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## New IC2 Supporting Members

The IC2 welcomes the following new Supporting Members:

- Clean Production Action
- Environmental Health Strategy Center
- The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Wal-Mart

The IC2 invites businesses, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, consultants, and others to join. [Supporting Members](#) sign a Memorandum of Agreement demonstrating support for the principles of the Clearinghouse and provide annual dues to help fund baseline activities. All IC2 Supporting Members are eligible to participate in the [IC2 Council](#) and in [IC2 Workgroups](#).

For more information, contact: Adam Wienert, (617) 367-8558 x307, [awienert@newmoa.org](mailto:awienert@newmoa.org).

## Upgrading the State Priority Chemicals Resource

The IC2 launched the [State Priority Chemicals Resource](#) in December 2011 and will be enhancing the system this fall by posting available GreenScreen™ and Quick Chemical Assessment Tool (QCAT) hazard assessments. These assessments will be linked to priority chemicals in the Resource and will also be searchable through a separate user interface.

Clean Production Action developed the [GreenScreen™ for Safer Chemicals](#) as a method for chemical hazard assessment. The GreenScreen™ (GS™) is the first free, fully transparent, and publicly accessible tool to help companies and governments identify substances that are inherently less hazardous for humans and the environment. GS™ is designed to help users evaluate chemicals and their potential degradation products against a wide range of toxicity, environmental fate, and physical/chemical endpoints. Chemicals receive a benchmark score based upon the combination of the hazard assessments of 19 endpoints (18 required and 1 optional).

Properly using GS™ can require a high level of technical and resource commitment, so the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed a simpler alternative called the Quick Chemical Assessment Tool (QCAT). The primary goal of the QCAT is to assign an appropriate grade for a chemical using:

- a subset of high priority hazard endpoints identified in the GS™
- fewer data sources

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## Upgrading the State Priority Chemicals Resource *(cont.)*

QCAT assessments examine nine hazard endpoints – priority human health effects (six endpoints), persistence, bioaccumulation, and acute aquatic toxicity. The QCAT places chemicals along a continuum of concern and assigns a chemical one of four possible grades. As a result, users can use QCAT results to provide an approximation of the concerns associated with a chemical based upon a limited data set. A benefit of QCAT is that it provides a quick and easy method to identify chemicals that are equally or more toxic than a chemical undergoing an alternatives assessment. However, because of the reduced number of assessed endpoints, a QCAT review is not as good at identifying truly preferable alternatives to the chemical undergoing the assessment.

The [State Priority Chemicals Resource](#) is an online database of published state lists of priority chemicals. To provide support and assistance to state efforts to develop lists of chemicals of concern, the IC2 has developed an online, searchable resource that allows users to:

- Search for chemicals on one or more of the state lists
- Identify source lists
- Identify hazards and toxicity characteristics associated with the chemicals
- Find useful information resources

## Updated State Chemical Policy Database

The IC2 has updated the [State Chemicals Policy Database](#) with state legislation that was proposed or enacted in 2012. Originally developed in 2007 by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, the IC2 now hosts and maintains this Database. It can be searched by state, region, status (e.g., enacted, proposed, and failed), policy category (e.g., pollution prevention, single chemical restriction, and others), chemical, and product type (e.g., children's products, cleaning products, and others).

## Upcoming Green Screen Workshop

Clean Production Action and partners will be hosting a one-day training workshop on the [GreenScreen™](#) in Chicago, Illinois, on November 15, 2012. The workshop will include an emphasis on incorporating the GS™ into chemical management programs, as well as a hands-on introduction to using the system.

The training will be of particular interest to business experts in supply chain management, materials selection, procurement, product and process design, environmental health and safety, sustainability, and regulatory affairs who need to select safer chemicals for their products. It will be held in conjunction with the conference “[Catching the Wave: Green Chemistry and Economic Development in the Great Lakes Region](#)”, from November 13 – 14.

For more information, visit

[www.cleanproduction.org/Greenscreen.Training.php](http://www.cleanproduction.org/Greenscreen.Training.php).

## State Updates

### **California’s Proposed Approach to Safer Consumer Products**

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) released its proposed [Safer Consumer Products Regulation](#) in late July. The proposal requires manufacturers to seek alternative ingredients in widely used products, offering California industry the opportunity to lead the way in producing safer versions of goods already in demand.

Using a world-wide recognized list of “chemicals of concern”, the regulation would create a process by which manufacturers that are using one of those listed chemicals must identify and examine the viability of safer ingredients. If an alternative is not feasible, DTSC will identify steps the manufacturer must take to ensure the product is safely used, disposed of, or phased out. The regulation also provides consumers with enhanced information about product ingredients.

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## **California's Proposed Approach to Safer Consumer Products (cont.)**

DTSC spent several years working with its Green Ribbon Science Panel, business groups, health care advocates, and environmentalists to develop the concepts that were eventually incorporated into the proposal. Similarly, thousands of public comments were received and considered in developing this regulation. DTSC also announced a 45-day comment period to provide an opportunity for further input and comment.

## **Washington Ecology Releases System for Reporting on Use of Chemicals in Children's Products**

The Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) "Reducing Toxic Threats Initiative" is based on the principle that preventing exposures to toxics is the smartest, cheapest, and healthiest way to protect people and the environment. The Children's Safe Product Act (CSPA - Chapter 70.240 RCW) is an important part of this initiative.

The CSPA requires Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Health, to develop a list of chemicals on which manufacturers must report – the [Reporting List of Chemicals of High Concern to Children](#) (CHCC).

Chemicals on the list are toxic and have either been found in children's products or have been documented to be present in human tissue (i.e., blood, breast, and milk). Ecology may update the list as new information becomes available. The presence of these chemicals in children's products does not necessarily mean that children are being exposed to them or harmed by them.

Ecology adopted final rules ([Chapter 173-334 WAC, Children's Safe Product Reporting Rule](#)) in 2011 to carry out the reporting requirements created by the Act. In August 2012, manufacturers started reporting to Ecology if their products contain at least one of the 66 chemicals on the Reporting List and they meet certain criteria. Only those companies whose annual aggregate gross sales, both within and outside of Washington, are more than one billion dollars, based on the manufacturer's most recent tax year filing are required to report during the first reporting cycle.

The products they are required to report on for this cycle are limited to those children's products intended to be put into a child's mouth (e.g., those used for feeding, sucking, and some toys) or applied to the child's body (e.g., lotions, shampoos, and creams), or any mouth-able children's product intended for children that are age three or under.

Reporting on the use of toxic chemicals is a step toward making products safer for children. Reports under this law will help policy makers decide if further actions are needed. To access the online reporting system, go to: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/reporting.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/reporting.html).

Ecology is initiating a [new rulemaking](#) petition to add tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP) (CAS # 13674-87-8) to the list of CHCCs. The Agency is initiating this rule making in a response to a petition. The information in the petition provided evidence that this chemical meets the criteria in the WAC 173-334-070 for inclusion in the CHCC list. Ecology is considering if there are other chemicals that should also be added to the list.

## **News from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

### **Comprehensive Plan for Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program**

The EPA has posted the [Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program \(EDSP\) Comprehensive Management Plan](#) on its website. The purpose of the EPA's EDSP is to protect people, wildlife, and the environment from chemicals that may affect endocrine systems by screening pesticides, chemicals, and environmental contaminants for their potential effects on estrogen, androgen, and thyroid hormone systems. The EPA's EDSP Comprehensive Management Plan provides strategic guidance for Agency personnel and outlines the critical activities that are planned for this program over the next five years.

## EPA Identifies Substitutes for Toxic Flame Retardant

In its quest to identify possible substitutes for a flame retardant known as decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), the EPA released a [draft report](#) on alternatives on July 30. This comprehensive assessment, developed with public participation under EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) program, profiles the environmental and human health hazards of 30 alternatives to decaBDE, which will be phased out of production by December 2013. EPA is seeking stakeholder and public input on the draft report for 60 days.

DecaBDE is a common flame retardant used in electronics, vehicles, and building materials. It can cause adverse developmental effects, can persist in the environment, and can bioaccumulate in people and animals. This technical assessment is designed to help manufacturers identify alternatives to decaBDE.

The alternatives to decaBDE are already on the market and will be used increasingly as decaBDE is phased out. The alternatives have differing hazard characteristics and trade-offs. For example, some alternatives that appear to have a relatively positive human health profile may be more persistent in the environment. Some alternatives appear to be less toxic than decaBDE. Preliminary data suggests that these flame retardants may have a lower potential for bioaccumulation in people and the environment.

## Draft Bisphenol A (BPA) Alternatives in Thermal Paper Report

On July 31, 2012, through its Design for the Environment (DfE) program, EPA released a [draft alternatives assessment report for bisphenol A \(BPA\) in thermal paper \(PDF\)](#) (492pp, 6.1MB, [About PDF](#)). This draft report is an assessment of 19 chemical alternatives that may substitute for BPA, which is used as a developer in thermal paper. In addition, this report provides background information about how thermal paper is made, and considerations for choosing an alternative. A chemical's inclusion in the report does not constitute EPA endorsement. This draft report does not identify functional chemicals with low concern for all human health and environmental hazard endpoints; all of the alternatives are associated with some trade-offs. The draft report will be available for public review and comment until October 1, 2012.

## 2012 Presidential Green Chemistry Award Winners

In June, the EPA recognized innovative chemical technologies that have the potential to prevent pollution in the U.S. These awards recognize leading researchers and industrial innovators who create safer and more sustainable chemical designs, processes, and products that reduce the need to use chemicals that pollute the environment and threaten Americans' health. The awardees were honored during the 17th Annual Green Chemistry Challenge Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. The [Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards](#) include five categories: academic, small business, greener synthetic pathways, greener reaction conditions and designing greener chemicals.

## Work Plan Chemicals for 2013 & 2014

As part of a comprehensive approach to enhance its chemicals management program, EPA has identified 18 chemicals for review and assessment in 2013 and 2014. This follows the March release of the Agency's [work-plan](#) that proposed 83 chemicals for review and assessment under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

## 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 approximately three times per year and is provided free. Funding for the *E-Bulletin* is provided by the IC2 membership.

The IC2 welcomes comments and suggestions on this *E-Bulletin*; just email [awienert@newmoa.org](mailto:awienert@newmoa.org).

To request an address change or to add a name to the *E-Bulletin* distribution list, **send an email to:** [rsmith@newmoa.org](mailto:rsmith@newmoa.org).

Visit the [IC2 website](#) for more information about IC2 events, Workgroups, and projects.