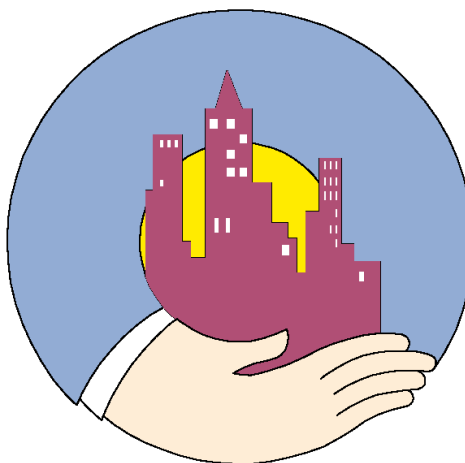


NETWORK NEWS

Sustainable Communities Updates:

Cleveland: The Sustainable Cleveland Partnership Launches Environmental Health Action Guide

The Sustainable Cleveland Partnership (SCP) launched the "Sustainable Cleveland Environmental Health Action Guide," an information tool empowering local communities and low-income residents in their struggle for environmental justice, at a press conference and "ribbon cutting" at Cleveland State University on November 9. The "Action Guide" provides local pollution and health statistics, information resources, and action tips to help neighborhoods address such common environmental and health problems as childhood lead poisoning, asthma, indoor and outdoor air pollution, toxic pollution, brownfields, better nutrition, safe drinking water, and more. The Action Guide is available on the Internet (<http://www.nhlink.net/enviro/scp/>) and in print.



Nearly 30 SCP participants and community leaders attended the launch of the "Action Guide," including Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jane Campbell, who handed out awards to those who devoted countless hours working with the SCP since its launch nearly two years ago. Dr. David Sweet, Dean of CSU's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, recognized the SCP's "Action Guide" as a unique information tool that is a model for urban communities across America. Proclamations in support of the Sustainable Cleveland Partnership and its "Sustainable Cleveland Environmental Health Action Guide" were delivered by both Commissioner Campbell and Cleveland Mayor White's office.

The SCP is a coalition of organizations, which includes EDF, the Cleveland-based Earth Day Coalition, the City of Cleveland, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, US EPA, Ohio EPA, and several neighborhood organizations and community non-profits. Meeting regularly since January 1997, the SCP developed the "Action Guide" because many low-income and minority communities lack access to accurate information on Cleveland's critical environmental and health problems.

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"Ohio ranks third in the nation for toxic emissions, Cuyahoga County has nearly 25,000 children suffering from asthma, and in some Cleveland neighborhoods, nearly one in three children are lead poisoned," said Chris Trepal, executive director of Earth Day Coalition. "'The Sustainable Cleveland Environmental Health Action Guide' will help Cleveland residents access the information they need to solve these problems." In the coming months, the SCP will focus its efforts on outreach, promoting the tool in the community, and training residents and community leaders in its use. PPA hopes that the SCP and its "Sustainable Cleveland Environmental Health Action Guide" will become a model, replicable throughout Ohio and the Great Lakes region. For more information about the SCP or replicating this partnership in your community, contact Anjali Mathur at edc@earthdaycoalition.org or 216/281-6468, or Ben Smith, EDF, at benjamin_smith@edf.org or 202/387-3500

Dayton: PRISM Releases Report On An Alternative Regulatory System

A PPA alliance of environmental and community groups, government, and industry has released a model Alternative Regulatory System (ARS) which promotes innovative environmental management and regulatory systems in vehicle manufacturing. The Partnership for Regulatory Innovation and Sustainable Manufacturing (PRISM) released a report outlining a new regulatory model which advances the principles of better environmental performance, increased operational flexibility, and enhanced public involvement. PRISM's report was developed collaboratively by representatives from the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, Citizens Policy Center, Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition, and EDF, as well as General Motors Corporation, Dayton Power and Light, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. PRISM had been meeting regularly since July 1996. The report will allow proactive companies to gain greater operational flexibility while becoming cleaner and more efficient. "The model aims to integrate pollution prevention and product stewardship into core business practices and regulatory approaches," said PPA director Kevin Mills. In addition, the report

The Pollution Prevention Alliance (PPA) joins the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) with regional, state, tribal, and community-based activists working to promote pollution prevention and sustainable communities in the Great Lakes region. PPA is supported by the C.S. Mott Foundation, and The Joyce Foundation.

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ensures accountability and responsiveness to community needs by involving the public and regulators in the formulation and implementation of the ARS, as well as developing systems for measuring environmental performance. For more information or a copy of the report, contact Kevin Mills, EDF, at kevin_mills@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

PPA Re grants Available

The PPA has received \$25,000 from the C.S. Mott Foundation to provide re grants to state and community-based organizations working to advance pollution prevention and improve environmental decision-making. Individual grants of up to \$5,000 will be considered as they are received. For guidelines and an application, contact Bill Davis, EDF, at bill-davis@edf.org or 608/259-0268.

PPA Sponsors Workshop On Grassroots Pollution Prevention Tools

Activists from the Great Lakes region came together to hear Dr. Robert Pojasek, nationally acclaimed expert on cleaner production and pollution prevention, discuss tools and strategies that can be used to press businesses to incorporate pollution prevention into their core practices. Sixteen people attended the workshop, which was sponsored by PPA and held October 2 at US EPA Region V's Great Lakes Conference Center in Chicago.

During this day-long workshop, Dr. Pojasek discussed important pollution prevention tools and concepts, including zero waste strategies, ways to get beyond environmental staff to plant and process managers, process mapping tools, and problem-solving and decision-making tools. Dr. Pojasek offered case studies and anecdotes based on his extensive experience working with businesses on pollution prevention. Attendees were able to actively participate in exercises during the workshop to gain a better understanding of the tools and strategies presented.

While the technical nature of these concepts can be daunting for environmental activists and citizens interested in engaging businesses in pollution prevention dialogue, Dr. Pojasek's presented this

technical information in a way that was both understandable and accessible to all.

Dr. Pojasek is a Faculty Lecturer with Harvard's School of Public Health and has extensive experience working on industrial pollution prevention both with community groups and industry. Dr. Pojasek's website is at <http://www.pollutionprevention.com>.

PPA Meeting Explores Using Consumer Messages In Its Pollution Prevention Work

While most agree that America's voracious appetite for consumer goods hurts the environment and that something needs to be done to fix the problem, they are reluctant to admit that their own behavior is to blame. These are the findings of John Russonello, a communications consultant who addressed a PPA meeting on materialism and consumption on September 18 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Meeting participants also discussed how Americans tend to respond to consumer messages, and how PPA could use these consumer messages in its work around the region.

The group agreed that materialism and consumption are important components of the environmental work they are doing around the region. Consumer messages have the potential to impact both corporate and individual behavior, and can address environmental problems across all media. And while Russonello's polling data identified two contradictory lifestyle goals shared by most Americans: simplicity in life versus the acquisition of consumer goods, he also found that 77% of Americans agree that over-consumption is a problem that impacts the environment. These encouraging data show that Americans may respond to consumer messages and campaigns.

The group identified two potential types of "buy green" campaigns to tackle the consumption problem: long-term campaigns to change consumption habits in general, and short-term campaigns relating to particular products. They also identified potential problems with such campaigns, including lack of information on appropriate alternatives for many products, and the "preachy" tone such campaigns tend to take, a tone that tends

to turn off the public. For more information, contact Bill Davis at bill_davis@edf.org or 608/259-0268.

New Data, Facility Rankings Now On Chemical Scorecard; Pollution Solutions Coming Soon

The 1996 chemical pollution data for thousands of manufacturing facilities across the country are now available on EDF's Chemical Scorecard (<http://www.scorecard.org>). The Chemical Scorecard is a database on the World Wide Web providing Toxic Release Inventory data and health and safety information for over 5,000 commonly used industrial chemicals.

Several new features have been added to the Chemical Scorecard, including Community Discussion Forums allowing users to add information, ask questions, or post comments, unedited by EDF. Manufacturing facilities can also post their own information, responding to user comments or highlighting steps they have taken to reduce pollution. This new feature may be able to facilitate dialogue between manufacturing facilities and the communities affected by their chemical emissions. Also added are environmental or performance rankings for facilities within several industry sectors, including the auto assembly, nonferrous metals (i.e. copper, aluminum, lead, and zinc), pulp and paper, iron and steel, and petroleum refining industries. These rankings allow users to gauge the efficiency of facilities in their community with other similar facilities around the country.

EDF is set to soon add links to pollution prevention information for several of these sectors, including first the petroleum refining, auto assembly, and iron and steel sectors. These links will focus on pollution solutions, highlighting simple steps that these industries can take to reduce their chemical emissions. The Chemical Scorecard is available at <http://www.scorecard.org>. Contact Ben Smith, EDF, at ben_smith@edf.org or 202/387-3500 for information.

EDF Can Help You Spotlight Pollution From Local Metals and Pulp and Paper Facilities

EDF wants to work with local groups in the Great Lakes region to spotlight pollution from copper, lead, aluminum, and zinc processors and pulp and paper manufacturing facilities in your community. EDF's Chemical Scorecard (<http://www.scorecard.org>) can now perform "plant efficiency" rankings for facilities across the country within several industry sectors, including these nonferrous metals and pulp and paper industries. EDF's rankings will be based on Toxics Release Inventory emissions that take into account production levels, allowing activists to identify just how efficient facilities in their communities really are.

EDF has been very successful in getting media attention nationwide using press releases customized with local TRI data. To repeat this success, we would like to work with groups like yours, located in communities impacted by emissions from nonferrous metals and pulp and paper facilities, to use the Chemical Scorecard to coordinate press outreach using this new ranking tool. Packets of information on how to use the Chemical Scorecard to perform a localized TRI analysis quickly are available by contacting Ben Smith, EDF, at benjamin_smith@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

PPA Helping To Build Network To Promote Clean Production Nationwide

PPA staff and member organizations are working with leaders in the pollution prevention field to establish a network and national campaign to promote cleaner industrial production around the country. They have established the advocacy network for clean production, a nationwide campaign to promote advocacy on clean production and clean products. This network will create a coalition of grassroots activists interested in clean production, coordinate efforts to promote clean production with industry and government, and provide activists and organizations with the technical assistance necessary for effective advocacy in the field.

Organizers began building this network at the Public Interest Workshop on Clean Production and Clean Products, a May 1998 event sponsored by the University of Tennessee's Center for Clean Products and Clean Technologies and the University of Massachusetts' Lowell Center for Sustainable Production. "Environmentalists increasingly recognize the benefits that are achieved by switching to cleaner products and clean production," explained PPA director Kevin Mills who serves on the steering committee organizing the network. "The Advocacy Network will help environmentalists educate industry and regulators on these benefits." PPA hosted a meeting of steering committee participants at EDF's Washington, D.C. office in October, and they will meet again before the New Year. Organizers are also planning a Clean Production Workshop in Detroit in conjunction with the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America, scheduled for May 1999. For information, contact Kevin Mills, EDF, at kevin_mills@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS

Canada Reports Drop In Toxic Releases; Environmentalists Point To Lack Of Progress In Pollution Prevention

The amount of industrial pollution released in Canada in 1996 dropped 15% from 1995 levels, according to the fourth annual National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), Canada's version of the US Toxic Release Inventory. The report, which tracks releases of 176 pollutants from 1,818 facilities, concluded that toxic releases from Canadian facilities dropped 25,000 tons, to 142,613 tons, a decrease of 14.9%. Off-site transfers of toxic waste, however, increased by 24% in 1996, to 64,626 tons. To environmentalists, this large increase in offsite waste transfers points to Canada's failure to get serious about industrial pollution prevention. Like U.S. industry, Canadian industry is not doing enough to control pollution at its source. In the U.S., while total toxic releases decreased by 4% in 1996, total production-related waste increased by over 240 million pounds, to 23.4 billion pounds, an increase of 1.3%.

Trends were similar in the province of Ontario where onsite toxic releases decreased 9.8%, from 61,872 tons in 1995 to 55,842 tons in 1996. There again, however, offsite transfers of waste increased in 1996, from 33,922 tons in 1995 to 44,796 tons in 1996, an increase of over 32%.

Canadian environmentalists have criticized the usefulness and accuracy of the NPRI report. The Citizens' Environment Alliance of SW Ontario, in its review of data from the 1996 NPRI report, criticized the report for providing only a "minuscule picture" of Canada's total pollution problem. Specifically, the review points out "serious gaps" in data, including the relatively low number of chemicals that facilities are expected to report (176 in Canada compared to over 650 in the U.S.), and high reporting thresholds, thus allowing many highly polluting small facilities to go unreported. The review also faults the NPRI's accuracy, pointing out that facilities are allowed to estimate their releases, rather than report precise measurements. Access Environment Canada's NPRI database online at <http://www2.ec.gc.ca/pdb/npri>. The review of NPRI by the Citizens' Environment Alliance of SW Ontario is available at <http://www.mnsi.net/~cea/npri1996.html>. Contact the Citizens' Environment Alliance of SW Ontario at cea@mnsi.net or 519/973-1116 for information.

Groups meet in Ohio to Develop National Campaign To Fight Corporate Secrecy

Ohio Citizen Action convened a day-long caucus of groups from around the country to lay the foundation for a new national campaign to fight emerging corporate secrecy issues at the federal and state levels. The caucus, held in September in Columbus, Ohio, concluded that a two-pronged campaign strategy was needed to fight this assault on community right-to-know. First, the campaign would need to focus on repealing the most dangerous state audit privilege laws around the country. Over 20 states have passed such laws, which allow corporations to keep information on environmental violations from the public. The campaign would work to pressure US EPA to take stronger action against this trend while working to repeal the state laws seen as most dangerous. Second, the campaign would focus on utilizing various legal obligations for

shareholder reporting to force corporations to disclose environmental problems and liabilities to the public. Both of these strategies would promote greater "corporate sunshine" and right-to-know around the country.

The caucus was held in conjunction with an emotional grassroots polluter secrecy hearing. There, US EPA and Ohio officials, as well as a packed audience of activists and concerned residents, heard appeals from citizens whose lives have been impacted by industrial pollution and corporate secrecy. Noticeably absent from the hearing, however, were officials from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Governor Voinovich's office, who were invited to participate.

Speakers expressed their opposition to Ohio's audit privilege law, originally passed by the State Legislature in 1996. In September, a coalition of statewide environmental organizations, including Ohio Citizen Action, the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club, Rivers Unlimited, the Ohio Environmental Council, and the Ohio Public Interest Research Group, petitioned US EPA to take away Ohio's authority to enforce federal clean air and clean water laws, arguing that Ohio's audit privilege law conflicts with federal law. US EPA is currently reviewing the petition. For information on this emerging campaign, contact Noreen Warnock, Ohio Citizen Action, at nwarnock@ohiocitizen.org or 614/263-4540.

NATIONAL NEWS

US EPA's Backs Away From Pledge To Put Chemical Accident Information on the Internet

In a set-back for the public's right-to-know, the US EPA has decided not to make information on the off-site consequences of potential chemical accidents for thousands of facilities across the country available to the public on a national basis via the Internet. As required by the Clean Air Act section 112(r), some 66,000 facilities that use extremely hazardous chemicals will be required to report to workers and the public worst-case chemical accident scenarios as part of their Risk Management Plans beginning in 1999. Public interest groups want this information posted on the Internet to educate the public about

toxic hazards from facilities and to spur these facilities to make changes to reduce these hazards.

Industry, however, opposes making this information available to the public on the Internet claiming terrorists would have access to it. Industry has enlisted the support of conservatives in Congress, the FBI, and the CIA to back up their "security" claims. In a letter to Congress, US EPA announced that it has instead decided to only make local information available to the public, rather than national information. While in the letter US EPA claims "Access to all RMP data...is critical in stimulating dialogue between industry and citizens to improve accident prevention...", environmentalists believe its decision to limit information to local access only falls short of the agency's stated goal. For more information, access <http://www.rtk.net/wcs> or contact Paul Orum, Working Group on Community Right-To-Know, at orum@rtk.net or 202/544-9586.

The Big Three's Lobbying Shop To Close

The American Automobile Manufacturers Association (AAMA), the lobbying arm for the Big Three automakers, will close its doors by the end of 1998. AAMA's governing board approved the move in September, citing the merger between Chrysler Corporation and Germany's Daimler-Benz AG. AAMA's bylaws do not allow foreign membership. Ford and GM have proposed creating a new "Automotive Manufacturers Alliance" which would include foreign automakers that have operations in the US. For information, contact Charles Griffith, the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, at 313/663-2400.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

An Ounce of Prevention: Pollution Prevention Success Stories in the Black River Watershed Ohio Environmental Council (1998); This report summarizes the Ohio Environmental Council's (OEC) program highlighting innovative pollution prevention efforts undertaken by businesses in Ohio's Black River watershed, a region contaminated by years of industrial pollution. The report provides case studies of four businesses in the region, the pollution prevention measures they have taken, and the environmental and financial benefits those businesses have seen as a result. Also included is a directory of financial and technical assistance

resources available to help community groups and businesses engage in pollution prevention. For copies, contact OEC at 614/487-7506 or theoec@iwaynet.net.

Taking Stock: North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers 1995.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation (1998); As required by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this report is the first comprehensive study of chemical releases across North America, using 1995 data from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) in the U.S. and Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI). While the report concludes that emissions have dropped slightly across the region, environmentalists point out weaknesses in the data, including a total lack of reporting from Mexico, because no system exists to accurately collect this data there. The TRI and NPRI systems themselves have been criticized for giving misleading information on progress being made to reduce pollution (see Great Lakes Regional News story). For a copy, contact the Commission for Environmental Cooperation at 514/350-4300 or <http://www.cec.org>.

Too Close To Home: A Report on Chemical Accident Risks in the United States

Illinois PIRG / National Environmental Law Center (1998); One in six Americans live in communities highly vulnerable to dangerous chemical accidents. Also, the threat is concentrated in a few highly industrialized states, many of which are in the Great Lakes region, including Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan. These are the findings of this report, which ranks areas in the U.S. that are vulnerable to the impacts of chemical accidents. While safety efforts have focused on responding to accidents, this report recommends reducing risks through "inherent safety" measures such as lowered pressures, temperatures, and chemical inventories. For copies, contact U.S. PIRG at 202/546-9707.

WEB WATCH

PPA TURTLES Email List

This email list provides PPA Toxic Use Reduction Team Leaders for Environmental Sustainability (TURTLES) Task Force members with a place to conduct task force business and to network. It is

being used to discuss strategies to advance toxics use reduction/pollution prevention policies in the Great Lakes region, and to alert other activists to important news relating to these issues. For information, contact Neel Scott, EDF, at neel_scott@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

coming soon...Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Alliance Email List

PPA will soon launch an email list that will improve communication between activists in the Great Lakes region. This list will promote networking among PPA member organizations, allowing them to instantly share information, news releases, event announcements, and more. To join, send your email address to Ben Smith at benjamin_smith@edf.org, or call him at 202/387-3500.

Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory
<http://www.glc.org/projects/air/final93/93report.html>

This site, produced by the Great Lakes Commission, quantifies and inventories the sources and levels of 49 toxic contaminants within the eight Great Lakes states and Ontario. Based on 1993 data collected by state air quality departments and the U.S. EPA, the site is a collection of factsheets on each of the 49 chemicals, providing emissions sources and totals for each contaminant broken down by industry sector and state. Designers warn, however, that the site is only a snapshot of the website's potential and should not be used to get definitive data. They claim that when the next inventory is complete in 1999, using data from 1996, users will get a more accurate picture of emissions from each state.

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press Freedom of Information Letter Generator
http://www.rcfp.org/foi_lett.html

This site helps users generate complete and properly formatted Freedom of Information requests that can be stored in your computer and reused as often as needed.

If there are useful resources or websites you would like to see listed in our next newsletter, forward your ideas to Ben Smith, EDF, at bens@edf.org.

CALENDAR

10, 11 December, 1998 (Seattle, WA) - National Conference on Greening State Taxes, sponsored by the Energy Outreach Center and the Center for a Sustainable Economy. For information, contact Scott Anders at 202/234-9665.

14,16 December, 1998 (Chicago, IL) - 1998 Waste Minimization / Pollution Prevention Conference, sponsored by US EPA's Region 5. For information, call 800/844-9049.

14, January (Three Rivers, MI) - Eco-Gathering & Earth Day Planning Meeting at Meyer Broadway Park. For information, contact Korie Bachleda at 616/467-5540 or 616/244-1157

7-9 February, 1999 (Washington, D.C.) - 6th Annual Clean Air Leadership Meeting, sponsored by the Clean Air Network. For information, contact Gina Porreco at 202/289-2429.

3,4 March, 1999 (Chicago, IL) - Annual Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable Conference, sponsored by the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable. For information, contact Lisa Merrifield at 217/244-6061.

22, 23 April, 1999 (Vancouver, British Columbia) - Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention. More information is available at <http://c2p2.sarnia.com> or by calling 800/667-9790.

2-5 May, 1999 (Detroit, MI) - The National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America, sponsored by they President's Council on Sustainable Development. More information is available at <http://www.sustainableamerica.org> or by calling 703/750-6401.

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