Greenlist BULLETIN

Toxics Use Reduction Institute | July 27, 2018

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.

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Scientists identify most pressing issues posed by chemicals in the environment

Source: University of York, July 20, 2018

Scientists have identified 22 key research questions surrounding the risks associated with chemicals in the environment across Europe.

Chemicals released into the environment by human activity are resulting in biodiversity loss; increased natural hazards; threats to food, water and energy security; negative impacts on human health and degradation of environmental quality.

Now, an international study published in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* involving scientists from the University of York has identified the 22 most important research questions that need to be answered to fill the most pressing knowledge gaps over the next decade.

Read more...

See article in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, "Toward sustainable environmental quality: Priority research questions for Europe".

Also see article from the American Academy of Pediatrics, "American Academy of Pediatrics Says Some Common Food Additives May Pose Health Risks to Children", and the corresponding article in *Pediatrics*, "Food Additives and Child Health".

Notorious Cancer-Causing Solvent TCE Taints Tap Water for 14

Million Americans

Source: Environmental Working Group, July 24, 2018
Author: Monica Amarelo

WASHINGTON -- Tap water supplies for more than 14 million Americans are contaminated with a cancer-causing industrial solvent made notorious by the book and film "A Civil Action," according to an Environmental Working Group investigation released today.

The chemical is trichloroethylene, or TCE. Under the Trump administration, the Environmental Protection Agency is retreating from an earlier proposal to ban key uses of the chemical, and it is excluding water, air and soil pollution from a safety assessment under the nation's overhauled toxic chemicals law.

Drinking TCE-contaminated water has been linked to liver and kidney damage, and to cancers like leukemia. It has also been linked to birth defects, but EPA documents raise concern that the agency will downplay important evidence that TCE exposure causes heart defects in developing fetuses.

Read more...

See article and listen to interview on Nashville Public Radio, "The EPA says TCE causes cancer, so why hasn't it been banned?".

TURI's Note: TCE is a designated Higher Hazard Substance (HHS) under TURA. See our chemical fact sheet and our page on Tricholoroethylene (TCE).

Study on environmental and health effects of HFO refrigerants

Source: Norwegian Environment Agency, January 30, 2018

The use of traditional HFCs as refrigerants and in other applications will be phased down worldwide as a result of the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol. An alternative is to use a new generation of HFCs with low global warming potential, so-called hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs).

These new synthetic substances have little effect on the climate because they degrade rapidly in the atmosphere, but there are some uncertainties related to other potential environmental and health effects of these substances.

The report, prepared by Risk and Policy Analysts, maps the expected future use of HFOs substances as refrigerants worldwide and how subsequent emissions and degradation products would affect the environment globally.

Read more...

See link to full report.

Studies quantify e-scrap workers' exposure to toxics

Source: *E-Scrap News*, July 26, 2018
Author: Jared Paben

Bathroom doors, a water cooler handle, a refrigerator -- their surfaces carried lead, cadmium and other hazardous metals, according to studies at two e-scrap facilities.

The health hazard evaluations, which were conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), also found metals and flame retardants on employees hands, in their bodies and in the air. In many cases, the levels were below occupational limits, but in some, concentrations were above.

And concerns extended beyond worker health.

"We also found metals on employees' hands immediately before they left work at the end of the day," according to one report. "Take-home lead can contaminate cars and homes, and potentially expose family members."

NIOSH, which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), conducted both studies at the request of facility managers, who worried about employee exposure to hazardous metals and flame retardant chemicals. The industrial hygiene testing involved surface testing as well as hand wipes, blood draws, urine samples, air samples and more.

Read more...

See the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program report, "Evaluation of Exposure to Metals, Flame Retardants, and Nanomaterials at an Electronics Recycling Company".

New York State looks to expand BPA ban to substitution chemicals

Source: *Environmental Health News*, July 25, 2018
Author: Brian Bienkowski

The New York State Assembly has put forth a bill that bans BPA substitution chemicals in children's products.

The bill, which has been referred to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation, would expand existing legislation that prohibits the sale of child care products that contain bisphenol-A. It comes in response to studies that have reported many BPA substitution chemicals are just as harmful -- if not more so -- than the chemical they're designed to replace.

The ban would expand to include: bisphenol AF (BPAF), bisphenol Z (BPZ), bisphenol S (BPS), bisphenol F (BPF), bisphenol AP (BPAP) and bisphenol B (BPB).

Read more...

See text for NY State bill A09997, "An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the sale of child care products containing bisphenol".

U.S. EPA Region 5 fact sheets on ethylene oxide use and dry cleaner regulations

Source: Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Roundtable, July 23, 2018
Author: Laura Barnes

U.S. EPA Region 5 recently issued an update to their ethylene oxide fact [sheet], which now includes a case study. They have also developed a regulatory update for dry cleaners that includes recommendations for alternatives to percloroethylene (perc).

Read more...

Access the ethylene oxide fact sheet and dry cleaning regulatory update.

TURI's Note: See our work with the dry cleaning sector, specifically our work with professional wet cleaners in Massachusetts.

The world's biggest cosmetics brands say NO to PFCs

Source: Chemsec, July 11, 2018

A year ago, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation started an internet campaign called Surfejs aiming to remove perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) from cosmetics.

More than 1,500 consumers sent e-mails to eight of the biggest cosmetics producers in the world, encouraging them to remove PFCs from their products.

Until recently, five of these companies had announced that they would begin phasing out these toxic chemicals as soon as possible. Now, another company has announced that they will do the same thing.

This company is L'Oréal -- the biggest cosmetics producer in the world.

Read more...

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