

NETWORK NEWS

Clean Car Campaign Rallies at the Detroit Auto Show and Releases Mercury Studies

The Clean Car Campaign rallied outside the 2001 North American International Auto Show in Detroit on January 7, 2001 sending a message to the Big Three- 'Build Cleaner Vehicles.' Owners of hybrid-electric vehicles (the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius) drove their cars with signs reading "Big 3, notice me! <http://greencar.org>," while representatives from Environmental Defense, Michigan Environmental Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Union of Concerned Scientists called for automakers to step up to the challenge of producing cleaner vehicles.

To provide cleaner vehicles, more than 150,000 pledges were displayed at the rally, demonstrating that consumers want cleaner vehicle choices. The pledges call for automobiles that deliver 50 percent better fuel efficiency when compared to other vehicles in the same class, meet California's super-ultra low emission vehicle (SULEV) standard for smog-forming pollution, and are cleanly manufactured using non-toxic, recyclable materials.



The press coverage of the event was extensive as the convoy of cars and pledges caught the attention of TV cameras and newspaper writers. For more news and to see pictures of the rally visit <http://www.cleancarcampaign.org>.

The Campaign released two mercury studies January 22, 2001. According to both studies, *Toxics in Vehicles: Mercury and Toxic by Design*, automobiles are one of the nation's largest sources of toxic mercury emissions.

Toxics in Vehicles: Mercury, a collaboration of the Ecology Center, Great Lakes United, and the University of Tennessee Center for Clean Products and Technologies, documents how dangerous levels of mercury are released into the environment at the end of the vehicle life during disposal and recycling processes. *Toxic By Design*, released by Environmental Defense, states that automanufacturers continue to use mercury in product design and purchasing decisions despite known concerns and the availability of practical, cost-effective alternatives. Also, the report finds that mercury is released by the manufacturers of automotive switches.

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Both reports support an action plan developed by the Campaign calling for US automakers to eliminate the use of mercury switches in new cars and trucks, label component parts and vehicles that contain mercury, and take responsibility for the removal and safe collection of mercury switches in the existing fleet of vehicles currently on the road.

To view the reports, visit

<http://www.cleancarcampaign.org/mercury.html>. To become involved in the Clean Car Campaign or for more information, visit the Campaign website at

<http://www.cleancarcampaign.org>, or contact Kevin Mills at Environmental Defense at 202-387-3500, kmills@environmentaldefense.org. (See related article under Web Resources, p7).

PPA Releases Report, "Using Federal Environmental Data to Measure Industrial P2 Performance"

"Using Federal Environmental Data to Measure Industrial P2 Performance," by PPA's Lois Epstein and Dean Menke appeared in the winter 2001, Pollution Prevention Review. The report explains the process of how to analyze the performance of manufacturing facilities using government data. Lois and Dean analyzed the waste created per production unit for three industrial sectors: oil refining, vehicle assembly, and iron and steelmaking. PPA learned through this analysis that:

- there is a lack of distinction in available data between pollution prevention performance and pollution control performance, and
- numerous changes to federal databases are needed to ensure effective measurement of pollution prevention performance in the future.

PPA encourages others to replicate its methodology to rank and analyze other industry sectors. The report concludes with policy recommendations based upon the range of problems with federal environmental data, including:

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.

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- create a facility identification code that is reported by the facilities when submitting environmental data,
- improve the data quality of environmental reporting,
- state collections of federal data need to be accessible through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
- Facility environmental data reports should identify the percentage of operations in each industrial code, or file separate reports for each industrial activity,
- Federal data should be timely, and represent a consistent time frame to ensure comparability,
- EPA and Congress need to ensure that critical pollution prevention performance data gaps are filled.
- EPA and Congress should support process-level reporting, and
- EPA should accelerate use of real-time emissions data.

For a copy of the paper, contact Lois Epstein at Environmental Defense at 202-387-3500, lepstein@environmentaldefense.org. To view PPA's industry sector analysis, visit <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/programs/ppa>.

OZONE MONITORING NETWORK GEARING UP FOR THE SUMMER

PPA is working with the Cleveland Clean-Air Conservancy to expand the citizen-based ozone-monitoring project in preparation for the upcoming summer smog season. We are also working with leaders in other Great Lakes Communities to establish citizen networks using a new hand-held technology called Zikua ("visualizing the invisible" in Swahili). If you are interested in citizen monitoring or for more information about the networks or technology, contact Halley Rosen at Environmental Defense, 202-387-3500, hrosen@environmentaldefense.org, or visit <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/programs/ppa>.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS

US Announced Clean Air Settlement with Koch Petroleum Group

The Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a settlement with Koch Petroleum Group on December 22, 2000 to reduce air emissions from three petroleum refineries in Minnesota and Texas by at least 5,200 tons. Koch will spend \$80 million to install new pollution control equipment at two refineries in Texas and one near St. Paul, Minnesota. Koch also will pay \$4.5 million to settle Clean Air Act violations and other environmental claims at the Minnesota refinery.

The agreement will cut nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions from the three refineries by 5,200 tons through 2008 through technological improvements. Improved leak detection and repair practices will reduce the emissions of smog-causing volatile organic compounds and benzene.

Although this settlement is a step in the right direction, the case indicates the severe environmental and human health impacts associated with the oil refining industry. Koch set an example for other refining companies to update technologies and adhere to federal regulations.

EPA Cites 10 Companies in Great Lakes for Clean Air Violations

Ten companies in the Great Lakes Region were found to have violated federal or federally enforceable state clean air regulations, or both.

The companies that received a Notice of Violation and/or a Finding of Violations were Hancock Manufacturing Company, Inc. of Toronto, Ohio, Pole Zero Corporation of West Chester, Ohio, Consumers Concrete Corporation of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Balkema Excavating, Inc. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Aztec Peroxides, Inc. of Elyria, Ohio, Citgo Petroleum Corporation of

Lemont, Illinois, Corn Plus Coop of Winnebago, Minnesota, Subaru-Isuzu Automotive, Inc. of Lafayette, Indiana, IKO Monroe, Inc. of Monroe, Michigan, and Agri-Energy, LLC of Luverne, Minnesota.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

122 Countries Agree on POPs Treaty

After three years of negotiation, the United Nations announced that diplomats from 122 countries finalized the text of a legally binding treaty on December 10, 2000 covering persistent organic pollutants (POPs). During the closing hours of a 600 person conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, participants reached agreement to ban 12 highly toxic chemicals. The POPs treaty will require governments to minimize and eliminate some of the most toxic chemicals ever created. After the treaty is formally adopted and signed by ministers at a Diplomatic Conference in Stockholm on May 22-23, 2001, governments must then ratify it which normally takes several years.

POPS are global pollutants that can cause numerous health impacts which bioaccumulate in living organisms. Among the initial list of 12 chemicals, a health-related exemption was granted for dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) for use in malaria prevention. Also, because polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) have been widely used in electrical transformers and other equipment, the treaty allows for governments to maintain existing equipment.

The treaty aims to establish control measures covering the production, export, import, disposal, and use of POPs. Governments will draw up national legislation and develop action plans to carry out their commitments to promote the best available technologies and practices for replacing POPs and preventing the production of new POPs.

Plan to Propose Nationwide Mercury Thermometer Ban Legislation

Senator Susan Collins, R-Maine, plans to introduce legislation that would ban the sale of mercury thermometers nationwide and begin a thermometer exchange program for consumers. It would be the largest federal effort to get mercury out of the consumer waste stream.

Local environmental initiatives to ban mercury thermometers demonstrate the value of such a bill. For example, Health Care Without Harm, a national organization, has been leading, city-by-city efforts to ban the sale of such thermometers. The effort began in Duluth, Minnesota where a ban was implemented last March, 2000. The bill will go beyond these initiatives by providing an exchange program.

Taking the mercury issues steps beyond Collins' proposal, US Representative, Tom Allen, D-Maine, announced his proposal for legislation to curb mercury emissions from power plants, promote 'trade-in' programs to phase out mercury thermometers, and prevent used mercury from being dumped in developing countries. Given Collins' goal to get mercury out of the consumer waste stream, Allen points out that a more comprehensive approach is needed than is provided in the Collins' bill.

New EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman Answers Senators' Questions During Confirmation Hearing on Her Plans for EPA

New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman described some of her views and plans for EPA during her confirmation hearing on January 17, 2001 and in her answers to follow-up questions (see http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_senate_hearings&docid=f:69822.wais for the complete transcript, including letters of support and opposition from New Jersey organizations). Whitman emphasized her well-recognized

accomplishments in New Jersey on open space, ocean dumping, and brownfields issues, but her backward steps on right-to-know and enforcement also were discussed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

On issues most relevant to those interested in pollution prevention, Whitman described her familiarity with multi-media enforcement and facility-wide permitting, her desire to make “review and assessment of EPA’s environmental information and data systems...a priority,” affirmed her support for appropriate use of the Precautionary Principle (which states that “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation”), and her plan to visit all regions and attend “stakeholder meetings of those who are most involved in the most contentious issues.”

Whitman also stated that she does not believe in an “enforcement first” practice, so EPA under her direction likely will focus on compliance prior to enforcement. Environment and Public Works Committee senators also questioned her on Clean Air Act reauthorization (Whitman was non-committal), MTBE contamination (Senators Smith, Boxer), and local water quality infrastructure funding needs (Senator Voinovich).

Additionally, Whitman is interested in performance measurement of the ambient environment. In her testimony, she stated that “the measurement [of government environmental agencies’ accomplishments] really should be, is the air cleaner; is the water cleaner; is the land better protected?”

On right-to-know, while Whitman did reduce the number of toxic chemicals reported in New Jersey, the state’s right-to-know law is one of only two in the nation that require input-output reporting (also known as materials accounting, considered by many as the best way to promote source reduction through enhanced reporting requirements).

EPA Says Kids Face Environmental Health Threats

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a report on January 8, 2001, assessing trends in environmental factors affecting the health of children. The findings of the report indicate that children face growing environmental health problems, including asthma.

Data in the report show a decline in the percentage of American children living in counties where one or more of six key air pollutants exceed national air quality standards (including carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and lead). Other trends showed declines as well, including the percentage of homes with a tobacco smoker and a child under seven and the percentage of children living in areas that had violations of drinking water standards. But, the prevalence of asthma increased from 5.8% in 1990 to 7.5% in 1995. The report indicates that low-income African American children have a higher rate of asthma than other racial groups and income levels.

The report states the federal government should develop better measurements and data to address children's environmental health issues.

EPA Unveils Mercury Research Strategy

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development released a five-year strategy on December 29, 2000 summarizing the health and ecological risks associated with mercury. The EPA announced plans to study mercury issues, including transport and transformation, risk management for power plant combustion and other industrial sources, and human health and environmental effects and exposure.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released a report also in 2000 confirming EPA's Reference Dose (RfD) of 0.1 micrograms per kilogram of body weight per day as scientifically justifiable for protecting human health. However, NAS also identified

a set of research needs for methylmercury exposures and human health effects. The EPA states that these needs are incorporated into the research strategy. The strategy can be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/ORD/WebPubs/final> or obtained by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9128.

Japanese Industry Scores Better Than US in Survey of Websites

The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) conducted its second annual survey of website environmental disclosures in January, 2001. Japanese business scored better than the US in terms of information reported by 44 companies that produce computers, peripherals, or components in Japan, the US, Europe, and South Korea. SVTC states that although some US companies do better in reporting the performance of their suppliers and occupational health records, most do not perform well overall.

The report concentrates on community, worker, and environmental health impacts of high-tech development around the world. Canon came in first place, followed by IBM, NEC, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sony Corporation, Fujitsu, Toshiba Corporation, Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, STMicroelectronics, and Sharp Corporation. The worst-ranking US companies were Applied Materials, Maxtor Corporation, Seagate Technology, and Silicon Graphics.

After the initial analysis, SVTC notified each company of its results and offered the opportunity to make additions, corrections, and clarifications. Nine Japanese companies responded while only 3 US companies provided feedback. The survey can be viewed at <http://www.svtc.org/cleancc/pubs/2000report.htm>. For information, contact Ted Smith at the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, 408-287-6707, tsmith@igc.org.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The Power of Aggregation: Using Purchasing Pools to Promote Effective Competition, Green Power and Energy Efficiency

Midwest Energy Research Center. This handbook is designed to educate non-profit organizations in the Great Lakes Region on the opportunities afforded by restructuring utilities. The issue of making consumer choice work for the environment and small consumers is addressed. For a copy of the report, contact David Rinebolt at the Midwest Energy Research Center at 419-425-8860, drinebolt@aol.com.

1998 Toxics Release Inventory Public Data Release

United States Environmental Protection Agency. The 1998 data includes reporting by seven new industries added to TRI, including metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste treatment, chemical wholesalers, petroleum bulk terminals and plants, and solvent recovery services. The new data is also on Environmental Defense's Scorecard website, <http://www.scorecard.org>. For a copy of the report, call the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198. The data can also be accessed online at <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>.

A Responsible Energy Policy for the 21st Century

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The report, released in February 2001, details US energy policy that would meet the nation's energy needs and save consumer dollars. To view the report, visit <http://www.nrdc.org>, or call NRDC at 212-727-2700.

WEB WATCH

Clean Car Campaign Related Sites

(Tailpipe Tally; ForMyWorld):

Environmental Defense released the Tailpipe Tally, a new web-based tool that allows consumers to compare and contrast the environmental performance of any vehicle. The site provides pollution and fuel cost information for old and new model cars and trucks while also displaying the environmental and financial benefits to automakers employing the best technologies.

The Tally is easy to use and calculates and presents estimates for each vehicle, including fuel consumption, fuel cost, and carbon dioxide emissions, nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbon emissions. Vehicles are compared to the Clean Car Standard, a performance-based standard established by the Campaign.

Also, ForMyWorld.com, a new Environmental Defense web site, rates cars, vans, pickups, and sport utility vehicles from 2000 to 2001 by allocating a 'Green Score' to each vehicle. The score is based upon tailpipe emissions, fuel economy and other aspects of a vehicle's overall environmental impact. The ratings come from Campaign partner, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). To use the Tailpipe Tally, visit <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/tailpipe>, and to get a 'Green Score,' visit <http://www.ForMyWorld.com>.

ForMyWorld:

This new personal environmental web site covers everything from buying green cars to wildlife to global climate change. Entering your zip code on your home page gives you neighborhood information on pollution, recycling, gardening, and nature. Environmental Defense is the managing partner of ForMyWorld which is produced a partnership of nonprofit environmental organizations, including Environmental Defense and the National Wildlife Federation. <http://www.formyworld.com>.

Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice Website, Press Room 2001:

This website provides the latest Department of Justice press releases, complaints, and settlement agreements. <http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/pressroom.htm>

Co-Op America's Green Pages:

The website provides information ranging from green products and services to socially responsible investing. The site also features a group of business members. <http://www.greenpages.org>

CALANDER

March 24, 2001 (Columbus, Ohio), Reconnecting Consumers and Farmers: Conference on Food and the Environment, sponsored by Citizens Policy Center. For information, contact Jane Forrest Redfern at 937-277-7194, jforrest@dayton.net.

April 22, 2001 (Cleveland, Ohio) , Earthfest 2001, sponsored by the Earth Day Coalition. For information, contact Anjali Mathur at 216-281-6468, amathur@earthdaycoalition.org.

May 15-17, 2001 (Glencoe, Illinois), Second National Conference on Nonpoint Source Pollution Information and Education. For information, contact Barbara Lieberoff at 217-785-0561, barb.lieberoff@epa.state.il.us.

July 24-27, 2001 (Tarrytown, New York) ,
Increasing Productivity Through Energy
Efficiency. For information, contact Rebecca
Lunetta at the American Council for an
Energy Efficient Economy at 202-292-3966,
rlunetta@erols.com.

**September 14-15, 2001 (Montreal,
Canada) ,** International Joint Commission
Public Forum on Great Lakes/St. Lawrence
Water Quality, sponsored by the International
Joint Commission. For information, contact
Jennifer Day at 313-226-2170,
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