

NETWORK NEWS

PPA's New Online Community Guides Arm Activists With Pollution Prevention Strategies For Auto Makers, Integrated Iron and Steel Producers; Available at www.edf.org/communityguides/.

PPA has launched two new industry sector community guides providing activists and community groups with information on pollution prevention solutions common to auto makers and integrated iron and steel producers. **The Community Guide to Vehicle Assembly** and the **Community Guide**

to Iron and Steel Manufacturing, available at <http://www.edf.org/communityguides/>, also rank the pollution prevention performance of the nation's auto making facilities and integrated iron and steel mills. PPA will soon release a third community guide covering petroleum refineries.



These new online resources examine the environmental and health impacts that these industries have on their surrounding communities, and pollution prevention strategies that they should be using to prevent pollution and reduce their impacts. The Community Guide to Iron and Steel Manufacturing, for example, suggests cleaner alternatives to common coke making processes, a highly polluting part of iron and steel production. "PPA's new Community Guides offer a truck-load of information on what neighbors of these industries need to know about pollution prevention solutions for plants in their area," said PPA engineer Lois Epstein. "They will help facilitate dialogue between community residents and neighboring facilities about what can be done to prevent pollution. "

Community Guides

www.edf.org/communityguides/

Do you want to find out how the auto plant or iron and steel plant in your community is doing in its effort to reduce pollution? The community guides provide detailed pollution prevention rankings of local auto plants and integrated iron and steel mills across the country. EDF's rankings allow activists to compare the pollution prevention performance of individual plants, offering a snapshot of the wastes produced per unit of product produced (also know as measuring plant "efficiency").

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Also available from this site is **Green Car: A Guide to Cleaner Vehicle Production, Use, and Disposal** (see story below) – an in-depth look at the life cycle of the vehicle itself, from the cradle to the grave.

EDF's third community guide on pollution prevention opportunities at petroleum refineries, should be released in mid-summer. Meanwhile, PPA plans to work with concerned neighbors of auto plants and iron and steel mills to help them use the community guides to urge facilities to prevent pollution in their community. For information on the Community Guide to Iron and Steel Manufacturing, contact Lois Epstein at lois_epstein@edf.org or 202/387-3500. For information on the Community Guide to Vehicle Assembly, contact Dean Menke at dean_menke@edf.org or 202/387-3500. If you are interested in using these guides to pursue a "Good Neighbor Agreement" with these types of plants, contact PPA Outreach Coordinator Ben Smith at benjamin_smith@edf.org or 212/505-2100.

VISIT PPA'S NEW WEBSITE
www.edf.org/programs/PPA

Open PPA's Toolbox for easy access to:

- **Scorecard**
- **Industry Sector Community Guides**
for vehicle manufacturers, iron & steel mills, and (coming soon) petroleum refineries.
- **Green Car: A Guide to Cleaner Vehicle Design, Use & Disposal**
- **Environmental Sustainability Kit**
- **Sustainable Cleveland**
- **Environmental Health Action Guide & Case Study**
- **PPA Newsletter**
- **PPA Reports...and more**

PPA's Toolbox website has information you may need to prevent pollution and promote sustainable, livable communities.

www.edf.org/programs/ppa

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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PPA Begins Clean Car Campaign With Launch of Green Car Guide

EDF staff and PPA member groups have launched the Clean Car Campaign, a coordinated advocacy effort to reduce the environmental and health impacts of making, driving, and disposing of motor vehicles. The Clean Car Campaign kicked off with PPA's launch of its new website, **Green Car: A Guide to Cleaner Vehicle Production, Use, and Disposal** (<http://www.edf.org/greencar/>). This site is an in-depth look at the life cycle of motor vehicles, helping activists understand the impacts of how automobiles are made, used, and disposed of.

"Environmentalists have for years been working to address environmental and health problems associated with driving automobiles," said PPA director Kevin Mills. "Now activists from the Great Lakes region and elsewhere are working to address the full-range of the impacts of motor vehicles, from the cradle to the grave."

The Clean Car Campaign will work with auto makers to change the way they produce vehicles, pushing them to achieve the "Green Vehicle Standard." These vehicles are cleanly made, cleaner to use, and cleaner to dispose of.

CLEAN VEHICLE STANDARD

- 1. Fuel efficiency:** 1.5 times fleet average within vehicle class (e.g., midsize vehicles should meet 40 MPG target given current 26.5 class average);
- 2. Tailpipe emissions:** meets California's ultra low emitting vehicle standard or better;
- 3. Clean manufacturing:** achieves superior environmental performance in the vehicle's manufacture and use of non-toxic recyclable materials, to include:
 - use of the cleanest painting and coating techniques
 - elimination of heavy metals and other substances of concern
 - design for recyclability and maximum use of recycled materials

Using the **Tailpipe Tally**, activists can calculate how much pollution they generate by driving their make and model of car or truck. Activists can also sign the **Green Vehicle Pledge** and let auto makers know that today's consumers demand vehicles that are more cleanly produced and more fuel efficient. For more information on the Clean Car Campaign, contact Dean Menke, EDF, at dean_menke@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

PPA Holds 8th Annual Steering Group Meeting

Chicago once again hosted PPA's annual Steering Group meeting March 18-19, with over 20 representatives of the Great Lakes region's leading local, regional, and national environmental organizations attending. Meeting attendees updated one another on important projects and events, discussed timely environmental policy issues, and highlighted various tools developed by and available to PPA member groups. The Steering Group concluded by discussing strategies to take advantage of these resources in their work to protect the environment, prevent pollution, and promote sustainability. David Hahn-Baker, a longtime environmental leader, facilitated the meeting.

The meeting's policy discussion focused on water quality, regulatory reinvention, and such hot right-to-know issues as the impending deadline for industry reporting of chemical accident risks and Risk Management Plans (RMP). The Steering Group agreed that in order to successfully advocate on these policy issues, the region's conservation community needs to gain the support of the general public by demonstrating the relevancy of these issues to their lives. Other discussions focused upon the emerging Clean Production Network and the Clean Car Campaign, which are seeking to protect the environment by pushing for cleaner industrial production and products, both in the auto industry and across industry sectors.

Finally, the Steering Group discussed the variety of environmental information tools that are available to promote pollution prevention and sustainability in the region. The group got a preview of PPA's Industry Sector Community Guides, available at <http://www.edf.org/communityguides> (see story page 1), and were updated on enhancements to EDF's Scorecard website (<http://www.scorecard.org>). For more information and a copy of meeting proceedings, contact Ben Smith at benjamin_smith@edf.org or 212/505-2100.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS

Workshop Trained Activists to Get Involved in Air Pollution Permits; Plans Could Call For More Workshops

In May, a workshop was held in Cleveland to train and empower activists and community residents to get involved in local air pollution permitting decisions. The 3-day workshop, "Introduction to Title V," was sponsored by the Sierra Club and US EPA Region V and was attended by over 25 people from across the Great Lakes region anxious to find out how they can have a voice in local air pollution decision-making. Workshop organizers are considering plans to hold additional workshops around the region.

Title V of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 outlines public participation requirements for state air-pollution permit programs, which are overseen by US EPA. Title V mandates that public participation be part of every state's air pollution permit program. "But most community residents, even veteran activists, think the permit process is too complicated and don't know how to participate," said Sierra Club's Glenn Landers, a workshop organizer. "This leaves important air pollution permit decisions to bureaucrats and the polluters themselves."

Workshop participants heard presentations from permit experts from US EPA, Ohio EPA, the city of Cleveland, and from environmental

activists with extensive experience reviewing and challenging Title V permits. The workshop featured an overview of permit review and public participation processes and examples of effective public comment letters. Participants also received instructions on challenging permit decisions and the role of citizen suits in such challenges. Case studies and role playing exercises were an important part of the workshop, with participants reviewing examples of real air pollution permits.

Workshop organizers were pleased by the US EPA's interest and involvement in the Title V workshop. In fact, the Agency sees this workshop as precedent setting. It is interested in working with organizers to replicate it in other communities and to produce a Title V handbook for citizens and activists. For information on replicating such a workshop in your community, contact Glenn Landers, Sierra Club, at glenn.landiers@sierraclub.org or 216/791-9110.

'97 TRI Data Shows Toxic Releases Up For First Time Since Reporting Began

US EPA's 1997 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data, released in May, shows that overall toxic releases across the country rose 2.2%, to 2.58 billion pounds. This is the first time overall toxic releases have increased since TRI reporting began in 1988.

"Toxic chemical release numbers are trending in the wrong direction," said PPA's Lois Epstein. "US industry needs to work harder to make pollution prevention a standard business practice and to reduce their emissions."

While overall releases increased nationally in 1997, so did land and water releases, which rose by 123 million and 41 million pounds, respectively. Toxic releases to air did fall by 127 million pounds in 1997, to a total of 1.33 billion pounds. But the nation also saw significant increases in the production of toxic waste, with total production-related waste (TPRW) increasing by 2.6 billion pounds, to a total of 24.7 billion pounds.

Great Lakes states also saw significant increases in the production of toxic waste. In 1997, TPRW increased in every Great Lakes state except Ohio. Illinois led the way with a dramatic 96.5% increase, to a total of 1.4 billion pounds. In Michigan, TPRW rose a sharp 23.6%, to 866.1 million pound. (See chart below for more TRI data for Great Lakes states.) US EPA attributes this rise in toxic

wastes to increased manufacturing due to the nation's strong economy, and a shift away from waste recycling, sending millions of additional pounds of toxic waste to landfills. Access 1997 TRI data at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri/>. For more information, contact Lois Epstein, EDF, at lois_epstein@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

TRI for the Great Lakes Region

| | national rank (enviro. releases*) | approx. enviro. releases '97 millions lbs. | approx. enviro. releases '96 millions lbs. | approx. percent change '96 to '97 | approx. total production related waste '97 millions lbs. | approx. total-production related waste '96 millions lbs. | approx. percent change '96 to '97 |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| IL | 5 | 94.6 | 96.8 | -2.27% | 1,373.9 | 699.2 | 96.50% |
| IN | 6 | 77.9 | 76.6 | 1.70% | 795.6 | 791.5 | 0.52% |
| MI | 11 | 53 | 60.5 | -12.40% | 866.1 | 700.5 | 23.64% |
| MN | 33 | 17.6 | 20 | -12.00% | 259.7 | 243.3 | 6.74% |
| NY | 23 | 29.9 | 31.8 | -5.97% | 453.6 | 425.5 | 6.60% |
| OH | 3 | 113 | 118.9 | -4.88% | 881.7 | 1026.9 | -14.14% |
| PA | 4 | 79.9 | 66.7 | 19.79% | 917.9 | 846.5 | 8.43% |
| WI | 19 | 30.1 | 30.1 | 0.00% | 323.3 | 310.5 | 4.12% |

* Environmental releases are the sum of stack air, fugitive air, water, onsite land, and underground injection releases. These do not count offsite transfers. These are the releases with the most immediate impact on surrounding communities.

Minnesota Environmentalists Secure Pledge Of Cooperation, Information Sharing from Oil Refinery

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) reached agreement with Koch Petroleum Group on a plan to work with its Rosemount, MN refinery to develop a comprehensive set of environmental performance measures, and to establish a user-friendly website providing this information to the public. MCEA and Koch's Rosemount refinery, which employs about 650 full time workers and processes nearly 12 million gallons of crude oil daily, announced the agreement in April.

The environmental performance measures developed by MCEA and Koch will include ratios of common refinery pollutants released (e.g. toxic chemicals, criteria air pollutants, greenhouse gases, etc.) to amounts of crude processed. MCEA and Koch will also establish an easy-to-use website where these measures will be posted, making this important environmental performance information available to the public and providing a good snapshot of how its performance compares to other refineries across the state and the country.

An Independent Review Panel, comprised of experts appointed by both MCEA and Koch, will review the environmental performance measures. This panel will also verify for accuracy all data collected before it is posted

and publicly available on the website. They will analyze the facility's emissions data, seeking to identify best practices, technologies, and pollution prevention strategies that will improve Koch's environmental performance and reduce its impact on the local community. For more information, contact Carol Wiessner, MCEA, at mcea@mtn.org or 651/223-5969.

Northeast Ohio Activists and Businesses Work Together to Explore Sustainability

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) has been working with a diverse group of activists, academics, and corporate business leaders from across Northeast Ohio to promote the economic and environmental benefits of an environmentally sustainable approach to business. This partnership, known as the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Business Council (SBC), began meeting to plan for a one-day workshop exploring the linkages between economic development, sustainability, and pollution prevention. The SBC has since evolved and now meets monthly to develop strategies for integrating these concepts into the long-range plans of local advocates, decision-makers, and the business community.

SBC partners include OEC, Case Western Reserve University, the community, and representatives from such regionally important corporations as BP-Amoco and Rockwell Automation. OEC became involved with the SBC because of its extensive experience working to encourage business and industry to embrace pollution prevention. OEC produced a series of reports drawing attention to the pollution prevention success stories of businesses in Northeast Ohio's Cuyahoga River and Black River watersheds. OEC held press conferences to publicize the pollution prevention reports, raising the public and business community's awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of pollution prevention. OEC shares its experiences and expertise on environmental issues and pollution prevention strategies with SBC partners.

SBC works to promote cooperation and dialogue between groups that have traditionally

been adversaries in the public policy arena. "OEC and businesses were initially wary of working together," said Lisa Hong, who coordinates the environmental activities of the SBC. "The partnership, however, provides a neutral venue that fosters dialogue and solutions rather than confrontation."

The SBC continues to meet monthly, sharing sustainable business expertise and experiences and developing plans for action. The partnership also is working to develop an institute for executives from Northeast Ohio, the Environmental Competitive Advantage, that integrates sustainability into individual businesses and the region's long range economic development plans. For more information, contact Lisa Hong, SBC, at lhong@ix.netcom.com or (216) 932-8056.

NATIONAL NEWS

US EPA Seeks Public Comment On Its Corporate Secrecy Policy

US EPA has released a long-awaited evaluation of its "Audit Policy" and is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to this policy. In principle, audit policies are intended to encourage companies to conduct systematic environmental audits of their facilities and promptly correct problems. To activists, however, these are really "corporate secrecy" policies which, in many states, shield polluters from penalties for some criminal violations and keep vital pollution and health information from the public. US EPA's proposed revisions to its own Audit Policy weaken protections against the most destructive state laws. EDF, along with other PPA member groups will be submitting comments, which are due July 16. Contact Carol Andress, EDF, at carol_andress@edf.org or 202/387-3500 for information or assistance on preparing your own comments. Access US EPA's proposed revisions at

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/oppa/evalu.html>, or contact Catherine Malinin Dunn, US EPA, at 202/564-2629 for more information.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Midwest Mercury Report

This new report by the National Wildlife Federation, the Izaak Walton League, and others, outlines extensive mercury contamination in lakes and streams in the upper-Midwest, particularly MN, WI, and MI. Mercury emissions are released from coal-fired power plants, garbage incinerators, and other sources around the country and carried to the Great Lakes by wind currents. The report, which calls for stronger efforts to reduce mercury releases in the region, is available at <http://www.iwla.org/conserv/reports/mercury.html> or by contacting the Izaak Walton League at (651) 649-1446 or ahennen@igc.org.

Women of All First Nations: A Guide to Eating Fish

Indigenous Environmental Network & Clean Water Fund; This easy to read and useful brochure describes contaminants commonly found in game fish eaten by many Great Lakes residents, including the region's indigenous populations. Outlined are common contaminants, their health impacts, and simple steps for reducing exposure. Copies are available by contacting the Indigenous Environmental Network at 218/751-4967.

Chicago Area Small Grants Available

Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest; Small grants are available for community-based transportation and land-use reform efforts in the Chicago area. Priority will be given to support advocacy or public education efforts. Grants range from \$1-\$5k. Information is available at <http://www.elpc.org>, or by calling Jesse Auerbach at 312/795-3701.

At Risk and In The Dark: Will Companies in Our Communities Reduce Their Chemical Disaster Zones?

Working Group on Community Right-to-Know, Sierra Club, and US PIRG (1999); This report found that few chemical plants have any plan to reduce their worst-case chemical disaster zones -- even as they lobby Congress to rescind the public's right-to-know about potential accidents. Available at http://www.pirg.org/enviro/toxics/in_the_dark or by calling US PIRG at 202/546-9707.

The Lake Effect Newsletter

National Wildlife Federation; This monthly electronic newsletter, published by NWF's Lake Superior Project, is full of news and resources on Lake Superior, the largest and cleanest of the Great Lakes. To subscribe, contact Tony Defalco, NWF, at defalco@nwf.org or 734/769-3351.

WEB WATCH

Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Alliance Email List

Share information, news releases, event, and more with other PPA groups. To join, send your email address to Ben Smith at benjamin_smith@edf.org.

Risk Management Plan/Worst-Case Accident Scenario Activist Guide

<http://www.rtk.net/wcs>

This site, from the Working Group on Community Right to Know, provides tools for activists interested in helping resist industry efforts to roll-back the public's right-to-know about chemical accident risks. While US EPA requires many facilities to submit worst-case chemical disaster scenarios, industry is working to keep that information out of the public's hands -- information that communities need to reduce chemical accident risks.

Submit useful resources or websites for our next newsletter to Ben Smith benjamin_smith@edf.org or 202/387-3500.

CALENDAR

6-8 August, 1999 (Lansing, MI) – Great Lakes Renewable Energy Fair at Lansing's Riverfront Park, sponsored by Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA). For information, contact GLREA at glrea@aol.com or 888/999-MICH (6424).

15-17 September, 1999 (Bloomington, IN) -- Conference on Mercury in the Environment. For information, contact Melba Hensel at melba.hensel@metc.state.mn.us.

17-19 September, 1999 (Jackson, MI) - Conference of the Michigan Ecumenical Consultation on Christianity and Ecology (MECCE). For information, contact Kim Winchell at kwinch5940@aol.com.

24-26 September, 1999 (Milwaukee, WI) – 1999 Biennial Forum on Great Lakes Water Quality, sponsored by the International Joint Commission. Information is available at <http://www.ijc.org> or by calling the IJC at 202/736-9024.

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