

## **Internet Matters** by Dan Wilkowsky

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### **CAMBIARE (to change)<sup>1</sup>**

We've had virtually two years of political campaigns; assurances to re-script current practices, many made before the economy morphed precipitously into its present shape. How will the new administration provide an innovative direction for domestic and international environmental issues during a time of economic hardship? Let's optimistically begin with incoming environmental leadership:

- EPA Administrator - Lisa P. Jackson  
Former head of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Head of Energy/Environment Council – Carol Browner  
Former EPA head under President Clinton
- Energy Secretary – Steven Chu  
Current Head of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Head of Council for Environmental Quality – Nancy Sutley  
Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles, energy and air policy expert
  
- Also of note, the Rep. Henry Waxman from southern California was voted to be the new chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce replacing Rep. John Dingell from Michigan, the former chairman for 28 years. Waxman is a champion of environmental issues.

These appointments send a signal that the Obama administration will value science over ideology. Anticipate climate change initiatives at both state and federal levels.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Oregon

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission adopted new rules for reporting Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Protocols and calculation

<sup>1</sup>I've been studying Italian.

procedures will be issued momentarily. There are exception levels, so facilities should calculate their 2009 GHG emissions to determine if reporting is required.

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### Massachusetts

Massachusetts approved the Global Warming Solutions Act, a measure to cap greenhouse gas emissions, mandating reductions of up to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050, with interim goals. Legislators behind the measure hope the act will create new markets for both conservation and renewable energy sources.

### California

The California Air Resources Control Board approved a scoping plan under AB-32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The plan's intent is to plan to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The plan includes a cap-and-trade policy, solar initiatives, high-speed rail and reduced truck and ship emissions.

For the semiconductor industry, a draft regulation sets Chamber Cleaning and Etching Processes emission standards for CVD, with reporting, and recordkeeping requirements. Compliance is required by January 1, 2012. The proposed regulation does not account for previous reductions by the industry. See the links for industry's response to the draft regulations.

## **REACH UPDATE**

### EU Chemical Agency Web Updates

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has added new elements to its web site for REACH listings.

- 1) A list of chemicals of "very high concern" and chemicals for EU harmonization
- 2) Pre-registered chemicals under REACH regulation.
- 3) A software and a question-and-answer document to assist in asking REACH queries.

### UK Cracks Down

The UK is considering legislation to grant its customs authority the power to detain goods they suspect of violating the European Union's REACH law. The customs agency will provide assistance to the enforcement authorities by detaining goods at import, either when requested to do so or in the event that the agency suspects that goods may be imported which are in breach of REACH.

## **US EPA SOLID WASTE DEFINITION CHANGE**

EPA is revising the definition of solid waste to exclude from regulation under Subtitle C of RCRA (42 U.S.C. 6921 through 6939(e)) certain hazardous secondary materials which are being reclaimed. The rule excludes hazardous

secondary materials reclaimed under the control of the generator and conditionally excludes hazardous secondary materials transferred to another party for legitimate reclamation. There is also a method to file for exclusions on a case-by-case basis. The rule is intended to encourage recycling of the covered hazardous secondary materials.

Hazardous secondary materials eligible for the exclusion include certain listed by-products, listed sludges, and spent materials. Metals and solvent recycling are the areas most affected by this new rule. The exclusion from RCRA regulation does not cover materials that are burned for energy recovery, inherently waste-like, or used in a manner constituting disposal.

## **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**

### Responsible Recycling of Electronics

The EPA with help from stakeholders has developed a set of guiding principles for electronics recyclers. The guidelines suggest that creating an EMS and providing worker safety will ensure confidence in recycling programs. The EPA proposed to next develop recycler certification guidelines.

### Oklahoma Computer Recycling

Beginning January 1, 2009, computer manufacturers must set up systems for collecting and recycling outdated equipment under the Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act (S.B. 1631). The computers must be recycled at no cost to the consumers and information about recycling must be included on the producers' web site.

## **GREEN TECHNOLOGIES**

### Solar Power

Heard lots about promising technologies in solar collectors and arrays? There are lots of claims and emerging technology being developed. Decisions to purchase solar equipment, often like the decisions to buy new personal computers, are confusing. When's the best time to purchase and what are the criteria to best evaluate performance? What's the difference between crystal technology and thin-film? Which is better for my home or business? For a primer on the various types, see the ENN Clean Tech article. Also, if you want to determine if solar works for you, the calculator (using Google Earth technology) on Roofray's site determines the energy savings versus the installed cost.

## **CIAO FOR NOW**

Thanks for watching and "buona fortuna" with all the changes, regulatory and otherwise, we'll soon witness.

## WEB SITE LINKS

President-Elect Obama appointments

<http://www.nrdc.org/media/2008/081215.asp>

Waxman new House Committee Chair

<http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2008/11/20/waxman-unseats-dingell-as-house-energy-committee-chair/>

Oregon Greenhouse Gas Reporting

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/climate/rulemaking.htm>

Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act

<http://www.environmentmassachusetts.org/news-releases/global-warming-solutions/global-warming-solutions-news/global-warming-solutions-act-passes-the-legislature#DEQxSWm90HOiQn2PW0YCIQ>

California GHG Scoping Plan Press Release

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/nr121108.htm>

Scoping Plan Document (142 pages)

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/psp.pdf>

California Draft GHG Regulations for Semiconductors

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/semiconductors/meetings/102308/proposedreg.pdf>

SIA Comments on Draft GHG Regulations

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/semiconductors/meetings/102308/siapresentation.pdf>

NEC Presentation

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/semiconductors/meetings/102308/necpresentation.pdf>

US EPA Solid Waste Definition (3 Parts)

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/dsw/rulemaking.htm#2008>

EU REACH Web Help

*Registry of intentions*

[http://echa.europa.eu/chem\\_data\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data_en.asp)

*The database of preregistered chemicals*

<http://apps.echa.europa.eu/preregistered/pre-registered-sub.aspx>

*Software and Q&A*

[http://www.echa.europa.eu/doc/press/pr\\_08\\_31\\_inquiry\\_tool\\_20080930.pdf](http://www.echa.europa.eu/doc/press/pr_08_31_inquiry_tool_20080930.pdf)

UK REACH Enforcement

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/enforcement.htm>

Responsible Recycling of Electronics

EPA Announcement

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a7b2ee8e45551c138525735900404444/c36b0d65f8dda9ba852574f3004f0af6!OpenDocument>

Copy of the document

<http://www.decideagree.com/R2%20Document.pdf>

Oklahoma Computer Recycling

<http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/Webapplication1/webform1.aspx>

ENN Clean Tech

<http://www.enn.com/sci-tech/article/37748>

Roofray Solar Calculator

<http://www.roofray.com/>