

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.

Dear Greenlist Subscribers,  
I hope you enjoy our "**Best of Greenlist 2016**" issue. This set includes the top articles clicked through for the year, as well as some **Read More's** that include updates and more in depth information on the topics that were apparently of greatest interest to our readers. Thank you for your continued readership and support. Here's to a happy, healthy and safe New Year!  
Mary

## **This Toxic Pollutant Infecting Water Supplies Is Raising Concerns**

Source: [TIME, April 28, 2016](#)

Author: Justin Worland

Concern over the toxic chemical commonly known as PFOA has spread to communities across the country where locals worry that water polluted with the chemical may be harming their health.

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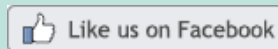
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"Known scope of contamination has gone from a regional problem to a national public health crisis that continues to widen, with no apparent end in sight," leaders of the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit environmental research organization, wrote in a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier this week.

New Hampshire, Alabama, Vermont and New York are among the states where the issue has received attention in recent weeks.

[Read more...](#)

See from the U.S. EPA, "[Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS](#)".

## Five new substances of very high concern added to the Candidate List

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, December 17, 2015](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has added five new Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)s to the Candidate List due to the carcinogenic, toxic to reproduction, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT), and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) properties of the substances. The decision to include perfluorononan-1-oic acid and its sodium and ammonium salts was taken with the involvement of the Member State Committee.

[Read more...](#)

Also see recent press release from ECHA, "[Member State Committee issues four SVHC agreements and two opinions](#)".

## Danish EPA publish series of nanosafety reports

[Source: Safenano, January 5, 2016](#)

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published several new reports in the field of nanotechnology health and safety arising from an extensive programme of research. These include the following publications:

**Better Control of Nanomaterials** (Environmental project no. 1797, 2015). This report presents the results of [the] "Better control of nano" initiative and summarises the main conclusions of a total of 30 reports that were prepared during the four years of effort.

**Environmental Effects of Engineered Nanomaterials** (Environmental project no. 1787, 2015). This report presents ecotoxicological data and Predicted No-Effect Concentrations (PNECs) for nine selected nanomaterials which are considered to be environmentally relevant due to high usage or how they are used. These data will, together with data from other reports/projects, be used in an overall assessment of the environmental risk of nanomaterials in Denmark.

**Dermal Absorption of Titanium Dioxide and Zinc Oxide Based Sunscreen** (Environmental project no. 1736, 2015). This report presents the results of toxicity testing of sunscreen containing nano TiO<sub>2</sub> using *in vitro* and *in vivo* mouse and human skin models. SAFENANO's Senior Toxicologist Dr. Craig Poland formed part of the Steering Committee for this project.

A full list of reports published by the Danish EPA is available on the Agency's [website](#).

[Read more...](#)

Also see the NanoSafety Cluster [Compendium of Projects in the European NanoSafety Cluster, 2016 Edition](#).

## Wal-Mart Asks Its Suppliers to Stop Using Eight Chemicals

Source: [Bloomberg, July 20, 2016](#)

Authors: Lauren Coleman-Lochner and Andrew Martin

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is asking suppliers to remove formaldehyde, triclosan and six other substances from their products, part of an effort to eliminate controversial chemicals from household goods.

The chemicals on the list include "certain properties that can affect human health or the environment," Wal-Mart said in a statement Wednesday. The world's largest retailer created the list with help from the Environmental Defense Fund, aiming to get suppliers to find alternatives, said Zach Freeze, Wal-Mart's director for strategic initiatives related to sustainability. The list was limited to eight high-priority chemicals so that Wal-Mart could make meaningful progress.

[Read more...](#)

## A Clever Way To Avoid Toxic Chemicals In Everyday Products

Source: [Huffington Post, February 18, 2016](#)

Author: Casey Williams

Everyday consumer products could be exposing Americans to a raft of toxic substances.

Detox Me, a new mobile app from the nonprofit Silent Spring Institute, helps users limit their exposure to these substances by recommending which products to buy and which to walk away from.

The app, which officially launched in January, also lets shoppers scan product barcodes to look up information about items they're about to purchase.

"We were trying to figure out where chemicals are in people's lives, what ends up in their bodies and what they can do to intervene and reduce their exposure," Dr. Jessica Helm, a postdoctoral fellow at the Silent Spring Institute and the designer of Detox Me, told *The Huffington Post*.

[Read more...](#)

See Washington State Department of Health's, [Prenatal Care for Environmental Chemicals](#).

Also see information on Vermont's [Chemical Disclosure Program for Children's Products](#).

## First Decisions on New Chemicals Made Under Amended TSCA

Source: [Chemical Regulation Reporter - Bloomberg BNA, July 25, 2016](#)

Author: Pat Rizzuto

July 22 -- The Environmental Protection Agency issued its first regulatory decisions July

22 for new chemicals using the criteria of the amended Toxic Substances Control Act.

The EPA concluded chemical manufacturers may make or import four new chemicals, because none is "likely to present an unreasonable risk."

The four chemicals, identified by generic names, will be used in lubricants, added to plastics and used to make other chemicals including polymers.

[Read more...](#)

See the U.S. EPA [webpage](#) on The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. [Learn more about the first 10 chemicals](#) EPA will evaluate for potential risks to human health and the environment under the amended TSCA.

*TURI's Note:* See [our page](#) on updates to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

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## Why materials will make or break the circular economy

*Source:* [GreenBiz.com, February 3, 2016](#)

*Author:* Lauren Hepler

For sporting goods giant Adidas, a foray into the world of upcycled goods started with a reality TV show. On an episode of "Whale Wars," where marine avengers aboard a ship called the Sea Shepard chase down illegal fishing boats, the crew found themselves with tons and tons of contraband gillnets.

What happened next is emblematic of a much bigger shift in the way companies conceive of the materials that make up their products in the age of the "circular economy," or the push for production models that reduce reliance on raw materials by continuously cycling materials of all types back through supply chains.

In the case of the fishing nets, the would-be refuse found its way to green chemistry pioneer John Warner, who devised a way to extract and repurpose the nylon covered in polypropylene, lead, pigment and other additives. The result was a poster product for the circular economy; Adidas turned the new nylon into a futuristic pair of knitted running shoes.

[Read more...](#)

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## The Right Tools for the Job: Evaluating Frameworks for Chemical Alternatives Assessment

*Source:* [Environmental Health Perspectives, March 2016](#)

*Author:* Carrie Arnold

With the rise in green chemistry and growing concern over worker and consumer protection, businesses and regulatory agencies are increasingly looking to identify alternative chemicals for use in products and manufacturing processes. Alternatives assessment involves comparing the advantages and disadvantages of potential substitutes for toxic chemicals, and numerous agencies, nonprofits, and businesses have developed frameworks to help them conduct these analyses. In this issue of *EHP*, investigators review nearly two dozen of alternatives assessment frameworks to identify what's working and what needs improvement in this rapidly advancing field.

As governments around the world begin to require alternatives assessments for chemicals of high concern, the need for more robust decision-making capabilities is becoming apparent, says first author Molly Jacobs, a project manager at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production. To determine the factors common to a high-quality

alternatives assessment framework, as well as identify areas that require more work, Jacobs and colleagues identified 20 frameworks that have been published since 1990 and evaluated six core areas: hazard assessment, exposure characterization, life cycle impacts, technical feasibility assessment, economic feasibility assessment, and decision-making processes for reaching conclusions about alternatives.

[Read more...](#)

See related articles in *EHP*, "[Alternatives Assessment Frameworks: Research Needs for the Informed Substitution of Hazardous Chemicals](#)" and "[The Value of Alternatives Assessment](#)".

## CEC publishes two reports on use of flame retardants in consumer products in North America

Source: [Commission for Environmental Cooperation, December 23, 2015](#)

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has issued two reports to enhance the capacity of governments, trade associations, and the manufacturing sector to assess risks from the use of emerging flame retardants in consumer products.

In recent years, public concern has grown over the use of flame retardants in products. The international and North American communities have recognized that flame retardants -- chemical compounds that help prevent or delay combustion in items manufactured for indoor use -- can nonetheless have detrimental effects on the environment and human health.

[Read more...](#)

See reports here, [Enhancing Trilateral Understanding of Flame Retardants and Their Use in Manufactured Items](#), [Summary Report Phase I](#) and [Summary Report Phase II](#).

*TURI's Note:* See work on reducing flame retardant use through a TURI grant, [Silent Spring Institute: Reducing Reliance on Flame Retardants in Foam Pits](#).

## 10 Things You Need To Know About The New U.S. Chemicals Law

Source: [Ensisia, August 29, 2016](#)

Author: Elizabeth Grossman

August 29, 2016 -- "This is a big deal," said President Barack Obama as he signed into law the bill that updates -- for the first time in 40 years -- the nation's main chemical safety legislation. Called the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act to honor the late senator for whom this was a special cause, the law revises the Toxic Substances Control Act that gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency authority to regulate chemicals used commercially in the United States.

As Obama noted at the June 22 signing ceremony, TSCA was supposed to ensure that chemicals used in the U.S. were safe for human health and the environment. But, said the president, "Even with the best of intentions, the law didn't quite work the way it should have in practice."

In fact, TSCA allowed the approximately 62,000 chemicals already on the market when it was passed in 1976 to continue being used without safety testing. It also placed enormously high hurdles for the EPA to clear before demonstrating a chemical was hazardous enough to ban. Even asbestos has failed to meet those requirements. It was widely agreed, by industry and environmental advocates alike that TSCA was badly in

need of revision.

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