

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.

## **Mourning writer Lizzie Grossman: The Pump Handle readers will miss her**

*Source: [The Pump Handle](#), August 8, 2017*

Author: Celeste Monforton

Our colleague Lizzie Grossman, a contributing writer at *The Pump Handle*, died earlier this month from ovarian cancer. She was a long-time freelance writer who specialized in environmental health topics. Her books included *Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health, and the Promise of Green Chemistry* (2011) and *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxics, and Human Health* (2006).

[Read More...](#)

See from *Civil Eats*, "[Honoring the Life and Work of Elizabeth Grossman](#)".

*TURI's Note:* See link from [Environmental Health News](#) that includes links to more than 150 articles Elizabeth authored. Also see this article she authored in *The Pump Handle* about [trends in carcinogen use in MA](#).

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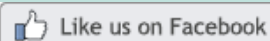
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Source: [Chemical Watch, August 3, 2017](#)

Author: Kelly Franklin

The Maine legislature has overridden the governor's veto and passed into law a measure banning the use of all chemical flame retardants in upholstered furniture.

The measure (LD 182) prohibits the sale of residential upholstered furniture containing more than 0.1% of a flame retardant chemical, or containing more than 0.1% of a mixture that includes them.

As with several flame retardant restrictions considered in other states, the bill was backed by firefighters groups, who have raised concern about increased cancer rates due to exposure to chemicals in burning homes.

[Read more...](#)

See from Prevent Harm, "[Maine Legislature Overrides Governor's Veto to Pass Unprecedented Law Phasing Out Flame Retardants](#)".

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[US CPSC to hold hearing on petition to ban flame retardants](#)".

*TURI's Note:* See our page with research on [safer flame retardants](#).

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## **Governor Phil Scott Announces Formation of Interagency Committee on Chemical Management**

Source: [State of Vermont - Office of Governor Phil Scott, August 8, 2017](#)

Montpelier, Vt. -- Governor Phil Scott has issued Executive Order 13-17, forming the Vermont Interagency Committee on Chemical Management. The Committee is charged with reviewing State chemical regulation and policies to ensure compliance and further reduce risks posed by the use or storage of unsafe chemicals. The Committee will incorporate the expertise of State agencies and outside experts who will participate in the citizen advisory panel.

The Committee will be responsible for better coordinating chemical management in the state, and will recommend any necessary actions to address these risks. It is also tasked with developing a streamlined electronic reporting system to facilitate businesses compliance with reporting requirements, and with improving state agency, business, and public access to information about chemicals in the state.

[Read more...](#)

See [State of Vermont - Executive Order 13-17](#).

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[Vermont governor establishes interagency committee on chemicals](#)".

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## **Wal-Mart Puts Chemicals in Spotlight by Joining New Program**

Source: [Bloomberg, August 2, 2017](#)

Authors: Lauren Coleman-Lochner and Taylor Cromwell

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has joined a new program that rates companies on their use of chemicals, a move that puts fresh pressure on the consumer-products industry to police its ingredients.

The world's largest retailer is participating in the Chemical Footprint Project, which seeks to help companies root out dangerous substances from the products they sell. Two dozen companies have joined the effort, including Johnson & Johnson, HP Inc. and Staples Inc., according to a report on Wednesday. The idea was to create a standard modeled on carbon-footprint scores.

Wal-Mart's involvement gives a big boost to the three-year-old program and underscores the growing movement by corporate America to regulate itself. Consumers are increasingly checking ingredient labels of the products they buy -- and pushing companies to rid products of controversial chemicals, such as formaldehyde or phthalates.

[Read more...](#)

See from The Chemical Footprint Project, "[Companies with over \\$670 billion in revenue participate in the Second Annual Survey](#)" and view their [Results](#) page.

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[Chemical Footprint Project calls for increased transparency](#)".

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## **Best Buy Releases Chemical Management Statement; Commits to Reduce Chemicals**

[Source: Best Buy, August 9, 2017](#)

[Author: Alexis Ludwig-Vogen](#)

Best Buy is committed to positively impacting the world by focusing our work on three areas: our communities, our environment and our people. Properly managing the use of chemicals is essential to safeguarding each of these three areas, which is why we are refreshing our chemical management program.

Today, we released a chemical management corporate statement, which outlines our roadmap to reduce the use of chemicals, phase out chemicals of concern and improve the general management of chemicals.

[Read more...](#)

See their [Chemical Management Statement](#).

Also see from Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, "[Best Buy announces new program to tackle toxic chemicals](#)".

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## **UN publishes GHS revision 7**

[Source: Chemical Watch, August 10, 2017](#)

The UN has published the seventh revision of its Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), popularly known as the purple book.

It has:

- revised the criteria for categorisation of flammable gases within Category 1;
- made a range of changes intended to clarify the definitions of some health hazard classes;
- added guidance to extend the coverage of Section 14 of the safety data sheets to all bulk cargoes transported under instruments of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), regardless of their physical state;
- revised and rationalised precautionary statements in Annex 3; and,

- added to Annex 7 a further example of how fold-out labels can be used with small packagings.

[Read more...](#)

See from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), "[Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(GHS, Rev.7\)](#)".

## **EPA Eliminates New-Chemical Backlog, Announces Improvements to New Chemical Safety Reviews**

[Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, August 7, 2017](#)

WASHINGTON (August 7, 2017) -- Following through with Administrator Pruitt's commitment to eliminating the backlog of new chemical cases that were stuck in EPA's review processes upon his confirmation, Administrator Pruitt is reporting that the backlog is eliminated.

"EPA has a tremendous responsibility to review new chemicals intended to enter the U.S. market for safety," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "EPA can either be a roadblock to new products, or it can be supporter of innovation and ever-improving chemical safety. I am happy to report that the backlog of new chemical reviews is eliminated. With the ongoing commitment of the staff working on TSCA reviews, and input from stakeholders, our goal is to ensure a new chemicals program that is both protective of human health and the environment, while also being supportive of bringing new chemicals to market."

[Read more...](#)

See from the U.S. EPA, "[Statistics for the New Chemicals Review Program under TSCA](#)" and "[First Ten Chemicals for Risk Evaluation](#)".

See from Environmental Defense Fund, "[EPA's announced changes to new chemicals review process put industry demands for ready market access above public health protection](#)".

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[US EPA seeks to expand Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals](#)".

## **BPA breakthrough: New treatment takes controversial chemical out of water.**

[Source: Environmental Health News, August 2, 2017](#)

Author: Brian Bienkowski

As water treatment plants struggle to keep up with the chemical cocktail heading into our pipes, researchers say they've come up with a solution to remove one of the most ubiquitous contaminants -- BPA.

Chemists were able to remove about 99 percent of bisphenol A (BPA) from water using a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and engineered catalysts, according to a study released today in the journal *Green Chemistry*.

The findings are a potential game-changer. Water treatment plants were not designed to deal with chemicals such as BPA, which is used to produce polycarbonate, epoxy and phenolic resins and largely used to make plastic hard and shatterproof, but also used in thermal receipt paper and food packaging.

The chemical gets into waterways from leaching out of landfills and industrial emissions.

In a study of 19 U.S. landfills the U.S. Geological Survey found BPA in 95 percent of the tested leachate, which is the water that passes through landfills.

[Read more...](#)

See original article in *Green Chemistry*, "[A Multidisciplinary Investigation of the Technical and Environmental Performances of TAML/Peroxide Elimination of Bisphenol A Compounds from Water: Destruction, Oligomerisation, Mechanism, End Product Toxicity, and Applications](#)".

## Science: Are we in a male fertility death spiral?

Source: [Environmental Health News, July 26, 2017](#)

Author: Pete Myers

Margaret Atwood's 1985 book, *The Handmaid's Tale*, played out in a world with declining human births because pollution and sexually transmitted disease were causing sterility.

Does fiction anticipate reality? Two new research papers add scientific weight to the possibility that pollution, especially endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), are undermining male fertility.

The first, published Tuesday, is the strongest confirmation yet obtained that human sperm concentration and count are in a long-term decline: more than 50 percent from 1973 to 2013, with no sign that the decline is slowing. ...

The second study, published last week by different authors, offers a possible explanation. It found that early life exposure of male mouse pups to a model environmental estrogen, ethinyl estradiol, causes mistakes in development in the reproductive tract that will lead to lower sperm counts. According to vom Saal, the second study "provides a mechanistic explanation for a progressive decrease in sperm count over generations."

[Read more...](#)

See study in *PLOS Genetics*, "[Germline and reproductive tract effects intensify in male mice with successive generations of estrogenic exposure](#)" and in *Human Reproduction Update*, "[Temporal trends in sperm count: a systematic review and meta-regression analysis](#)".

## Pollution Prevention InfoHouse - Comprehensive Reference Collection

Source: [Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center, 2017](#)

The P2RIC InfoHouse is a searchable online collection of more than 50,000 pollution prevention (P2) related publications, fact sheets, case studies and technical reports.

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