

This is the weekly 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 mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

At Levi's, lasers wear your jeans: New digital process produces vintage looks with fewer chemicals

Source: [Chemical & Engineering News, March 2, 2018](#)

Author: Melody M. Bomgardner

No one wants to be caught wearing dad jeans. And so while denim trends are always evolving, it's clear that the vintage look has legs. Now Levi Strauss & Co. has a faster and greener process to make new jeans look old. It is swapping oxidizing chemicals and pumice stones for digital images files and fabric-zapping lasers.

To make jeans with wear attributes like whisker patterns, worn spots, or crackle textures, Levi's designers are rolling out digital image software for placing each detail. At the manufacturing plant, the digital file will guide a laser to embed the design. Then the garment will be rinsed as usual.

The process reduces the number of chemicals needed to produce today's endless variations of worn and faded jeans, according to Levi's. It is common to finish a pair of denim jeans using pumice stones and 15 types of chemicals, including bleaches, peroxides, enzymes, acids, lubricants, wetting agents, and softeners.

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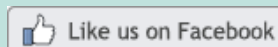
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**TURI's Boott Mills
Grand Opening
Monday, March 12, 2018
1pm - 3pm**

Join Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney as we celebrate the grand opening of TURI's new office and laboratory space at The Offices at Boott Mills West, 126 John Street, Suite 14, 2nd Floor, Lowell.

Please RSVP to Maria Scholl, email maria_s@turi.org or call 978-934-4964.

Mind the Store campaign to target more US retailers in 2018

Source: [Chemical Watch, March 1, 2018](#)

Author: Tammy Lovell

A campaign that evaluates the efforts of US retailers to eliminate toxic chemicals is widening its net in 2018, to assess more companies and sectors.

The Mind the Store coalition of NGOs has produced a 'retailer report card' for the past two years, ranking companies on criteria such as chemical policy, transparency and continuous improvement. Its 2018 retailer report card will be published in November.

Speaking at a *Chemical Watch* webinar last week, executive director of the Environmental Health Strategy Center, Mike Belliveau, set out the campaign's priorities for the year. It will pursue "direct results in reducing chemical footprint and replacing chemicals of high concern with safer alternatives", he said.

Particular emphasis, he added, will be placed on encouraging retailers to phase out those chemicals of high concern which, he said, are currently neglected by federal agencies.

These include:

- methylene chloride;
- perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs); and
- ortho-phthalates.

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TURI's Note: See our [methylene chloride fact sheet](#), as well as a [report](#) assessing safer and effective alternatives to methylene chloride for paint stripping products. Also see our [report](#) on the MA TURA Science Advisory Board Review of the TURA CERCLA Phthalate Ester Category.

Neonicotinoids: risks to bees confirmed

Source: [European Food Safety Authority, February 28, 2018](#)

Most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees, according to assessments published today by EFSA. The Authority has updated its risk assessments of three neonicotinoids -- clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam -- that are currently subject to restrictions in the EU because of the threat they pose to bees.

These new conclusions update those published in 2013, after which the European Commission imposed controls on use of the substances.

For the new assessments, which this time cover wild bees -- bumblebees and solitary bees -- as well as honeybees, EFSA's Pesticides Unit carried out an extensive data collection exercise, including a systematic literature review, to gather all the scientific evidence published since the previous evaluations.

The team also applied the guidance document developed by EFSA specifically for the risk assessment of pesticides and bees.

[Read more...](#)

See the guidance document in the *EFSA Journal*, "[Guidance on risk assessment on bees](#)".

Also see from *Environmental Science & Technology*, "[Environmental Risks and Challenges Associated with Neonicotinoid Insecticides](#)".

Inspectors find phthalates in toys and asbestos in second-hand products

Source: [European Chemicals Agency, February 13, 2018](#)

Author: Scott Jenkins

In an EU/EEA-wide project of ECHA's Enforcement Forum, inspectors found hundreds of consumer products with illegal amounts of restricted chemicals. Every fifth toy inspected contained high levels of restricted phthalates. ...

The project report shows a relatively high number of products on the European market containing chemicals that are restricted under REACH. Inspectors in 27 European countries checked 1,009 mixtures, 4,599 articles and 17 substances. Overall, out of 5,625 targeted product checks, 18% did not comply with the restrictions.

The most frequent breaches were: phthalates in toys (20% of inspected toys contained Bis(2-ethylhexyl) (DEHP), Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) or Benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) at levels above those permitted), cadmium in brazing fillers (14%) and asbestos fibres in products (14%). The products containing asbestos -- for example, catalytic heaters, thermos flasks, brake pads -- were mostly second-hand and probably produced before the restrictions prohibiting the sale of products containing asbestos came into force.

Inspectors also found high concentrations of chromium VI in leather articles (13% of the tested products) and cadmium in jewelry (12%).

[Read more...](#)

See ECHA report, "[FORUM REF-4 PROJECT REPORT - Harmonised Enforcement Project on Restrictions](#)".

Also see from ECHA, "[Information on chemicals still has to improve](#)".

TURI's Note: See our staff publication, "[Toxic Substances in Articles: The Need for Information](#)".

First sustainable Lego pieces to go on sale

Source: [The Guardian, March 2, 2018](#)

Author: Rebecca Smithers

The first Lego pieces made from plant-based plastic sourced from sugar cane will go on sale this year, the company has announced.

The 85-year-old Danish toymaker said production has begun on a range of Lego botanical elements or pieces such as leaves, bushes and trees, made entirely from plant-based plastic. They will start appearing in Lego box sets with bricks and mini-figures later this year.

The move is part of Lego's commitment to use more sustainable materials in its core products -- including its eponymous bricks -- and packing by 2030. Its aim is to find sustainable sources to replace its current fossil fuel-based raw materials, as plastic can also be made from sustainable or bio-based raw materials.

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