

This is the 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 if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

Promising biobased alternatives to polar aprotic solvents

[Source: Wageningen University & Research, December 6, 2017](#)

Author: Dr. DS (Daan) van Es

A report from Wageningen Food & Biobased Research commissioned by RIVM (the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) has revealed a number of promising biobased alternatives to the controversial polar aprotic solvents NMP, DMAc and DMF. Wageningen Food & Biobased Research carried out a broad scan of new and marketable biobased chemicals. This focused specifically on substitutes for the polar aprotic solvents NMP, DMAc and DMF -- all substances of very high concern, the use of which may be limited by EU law in the future.

[Read more...](#)

See report, "[Study into alternative \(biobased\) polar aprotic solvents](#)".

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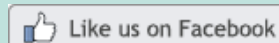
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CBS News covers a chemical's tragic impact; points to urgent need to ban high-risk uses of methylene chloride

[Source: Environmental Defense Fund, December 7, 2017](#)

Author: Lindsay McCormick

This morning, CBS News focused on the tragic story of Kevin Hartley -- a young man who died at the age of 21 while working with a product that contains methylene chloride. Kevin's story, powerfully relayed by his mother Wendy, illustrates the need to ban high-risk uses of this chemical.

As we have previously noted, in January, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to ban methylene chloride in paint and coating removal products. The agency based its proposal on an extensive assessment of the scientific literature, which demonstrated not only lethal risks from acute exposures to methylene chloride but also a host of other acute and chronic health impacts, like harm to the central nervous system, liver toxicity, and cancer.

Products containing this chemical can be readily found in most hardware stores in America and more tragedies are all but certain, if EPA does not promptly finalize its proposed ban.

[Read more...](#)

TURI's Note: See our page on [Paint and Coating Removal](#). Specifically, see our recent report, "[Assessment of Safer and Effective Alternatives to Methylene Chloride for Paint Stripping Products](#)".

Also see EPA's [draft rule on methylene chloride in paint and coating removal](#).

EPA Extends Comment Period for PBT Chemicals

Source: [The National Law Review, December 6, 2017](#)

Authors: Lynn L. Bergeson and Margaret R. Graham

On December 6, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it was extending the public comment period to receive information on the five persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals that are subject to Section 6(h) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which requires EPA to take expedited regulatory action to address risks from certain PBT chemicals. Comments were initially due on December 9, 2017; they are now due on January 12, 2018. EPA states it is interested in information from the public about these chemicals, including uses, products containing these chemicals, exposed populations, and alternatives to these chemicals. Very few comments have been filed regarding these chemicals thus far.

[Read more...](#)

See from *Chemical & Engineering News*, "[EPA works with industry to streamline chemical reviews](#)".

Nonprofit Clean Production Action Evaluates Products Commonly Used in Pediatric Patient Rooms for Hazardous Chemicals

Source: [Clean Production Action, December 5, 2017](#)

Somerville, MA -- A new report released today by Clean Production Action provides the first ever Chemical Footprint of Products Commonly Used in Pediatric Patient Rooms. Hazardous chemicals in products are catalyzing health care organizations to ask suppliers whether or not their products contain these chemicals. This study assessed the chemical footprint -- presence of hazardous chemicals -- of over 250 products commonly found in a hospital pediatric patient room. Pediatrics was chosen for evaluation because of the well-recognized greater sensitivity of children to exposure to toxic chemicals than adults.

"This first chemical footprint of products used in pediatric patient rooms demonstrates how health care organizations can measure their chemical footprint at the departmental level and how it can inform purchasing decisions," highlighted Mark S. Rossi, PhD, lead author and Executive Director of Clean Production Action. The report evaluated four categories of products commonly found or used in a pediatrics patient room: medical

supplies, personal care products, furniture and furnishings, and cleaning and disinfecting products.

[Read more...](#)

Access report [here](#).

Also see information on their December 19th webinar, "[What is the chemical footprint of health care products?](#)".

Designer tweaks famous logos to use less ink

Source: [CNN.com, November 29, 2017](#)

Author: Jacopo Prisco

Could big brands save millions of dollars a year and help preserve the environment just by slightly changing their logos?

French graphic designer Sylvain Boyer thinks so, and he's started a project to demonstrate it. All it takes, he says, is to redesign the logos to use less ink. Since corporate giants print them so frequently and on so many different materials, just a small change can have a huge effect.

Boyer has started a campaign called "Ecobranding" to demonstrate the idea: "It all came to me in 2013, the year my first daughter was born. I was designing a birth announcement card with many colors which was looking great on the computer, but when I submitted the design to the printer for silkscreen printing the bill was greatly expensive too! I decided to reduce the number of colors, with a direct consequence of making it more affordable and greener," he told CNN.

[Read more...](#)

See the Center for Environmental Health [Shopping Guide](#).

Least-Toxic Chemicals Show Promise for Bed Bug Control, But Non-Toxic Practices Remain the Best Solution

Source: [Beyond Pesticides, December 8, 2017](#)

Less toxic oil-based insecticides are showing promise for the treatment of bed bugs, according to a study published this month in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*. The common bed bug has seen a significant resurgence in the U.S., and with the pests found to be resistant to a broad range of modern, toxic insecticides, pest control operators are searching out new, safer ways to manage infestations. ...

A range of 18 essential oils, concentrated liquids containing aromatic compounds derived from plants, were tested for their toxicity to bed bugs that were retrieved from an infested building in Indiana. ...

Beyond Pesticides recommends an integrated approach to bed bug management that focuses on cultural practices first and foremost. This includes eliminating clutter where the bugs can hide, encasing and isolating certain furniture, thorough vacuuming, caulking and sealing cracks and crevices around bed frames, floors, walls, baseboard edges, and moldings, and laundering fabrics and clothing. Heat and steam treatments are good options that are generally effective at eliminating or drastically reducing most bed bug infestations.

[Read more...](#)

See study in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, "[Toxicities of Selected Essential Oils, Silicone Oils, and Paraffin Oil against the Common Bed Bug \(Hemiptera: Cimicidae\)](#)".

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