



Toxics Use Reduction Institute Newsletter

September 2017

Announcing this Year's Grant Awards

TURI Funds 14 Grants to Industry, Small Businesses, Community Groups and Academia

TURI awarded over \$225,000 in grants to reduce the use of hazardous solvents, flame retardants and other toxic chemicals used across Massachusetts. The grantees are:

Industry Grantees

Kettle Cuisine of Lynn, a hand crafter of small batch, all natural soups for restaurants, foodservice operators and grocery retailers, aims to reduce the use of sodium hydroxide used for cleaning.

OFS of Sturbridge, a manufacturer of fiber optic solutions, will investigate integral recycling of hydrogen fluoride, a highly toxic chemical that is used for etching glass.

US Pack, Inc. of Leominster, a leading contract manufacturer of custom liquid specialty products, will invest in capital equipment that will reduce the use of acetone, ethylene glycol and methanol.

Small Business Grantees

Auto Collision Shop at Assabet Valley Technical High School of Marlboro will purchase new equipment and water-based gun washing solution that will eliminate the use of toxic solvents.

Joseph Cleaners of Brockton will use the grant to offset costs to purchase and install professional wet cleaning technology, a safer alternative that will replace the use of n-propyl bromide (nPB) and perchlorethylene (perc).

Walker's Gymnastics and Dance of Lowell will purchase new foam cubes that do not contain flame retardants for two landing pits used in the gym.

Academic Grantees

(UMass Lowell and industry partners)

Prof. Ram Nagarajan of the Department of Plastics Engineering is partnering with **Bradford Industries of Lowell** to find and evaluate safer solvent blends to replace the use of the toxic solvent dimethylformamide (DMF).

Profs. Jayant Kumar of the Department of Physics and **Ram Nagarajan** of the Department of Plastics Engineering will partner with **Mexichem Specialty Compounds of Leominster** to research

Upcoming Events

Featured Demonstration Event at Mark Richey Woodworking



Thursday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to Noon, Newburyport. Learn about the company's wind turbine, rooftop solar array and use of low VOC finishes for its high-end architectural woodwork products. [Register](#)

Beyond the MSDS Workshop

Monday, Oct. 2 at TURI
[Learn more and register.](#)

Fall Continuing Education Conference

Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Holiday Inn, Taunton.
[Learn more and register.](#)

Nanotechnology Use and Implications Webinar

Tues., December 5
Noon to 1 p.m.
[Learn more and register.](#)

Spring 2018 Continuing Education Conference

Save the Date: Wed., April 25, Courtyard Boston, Marlborough.

Artificial Turf Alternatives Webinar

safer alternatives to antimony trioxide, a widely-used flame retardant that's listed as a probable carcinogen by IARC.

Assistant Prof. Hsi-Wu Wong of the Department of Chemical Engineering will partner with **Waters Corporation of Milford** to identify safer solvents used in liquid chromatography equipment to replace the use of harmful solvents including methanol, acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran.

Assistant Prof. Christopher Hansen of the Department of Mechanical Engineering will identify and investigate safer alternatives for chlorinated solvents used in industrial applications.

Community Grantees

The Field Fund, Inc. of Martha's Vineyard will purchase an aerator to support organic lawn care for playing fields, which eliminates pesticide use and the need for artificial turf.

Silent Spring Institute of Newton will partner with the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition to reduce high school students' exposures to common carcinogens and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Town of Williamstown will promote the town as a pollinator-friendly community by educating residents and institutions on organic landscaping practices.

Worcester Public Schools will convert school bus and kitchen sanitation practices and products to systems that are safer for human health and the environment.

[Read more details about the grant projects.](#)

Gymnastics and More of Woburn Recognized for Making Facility Safer

Tues., February 27, 2018
Noon to 1 p.m.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Safer Solutions for Methylene Chloride Webinar

Tues., June 5, 2018
Noon to 1 p.m.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Other Events of Interest

Chemical Safety and Climate Change Preparedness Training

Wed., Oct. 18

[In Haverhill](#)

Friday, Oct. 20

[In Middleborough](#)

Thursday, Nov. 2

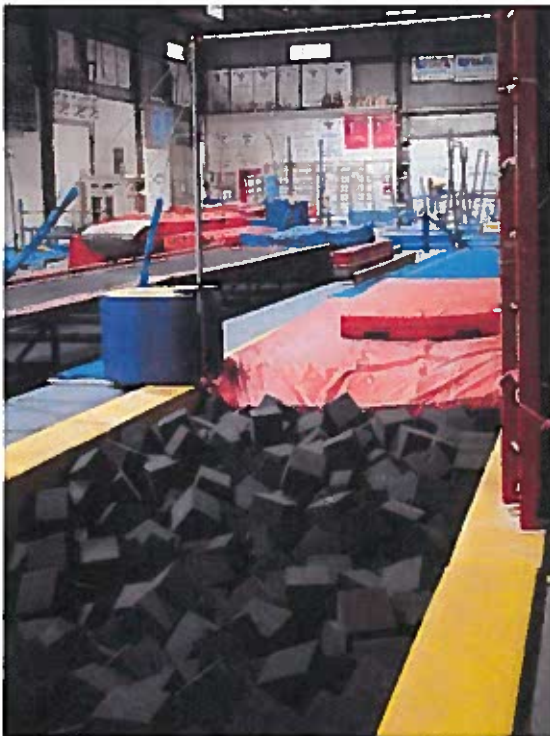
[In Turner Falls](#)



From left, Deputy Director of TURI Liz Harriman, State Rep. Jay Kaufman, Owner of Gymnastics and More Jen Scannell and TURI Business and Industry Program Manager Joy Onasch.

Representative Jay Kaufman and the staff at TURI recognized owner Jen Scannell of Gymnastics and More in Woburn recently for making the facility safer for gymnasts and coaches.

The small business replaced foam pit cubes that cushion the landing of gymnasts with



ones that do not contain flame retardants. Widely used in household furniture, textiles and electronic equipment, flame retardants can easily migrate and negatively affect human health and the environment.

"The original aim of flame retardants was to slow down first ignition of fire due to highly flammable materials burning quickly," says Deputy Director of TURI Liz Harriman. "However, some studies now show that adding chemical flame retardants in most products only delay a fire by seconds, and there are better ways to reduce the risk of fires such as sprinkler systems."

Silent Spring Institute received a TURI grant to work with WPI researchers who tested the burn rates of foam cubes with and without the flame retardants. They shared the findings with fire chiefs and gym owners across Massachusetts.

"Congratulations to Gymnastics and More for being a model for other gymnastics studios and small businesses," says TURI Business and Industry Program Manager Joy Onasch. "We are often exposed to toxic chemicals in our daily lives so the more we do to reduce our burden, especially among young people, the better."

New Article Published on the Evaluation of Hexavalent

Chromium



Research Program Manager Greg Morose co-authored the article [Evaluation of Hexavalent Chromium Free Bond Primers for Aerospace and Defense Applications](#) that appears in the August issue of Products Finishing magazine.

TURI worked with a consortium consisting of government agencies and companies in the aerospace defense industry to successfully identify and evaluate safer alternatives to replace hexavalent chromium for coating products.

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.

Toxics Use Reduction Institute, UMass Lowell, Wannalancit Mills,
600 Suffolk Street, Suite 501, Lowell, MA 01854

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Sent by karen@turi.org