9x3OW2Dyjkzpk4uCiL0oXh9jfVzpDBIE1UAFyFvtD69_3UjA-e8OGNm7N0f2fe9wyE_Ok1GT-zVS46qaCnZxN6mRVZEYHKFVnYW7A4A3apfG_KWagjeuwKaZx3ueC3Pc38brbC72HnsJAi4JOe1t0xCHpEzwgUtZ5cS-nOoQ8g8T7ViCqnh4LmGb1xQ==&c=XAd5oSnDT38S5PFeEppix2KllhsHx2QZcqDLRhOaZF9HRDSNg0CTbg==&ch=E9cs5VReBunXMNMWkmV2TlRGlBbrtMdRZJGa2KdvmV3CASAMrND5lQ==) Waste Dive, Dec. 11, 2020

[ISRI testified before the New Jersey Senate Environment and Energy Committee in support of proposed legislation that expands and increases the use of recycled plastics. The bill is a proposed Senate Committee Substitute for Senate No. 2515, for which ISRI also testified in support of. **Read More>**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TjClSXNIBIEmH8XKkNRnuElQMFuGfDD2SRdLcS0-MG4d2gwervoO8bN8iLSd953FSH6Z_pFZMyWIn0_QtZtWn1Ox9pi9x3OW2Dyjkzpk4uCiL0oXh9jfVzpDBIE1UAFyFvtD69_3UjA-e8OGNm7N0f2fe9wyE_Ok1GT-zVS46qaCnZxN6mRVZEYHKFVnYW7A4A3apfG_KWagjeuwKaZx3ueC3Pc38brbC72HnsJAi4JOe1t0xCHpEzwgUtZ5cS-nOoQ8g8T7ViCqnh4LmGb1xQ==&c=XAd5oSnDT38S5PFeEppix2KllhsHx2QZcqDLRhOaZF9HRDSNg0CTbg==&ch=E9cs5VReBunXMNMWkmV2TlRGlBbrtMdRZJGa2KdvmV3CASAMrND5lQ==)

[**Inspector General faults Chicago for multifamily recycling stagnancy, lawmakers call for answers**](https://r.xdref.com/?id=0BBFf8i9021543&from=delivery_20201211104108.22358192.20049@bounce.divenewsletter.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://link.wastedive.com/click/22358192.20049/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzdGVkaXZlLmNvbS9uZXdzL2NoaWNhZ28tZHNzLWluc3BlY3Rvci1nZW5lcmFsLXJlY3ljbGluZy1lbmZvcmNlbWVudC81OTE5MzEv/5e90e2fd950d4d5e14625959Ba118ec93)Waste Dive Dec. 11, 2020

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The Department of Streets and Sanitation was found to be falling short in multiple areas, when it comes to enforcing recycling for numerous buildings in the city. Local aldermen are calling for a hearing on the issue in January.

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| [**Republic Services highlights plastic market limitations, clarifies EPR stances, in report**](https://r.xdref.com/?id=0B9JY97o021605&from=delivery_20201209143407.22336957.18187@bounce.divenewsletter.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://link.wastedive.com/click/22336957.18187/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzdGVkaXZlLmNvbS9uZXdzL3JlcHVibGljLXNlcnZpY2VzLXBsYXN0aWNzLW1yZi1lcHItYXMteW91LXNvdy81OTE4NDIv/5e90e2fd950d4d5e14625959B10d02907) **Waste Dive: Recycling Newsletter Dec. 9, 2020**  |

A recent report, stemming from a shareholder resolution this year, shows the financial complexities around managing mixed plastics. It's also the latest sign of an industry shift on the rising producer responsibility discussion.

…*Republic Services recently stated in* [*a report*](http://www.republicservices.com/cms/documents/sustainability_reports/Plastics-Recovery-Program-Review2020.pdf)*, prepared by Resource Recycling Systems, that 12% of the plastics it manages (specifically #3, 4, 6 and 7) "currently have limited or no end markets" and are generally disposed. Plastics account for 7.7% of the total recyclables marketed by the company….*

**Helping ensure the long-term viability of polypropylene plastic will take all of us. Learn how we can make a difference together.** Dec. 9, 2020

According to [The Recycling Partnership’s 2020 State of Curbside Recycling report](https://recyclingpartnership.org/stateofcurbside), some limited data from capture studies suggest there may be as much as 17 pounds of polypropylene available per year from a single-family household. This would place polypropylene at higher generation rates than both natural and colored HDPE. Total annual polypropylene tonnage by U.S. single-family households would be an estimated 827,000 tons or 1.65 billion pounds. <https://recyclingpartnership.org/polypropylene-coalition/>

[**St. Lucie County, FL Adds Foam Polystyrene Recycling Program**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001a38dPMTcBn1JX4ZaI53Sp2sasyfSvbDl3RJ7eSp9XduzwxpT7-vv3TPI2FnUw9p9BS6pncb_dS1zTr-YE-uQa5nd_CDiIAfk_sJjM0pHJNc10Lzgr18aiOkj1UE_zOnubSsLnLd7Q-389VSayZlvm_6ODVnMfIPSOKzUkfuL3blCNvV4fjx1rNBNqAbzsmyCnEszDeYH6uiYwakBMlKutQWCtV7d89T1kntWiFIpIE4=&c=ZRtqzD5OgDZj3To8ej9FHobqVquCIaw8ksZakW5syz6OuCwWfyav6g==&ch=bT2DrhYjXKZXmhmwttsjysF9zg2mBWg9KCTE0VbWy3P0qe1vZQ6ELQ==) Waste Dive, Dec. 9, 2020

[St. Lucie County, FL residents and businesses will now be able to recycle more foam polystyrene products, thanks to a $50,000 grant from the Foam Recycling Coalition. After starting a single stream program in 2014, St. Lucie County has seen a continuous increase in the tonnage being processed ... **Read More>**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001a38dPMTcBn1JX4ZaI53Sp2sasyfSvbDl3RJ7eSp9XduzwxpT7-vv3TPI2FnUw9p9BS6pncb_dS1zTr-YE-uQa5nd_CDiIAfk_sJjM0pHJNc10Lzgr18aiOkj1UE_zOnubSsLnLd7Q-389VSayZlvm_6ODVnMfIPSOKzUkfuL3blCNvV4fjx1rNBNqAbzsmyCnEszDeYH6uiYwakBMlKutQWCtV7d89T1kntWiFIpIE4=&c=ZRtqzD5OgDZj3To8ej9FHobqVquCIaw8ksZakW5syz6OuCwWfyav6g==&ch=bT2DrhYjXKZXmhmwttsjysF9zg2mBWg9KCTE0VbWy3P0qe1vZQ6ELQ==)

[**Plastics Industry Emphasizes Solutions to Eliminate Plastic Waste and Drive the Circular Economy Forward**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001a38dPMTcBn1JX4ZaI53Sp2sasyfSvbDl3RJ7eSp9XduzwxpT7-vv3TPI2FnUw9p95XLHErXmPSU-k_DTY_EYo8hEtko13ZKfr-ujC4kvw36kWWS5FHYgP4-JXT6M6KAD-w27X7mbKm4s5oeoc5OzmK1qpp3Le88xVyQmf0dYatI3CuOv1nnpzI-zwxWCvuekudkgtNarkRPsh2Sfcj6wSn3rk_lq1b1_5-LWoxmalk5D9bneapFyY-hNotjklrd7kwAlJI8ejidvSr7PCY9lsVQfcd-12-05d7YWboDFDyM=&c=ZRtqzD5OgDZj3To8ej9FHobqVquCIaw8ksZakW5syz6OuCwWfyav6g==&ch=bT2DrhYjXKZXmhmwttsjysF9zg2mBWg9KCTE0VbWy3P0qe1vZQ6ELQ==) Waste Dive, Dec. 9, 2020

[The Center for Biological Diversity, along with partner organizations, will hold a virtual press conference. The following statement is from Joshua Baca, ACC’s vice president of plastics: “Looking to 2021 and beyond, America’s plastic makers will continue working in a bipartisan, practical and collaborative fashion to advance solutions for a circular and sustainable economy for plastics. We look forward to rolling up our sleeves and working with the incoming Biden administration ... **Read More>**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001a38dPMTcBn1JX4ZaI53Sp2sasyfSvbDl3RJ7eSp9XduzwxpT7-vv3TPI2FnUw9p95XLHErXmPSU-k_DTY_EYo8hEtko13ZKfr-ujC4kvw36kWWS5FHYgP4-JXT6M6KAD-w27X7mbKm4s5oeoc5OzmK1qpp3Le88xVyQmf0dYatI3CuOv1nnpzI-zwxWCvuekudkgtNarkRPsh2Sfcj6wSn3rk_lq1b1_5-LWoxmalk5D9bneapFyY-hNotjklrd7kwAlJI8ejidvSr7PCY9lsVQfcd-12-05d7YWboDFDyM=&c=ZRtqzD5OgDZj3To8ej9FHobqVquCIaw8ksZakW5syz6OuCwWfyav6g==&ch=bT2DrhYjXKZXmhmwttsjysF9zg2mBWg9KCTE0VbWy3P0qe1vZQ6ELQ==)

[**SWANA Submits Comments on National Recycling Strategy**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001D8yTfMtPZBoP5Ufna-woPILW1798nTdktB41g5-axkVCCWa_jVzdnHTHyKEHbjI7-5_eE1M_mmf2A0yfJz8G9BHAO-9DWLLYhEkgMRdEkjKsOBeWCeTQ09CAJsy6VyCV4NgWoB4-auX7pZS68WoZjKQjXbX_2Bu3NUjIuF7GFK_zV-_VMlud1z5ox2Ajnan17EYXtdnfxYT3CZ-BJ_sI1yvXhQB5Yyef&c=ZEQYZ3DtESoLtn35mGwL8tFFw0_pqDi8Q37TabEH-KeMo7e7HmYW4w==&ch=CI-F1yXOzCpbupW5T-jwtDagD79DZtzT7K80MnWrZyRtIlaHi9pNgg==) Waste Dive, Dec. 8, 2020

[SWANA submitted comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) draft National Recycling Strategy. SWANA strongly supports EPA having an active and visible role at the national level to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system. **Read More>**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001D8yTfMtPZBoP5Ufna-woPILW1798nTdktB41g5-axkVCCWa_jVzdnHTHyKEHbjI7-5_eE1M_mmf2A0yfJz8G9BHAO-9DWLLYhEkgMRdEkjKsOBeWCeTQ09CAJsy6VyCV4NgWoB4-auX7pZS68WoZjKQjXbX_2Bu3NUjIuF7GFK_zV-_VMlud1z5ox2Ajnan17EYXtdnfxYT3CZ-BJ_sI1yvXhQB5Yyef&c=ZEQYZ3DtESoLtn35mGwL8tFFw0_pqDi8Q37TabEH-KeMo7e7HmYW4w==&ch=CI-F1yXOzCpbupW5T-jwtDagD79DZtzT7K80MnWrZyRtIlaHi9pNgg==)

[**FPA and PSI Reach Agreement on Legislative Elements of an EPR Bill for Packaging and Paper Products**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001D8yTfMtPZBoP5Ufna-woPILW1798nTdktB41g5-axkVCCWa_jVzdnHTHyKEHbjI7z4TzjHMA2nEWggHBbISCvgPnHDq5PC79RytW4K8348iVOJrM9Yp8767EcksPtiU3jCNWlB3DmxrJFfvidEkAxMVZ7Umc2rOV7g7u-mJxuEurn8opDe7mSQ7af7SbbL_9G6hY4Wd05tQjW89bthTI150uq0QzhflPzgRpxkdbExoAGKPTqGo_GA77Tyvug3E3J7wZINvy3AM5I3_o-qIkgreuFbAFfUQG&c=ZEQYZ3DtESoLtn35mGwL8tFFw0_pqDi8Q37TabEH-KeMo7e7HmYW4w==&ch=CI-F1yXOzCpbupW5T-jwtDagD79DZtzT7K80MnWrZyRtIlaHi9pNgg==) Waste Dive, Dec. 8, 2020

[The Flexible Packaging Association (FPA), the leading advocate and voice for the growing U.S. flexible packaging industry, and the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), a leader of the U.S. product stewardship movement, have announced an agreement on eight legislative elements of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) bill for packaging and paper products (PPP). **Read More>**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001D8yTfMtPZBoP5Ufna-woPILW1798nTdktB41g5-axkVCCWa_jVzdnHTHyKEHbjI7z4TzjHMA2nEWggHBbISCvgPnHDq5PC79RytW4K8348iVOJrM9Yp8767EcksPtiU3jCNWlB3DmxrJFfvidEkAxMVZ7Umc2rOV7g7u-mJxuEurn8opDe7mSQ7af7SbbL_9G6hY4Wd05tQjW89bthTI150uq0QzhflPzgRpxkdbExoAGKPTqGo_GA77Tyvug3E3J7wZINvy3AM5I3_o-qIkgreuFbAFfUQG&c=ZEQYZ3DtESoLtn35mGwL8tFFw0_pqDi8Q37TabEH-KeMo7e7HmYW4w==&ch=CI-F1yXOzCpbupW5T-jwtDagD79DZtzT7K80MnWrZyRtIlaHi9pNgg==)

[**Plastics Industry Highly Supportive of EPA’s National Recycling Strategy, Say Association Leaders**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001D8yTfMtPZBoP5Ufna-woPILW1798nTdktB41g5-axkVCCWa_jVzdnHTHyKEHbjI7B2e4Xr2aajaGfVZS8mkGyTo3XDgjkQ3baoqXjxOCmH4S_CEFyEQ_9ThtDIeDpwsPPCz3qtZ7CQWRwob6vB21-ql-JrexdF_pd3eVk9R30I5xZNQXDJM_-RkHo9gM75w6im8tdlMZLhCaZle8OCTqJtH0bBVSV32yZE_uHJLVfE9CYBqWAU8CwD9jpPlFxeD27AAb4a-REUk5v0qPE1nEotqOMRHpxjJi&c=ZEQYZ3DtESoLtn35mGwL8tFFw0_pqDi8Q37TabEH-KeMo7e7HmYW4w==&ch=CI-F1yXOzCpbupW5T-jwtDagD79DZtzT7K80MnWrZyRtIlaHi9pNgg==) Waste Dive Dec. 8, 2020

[The members of the Plastics Association Leaders Group issued the following statement on the Environmental Protection Agency’s request for input into its proposed national recycling strategy: “The recent recycling goal announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that calls for an increase in the national recycling rate to 50% by 2030 (“50 by 30”) will promote collaboration and partnership with government, materials manufacturers, brands, non-profits, and NGOs. **Read More>**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001D8yTfMtPZBoP5Ufna-woPILW1798nTdktB41g5-axkVCCWa_jVzdnHTHyKEHbjI7B2e4Xr2aajaGfVZS8mkGyTo3XDgjkQ3baoqXjxOCmH4S_CEFyEQ_9ThtDIeDpwsPPCz3qtZ7CQWRwob6vB21-ql-JrexdF_pd3eVk9R30I5xZNQXDJM_-RkHo9gM75w6im8tdlMZLhCaZle8OCTqJtH0bBVSV32yZE_uHJLVfE9CYBqWAU8CwD9jpPlFxeD27AAb4a-REUk5v0qPE1nEotqOMRHpxjJi&c=ZEQYZ3DtESoLtn35mGwL8tFFw0_pqDi8Q37TabEH-KeMo7e7HmYW4w==&ch=CI-F1yXOzCpbupW5T-jwtDagD79DZtzT7K80MnWrZyRtIlaHi9pNgg==)

5 Things to Know About Plastic Pollution and How to Stop It,  EcoWatch, Dec. 5, 2020
*A* [*study*](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6510/1455) *about solutions to plastic waste, published in the same issue, attributed the plastic pollution epidemic to a rise in single-use plastic and "an expanding 'throw-away' culture." The researchers also found that waste-management systems simply can't deal with the onslaught of plastic, which is why so much of it ends up in the environment. We now know that only* [*9% of the plastic products*](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/whopping-91-percent-plastic-isnt-recycled/) *we use actually get recycled.* <https://www.ecowatch.com/amp/stop-plastic-pollution-2649324134>

**OLCC will not enforce Bottle Bill Redemption Requirements for stores in counties in extreme and high risk levels** Madras Pioneer, Dec. 4, 2020

<https://pamplinmedia.com/msp/129-news/489972-394039-olcc-will-not-enforce-bottle-bill-redemption-requirements-for-stores-in-counties-in-extreme-and-high-risk-levels>