

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.

These new textile dyeing methods could make fashion more sustainable

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News, July 15, 2018](#)

Author: Melody M. Bomgardner

In early June, Dalton Cheng realized something big was afoot. Cheng, who is head of technology for the textile printing firm Intech Digital, heard from customers that Chinese government authorities in Jiangsu province had shut down massive factories that produce synthetic dyes used by the textile industry.

It was just the latest in a series of actions that started in the summer of 2017, when tens of thousands of China's factories were forced to close and undergo environmental inspections.

Overall, as much as 60% of China's denim-dyeing chemical capacity has been shuttered, Cheng says, equal to roughly 30% of global capacity. And that's why his phone was ringing. Intech, headquartered in Hong Kong, might be in a position to help apparel industry customers out of a critical supply bind.

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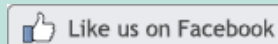
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A Guide to Purchasing PFAS-Free Food Service Ware

[Source: Clean Production Action, Summer 2018](#)

Author: Ann Blake

Chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") constitute a class of over 3,000 fluorinated chemicals that persist in the environment for a very long

time. The most studied chemicals in the class, PFOA and PFOS, have been associated with cancer, developmental toxicity, immunotoxicity, and other health effects. The vast majority of other PFAS have little to no data demonstrating their safety. ...

PFAS are highly persistent, ubiquitous, and can migrate into food from packaging and food service ware. Upon disposal, PFAS can contaminate drinking water, compost, and agricultural crops. ...

Manufacturers of disposable food packaging and food service ware often add PFAS to impart moisture, oil, and grease resistance. PFAS are also added to fabrics, carpets, furniture, clothing, and fire-fighting foams for their non-stick, lubricating, waterproof, stain-resistant, and oil and grease resistant properties. ...

While PFAS pose alarming health risks, they could be avoided if the right precautions are taken. Purchasers should avoid molded fiber products (all of which currently contain PFAS) and select one of the available products made with an alternative material and/or coating by consulting the fact sheet and resources [below]. Purchasers can also avoid PFAS by purchasing durable and reusable food service ware when feasible.

[Read more...](#)

This fact sheet from the Collaborative Network For a Cancer Free Economy further explains the [Hazards of PFAS](#).

Also see from the Center for Environmental Health, "[Avoiding Hidden Hazards: A Purchaser's Guide to Safer Foodware](#)".

The next BPA? Why businesses must get ahead of hormone-disrupting chemicals

[Source: GreenBiz.com, July 11, 2018](#)

Author: Mike Schade

American consumers are growing increasingly concerned about food safety and chemical hazards. Over the past 10 years, the market has shifted away from products containing bisphenol A (BPA) -- previously found in baby bottles, sippy cups and food packaging -- following widespread consumer demand for safer products. But BPA is not the only chemical of concern in the food supply that should be on the radar of sustainability professionals.

Meet the new BPA: phthalates and PFAS.

Over the past year, a tidal wave of media and public attention has been paid to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) chemicals, and how they have contaminated the drinking water of millions of Americans coast to coast. But most major grocery, big box and restaurant chains may not realize that PFAS and another class of toxic chemicals called phthalates are hiding in the food and food packaging they serve to their customers every day, posing a hidden business liability to retailers and brands. Phthalates and PFAS are used in food processing, packaging and preparation. In fact, they're found in America's favorite brands of food products, despite that they pose notable hidden financial, legal, regulatory and reputational liabilities to businesses.

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Study raises concern about flame retardant metabolites in bald eagles

[Source: Indiana University, July 11, 2018](#)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- Scientists have raised concerns for decades about toxic chemicals in the environment that accumulate in the tissues of birds, fish and other animals. New research from Indiana University that examined bald eagles suggests that's only part of the story.

A study led by IU environmental scientists finds that chemicals used in flame retardants, plasticizers and other commercial products are broken down through the process of metabolism into other compounds. Researchers say not enough is known about the dangers posed by those compounds, known as metabolites.

"Most of these flame retardants and related chemicals can be readily metabolized," said Marta Venier, a scientist in the IU Bloomington School of Public and Environmental Affairs and one of the authors of the study. "The issue here is that, in some cases, the metabolites can be more toxic than the parent compounds."

[Read more...](#)

See study in *Environmental Science & Technology Letters*, "[Flame Retardant Metabolites in Addled Bald Eagle Eggs from the Great Lakes Region](#)".

How Europe's chemical industry learned to love REACH

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News, July 16, 2018](#)

Author: Alex Scott

The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), Europe's leading chemical industry association, has made a U-turn in its view of REACH, Europe's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals legislation. After years of kicking and screaming to resist REACH -- the biggest and most expensive body of chemicals regulation ever introduced -- Cefic has emerged as its biggest advocate.

Cefic Director General Marco Mensink and his colleagues now argue that if chemical firms around the world buy into a REACH-style system, which requires safety data on individual substances, then European chemical firms will be able to show that their products are among the safest and should face fewer barriers to trade.

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Regulate to reduce chemical mixture risk

[Source: Science, July 20, 2018](#)

Authors: Andreas Kortenkamp and Michael Faust

Humans and wildlife are continuously exposed to multiple chemicals from different sources and via different routes, both simultaneously and in sequence. Scientific evidence for heightened toxicity from such mixtures is mounting, yet regulation is lagging behind. Ensuring appropriate regulation of chemical mixture risks will require stronger legal stimuli as well as close integration of different parts of the regulatory systems in order to meet the data and testing requirements for mixture risk assessment.

[Read more...](#)

See Environmental Working Group's [12th Annual Sunscreen Guide](#).

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