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EU and International News

Hype or hope? The lobbying battle over chemical recycling of plastics 06.12.2021

Pro Politico reports on the intensive lobbying campaign waged by the plastics industry to get chemical recycling acknowledged a solution to the plastic pollution crisis. Environmental campaigners vociferously disagree, and the two sides are slugging it out as the European Commission works up revisions of legislation governing waste management and packaging waste, due to be published next year. The industry argues that chemical recycling saves plastics from being incinerated, ending up in landfills or littering the streets — with the argument that the method is a way to achieve the EU's circular economy goals. But green NGOs argue that it is a distraction from the real solution to tackling plastic waste: stop producing so much plastic. Chemical recycling technologies require “large amounts of energy compared to conventional recycling” and rely on solvents and chemicals whose toxicity is not yet fully understood, Zero Waste Europe [argued](#) in a recent report. For now, Brussels appears to agree with the NGOs. Under [current EU rules](#), recovering fuels from plastics doesn't count as recycling.

Politico Pro Article, under subscription, 6 December 2021, online: -
Original content in English

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EU: Close the Glass Loop reports rise in glass packaging recycling rate 06.12.2021

Figures released by Close the Glass Loop revealed that the average recycling rate for glass packaging in the European Union reached a record 78%, up 2% from the previous year. The glass packaging value chain aims to achieve a post-consumer glass container collection rate of 90% by 2030.

Drinks Business (The), 26 Nov 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in English

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Europe: ECHA releases report on chemical recycling of plastic waste 06.12.2021

In a recent report, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) described the existing chemical recycling methods for plastic waste, listing their strong and weak points. The report stresses the importance of finding ways to eliminate substances of concern in waste streams in order to reach a non-toxic recycling process. The report recommends to carry inquiries in chemical recycling facilities, and to improve the traceability of these substances.

Emballages Magazine, 26 Nov 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in French

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COCA COLA in Europe confirms net zero emission goal by 2040 03.12.2021

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners and Coca-Cola HBC have set Net Zero 2040 goals, including interim science-based targets for 2030. This will result in a reduction of 2.5 million tons CO₂ equivalent annually in Europe by 2030 compared to 2015 – a reduction of 30% – including all Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Significant contributions from bottling partners and close cooperation with suppliers and customers are key for Coca-Cola in Europe to achieve its goals. This includes reducing emissions from packaging, which accounts for 41% of the GHG emissions in the Europe value chain. In 15 European markets, bottles are made of 100% recycled PET, reducing the amount of virgin plastic. The 100% rPET material has up to a 70% lower carbon footprint than virgin PET, saving 120.000 tons of CO₂ per year vs 2015 while moving away from virgin, fossil-based plastics.

coca-cola, 1 December 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in English

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Glass Recycling: If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It 03.12.2021

FEVE worked at an article featuring glass container as a success story for Europeans and for European recycling rates. Because it works, the bottle bank scheme should not be replaced by other systems like the DRS for recycling. Deposit Return Schemes for one-way packaging (often referred to simply as DRS, or recycling DRS), meanwhile, have a different objective: to encourage the recycling of single-use packaging. DRS is suited to single-use materials like plastic, which have to significantly boost collection rates and be separated into food and non-food contact materials before recycling. But when it comes to glass recycling systems, there is

a famous US saying to keep in mind: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Glass does not need to be separated into different waste streams and does not need DRS to boost recycling rates. DRS reuse systems are typically only used for drinks containers such as beer, water, or soft drinks bottles. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes already ensure that all glass packaging types, not simply a small portion, are collected and recycled effectively, via kerbside and bottle bank collection. A supplementary deposit scheme can lead to confusion for consumers. Evidence around Europe shows that putting a deposit on glass packaging does not increase the amount of glass sent for recycling or improve the quality of recycled glass overall. Instead, it diverts funds and attention from curbside and bottle bank collections, while significantly increasing the cost of recycling. The article is published on one of the most influential policy media in Brussels.

EURACTIV, 1 December 2021, online:-
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IEA says renewable power installations are set for a record year, warns of net-zero uncertainty 03.12.2021

According to the latest forecast from the International Energy Agency (IEA), published on Wednesday 1 December, the world is expected to have more renewable energy capacity than ever before in 2021, with a record 290 GW of solar, wind and other renewables added. The IEA's Renewables Market Report forecasts that the planet's renewable electricity capacity will jump to more than 4,800 GW by the year 2026, an increase of over 60% compared with 2020 levels.

CNBC, 1 December 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in English

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EU launch of a 'Clean Hydrogen Partnership' 30.11.2021

A "Clean Hydrogen Partnership" was officially launched with the ambition to implement the EU's hydrogen strategy on Monday 29 November, marking the opening of the 'European Hydrogen Week'. As the successor to the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, this partnership will support research and innovation aimed at the production, storage, distribution, and use of hydrogen.

fch.europa, 29 November 2021, online:-
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Container Glass Industry

Bolivia: Envibol signs glass bottle supply deal with CNP 06.12.2021

Bolivian state-run glass packaging company Envibol has signed a supply contract with Bolivian brewery Cerveceria Nacional Potosi (CNP) worth BOB 10mn (EUR 1.25mn USD 1.45mn). Over six years Envibol will supply CNP 4mn bottles. These are 1.25lt, 620ml and 355ml bottles. 650,000 bottles will be delivered in 2022 alone.

Correo del Sur, 30 Nov 2021, Online:-
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Brazil: Owens Illinois partners with Instituto Muda for glass recycling project 06.12.2021

US glass packaging company Owens Illinois has partnered with the Instituto Muda institute for the installation of glass recycling deposit stations in two residential condominiums in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The partnership is expected to last for two years, with around 15 tonnes of glass expected to be collected during this period. The operation is designed to raise awareness of the company's reverse logistics operations for glass recycling. Owens Illinois aims to achieve 50% use of shards of recycled glass as raw material for the production of new packaging by 2030.

EmbalagemMarca, 01 Dec 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in Portuguese

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Glass bottle shortage leaves US distillers high and dry 03.12.2021

The causes of shortages range from robust alcohol demand to the labour shortages and logistics problems at play in the broader economy. Jennifer Bisceglie, chief executive of supply chain risk consultancy Interos, said that some glass production had even been diverted to make vials for Covid-19 vaccines. The Glass Packaging Institute maintains that the issue is not just a simple glass shortage. US production of spirits bottles is up about 3 per cent year on year in the first nine months of 2021, while imports of 750ml bottles for wines and spirits are up 14 per cent. Instead, GPI president Scott DeFife said the problems stemmed from “excessive demand” that has put strains on the entire supply chain, from trucking capacity to warehouse space. Spending on alcohol has increased during the pandemic, rising almost 13 per cent for wine and 14 per cent for spirits between the first quarter of 2020 and the third quarter of 2021, Bureau of Economic Analysis data showed. Many drinks groups have responded to the dislocations by resorting to unconventional packaging, sometimes accepting smaller or bigger bottles than they would normally use — or plastic containers, said Lisa Hawkins, senior vice-president at the Distilled Spirits Council. Andres Lopez, chief executive of O-I Glass, one of the main US bottle suppliers, told analysts last month that demand for glass was “continuously increasing” but coming in peaks that were sometimes “difficult to serve”. Falling imports were compounding the challenge of tight inventories, he said. As drinks groups rely more on bottle imports, they are worrying about rising shipping costs and extended delivery times. Jeff Quint, owner of Iowa-based Cedar Ridge Distillery, said that even though his custom bottles made in Taiwan and Europe were ready to be shipped, snarled global supply chains were forcing him to use alternatives. Some overseas manufacturers had temporarily halted production after running out of storage space, adding to the problems, he said. Cedar Ridge's shipping costs have jumped from approximately \$3,000 a container to \$13,000. “It's certainly affecting the

cost of our product,” Quint said. In the short term, however, industry executives are telling consumers to get their holiday orders in early. “If you have got a spirit that you like or a product that you like, you better get it now,” Diaz said, “because nobody can guarantee the availability of the product because nobody can guarantee the availability of glass.”

ft Financial Times, 1 December 2021, online:- for subscribers
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Glass Trend day focuses on industry challenges and opportunities 03.12.2021

Oliver Wiegand, in his role as Vice President of the Federal Association of the Glass Industry, discussed the great challenges for the glass industry at this year's Glass Trend day. Energy prices, sustainability, digitisation and the effects of the pandemic were among the topics at this year's Glass Trend Day. The conference, organised by Germany's Glass Packaging Action Forum, was held as a hybrid in-person and online event this year due to the pandemic. “The trend and demand for glass is unbroken. What is bothering us, however, are the exploding electricity and gas prices. Electricity prices in particular must fall in the future, because electricity is an important source of energy if we as a glass industry want to become climate-neutral in the long term,” he said. This led to an announcement: The Federal Glass Industry Association is researching intensively to achieve the goal of climate neutrality and has commissioned a CO2 roadmap in this regard. The results are to be presented at the Glass Trend Day 2022.

glass-international, 1 December 2021, online:-
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Argentina: the lack of glass bottles generates a crisis in the wine industry 03.12.2021

The effect is especially felt in Mendoza, the main wine-producing province of the country: there is a shortage that is estimated between 20% and 30% of the containers that the sector needs due to high demand and low production. Mendoza, in the west of the country, concentrates 70% of the winemaking in Argentina, especially recognized worldwide for its flagship varietal, Malbec. After having passed an excellent 2020 in economic terms, with a significant increase in the consumption of the drink per capita in the country and in exports, the sector is going through a process of uncertainty and crisis due to the lack of production of glass bottles in territory, to which are added the difficulties to import. The problems are already having a negative impact not only on the arrival of wines to the gondolas of the main shops in the world at the end of the year festivities – when wineries tend to significantly increase their sales abroad – but also on the future elaboration, since it is necessary in these months to “release” the stored wine by fractioning it into bottles or by selling wine in bulk.

pledge times, 3 December 2021, online:-
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Competing Materials

Billions of small plastics spirits bottles to be recycled thanks to Amcor's new design 03.12.2021

Amcor Rigid Packaging (ARP) announces a recycling innovation that will enable more than a billion 50 mL spirits bottles to be crushed, captured and recycled. These small bottles, while made of recyclable polyethylene terephthalate (PET), are often lost in the recycling process due to their small size. Most people recognize these as the little liquor bottles often served on airplanes. Despite its material being infinitely recyclable, the size of these bottles presents challenges at most U.S. material recycling facilities. The bottles tend to slip out of the sorting process where broken glass is filtered out for disposal. "We know that many small bottles are falling through screens in our MRFs designed to separate glass, so this is a major development – it allows these bottles to pass this step in the process and have the opportunity to be captured by the appropriate equipment downstream. At a time when the recycling industry is constrained by material supply every additional pound diverted from waste makes a big difference," said Curt Cozart of the Association of Plastic Recyclers. ARP's team of engineers examined the issue and began designing a container that collapses in a controlled way to maximize its width. With a collapsed width greater than 5 cm, this design would no longer slip through the cracks at most U.S. recycling facilities.

adsalecprj Adsale Plasticd Network, 2 December 2021, online:-
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Steel Industry to pivot to hydrogen in \$278 Billion 'Green Push' 03.12.2021

Steel production could be made with almost no carbon emissions through \$278 billion of extra investment by 2050, according to a new report from research firm BloombergNEF (BNEF). Hydrogen and recycling are likely to play a central role in reducing emissions from steel production. Steel is responsible for around 7% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions every year and is one of the world's most polluting industries. Government and corporate net-zero commitments are pushing the steel industry to cancel out its emissions by 2050. Efforts to decarbonize steel production are central to the net-zero aspirations of China, Japan, Korea and the European Union. The report "Decarbonizing Steel: A Net-Zero Pathway", which was launched in time for the virtual BNEF Summit Shanghai, outlines the path to making profitable, low-emissions steel and describes how a combination of falling hydrogen costs, cheap clean power, and increased recycling could reduce emissions to net zero, even while total output increases.

Bloomberg NEF, 01 December 2021, online:-
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Customer Industries: Non-alcoholic drinks

Italy: Sales of soft drinks up 7% in volume in year to August 2021 06.12.2021

According to a survey conducted by IRI, the soft drinks market in Italy, considering the modern distribution channels (hypermarkets, supermarkets, small shops and discount stores), expanded by 10% year-on-year to EUR 1.90bn (USD 2.20bn) in the year ending on 31 August 2021. Meanwhile, sales of soft drinks rose by 7% in terms of volume, to stand at around 1.89bn litres. Cola drinks accounted for 44% of the total, whereas iced tea accounted for more than 20% of total sales. Meanwhile, energy drinks and other functional drinks continued to grow and represented 5% of the total, but over 10% in value. In contrast, orange drinks continued to lose ground and accounted for just 10%.

Beverfood.com (PDF), 29 Nov 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in Italian

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Customer Industries: Beer & Cider

Italy: Beer sales on the increase 06.12.2021

Figures released by IRI reveal that sales of premium and super-premium beer in Italy have increased by 7.3% and 5.2% in 2021, on the previous year, respectively. Meanwhile, sales of mainstream beers rose by 2.6% in this period. Sales of canned beers remain particularly strong with a 19.8% increase year-on-year, although they remain 3.9% below those reported in 2019. Sales of beers in bottle have gone up by 4.8%, while they remain 22.6% below 2019 figures and sales of beer on tap have increased by 4.6%, while remaining 38.8% below 2019 figures. Prices have also gone up by 1.4% on average.

Beverfood.com (PDF), 26 Nov 2021, online:-
[Link to original article](#) Original content in Italian

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Customer Industries: Wine and spirits

Spain: Familia Torres pledges to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 06.12.2021

Spanish wine company Familia Torres has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 60% by 2030. In 2020, the company reduced its carbon footprint by 34% compared to 2008. The company has also set up the Torres & Earth Awards for Environmental Innovation and for the recognition of the fight against climate change, especially aimed at stimulating research and the commitment of suppliers, individuals and territories.

ABC de Sevilla, 30 Nov 2021, online:-
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Spain: Freixenet to expand Sant Sadurni d'Anoia winery 06.12.2021

Spanish wine company Freixenet is planning to invest around EUR 30mn (USD 34.67mn) between 2022 and 2024 in the expansion of its Sant Sadurni d'Anoia winery in Barcelona. The company plans to increase production by around 35mn bottles per year. Some 50% of investments will be used to bring indoors three or four outdoor air-conditioned warehouses and the other half will be used in new capacity. This will be the company's largest investment since the early 2000s. It will also add a new line for 15,000 bottles per hour.

Economista (EI) - Spain, 01 Dec 2021, online:-
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Recycling/Collection

Aldi trials deposit return for drinks bottles in Scotland, ahead of national scheme 30.11.2021

Aldi has begun trialling an in-store deposit return scheme for drinks containers in West Lothian, ahead of the introduction of a Scotland-wide scheme from July 2022. Under the trial, shoppers will be encouraged to return single-use glass and plastic bottles, as well as aluminium drinks cans, to the Aldi store in Bathgate. They will be able to deposit them into reverse vending machines in the store's car park, receiving a voucher for 10p for each container deposited, up to a maximum of £5 per trip. Once packaging is collected, it will be sent for recycling. Aldi will collect data on consumer behaviour during the trial, including the number of items deposited. This data will be used to inform a wider rollout ahead of the implementation of a Scotland-wide deposit return system in law from 1 July 2022. Scotland's national scheme was due to be in place already, but its implementation has been delayed due to Covid-19 and Brexit, to give businesses more time to prepare. The scheme will take an "all-in" format, applying a deposit fee of 20p to all drinks placed on the market, irrespective of their size or packaging format. Customers can get their deposit back by returning the packaging for recycling. The Scottish Government is overseeing the scheme. As for Aldi UK, the supermarket has an ambition to ensure that all own-brand packaging is recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2022; and to halve plastic packaging by weight by 2025. Nonetheless, Greenpeace this year claimed the supermarket was one of the UK's 12 worst offenders for plastic litter production.

edie, 29 November 2021, online:-
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