

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.

Fond Farewell

Dear Greenlist Subscribers,

It has been my absolute pleasure to bring you some of the latest and greatest news regarding chemicals policy, safer alternatives and hazard assessment for the past 5 years. However, this will be the last issue I compile as I will be starting a new position with the NH Department of Environmental Services on October 12th.

I have enjoyed finding and sharing this information, as well as working with my talented and thoughtful colleagues at TURI and throughout the P2 universe.



Wishing you all the best and thankful for all that you do to help keep our environment healthy and safe!

Sincerely,
Mary

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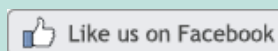
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Congress Passes Measure To Dramatically Restrict Major Source of PFAS Contamination in Drinking Water

[Source: Environmental Working Group, October 3, 2018](#)

Author: Alex Formuzis

WASHINGTON -- Congress passed legislation Wednesday that will give commercial airports the option to switch to firefighting foams that do not include the highly toxic fluorinated chemicals known as PFAS.

The new provision was part of a larger legislative package to fund the Federal

Aviation Administration and bolster disaster relief programs. Firefighting foams made with PFAS chemicals are a significant and widespread source of drinking water contamination throughout the country.

Under current law, airports are required to use firefighting foams that contain these chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, kidney disease and other health problems.

[Read more...](#)

See from *Chemical Watch*, "[UN expert committee recommends global action on three PFASs](#)".

Also see from *The Intercept*, "[Nationwide Class Action Lawsuit Targets Dupont, Chemours, 3M, and other makers of PFAS chemicals](#)".

Seeking regulation of PFASs as a class

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News, October 1, 2018](#)

Author: Cheryl Hogue

To address contamination of drinking water with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) across the country, U.S. lawmakers are urging EPA to regulate the chemicals as a class rather than controlling each individually.

EPA has a precedent for controlling drinking water contaminants as a class, Peter C. Grevatt, director of the agency's Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water, said at a Sept. 26 Senate hearing. EPA regulates the by-products of disinfecting public drinking water as a group, he said.

"We look forward to having that broader approach taken by EPA" for PFAS contamination, responded Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-Mich.). He and other Democrats who represent states facing PFAS contamination of some communities' drinking water want federal help to address these pollutants.

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Diving For Batteries: How to Ensure Embedded Batteries Are Properly Recycled

[Source: Environmental Leader, October 5, 2018](#)

Author: Carl Smith

Consumers demand slick portable electric devices that support their yearn for mobility. To meet this request, product designers have created items that require small batteries with high energy density. Oftentimes, the batteries in these products are molded into devices, preventing consumers from replacing them. Mobile phones, laptops and tablets are sold based on their thin, lightweight design, which in virtually all cases, do not allow consumers to replace batteries in the product.

The evolution of these products has had huge consequences on their end-of-life management, particularly for the proper handling of batteries. To examine the public policy impact of this trend, Call2Recycle commissioned a study by Kelleher Environmental on the implications on battery collection and recycling of embedded battery products.

Historically, for the purposes of recycling, batteries have always been considered a separate material, even though their sole purpose is to power another device. The roots of this are based on the recognition that batteries of the 1980s often contained metals of concern including lead, cadmium and mercury and therefore needed special handling. Today, consumer devices are not powered by batteries

containing these metals (although lead batteries are still widely used in certain non-consumer applications). Almost all laws around the world on recycling and extended producer responsibility (EPR) still separately address batteries.

[Read more...](#)

Press Release: No Loopholes in Global Ban on PFOA

[Source: International POPs Elimination Network \(IPEN\), September 11, 2018](#)

PFOA, the "Teflon chemical," the cause of vast contamination of ground and drinking water around the world, is a persistent pollutant and suspected carcinogen. PFOA was nominated in 2015 for a global ban under the UN Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. An upcoming UN expert group meeting will make recommendations to governments about adding PFOA to the treaty, including possible loopholes that would continue production and use. Experts across diverse fields, including business, fire safety regulation, airport authorities, environmental science and medical device suppliers, strongly condemn proposed exemptions, arguing there is no justification for continued use when viable alternatives exist.

[Read more...](#)

See the full [report](#) from IPEN.

Dissipation of Tungsten and environmental release of nanoparticles from tire studs: A Swedish case study

[Source: Journal of Cleaner Production, October 3, 2018](#)

[Authors: Anna Furberg, Richard Arvidsson, Sverker Molander](#)

Tire studs, with pins made of cemented tungsten carbide with cobalt (WC-Co), are used in many countries during winter. Tungsten, the main content of the pins, is geochemically scarce and a critical raw material. In addition, analytical studies have identified WC-Co nanoparticles in the environment, which are worn off during the use of studded tires. The aims of this study are to assess (i) the dissipation rate and functional recycling related to the use of tungsten in tire studs as well as (ii) the magnitude of the WC-Co nanoparticle release in Sweden. Tungsten mass flows related to WC-Co in tire studs were estimated throughout the product chain, from mining to waste management, using material flow analysis. This study shows that 100% of the tungsten in Swedish tire studs is presently dissipated (67% as release during use) and there is no functional recycling. This can be compared with the estimated average global dissipation rate of >60% and functional recycling rate of 10-25% after use for tungsten. Recovery of tungsten during waste management and alternative solutions to WC-Co in tire studs are discussed as possible remedies. Furthermore, the estimated release of nano-sized WC-Co particles is in the same order of magnitude as the modeled release of some engineered nanomaterials in Sweden and higher than for e.g. nano-silver.

[Read more...](#)

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