

June 2016

## TURA Program Recognizes Champions of Toxics Use Reduction



*Rep. Paul Schmid III, Rep. Carole Fiola, Steve Madeiros of Mike's Auto Body, Rep. Alan Silvia and Mike Penacho of Mike's Auto Body.*

State legislators joined the TURA program on June 8 to recognize 2016 Champions of Toxics Use Reduction at the State House. The annual event recognizes outstanding leaders who are making the Commonwealth a safer place to live and work. [Read about each honoree's accomplishments and view more photos.](#)

### Upcoming Events

**June 30, 2 to 3 p.m., EST**  
EPA Overview on TSCA Updates Webinar (see article below). [When logging in, sign in as a guest.](#) For audio, call 866-299-3188 and enter code 2025648098#.

**July 20, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Professional Steam Cleaning Demonstration  
Jackson Cleaners  
Melrose, Mass.  
[Learn more and RSVP.](#)

### Champions of Toxics Use Reduction Ceremony Photos



## Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Updated

President Obama signed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act on June 22. This updates the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for the first time since it was adopted in 1976.

The Lautenberg Act makes a number of changes to existing law, including enhancing EPA's authority to require chemical testing, creating deadlines for EPA to prioritize and assess chemicals, updating requirements related to confidential business information and more.

For more details about the updates:

- The EPA has [posted information](#) including a copy of the Act, a summary of key

- The EPA has [posted information](#), including a copy of the Act & summary of key provisions and a Q&A.
- The EPA will host a [webinar](#) to provide an overview of the new Act on Thursday, June 30, 2016, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. EST. This initial webinar will be informational only to help inform those unfamiliar with the new law. [When logging in](#), sign in as a guest. For audio, call 866-299-3188 and enter code 2025648098#.
- The [Environmental Council of the States \(ECOS\)](#) has [posted a table](#) comparing the House and Senate versions of the bill to the final legislation.

If you have questions about the bill, please contact [Rachel Massey](#), TURI's Policy Program Manager, at 978-934-3124 or [rachel\\_massey@uml.edu](mailto:rachel_massey@uml.edu).

## Microbrewery Tests Safer Cleaning and Sanitizing Technology



With the help of a TURI Small Business grant, Merrimack Ales in Lowell evaluated safer alternatives to caustic sodium hydroxide. The small business tested how well electrochemical activation (ECA) technology works for cleaning and sanitizing equipment used during the beer brewing process. If effective, the technology could eliminate, or greatly reduce, caustic sodium hydroxide purchased for cleaning and the follow on acids used for sanitization. [Read the case study for more details.](#)

## Students Win EPA P3 Award



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected a UMass Lowell student team to receive a People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) \$15,000 award. Working with their mentors, Research Professor and TURI Project Manager Greg Morose and TURI Laboratory Director Jason Marshall, the students will test the performance of safer alternatives to methylene chloride, a toxic chemical used in paint stripping products. Industry partners Savogran and Belcastro Furniture Restoration will provide technical expertise. The interdisciplinary team of

TURI student researchers includes Alicia McCarthy, James Keats, Carla De La Cruz, and Abigail Giarrosso. To learn more, contact [Greg Morose](#).

## Climate Change Grants from OTA Available to Regional Planning Agencies

Through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) is offering funding to as many as eight regional planning agencies to sponsor workshops designed to build awareness and educate city officials, community leaders, Local Emergency Planning Committees, and businesses about the toxic chemicals stored, used and transported through their communities. The training will build models for incorporating toxics use reduction into community and

regional emergency preparedness and climate resiliency planning. Interested parties should contact Tiffany Skogstrom, OTA Environmental Analyst, at 617-626-1086 or [tiffany.skogstrom@state.ma.us](mailto:tiffany.skogstrom@state.ma.us)

## Korean Visitors Learn About Toxics Use Reduction



A delegation of South Korean health and environment professionals as well as a documentary filmmaker visited TURI in June. The group included Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health, Ajou University and the Ministry of the Environment. They visited TURI and the TURI Lab to learn about Toxics Use Reduction in Massachusetts as part of a two-week visit with state, federal and local agencies and environmental, health and safety organizations.

Jun Hee Cho, a UMass Lowell graduate student and researcher in the TURI Lab, escorted the visitors.

## Update on MassDEP Offer of TURA Reporting Amnesty for Voluntary Disclosure

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's TURA Reporting Amnesty, which ends on July 1, 2016 has been a success. Over 25 companies took advantage of the program to submit reports they had not submitted in prior years. By so doing, they avoided formal enforcement and the requirement to pay two additional years of back fees and late fees. In the coming months MassDEP will be conducting inspections and desk audits of facilities it believes have failed to submit the required reports. Facilities in this situation are encouraged to come forward voluntarily. Although the terms are not as beneficial as they were during the amnesty, back fees and late fees are lower for facilities that self report.

*TURI offers services & programs to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, energy and water while enhancing the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses.*

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