

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

Toxics Release Inventory: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Releases Annual National Analysis

[Source: JD Supra](#)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") released its 2017 Toxics Release Inventory ("TRI") National Analysis ("Analysis").

The 2017 Analysis includes what are described as additional "features." These include:

- A new graphic on innovative use of green chemistry by industry
- Profile of the paints and coatings manufacturing and other sectors
- Expanded illustration of the role of TRI data in chemical risk evaluations

[Read more...](#)

[Access the Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\) 2017 National Analysis](#)

[See from The Hill, "Watchdog issues rare "alert" that EPA data on toxic substance releases inaccurate"](#) and the related [EPA Memorandum](#)

Window of opportunity to deal with harmful chemicals closing, UN warns

[Source: Chemistry World](#)

Author: Maria Burke

Almost 20 years ago, governments from around the world agreed to minimise the harmful effects of chemicals and waste on health and the environment by 2020. But they are failing to meet this target and, with the chemical industry growing rapidly, a new UN report is calling for urgent action.

The UN's second Global Chemicals Outlook was recently released as countries met to discuss global chemicals policies beyond 2020 under the auspices of the UN strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM). The report suggests that there is still a window of opportunity to develop a 'global platform' for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. But this needs widespread global commitment from all relevant sectors and stakeholders. ...

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TURI note: Lead authors of the report include Ken Geiser (founding director of TURI), working with Rachel Massey, and TURI co-director Joel Tickner.

Toxic chemicals can enter food through packaging. We made a list.

[Source: Environmental Defense Fund](#)

Authors: Boma Brown-West, Tom Neltner, and Michelle Harvey

In the late 1980s, the [Council of Northeast Governors \(CONEG\)](#) was concerned that heavy metals in packaging would accumulate in recycled materials to levels that presented serious health concerns. The organization drafted model legislation that prohibited the intentional addition of mercury, lead, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium to any component of packaging, including inks. ...

...The Council's hypothesis: protecting virgin material from contamination will improve the recyclability of post-consumer materials and protect public health.

...In addition to [heavy metals](#) and PFAS, EDF has identified other chemicals in food packaging and food handling equipment, whose ubiquity and potential health impacts raise serious concerns about food safety and contamination of the recycling stream. These chemicals appear in either plastic or paper packaging or both.

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Ayer residents learn more about water contamination

[Source: The Lowell Sun](#)

Author: John Winkler

About 50 residents filled the Ayer-Shirley Regional High School Tuesday night to learn more about the chemical compounds detected in their water supply.

The People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment, or PACE, hosted an informational meeting where three environmental experts detailed the origins, national spread and potential health risks of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, better known as PFAS. Levels of these chemical compounds were detected in several town water wells within the last two years, causing residents concern over whether or not their public water supply is safe to drink. ...

[Read more...](#)

See [NH PFAS Investigation Reports](#) and the *Detroit Free Press*, "[PFAS contamination is Michigan's biggest environmental crisis in 40 years](#)"

See also from *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering*, "[Highly Defective UiO-66 Materials for the Adsorptive Removal of Perfluorooctanesulfonate](#)"

Note from TURI: Metal platers use PFAS mist suppressants to minimize the release from chrome plating tanks; the *ACS Sustainable Chemistry* article discusses a technology that could remove PFAS from metal finishing wastewater.

New Report: Plastic and toxic additives, and the circular economy--the role of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions

[Source: IPEN](#)

...The report covers challenges to the life cycle management of plastics, including recycling and end of life disposal. It also highlights substances of concern, including flame-retardants, Perfluorinated chemicals (i.e. PFAS), Phthalates, Bisphenols (BPA) and Nonylphenols. The report discusses the issue of microplastics--persistent pollutants with transporting capacity hindering the implementation of the circular economy--and concludes with key approaches to tackling the issue, including extended producer responsibility and accessing information about chemicals used to make plastics, among

other approaches.

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