



Greenlist Bulletin

This is the 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.

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New Report Reveals Top Retailers Making Major Chemical Safety Advances

[Source: Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families](#)

A new report reveals that many of North America's largest retail companies are embracing chemical safety policies to help protect consumers from toxic chemicals in products. In the largest-ever analysis of its kind, 63% of evaluated companies improved over the past year alone. The study also found dramatic improvement in retailer chemical action between 2016 to 2019, with the average grade moving from D+ to B- (for the eleven retailers evaluated since 2016). This consumer protection progress comes at a time when the Trump Administration has weakened or delayed action on hazardous chemicals that can cause cancer, reproductive harm, and other serious illnesses.

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Asbestos Ban Gets House Panel's OK, But Senate Fate Less Clear

[Source: Bloomberg Environment](#)

Author: Pat Rizzuto

A House committee approved legislation Nov. 19 to ban asbestos but allow certain chemical manufacturers to transition away from use of the cancer-causing mineral.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee approved on a 47-1 vote H.R. 1603, an amended version of the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2019. The bill would ban the mineral, with a few exemptions, within one year.

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See also [Learn About Asbestos.](#)

EPA Bans Consumer Use of Methylene Chloride Paint Stripper

[Source: Bloomberg Environment](#)

Author: Adam Allington

A retail ban on the sale of methylene chloride paint strippers takes effect Nov. 23, the EPA announced.

Methylene chloride is a potentially lethal chemical found in paint stripping products. It has been shown to release toxic fumes that can turn to carbon monoxide in the lungs.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution, as well as import of methylene chloride in consumer paint removers last March.

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See also [TURI Information on Methylene Chloride](#).

EPA Seeks Information on PFAS for Possible Addition to TRI List of Toxic Chemicals

[Source: The National Law Review](#)

Author: Lynn L. Bergeson

On December 4, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) soliciting information as EPA considers a future rulemaking to add certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to the list of toxic chemicals subject to reporting under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) (more commonly known as the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)). 84 Fed. Reg. 66369. In the ANPRM, EPA outlines what PFAS are, why it is considering adding certain PFAS to EPCRA Section 313, what listing actions are being considered, who may be required to report, the current understanding of hazard concerns for PFAS, EPA's hazard assessments on PFAS, and other information available on these chemicals.

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See also ['Forever chemicals' Are Found in MWRA Fertilizer, Drawing Alarm](#) and [Seeking Natural Solutions for a Manmade Problem](#).

Remembering the Bhopal Tragedy, the Victims, and Steps Needed for a Toxic-Free Future

[Source: Beyond Pesticides](#)

December 2 marks the 35th anniversary of the world's worst industrial chemical accident. During the night of December 2, 1984, the Union Carbide pesticide manufacturing plant released the highly toxic gas methyl isocyanate (MIC) into the air of Bhopal, India. The reports were horrifying – an estimated 25,000 people died from direct effects of the exposure, and hundreds of thousands suffer from permanent disabilities or chronic problems. The health effects were not limited to those exposed that night. Generations of children suffer from birth defects as a result of the accident, including what one doctor described as 'monstrous births.' Many people are still exposed to the contaminated site and chemicals released from it.

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See also [Is the Toxic Legacy of the Iraq War Deforming Children Near US Bases?](#)

EPA Decides It Will Cap the Former Mohawk Tannery Site in

Nashua

[Source: New Hampshire Union Leader](#)

Author: Kimberly Houghton

Although the Environmental Protection Agency has selected the method it will use to deal with toxic sludge from the former Mohawk Tannery site, the cleanup process will be lengthy.

“We aren’t anywhere near close to an engineering plan that would be acceptable or would be ready to go to any boards or for permitting and approval,” said Sarah Marchant, director of community development for the city. “They are still pretty early in the actual engineering design phase.”

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See also [SUPERFUND: EPA Should Take Additional Actions to Manage Risks from Climate Change](#).

Sustaining Roads with Grape and Agricultural Waste

[Source: Science Daily](#)

The U.S. spends \$5 billion a year to repair damages to road infrastructure from winter snow and ice control operations and the use of traditional deicers. A team of researchers at WSU is developing a more sustainable solution using grape skins and other agricultural waste.

The researchers, including graduate student Mehdi Honarvar Nazari and Xianming Shi, associate professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering, determined that their deicer containing grape extract outperformed commonly used deicers, including road salt and what is thought to be a more environmentally friendly blend of salt brine and beet juice. They published their results in the December issue of the Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering.

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