



NETWORK NEWS

Clean Car Campaign Recognizes Specific Auto Innovations and Challenges Industry to Meet All Elements of Clean Car Standard

The Clean Car Campaign, a joint project of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, Environmental Defense, Great Lakes United, the Michigan Environmental Council and the Union of Concerned Scientists, praised specific clean car advances by Honda, Toyota, and GM at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit to draw industry and press attention to the Campaign's Clean Car Standard. The campaign applauded selected positive environmental efforts of automakers that meet and/or exceed one or more aspects of the Campaign's Clean Car Standard (vehicles that meet the standard are 50% more fuel efficient than other vehicles in their class, meet California's stringent tailpipe emissions standard (SULEV), and are cleanly manufactured with non-toxic recyclable materials). As the Campaign challenges automakers to develop a vehicle that meets all of the elements of the Standard, the following innovations are significant steps toward a larger challenge.

Honda's Insight, the first U.S.-marketed gasoline-electric (or hybrid) vehicle introduced in California in December, exceeds the Clean Car Standard for improved fuel efficiency and progresses toward the SULEV tailpipe emissions standard. Toyota's Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle, is expected to meet both the fuel efficiency and tailpipe emissions criteria set forth by the standard. Toyota plans to introduce the Prius for the U.S. market in the summer of 2000. GM is the first automaker to change its engineering specifications to eliminate polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a persistent and bioaccumulative toxic, from interior panels.



American automakers currently have nothing to compete with the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight as GM, Ford, and Daimler Chrysler are only in the conceptual stage of producing hybrids. Even worse, their concept vehicles depend on diesel engines to achieve fuel efficiency. Diesel engines emit more particulate emissions that can aggravate respiratory illnesses.

Although the Prius and the Insight are recognized for improvements in fuel efficiency and tailpipe emissions, there is no one vehicle currently on the market meets all of the Standard's criteria. The Campaign challenges automakers to incorporate new innovations into mainstream vehicle production to give consumers the choice to purchase vehicles that meet all parts of the Standard. For more information, contact Kevin Mills at 202-387-3500, kevin_mills@edf.org.

Help challenge automakers by signing the Clean Car Pledge to make your next vehicle purchase one that meets the criteria of the Clean Car Standard, and by urging your organization to ally with the Campaign. Please see page 3 for more information.

Environmental Defense Fund
has changed its name to
**Environmental
Defense**

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Sustainable Cleveland Partnership and Community Groups Release Neighborhood Audit Profile

The Sustainable Cleveland Partnership, the Lee Seville Miles Citizens Council, and the Lee Harvard Community Association released the Neighborhood Audit Profile (NAP) for the Lee Harvard and Lee Miles Communities. The NAP Project handbook and map help communities develop a picture of their neighborhood's assets, challenges, and opportunities. Information made accessible through the NAP project can be used to initiate Good Neighbor agreements or to influence the environmental decision-making process.

The handbook addresses fifteen neighborhood attributes as indicators of local environmental quality, including water pollution, brownfields, contaminated properties, healthy groceries, and recycling. The NAP project handbook details internet and non-internet methods for information gathering, allowing for replication for other Cleveland neighborhoods and for the Great Lakes Region at large, and contains information on each attribute specific to the Lee-Miles neighborhood.



The NAP Project handbook and map are an outcome of the Sustainable Cleveland Environmental Health Action Guide (www.earthdaycoalition.org), a community-based environmental and health information resource.

The Earth Day Coalition, Environmental Defense, and Cleveland State University compiled the handbook with the leadership of the Lee-Harvard Community Association and the Lee-Seville-Miles Citizens Council. For more information, contact Anjali Mathur at the Earth Day Coalition at 216-281-5112, amathur@earthdaycoalition.org.

The Pollution Prevention Alliance (PPA) joins Environmental Defense 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, The Joyce Foundation, and The George Gund Foundation.

The *PPA Newsletter* is published quarterly by Environmental Defense's PPA staff. Readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity. Please send all submittals to:

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First in a Series of Environmental Livability Index Reports to be Released This Month

Later this month, Environmental Defense and the Citizens Policy Center will release an evaluation of water quality in Dayton and surrounding Montgomery County. The local wellfield protection program is among one of the best in the country. The area also has higher-than-average industrial discharges to the treatment facilities, however, posing a potential threat to surface water resources. Evaluations of other environmental issues in Dayton are planned for later this year. To learn more about the report or the Environmental Livability Index project, contact Carol Andress at Environmental Defense at 202-387-3500, carol_andress@edf.org, or Jane Forrest at the Citizens Policy Center at 513-277-7194, jforrest@dayton.net.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Votes Against Gas Pipeline Unless Conditions Are Met

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) voted 3-2 on December 17 not to allow construction of a new natural gas pipeline from the midwest to the northeast unless numerous environmental and market "need" conditions are met. This unusual decision from FERC will help ensure that proposals for new gas pipelines (such as one currently proposed for underneath Lake Michigan) meet high environmental standards and are made only when there is a need for a new pipeline that cannot be met in any other manner.

Environmental Defense Engineer Lois Epstein raised these issues with FERC officials at the request of the Ohio-Pennsylvania Landowners Association at a public hearing in Wooster, Ohio in the summer of 1998 and in subsequent correspondence with FERC. For more information, contact Lois Epstein at 202-387-3500, lois_epstein@edf.org.

Clean Car Campaign Invites Organizational Allies

The Clean Car Campaign urges organizations to ally with the Campaign to promote greener vehicles. To join, organizations are asked to endorse the Campaign's Clean Car Standard and collect pledges for the Clean Car Pledge. The Pledge states that potential consumers and fleet buyers are willing to consider purchasing vehicles that meet the Standard at a reasonable cost, without sacrificing safety and practicality. Allied organizations are expected to take at least one action to present the pledge to its members. Actions can include:

sending an e-mail alert to members about the pledge, promoting the Campaign's website (<http://www.cleancarcampaign.org>), providing a link to the website from organizational websites, publishing pledge materials in newsletters, convincing local municipal or commercial fleets to adopt the Campaign, passing a resolution in support of the Campaign, and sending in the names of three additional organizations that would support the Campaign. Visit the website for a sample e-mail alert, flyer, newsletter article, and resolution.

To ally your organization with the Campaign, please send in the fax-back form found on the website. To have any of these materials sent to you in electronic form, send an e-mail to info@cleancarcampaign.org. For more information, contact Dean Menke at 202-387-3500, dean_menke@edf.org.

Support the Clean Car Campaign; Sign the Clean Car Pledge Online

The Clean Car Campaign is asking you to take the pledge. Promote the Clean Car Standard of the Clean Car Campaign by pledging to make your next vehicle purchase one that meets the criteria of the Clean Car Standard. Sign the pledge online at <http://www.edf.org/programs/PPA/vlc/pledge.html>.

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy Files Formal Application Forcing Ontario Government to Review Regulations

In response to leaks at a major hazardous waste landfill, the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) filed a formal application to force Ontario's provincial government to review its toxic waste regulations. The Canadian Ministry of Environment ordered that Ontario's only commercial hazardous waste landfill near Sarnia close until problems with the protective liner that surrounds the site are resolved.

CIELAP said in its application for review, that lax environmental rules are "placing (the) health, safety, and economic well-being of Ontario residents at risk." The Canadian government has weakened environmental rules while imports of dangerous materials from the United States have quintupled from 1993 to 1998. CIELAP's application will force Environment Minister Tony Clement to comment on provincial regulations.

Two of Michigan's Largest Medical Waste Incinerators Shut Down

The University of Michigan and Browning-Ferris Industries closed their medical waste incinerators, marking a major triumph for the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor and local environmentalists. The closure of these facilities follows several hospitals in Michigan opting for source reduction alternatives or off-site disposal due to new incinerator emissions rules and the cost of upgrading control equipment.

As the leader of Michigan's efforts to clean up the health care industry, the Ecology Center began to urge the University of Michigan to investigate alternatives to incineration in 1994. At the same time, the federal government passed federal rules forcing incinerator operators to use more pollution control equipment to meet emissions standards. With cost projections showing that an equipment upgrade would be less cost-effective, the University of Michigan announced the closure of the incinerator.

Browning-Ferris Industries announced the closure of its medical waste incinerator stating that the facility was running below capacity. The company stated that this decision was not influenced by pressure from environmentalists or state environmental regulators.

Other hospitals have decided to shut down their incinerators too as disposal alternatives prove to be more cost-effective. However, Michigan still leads the nation in numbers of permitted medical waste incinerators. For more information, contact Tracey Easthope of the Ecology Center at 734-761-3186, tracey@ecocenter.org.

Mercury in Rain Six Times EPA's Safe Level

Rain water reaching Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota carries six times the level of mercury considered to be safe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to the Lake Superior Alliance. Ontario and states surrounding Lake Superior have fish consumption advisories for mercury contamination.

Major contributors to the problem in the U.S. include thirty-to-fifty year old coal power plants that are exempt from Clean Air Act rules. In Canada, deregulation is pushing old coal power plants to operate at higher capacities. With labeling efforts soon to be in place in Ontario, consumers may be able to choose non-coal sources for electric power.

The U.S. EPA is studying mercury emissions from three coal-fired electric power plants in the Lake Superior basin as part of a nationwide study. For more information on the U.S. EPA's mercury monitoring effort, visit <http://utility.rti.org/backgroundinfo.cfm>. For information about opportunities to support tougher clean air regulations, contact the Lake Superior Alliance at 888-281-1735, <http://www.superioralliance.org>.

Steering Committee Members Note this Date!

The PPA Annual Steering Committee Meeting will be held on March 29-30, 2000 in Chicago.

Report Shows Six Power Plants Emitted Toxic Chemicals Almost Four Times the Amount of 174 Manufacturers Combined

According to a new report by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, six coal-burning power plants in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky emitted almost four times the amount of toxic chemicals into the air in 1998 than 174 local manufacturers combined. These manufacturers, however, are likely purchasing electricity from the six power plants. The report claims that overall, regional manufacturers cut their emissions by 8 percent, but the emissions of the six coal-burning plants are "not likely to decline soon." Bob McElfresh of Cinergy Corp., which owns four of the plants, said the company has no plans to install scrubbers and that the plants are "within national air quality standards."

The report states that old power plants should be replaced with modern ones. The federal government and several eastern states are currently suing power plants in the midwest and south for not upgrading their equipment. To request a copy of the report, contact Eugene Langschwager at the the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce at 513-579-3116.

You Don't Have to Wait for the Next PPA Newsletter to Get PPA News!

Take advantage of e-mail and sign up to be on the PPA listserv. You will receive information relevant to pollution prevention at the local, state, regional, and national level. And, you can be a part of the information chain by sharing your stories on the listserv.

To sign on to the PPA listserv, please contact the listserv administrator, Halley Rosen, at 202-387-3500 extension 147, halley_rosen@edf.org.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Pollution Prevention Summit Calls for Pre-Summit Online Discussions

As a precursor to the International Pollution Prevention Summit to be held in Montreal, Canada on October 18-20, 2000, the Steering Committee for the Summit invites participants to an online discussion. Central themes of the pre-summit discussions include using pollution prevention in implementing sustainable development, strategies for engaging new partners or technologies, and techniques supporting pollution prevention. The discussion, beginning on January 17, 2000, will continue until the meeting.

For more information, contact the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention at 519-337-3486, c2p2@sarnia.com. To sign onto the discussions and get summit updates, visit <http://c2p2.sarnia.com/summit>.

U.S. EPA Orders Emissions Cuts at 392 Plants in 12 States

On December 17, 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered 392 power plants and other facilities in 12 states to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by about half a million tons a year by 2003. The emissions cuts were ordered following a request by New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania to improve their air quality. Citing a provision of the Clean Air Act that gives states a way to reduce pollution blowing in from other states, the Agency demanded the emissions reductions as a transboundary effort to help states meet federal clean air standards.

Utilities that exceed the required nitrogen oxide cuts will be able to sell the surplus reductions to other polluters through an emissions trading program. Among the states affected in the Great Lakes by the ruling are Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

U.S. EPA Finalizes Rule Lowering Reporting Thresholds for PBTs

The U.S. EPA finalized its rule lowering the thresholds for reporting under TRI for certain persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals (PBTs) on October 29, 1999. The Agency created three new manufacturing, processing, and otherwise use reporting thresholds under TRI for PBTs: 10 lbs for certain highly PBT chemicals, 100 lbs for certain other PBT chemicals, and 0.1 grams for dioxin and dioxin-like chemicals (far too high to ensure widespread reporting of dioxins). Environmental Defense engineer, Lois Epstein, coordinated efforts by technical staff from national environmental organizations and academic and medical scientists to assess and influence EPA's PBT rulemaking.

The U.S. EPA also is adding to TRI seven chemicals and one category of chemicals that persist and bioaccumulate in the environment but that were not on the list of EPCRA section 313 toxic chemicals: dioxin and dioxin-like compounds category, benzo(g,h,i)perylene, benzo(j,k)fluorene (fluoranthene), 3-methylcholanthrene, octachlorostyrene, pentachlorobenzene, tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA), vanadium (except alloys) and vanadium compounds. The Federal Register notice of this rule is viewable at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WASTE/1999/October/Day-29/f28169.htm>. For more information, contact Lois Epstein at Environmental Defense at 202-387-3500, lois_epstein@edf.org.

President Clinton Announces Vehicle Emissions and Gasoline Changes to Improve Air Quality (TIER II)

President Clinton announced a new uniform tailpipe standard for passenger cars, SUVs, and other light-duty trucks which is expected to reduce tailpipe emissions by as much as 95%. He also announced new standards to cut the sulfur content of gasoline by up to 90%.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, emissions reductions can be achieved cost-effectively by coupling tighter tailpipe standards and cleaner fuel

standards. Clinton's new measures will be phased in from 2004 to 2009, and are expected to prevent 4,300 deaths annually, 2,300 cases of chronic bronchitis and 7,900 cases of acute bronchitis, 260,000 asthma attacks and 100,000 cases of respiratory symptoms in asthmatic children, and 173,000 respiratory-related illnesses. The costs for these public health improvements are \$100 for cars, \$200 for light-duty trucks, and two cents per gallon of gas.

Additionally, January 2000 marks the beginning of the second phase of the federal Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) program, which is required by the Clean Air Act in cities with the worst smog pollution. This phase is expected to reduce smog pollutants 41,000 tons per year in addition to the 64,000 tons per year from the first phase of the RFG program. For more information about RFG, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oms/rfg.htm>. Please see the related Clean Car Campaign article on page 1.

Federal Court Reaffirms Decision Blocking Tougher Controls on Smog and Soot

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld a decision to overturn the new particulate regulations finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Despite President Clinton's order in 1997 for the U.S. EPA to issue tougher air rules requiring states to reduce ozone and soot, in May, 1999, the Court of Appeals said the U.S. EPA had failed to justify the selected pollution levels and the soot rule was an "unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority" under the Clean Air Act. The Agency intends to take the case to the Supreme Court.

The air standards imposed by the U.S. EPA in 1997 limited ozone to 0.08 parts per million per 8 hour period, instead of 0.12 parts per million per 1 hour period under the previous requirement. They also required states to regulate microscopic particulates (soot) down to 2.5 microns per 8 hour period from 10 microns per one hour period.

Carol Browner, Administer of the U.S. EPA, recently announced that the Agency was reimposing the old ozone standard while the new one is under litigation. For more information, contact Felice Stadler at the Clean Air Network at 202-289-2429, fstadler@nrdc.org.

Supreme Court Ruling Upholds Citizen Groups' Right to Sue

Citizens groups' right to sue alleged polluters under the Clean Water Act was upheld in a Supreme Court ruling in a South Carolina case. In 1992, Friends of the Earth, Citizen Local Environmental Action Network, and the Sierra Club filed suit against Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc. for discharging pollutants in the North Tyger River that exceeded the limits set by their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The company moved for summary judgement in the case, arguing that these groups lacked standing to bring the case. The court denied their motion.

The District Court concluded that Laidlaw had to pay a civil penalty and the citizen groups' attorney fees. The Supreme Court upheld the citizen groups' standing and ruled that polluters sued by private citizens under federal environmental laws cannot necessarily avoid paying damages by stopping their misconduct while the case is ongoing.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Pesticide Industry Sales and Usage, 1996-1997 Estimates
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Estimates from U.S. EPA records, United States Department of Agriculture surveys of pesticide usage, and other public and proprietary sources indicate a continuation of recent trends in pesticide use in 1996 and 1997. According to the report, the U.S. uses 4.6 billion pounds per year of all types of pesticide active ingredients. Agricultural use accounted for more than three quarters of the 1.23 billion pounds of conventional pesticide use in 1997. For more information, write,

U.S. EPA, NCEPI, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242-2419, or call 513-489-8192. The report also is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/oppbead1/pestsales>.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations from the Chicago Forum On Financing Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction
Northeast-Midwest Institute and the Marine Studies Consortium. The Nonpoint Finance Project seeks to identify innovative ways to finance nonpoint source pollution reduction. The Project, funded by the Joyce Foundation, held a forum in October 1999. Participants at the forum include representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, farm organizations, environmental groups, state governments, and the finance industry. For a summary of the findings at the forum, visit <http://www.nemw.org/ChicagoForum.pdf>.

Conservation in a World of Six Billion
Izaak Walton League Sustainability Education Project. This grassroots action guide discusses population trends and effects on the world's resources and provides guidance for grassroots sustainability programs. For more information, contact the Izaak Walton League at 301-548-0150, sustain@iwla.org.

WEB WATCH

Sustainable Development Websites:

SD Webworks, initiated by the Sustainable Development Communications Network (SDCN), is an online resource for sharing knowledge about using the Internet for sustainable development (<http://sdgateway.net/webworks>). Sustainable Development Online, initiated by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, links hundreds of sustainable development sites (<http://susdev.eurofound.ie>).

The 5 E's Unlimited website provides a forum for sharing information about sustainable development. Sign up to receive the 5 E's Unlimited Sustainability Review newsletter at <http://www.eeeee.net>.

CALENDAR

February 7-10, 2000 (Chicago, IL) - Tools for Urban Water Resource Management & Protection, sponsored by the Chicago Botanic Garden, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wastewater Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. For information, contact Bob Kirschner at 847-834-6837, bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org.

March 1-2, 2000 (Chicago, IL) - P2 & Environmental Issues Facing the Great Lakes, sponsored by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable. For information, contact Lisa Merrifield at 217-244-6061, merrifld@wmrc.uiuc.edu.

March 21-24, 2000 (Boston, MA) - National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Spring Conference, sponsored by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. For information, contact 202-466-3908, michelerusso@compuserve.com.

March 29-30, 2000 (Chicago, IL) - PPA Annual Steering Committee Meeting, sponsored by Environmental Defense's Pollution Prevention Alliance. For information, contact Bill Davis at 608-259-0268, bill_davis@edf.org.

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