



Toxics Use Reduction Institute Newsletter

February 2017

Research Aims to Reduce Toxics Used in Manufacturing



TURI awarded three academic research grants to faculty at UMass Lowell and UMass Amherst. Company partners include Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in Norwood, M.D. Stetson in Randolph and Camco Manufacturing in Leominster. [Read more.](#)

Note: TURI will be issuing RFPs for academic research, industry, community, and small business grants in April.

Job Opening in the TURI Lab

TURI Cleaning Laboratory Specialist

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute Cleaning Laboratory works directly with businesses to help them identify and adopt safer processes and products. Much of the Lab's work focuses on industrial cleaning applications, for example, helping manufacturers eliminate the use of toxic solvents by testing safer alternatives. The Lab also tests janitorial cleaners and equipment. This is an interdisciplinary, hands-on job that includes work in the laboratory as well as direct assistance to businesses. This is a great opportunity for those interested in environmental health and safety, green chemistry, or pollution prevention. To see the full job posting and apply online, go to <https://jobs.uml.edu> under professional/administrative positions.

Upcoming Events

Greener Materials Research Symposium

Wed., May 10, 2017
8:15AM to 2:00PM
UMass Lowell Moloney Ballroom

[Register here.](#)

Join academic researchers and Massachusetts industry leaders to discuss business needs for safer alternatives and the power of collaborative research to deliver solutions.

Keynote speakers include:

Freimut Schroeder, Vice President, Environment, Health and Safety, Siemens AG Healthcare Sector

John Warner President, Warner

Update on The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

The Toxic Substances Control Act is a federal statute providing the U.S. EPA with the authority to carry out a number of essential functions, including information about assessing and regulating chemicals. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act of June 2016 updates TSCA for the first time since the law was first adopted in 1976.

In December 2016, EPA issued a list of the [first ten chemicals](#) that will undergo risk evaluation under the Lautenberg Act.

In January 2017, EPA issued draft rules for specific uses of three chemicals:

- Trichloroethylene (TCE) in [vapor degreasing](#)
- Trichloroethylene (TCE in [aerosol degreasing and spot cleaning at dry cleaning facilities](#)
- Methylene chloride and n-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) in [paint and coating removal](#)

For additional information and updates, visit www.turi.org/TSCA.

Building Chemical Safety Into Climate Change Resiliency Planning

Through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) is funding [Regional Planning Agencies](#)(RPAs) to sponsor workshops designed to build awareness and educate city officials, community leaders, [Local Emergency Planning Committees](#) (LEPCs), and businesses about the toxic chemicals stored, used, and transported through their communities. The trainings will build models for incorporating toxics use reduction into community and regional emergency preparedness and climate resiliency planning and supply toxics users with the tools they need to prevent industrial accidents.

Contact Tiffany Skogstrom, OTA's Outreach and Policy Coordinator, at (617) 626-1086 or tiffany.skogstrom@state.ma.us to receive more information and get connected to the project.

Infills added to TURI's Alternatives Assessment of Sports Turf



TURI is developing an alternatives assessment in response to requests from municipalities, universities, schools, and other institutions as they consider what type of athletic playing fields to install, deciding between natural grass, artificial turf with crumb rubber infill, and artificial turf with other forms of infill.

Babcock
Institute for
Green
Chemistry

Save the Date!

Spring 2017 Continuing Education Conference
Thursday, April 6, 2017

The spring conference topics include financial analysis, case studies, and TUR and resiliency.

Registration opens in March.

An overview of [infills](#) is a recent addition to TURI's information compendium on sports turf alternatives. Subsequent additions will review discrete infills in detail.

New Case Study: Eliminating Use of Solvents

Minuteman Press of Foxboro creates a safer and healthier work environment by eliminating the use of solvents. [Read](#) how the business created an affordable solvent-free printing process with the help of a TURI grant.



Recent Articles from TURI Staff

The Journal of Environmental Health published "[From Perchloroethylene Dry Cleaning to Professional Wet Cleaning: Making the Health and Business Case for Reducing Toxics](#)". Lead author is Joy Onasch, TURI Community and Small Business Manager.

GreenBiz, P2 Impact, published "[To detox manufacturing, businesses find a secret ingredient](#)" authored by Pam Eliason, TURI Industry Research Program Manager. This article describes how five leading Massachusetts manufacturers found joining forces essential in their efforts to redefine chemicals management.

Perfluoroalkyl Substances

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), have been in the news recently, as studies emerge about their presence in groundwater and in products such as food packaging, and evidence builds concerning potential health effects and their persistence in the environment.

For more information, see the most recent Greenlist Bulletin, which was a special [issue on Perfluorinated Chemicals](#).

The TURA Science Advisory Board (SAB) is in the process of reviewing these substances. At their January 2017 meeting, the SAB recommended listing PFOA, PFOS, and their salts on the TURA list of toxic and hazardous substances. The SAB currently has a [Call for Information](#) out for additional PFAS.

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

Visit us at [our website](#), at [Facebook](#), or at [our offices](#) on the UMass Lowell campus.

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News: Artificial Turf, Job Opening, Calendar

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Sent by felicek@turi.org