

This is the bi-weekly bulletin of the TURI Library at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Greenlist Bulletin provides previews of recent publications and websites relevant to reducing the use of toxic chemicals by industries, businesses, communities, individuals and government. You are welcome to send a message to [mary@turi.org](mailto:mary@turi.org) if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

## 30th Anniversary of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program

[Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October 17, 2016](#)

October 17, 2016, marks the 30th anniversary of the TRI Program's creation under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

By making information about industrial management of toxic chemicals available to the public, community members, researchers, industrial facilities, investors, and government agencies can make more informed decisions that impact human health and the environment. TRI also creates a strong incentive for companies to reduce pollution and be good neighbors in their communities.

[Read more...](#)

Also see a [video on Nordic Ware](#), a bakeware manufacturer in Minneapolis, that used TRI data to reduce its use of several TRI chemicals and decrease its air emissions of Styrene by more than 50% between 2010 and 2015.

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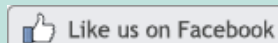
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## How the Chemical Industry Joined the Fight Against Climate Change

[Source: The New York Times, October 16, 2016](#)

Authors: Hiroko Tabuchi and Danny Hakim

It might seem surprising to find the world's chemical companies on the front lines of preventing climate change, fighting to disrupt their own industries.

But in a sweeping accord reached on Saturday in Kigali, Rwanda, companies including Honeywell and Chemours, a DuPont spinoff, were among the most active backers of a move away from a profitable chemical that has long been the foundation for the fast-growing air-conditioning and refrigeration business.

The companies were driven less by idealism than by intense competition, and a bet that they could create more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Still, some environmentalists say the aggressive move away from hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, provides a template for other industries to follow.

[Read more...](#)

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## **Toxic Chemicals Found in Kids' Makeup Products -- What Will You Shop For This Halloween?**

[Source: U.S. PIRG, October 13, 2016](#)

Findings from the new Breast Cancer Fund report published today and co-released by U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) show potentially harmful chemicals could be in the products marketed to your kids.

Protecting your children's health and well-being may also require careful inspection of the face paints sold in your local stores and at large retailers because they can be contaminated by heavy metals including lead and cadmium. Lead can cause altered brain development and learning difficulties while cadmium disrupts the body's hormones. The report unmasks the frightening ingredients found in toy aisles across America that sell everything from lip balm to nail and makeup kits marketed to kids at various ages from 4-14.

The Breast Cancer Fund sent 48 Halloween face paints to an independent laboratory to have them tested for the presence of heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury:

- Almost half of these -- 21 items -- had trace amounts of at least one heavy metal.
- Some products contained as many as 4 metals.
- Heavy metal concentrations were higher and more common in darkly pigmented paints.

[Read more...](#)

Also see the October 2016 report from The Breast Cancer Fund, "[Pretty Scary 2: Unmasking toxic chemicals in kids' makeup](#)".

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## **Maine looks to designate decaBDE, HBCD as priority chemicals**

[Source: Chemical Watch, October 13, 2016](#)

Author: Kelly Franklin

Maine's environmental protection department (DEP) has proposed a rule to designate decaBDE and HBCD as priority chemicals under the Toxic Chemicals in Children's Products law.

It would apply to manufacturers of a range of products that intentionally contain the flame retardants when used in a non-polymeric, additive form.

The rule proposes covering:

- childcare articles, sleepwear, toys, clothing and footwear;
- electronic devices; and
- household furniture and furnishings, including mattresses and mattress pads.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[Washington state announces candidates for high concern list](#)".

## California Passes the Healthy Nail Salon Bill!

Source: [Women's Voices For The Earth, October 17, 2016](#)

Author: Erin Switalski

Starting next year, nail salons in California that use less toxic products can be designated as "Healthy Nail Salons" according to a new law signed by Governor Jerry Brown. This new law makes a statement about the need to make our salons safer, for workers and for their clients, while providing incentive for manufacturers to take a hard look at their products, and try to make them safer.

First, the new law is largely due to a decade of work by the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (of which Women's Voices is a proud partner) and Asian Health Services. Since 2005, the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative has worked to improve the health, safety, and rights of the nail and beauty care workforce to achieve a healthier, more sustainable, and just industry. With numerous county partners, they established the Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program, a program which provides city or county recognition to nail salons that employ safer products, utilize ventilation systems, and implement best workplace practices to create a healthy work environment; over 100 salons in California have been officially designated as healthy nail salons.

Now, the model program is being supported by the state with this new law. The Department of Toxic Substances Control will officially publish guidelines for cities and counties to implement healthy nail salon programs and develop a consumer education program.

[Read more...](#)

See page for the [California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative](#).

## Toxic economy: Common chemicals cost US billions every year

Source: [Environmental Health News, October 17, 2016](#)

Author: Brian Bienkowski

Exposure to chemicals in pesticides, toys, makeup, food packaging and detergents costs the U.S. more than \$340 billion annually due to health care costs and lost wages, according to a new analysis.

The chemicals, known as endocrine disruptors, impact how human hormones function and have been linked to a variety of health problems such as impaired brain development, lower IQs, behavior problems, infertility, birth defects, obesity and diabetes.

The estimated economic toll is more than 2 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP).

The findings, researchers say, "document the urgent public threat posed by endocrine

disrupting chemicals."

[Read more...](#)

See original article in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*, "[Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the USA: a population-based disease burden and cost analysis](#)".

Also see article on the study in *Time*, "[Health Problems from Common Chemicals Cost \\$340 Billion Per Year: Study](#)", and a new report from The Ecology Center, "[Study Finds Lead Abatement a Sound Economic Investment for Michigan](#)".

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## **EPA submits final TSCA rule on nanomaterials to OMB for review**

[Source: Safenano, October 11, 2016](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a final rule that would require reporting and recordkeeping information on certain chemical substances when they are manufactured or processed as nanoscale materials.

EPA issued a proposed rule, under Section 8(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), on the 6th April 2015. EPA proposed to require persons that manufacture or process certain chemical substances when manufactured or processed at the nanoscale to report electronically to EPA certain information, including the specific chemical identity, production volume, methods of manufacture and processing, exposure and release information, and existing data concerning environmental and health effects. EPA also proposed to require any persons who intend to manufacture or process chemical substances as discrete nanoscale materials after the effective date of the final rule to notify EPA of the same information at least 135 days before the intended date of commencement of manufacture or processing.

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## **Let's Get Smart About Carcinogens At Work**

[Source: Roadmap on Carcinogens, 2016](#)

Across Europe, organisations join forces to make a change that is unstoppable. On May 25, 2016, six key European organisations took the initiative to develop a voluntary action scheme to raise awareness about the risks arising from exposure to carcinogens in the workplace and exchange good practices. This action scheme is titled "Roadmap on carcinogens". Moreover, these parties signed a covenant to commit themselves to stay active for the next three years.

[Read more...](#)

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## **Asbestos, BPA ban bills introduced in US Congress**

[Source: Chemical Watch, October 6, 2016](#)

Author: Kelly Franklin

Bills have been introduced in the US House of Representatives and in the Senate looking to ban or restrict asbestos, and bisphenol A (BPA) from food containers.

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) introduced S 3427 -- the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2016. It would amend TSCA to make the EPA act to eliminate human exposure to asbestos.

If passed into law, it would have the EPA impose prohibitions, restrictions and other necessary conditions to "permanently eliminate the possibility of exposure to asbestos" within 18 months of enactment. ...

In the House, a separate measure seeks to ban the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in food containers.

HR 6269 -- the Ban Poisonous Additives Act of 2016 -- would ban food containers composed, in whole or in part, of BPA, or that can release BPA into food. It would apply to reusable food containers, as well as any food container packed with food and destined for interstate commerce.

[Read more...](#)

## **Perspectives: Nonprofit groups come in many colors**

*Source: [Chemical & Engineering News, October 3, 2016](#)*

*Author: Lauren G. Heine*

In practice, all the questions scientists and engineers ask are infused with subjectivity. Rigor leads good scientists to ask the "right" questions. But being a good scientist or company employee does not preclude being human and wanting to be a good steward of our planet; it also means never misconstruing science for political purposes.

Perhaps some lessons can be learned or inspiration drawn from knowing how scientists and engineers working for NPOs can and are making a difference to improve everyday chemical products and processes. I have witnessed what might be considered a great transition of the NPO community -- from those applying pressure through "tree-hugging" protests and calling for bans on chemicals to those using science and engineering to find solutions for reducing toxicity and preventing pollution. As time is showing, there's room in the environmental movement for both protests and pragmatism.

On the practical front, scientists and engineers who work for NPOs nowadays engage directly with individual companies; bring citizen and environmental concerns to bear on creating or critiquing standards, ecolabels, regulations, and policies; commission or perform original research to fill in perceived gaps; create training materials and host webinars, workshops, and conferences; and lead development of technical tools.

[Read more...](#)

*TURI's Note: See Lauren's list (at the end of this article) of key chemical-based nonprofits and the research they do.*

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