



Welcome to the IC2 E-Bulletin

The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) is an association of state, local, and tribal governments that promotes a clean environment, healthy communities, and a vital economy through the development and use of safer chemicals and products. The purpose of the IC2 E-Bulletin is to keep IC2 Members and Supporting Members and others informed about the activities of the Clearinghouse, its members, and related national and international programs. It is published 4-6 times per year and is provided free. Funding for the E-Bulletin is provided by the IC2 membership.

Public Launch of the IC2

In January 2011, environmental agencies from 10 state and local governments publically launched the IC2. The ten founding IC2 Members signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) supporting the principles of the IC2 and formed a Board of Directors to oversee the Clearinghouse's activities. Currently, the IC2 is a program of the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA). NEWMOA provides management and staff support for IC2 and serves as its fiscal agent.

According to Director Ted Sturdevant of the Washington Department of Ecology, "for several years many state and local environmental agencies have been working aggressively to reduce toxic chemicals in consumer products as part of a larger effort to reduce toxics in the environment and protect human health. In the absence of an effective national system for securing and sharing data on toxic chemicals, states are working together to share information and make the most of limited resources."

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Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Director Dick Pedersen has noted that reducing toxic chemicals in the environment is a top priority for environmental organizations nationwide. "IC2 allows us to leverage state and local resources to be more efficient, effective, and strategic in reducing toxic chemicals regionally and nationally," says Pedersen. "This interstate work is also inter-agency work here in Oregon, and a key opportunity to work together to protect Oregonians from potential harm from chemical exposures," adds Gail Shibley, Administrator, Oregon Health Authority, Office of Environmental Public Health.

The Clearinghouse website provides information about events, publications, and projects: www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/index.cfm.

IC2 Membership

The IC2 invites governmental entities, businesses, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, consultants, and others to join them in

the partnership. There are two membership categories:

- IC2 Members - State, local, and tribal environmental and health agencies
- IC2 Supporting Members - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, labor organizations, and academic programs

IC2 Members

The IC2 invites state, local, and tribal governments to join as Members. Local government entities can include municipal, county, township, districts, and multi-county or multi-municipal regional agencies. All IC2 Members are invited to participate in an annual IC2 meeting and have the opportunity to participate in and vote on the Board of Directors. IC2 Members provide annual dues to fund a baseline budget and are encouraged to contribute additional financial support to fund the full range of IC2 activities.

Members as of April 2011:

- California Environmental Protection Agency
- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality & Oregon Health Authority
- METRO Regional Government (Portland, OR)
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
- Washington Department of Ecology

IC2 Supporting Members

Supporting Members interested in joining the IC2 must sign a Memorandum of Agreement demonstrating support for the principles of the association and provide annual dues to fund a baseline IC2 budget. All IC2

Supporting Members are eligible to participate in the IC2 Council and in IC2 Workgroups.

Supporting Members as of April 2011:

- The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production
- Women's Voices for the Earth
- Clean and Healthy NY
- The Healthy Schools Network

For more information about becoming a Supporting Member, visit www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/membership.cfm or contact Adam Wienert, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x307; awienert@newmoa.org.

IC2 Workgroups

The IC2 has formed four Workgroups to implement and manage the IC2's functions and activities. All IC2 Members and Supporting Members are eligible to serve on the following Groups:

Database Workgroup

The purpose of the IC2 Database Workgroup is to understand and assess the chemical data needs of the IC2 membership and to make plans for the development of IC2 data and information systems to address some of those needs. The Workgroup has been reviewing a variety of chemicals databases from around the world and working on developing several Clearinghouse databases to meet the needs of the IC2 members.

Governance, Outreach, & Recruitment Workgroup

The purpose of the IC2 Governance, Outreach, & Recruitment Workgroup is to maintain the Clearinghouse's governance framework that includes information on membership criteria, member contributions, Board structure, and overall functioning of the Clearinghouse. The Workgroup is also responsible for member recruitment and outreach efforts.

Safer Alternatives Workgroup

The purpose of the IC2 Safer Alternatives Workgroup is

to develop the States Alternatives Assessment wiki, available at www.ic2saferalternatives.org/. The intent of this wiki site is to create a set of flexible, adaptive steps that follow a shared understanding of what constitutes a safer alternative to a chemical of concern. The goal is not to dictate precisely how to conduct an assessment, but rather to lay out basic steps generally agreed upon, and to provide a set of resources to draw from when an alternatives assessment is performed.

Training Workgroup

The purpose of the IC2 Training Workgroup is to plan informational and technical training sessions for the IC2. These trainings, in conference call and Webinar formats, are presented approximately four or more times per year.

For more information about joining IC2 Workgroups, contact: Adam Wienert, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x307; awienert@newmoa.org.

IC2 Webinars

The IC2 provides informational and technical training sessions for its members. These conference calls and webinars are presented approximately four times per year.

Recent IC2 webinars:

- The Greener Chemicals and Processes Information Standard
- Considering Technical Feasibility when Conducting Alternative Assessments
- REACH Regulation
- Green Chemistry – Principles and State Leadership

During the “Greener Chemicals and Processes Information Standard” webinar, Clinton Boyd from the Sustainable Research Group presented on the Greener Chemicals and Processes Information Standard proposed by the American Chemical Society (ACS) Green Chemistry Institute and NSF International.

During the “Considering Technical Feasibility when Conducting Alternative Assessments” webinar, John

James of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) discussed the process the DEP used to determine if a safer alternative to replace the use of brominated flame retardants (BFRs), and specifically decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), as flame retardants in plastic pallets would be technically feasible. The webinar also featured Bob Kerr and Ken Soltys of Pure Strategies, who discussed how they studied chemical alternatives that could meet the industry performance requirements.

The REACH Regulation webinar featured Teodora Kristof, an environmental scientist and visiting scholar from Hungary, who presented a member-state perspective on Europe's Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation. Teodora provided an overview of REACH and its implementation, REACH's enforcement authorities and priorities, the list of “Substances of Very High Concern” (SVHC), and data collected from manufacturers.

During the “Green Chemistry” webinar, Dr. Jim Hutchison, University of Oregon - Department of Chemistry provided background on the concepts and benefits of "green chemistry," how he has incorporated these principles into his own research in nanoscience, and the work of the University's Green Product Design Network. Chris Affeldt, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment described Michigan's "Promotion of Green Chemistry for Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Public Health" Executive Directive, signed in 2006, and the steps Michigan state agencies have taken to incorporate education and promotion of green chemistry in their operations.

IC2 webinars are free and open to Members and Supporting Members. The presentations from these webinars are available at:

www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/events/.

If you are interested in being notified about upcoming webinars, contact: Adam Wienert, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x307; awienert@newmoa.org.

Interagency Alternatives Assessment Workshop

On March 31 & April 1, 2011, several IC2 Members participated in an Interagency Alternatives Assessment Workshop with more than a dozen federal agencies in Crystal City, Virginia. The overarching goal of the meeting was to discuss a framework identifying critical elements of the alternatives assessment process and discussing its value of to different agencies.

Key topics discussed during the Workshop included:

- Sharing experiences and lessons learned in alternatives assessment practices, including barriers, opportunities, and needs.
- Exploring opportunities for greater cross-agency (i.e., federal, state, and local) collaboration and sharing of expertise in undertaking alternatives assessments and implementing safer substitutes.
- Moving federal, state, and local agencies towards greater coordination on definitions and approaches associated with alternatives assessment.

For more information, contact: Pam Eliason, TURI; pam@turi.org.

News from U.S. EPA

Action Plans on MDI & TDI

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released action plans to address the potential health risks of methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI), toluene diisocyanate (TDI), and related compounds. Americans may be exposed to these chemicals when they are used in certain applications, such as spray foam insulation, sealing concrete, or finishing floors. The plans identify a range of actions the Agency is considering under the authority of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

For more information on these and other EPA chemical action plans, visit: www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals.

Design for the Environment (DfE) Program, Safer Cleaning Products

As part of the Earth Day 2011 tribute, the EPA announced that more than 2,500 products are now authorized by the Agency under its Design for the Environment (DfE) Safer Product Labeling Program to carry the DfE label. DfE-labeled products do not contain known chemicals of potential concern, like carcinogens, reproductive, or developmental toxicants. Even minor product components, like dyes and fragrances, are screened for safety. EPA also announced that it will require manufacturers with products that bear the DfE logo to disclose their ingredients to consumers in the near future.

For more information, visit: www.epa.gov/dfc.

EPA Alternatives Assessment: Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)

U.S. EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) Partnership has kicked off a new project focused on Flame Retardant Alternatives to hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD). The goal of this multi-stakeholder partnership is to identify viable alternatives for HBCD, evaluate their human health and environmental profiles, and inform decision making as organizations choose safer alternatives to HBCD.

For more information, contact: Emma Lavoie, EPA, (202) 564-0951; lavoie.emma@epa.gov.

The IC2 welcomes comments and suggestions on this E-Bulletin. **Please send your thoughts to:** tgoldberg@newmoa.org.

To request and address change or to add a name to the E-Bulletin distribution list, **send an email to:** awienert@newmoa.org.

Visit the IC2 website for more information about IC2 events, Workgroups, and projects: <http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/>.