
Readers Offer Their Kudos for What Mass. Gets Right

[Source: The Boston Globe](#)

For this Massachusetts Works edition of Ideas, we asked readers to choose one defining strong point of the Commonwealth that they would cite. Following is an edited sample of their responses:

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Program does its part to prod companies to reduce use of toxics

Since 1990 the tiny Toxics Use Reduction Program has led companies to voluntarily eliminate hundreds of millions of pounds of toxic chemicals from their manufacturing processes and products, and by extension from their emissions and discharges. Chemical use is not restricted. Instead, companies submit annual reports to the state Department of Environmental Protection on the pounds of covered toxics used in manufacturing, how much becomes product, and how much becomes waste in the production process.

UMass Lowell, City of Lowell Announce Partnership to Accelerate Sustainability Leadership

[Source: University of Massachusetts Lowell](#)

Long at the forefront of efforts to implement and grow sustainable operations and practices in the Merrimack Valley, UMass Lowell and the City of Lowell today announced the Green Community Partnership.

An alliance to provide leadership, resources and expertise for sustainability initiatives throughout greater Lowell, the Green Community Partnership is the brainchild of university Chancellor Jacquie Moloney and City Manager Eileen Donoghue who, along with philanthropist Nancy Donahue, will co-chair a Green Community Commission that includes a broad swath of business, community and environmental leaders. The commission held its kick-off meeting today at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.

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PFAS Chemicals Will Be Added to the Toxic Release Inventory and Additional Chemicals May Be Coming

[Source: JD Supra](#)

Author: Susan Brice, et al

In furtherance of the PFAS Action Plan of 2019¹, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is adding certain per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") to the list of toxic chemicals subject to reporting under the Toxic Release Inventory ("TRI") of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act ("EPCRA").

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Scientists Fight Back Against Toxic 'Forever' Chemicals

[Source: Wired](#)

Author: Michele Cohen Marill

On the day Susan Gordon learned Venetucci Farm, in Colorado, was contaminated by toxins, the vegetables looked just as good as ever, the grass as green, and the cattle, hogs, chickens, and goats as healthy.

The beauty of the community farm she and her husband managed made the revelation all the more tragic. Chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, invisible and insidious, had tainted the groundwater beneath her feet. PFAS had seeped into the soil from decades of training exercises that involved spraying firefighting foam at the nearby Peterson Air Force Base, in Colorado Springs.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Nordic Skiing Has an Addiction to Toxic Wax](#) and [What Connects Cross Country Skiing and Chemical Safety?](#)

See also [GreenScreen Certified™ Standard for Firefighting Foam](#)

Perdue Farms Introduces Compostable Foam Packaging for Shipments

[Source: Environment + Energy Leader](#)

Author: Alyssa Danigelis

Perdue Farms says that the company has started making all of its e-commerce shipping boxes from 100% recyclable cardboard insulated with a biodegradable, water soluble, and backyard compostable foam made using high-grade non-GMO cornstarch.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Chemical Recycling Could Transform Plastic Recycling by Returning Waste to Its 'Virgin' State.](#)

Image of the Day: Living Concrete

[Source: The Scientist](#)

Author: Emily Makowski

Bacteria and sand can be combined to form a living material that acts like concrete, according to a study published in Matter yesterday (January 15). Researchers led by Wil Srubar, a civil engineer and head of the Living Materials Laboratory at the University of Colorado Boulder, combined sand and hydrogel, an absorbent network of polymers, to form a scaffold.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Making Beautiful Colours Without Toxic Chemicals.](#)

New Toxic Ten Guide of Top Chemicals for Canadians to Avoid in Skincare Products

Source: [Environmental Defence](#)

Author: Sarah Jamal

Today, Environmental Defence launched its new Toxic Ten Skincare Guide to help Canadians make safer and more informed choices when shopping for cosmetics and personal care products.

"Canadians are increasingly concerned about the impacts of toxic chemicals in their bodies and the environment," says Muhannad Malas, Toxics Program Manager at Environmental Defence. "Our new guide lists 10 harmful chemicals, or groups of chemicals such as phthalates and Teflon-like chemicals known as PFAS, that consumers should avoid to better protect their health and the environment."

Environmental Defence's new Toxic Ten list includes:

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Proposed Amendments to California's Proposition 65 Warning Regulations

Source: [The National Law Review](#)

Author: Food and Drug Law at Keller and Heckman

In response to stakeholder comments, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has proposed amendments to clarify ambiguities in Article 6 of its Proposition 65 (Prop 65) warning regulations. Prop 65 is a right-to-know law that requires individuals to receive a clear and reasonable warning before being exposed to certain chemicals that California deems to be carcinogens or reproductive toxicants.

[Read more...](#)

See also [OEHHA Proposes Risk Factors for PCBTF](#) and [California Regulatory Actions on PCBTF, Looking Ahead](#).

See also [Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants Notice of Public Meeting](#).

PepsiCo's U.S. Operations Will Be Powered by 100% Renewable Electricity This Year

Source: [Fast Company](#)

Author: Adele Peters

At a Frito-Lay plant in Arizona, thousands of solar panels sit on land next to the factory providing electricity. At a Gatorade plant an hour away, the roof is lined with solar panels; the same is true for Tropicana and Pepsi plants in California. The plants, all owned by PepsiCo, are part of a move to renewable energy that the company has been working on for some time.

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Mattel's Construction Toy Brand, Mega, Will Now Use Bio-Based Plastics

Source: [Environment + Energy Leader](#)

Author: Emily Holbrook

Mattel, Inc. today announced that Mega, the company's construction toy brand, is launching new products derived from bio-based plastics. The pre-school construction product, Mega Bloks, will now feature three preschool building sets — Polar Friends, Safari Friends, and Woodland Friends — derived from bio-based resins.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Dollar General, Sephora, Lowe's Among 7 Most Improved Retailers Addressing Toxic Chemicals](#).

See also [Lego Takes On The Challenge To Find A Strong, Sustainable Alternative Plastic](#) and [LEGO® Treehouse Blooming with Sustainable Bricks](#)

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 andrea@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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