

## TURA Program Update - April 2021

### COVID-19 Pandemic

Note that all upcoming events are planned as virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity for social distancing. Please check TURI's website for on-going updates on events and resources, and feel free to contact TURI, OTA or MassDEP staff with any questions.

### For the Latest News

For the latest news, sign up for program newsletters from [TURI \(see recent newsletter\)](#) and [OTA \(see recent newsletter\)](#).

## Current and Upcoming Meetings and Events

- [TURA Program Strengthening Ad Hoc Committee](#) (all meetings to be held virtually)
  - Toxic Substances, Thursday, Apr 29, 2021, 11am - 1pm
  - Fees, Thursday, May 13, 2021, 10am - 12pm
- [Spring Continuing Education Conference](#), April 6, 8, 13
  - Apr 6 Keynote: The Intersection of Toxics Use Reduction and Environmental Justice, by Ana Mascareñas, Environmental Equity Deputy Director and Tribal Liaison, CA DTSC
  - Other sessions: materials accounting fundamentals, alternate planning such as Resource Conservation or EMS, EU REACH, and energy saving tools.
- [Lean Manufacturing and Pollution Prevention for the Food and Beverage Sector](#), March-June 2021  
*Funding provided for this training through an EPA Region 1 Healthy Community grant*
- CD Aero virtual demo - date TBA

## Recent Events

- [Science Advisory Board Meeting](#) - Mar 11, 2021
- [Science Advisory Board Meeting](#) - Jan 14, 2021; Quaternary ammonium compounds
- TURA [Administrative Council Meeting](#) – March 5, 2021
- TURA Program Strengthening Ad Hoc Committee Meetings:
  - [TUR Planners and TUR Planning](#), Mar 30, 2021
  - [Alternative Planning - RC and EMS](#), Jan 13, 2021
  - [Compliance and Enforcement](#), Dec 14, 2020
  - [Orientation](#), Nov. 19, 2020
- [Virtual Fall Continuing Education Conference](#) – Oct 27 and Nov 5; sessions: Safer cleaning and disinfecting, new TURA Data site, TUR success case studies, and economic evaluation to build the case for TUR implementation.
- OTA webinar co-hosted with Department of Labor Standards for Massachusetts manufacturers on what to expect during OTA and DLS remote technical assistance visits, Feb. 10, 2021
- [TURI Webinars](#): Legislative 30-minute briefing, Feb 9, 2021 – [Using the new TURA data site](#)

## Resources and Media Related to COVID-19 Safer Cleaning and Disinfecting

- See TURI's website: [https://www.turi.org/Our\\_Work/Cleaning\\_Laboratory/COVID-19\\_Safely\\_Clean\\_Disinfect](https://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Cleaning_Laboratory/COVID-19_Safely_Clean_Disinfect) with updated list of safer disinfectant products
- [Guidance for Businesses](#): Find information about safer cleaning and disinfecting, and tools such as log and checklist templates and a [fact sheet](#).
- [Cleaning Secrets for Every Room](#), Consumer Reports, March 26, 2021
- The TURI lab is testing efficacy of safer disinfectant chemistries and devices. Using a surrogate virus for COVID-19, the TURI Lab is evaluating devices and chemistries such as steam cleaning, hypochlorous acid, UV light,

electrostatic sprayers and fogging devices. Stay tuned for results.

- [Asthma and Chemicals fact sheet](#): a focus on cleaning, disinfection and sterilization, in English and Portuguese.
- Updated [guidance and webinar for cleaning and disinfecting in schools](#)

## OTA Update

### OTA Activities

- OTA staff have offered free and confidential virtual site visits to Massachusetts businesses via Zoom. [Download a listing of OTA contacts by industry.](#)
- OTA has undertaken activities to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). OTA staff are developing surveys to assist Massachusetts companies with identifying PFAS in their facilities. Industries targeted for outreach include paper and food packaging, metal finishing, and others. OTA has also conducted outreach to significant industrial users upstream from publicly-owned treatment works to offer them assistance with reducing PFAS in their facilities and communicating with vendors about PFAS in raw materials.
- OTA is providing support to The New England Consortium (TNEC), a worker health and safety training program based at UMass Lowell, which will offer a no-cost, 3-hour virtual zoom course on **Climate Change Resiliency and Chemical Safety, Monday, May 10, 12:30-3:30 p.m.** for companies, public emergency responders, non-profit and community organizations. For further information and updates contact [Thomas Estabrook@uml.edu](mailto:Thomas_Estabrook@uml.edu), or go to [tnectraining.com](http://tnectraining.com) to register.
- As part of a broader EEA initiative institutionalizing environmental justice (EJ) across the Secretariat, OTA is incorporating EJ principals into its planned activities so that we are engaging thoughtfully with EJ communities and offering needed resources to communities and the industries within them.
- OTA's work was featured in a [Boston University School of Public Health news item](#) in March 2021.

### OTA Staff Updates

- Marina Gayl is retiring at the end of April 2021 after 29 years of service. The TURA Program thanks Marina for her valuable contributions and dedication to protecting the environment and public health!
- Tiffany Skogstrom (previously Acting Director and Chemical Policy and Outreach Analyst) has been appointed Director of OTA and Executive Director of the TURA Administrative Council.
- Environmental Justice Intern Krishana Abraham-Petrie worked with OTA from November 2020 to April 2021 before accepting a position at partner agency NEWMOA (Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association).
- OTA welcomed back previous PFAS & Nanomaterials Intern Marcela Rojas-Vasquez.

## Recent Publications

- [Workshop Auto case study](#) - substitutes safer degreasing process
- [River Street Metal Finishing case study](#) - filtering acid to reduce chemical use
- [Riverdale Mills case study](#) - innovative brush roller reduces dragout and chemical use
- [Outstanding Bath case study](#) - Using safer coating strippers for tub refinishing
- [Natural Grass Playing field case study – Martha's Vineyard](#)
- [Umicore case study](#) - Umicore Electrical Materials eliminates use of perchloroethylene in vacuum degreaser
- [Morgan Advanced Materials Triumphs over TCE](#) demo site, video and case study - Morgan eliminated TCE use for wax removal, substituting an aqueous process.
- [Removing Acrylic Conformal Coating with Safer Solvents for Re-Manufacturing Electronics](#) - The research results of a TURI Academic Research Grant project identified safer alternatives to methylene chloride used to remove conformal coatings on printed circuit boards. The study, led by Assistant Professor Wan-Ting (Grace) Chen of the Plastics Engineering Department at UMass Lowell in partnership with Raytheon Company, was recently published in *Polymers Journal*.

## Video

- [Aerospace and Defense Consortium Finds Safer Alternatives to Hexavalent Chromium](#) – interview with David

Pinsky (Raytheon Missiles and Defense) and Greg Morose (TURI); Oct 2020

- [Why Become a TUR Planner? A mother-daughter perspective](#)
- [TURI Overview](#)
- [Riverdale Mills Reduces Use of Toxics in Wire Mesh Manufacturing Process](#)
- [River Street Metal Finishing Reduces Use of Sulfuric Acid](#)
- [Morgan Advanced Materials Eliminates the Use of TCE](#)

More on [TURI Youtube channel](#)

## Administrative Council

The Administrative Council adopted the TRI listing of 172 long chain PFAS chemicals, and those [regulations have been promulgated](#). As part of the federal FY 20 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), [172 PFAS chemicals were added to the US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\)](#). Under TURA, EPCRA chemicals are incorporated into the TURA chemical list; the regulations were finalized in Dec 2020. These PFAS chemicals are reportable under federal TRI for 2020 reporting year (see below) and under TURA for 2021 reporting year.

Appointees for every seat on the Advisory Committee to the Administrative Council has been approved as of March 2021. New appointees to the Committee are Michael Fiore (Department of Labor Standards) and Dr. Diana Ceballos from BU School of Public Health (Public Health Advocate). New members in previously-unoccupied seats are Magdalena Ayed from Harborkeepers (General Public), and Tennis Lilly from Groundwork Lawrence (Statewide Environmental Group).

The Administrative Council has created an [Ad Hoc Committee on TURA Program Strengthening](#) to review experiences in the 10+ years since the 2006 TURA Amendments, and to look forward to the next decade and the critical priorities of Massachusetts with respect to toxic chemicals and safer materials. Discussion topics include compliance and enforcement, resource conservation and EMS planning, TUR planners and TUR planning, the list of TURA reportable substances, and fees.

## MassDEP Update: Flame Retardant Law

An Act to Protect Children, Families, and Firefighters from Harmful Flame Retardants was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor on January 1, 2021. MassDEP has a [New Flame Retardants Law webpage](#) that lists the chemicals being prohibited from sale in certain products; the regulations are in process. The law requires MassDEP to evaluate at least every 3 years, in consultation with TURI and the Science Advisory Board, whether other flame retardant chemicals should be added to the list. The TURA program will also assist MassDEP with outreach to impacted stakeholders to inform them about the law and TUR opportunities, including safer alternatives.

## TURA Form S Reporting

- E-DEP Form S filing will go live in April. Annual spring **Form S filer training** will be online again this year, and will be posted on MassDEP's website by the end of April - stay tuned!
- **New Reportable Substances for Reporting Year 2020** - Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) TRI/EPCRA category
  - Category of 13 specific NPEs
  - [TRI/Federal: First reports were due July 1, 2020 \(for RY 2019\)](#)
  - TURA/State: First reports due July 1, 2021 (for RY 2020)
- **New PFAS Reportable Substances under TRI for Reporting Year 2020, under TURA for 2021**

PFAS TRI listings as required by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA 2020): EPA has identified [172 PFAS chemicals](#) that have been added to TRI/federal reporting for 2020 reporting year, as required in the NDAA 2020 legislation. [See EPA's website](#) for more information. These chemicals were added to the [TURA list of Toxic or Hazardous Substances](#) in December 2020, and will be reportable for 2021 (Form S's due July 1, 2022). In addition, EPA has added 3 more PFAS for TRI reporting year 2021. MassDEP will be adding these to the TURA list of toxic or hazardous substances as the Administrative Council promulgates regulations, along with a notation

regarding the first year that they are reportable under TURA.

(See also spring CE conference [Session B: PFAS chemicals, uses and compliance obligations presentation](#))

## PFAS Resources

- OTA has created a [downloadable supplier notification template letter](#) to assist industries identify potential products that may contain the 172 PFAS chemicals recently added to the EPA Toxics Release Inventory.
- OTA is working with MassDEP and EPA to provide free and confidential technical assistance to potential PFAS-using industries upstream from wastewater treatment plants.
- The [Science Advisory Board finalized their recommendation](#) on a category of PFAS substances in June; TURI [updated the policy analysis in Oct 2020](#). Additional information from the [SAB deliberations](#) is on TURI's website.
- AFFF Alternatives Assessment - The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and TURI have received a DoD SERDP grant to help the DoD to make informed, efficient choices about alternatives to aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF), a fluorinated product used in firefighting.
- [PFAS in artificial turf](#)
- [TURI's PFAS information page](#)

## New TURA Data Dashboard

TURI recently released a newly-designed [TURA Data online tool](#). Simply click on a chemical, company or town to view charts that make it easy to understand toxic chemical use in Massachusetts.

## TURI FY22 Grants

The upcoming year grant RFP's will be available by the end of April 2021 for FY22 industry, small business, community and academic research grants. Start thinking about possibilities now! See list of [FY21 Grants](#). Visit [www.turi.org/grants](http://www.turi.org/grants) for more information - sign up for TURI's newsletter to be notified about the RFP availability.

## TURI Staff Updates

[TURI is hiring a new Director!](#) TURI is in the process of accepting applications for a director and experienced researcher to provide strategic, organizational, and fiscal leadership to the Institute. Please share this career opportunity with qualified colleagues.

For more information, contact the TURA program. E-mail addresses are available on our websites and are the preferred method of communication while we are all working remotely:

- OTA: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/otas-team>
- MassDEP: Lynn Cain, [lynn.cain@mass.gov](mailto:lynn.cain@mass.gov) or Walter Hope, [walter.hope@mass.gov](mailto:walter.hope@mass.gov)
- TURI: [https://www.turi.org/About/Staff\\_List](https://www.turi.org/About/Staff_List)