

NETWORK NEWS

EDF's Chemical Scorecard Puts Pollution Data Online. 1996 Data To Soon Be Available

EDF has launched its long awaited Internet service that allows users to get information on pollution in their own neighborhoods. The Chemical Scorecard provides TRI data on thousands of polluting facilities across the country, health information on over 5,000 chemicals, and helps users contact polluting facilities directly. It is available at www.scorecard.org and is free to all users.

"We are anxious to combine the Chemical Scorecard's facility-specific pollution information and pollution prevention strategies to address environmental health concerns in our community," said the Earth Day Coalition's Anjali Mathur. She co-coordinates the Sustainable Cleveland Partnership, a PPA Sustainable Communities project which is utilizing the Chemical Scorecard in its efforts to make environmental information more accessible to low income, inner-city residents in Cleveland. Other Great Lakes regional groups have found the site useful as well, including the Ohio Environmental Council, which used the Chemical Scorecard to educate community groups in Dayton on the potential health threats posed by hazardous materials in their community.

By typing in your zip code, the site allows users to access maps pinpointing over 17,000 polluting facilities in neighborhoods across the country. It also ranks facilities based on TRI emissions and health hazards, provides full information on the health effects of thousands of polluting chemicals, provides information on pollution prevention, and offers special "take action" options allowing users to send, for free, customized letters by fax directly to polluting facilities.

The most recent TRI data, from 1996 (see story page 3), will be available on the Chemical Scorecard by the end of summer. For more information about the Chemical Scorecard, contact Ben Smith, EDF, 202/387-3500 or bens@edf.org.

PPA Steering Group Holds 7th Annual Meeting in Chicago to Discuss Next Steps...

The Pollution Prevention Alliance (PPA) held its 7th annual Steering Group meeting May 1 in Chicago. About 25 Great Lakes environmental and environmental justice leaders came together for the day-long meeting to review the past year's work and discuss key policy, program, and project opportunities.

Inside: PPA Holds 3rd Sustainability Conference in Chicago in May (p.2)
Michigan Action Project Helps Win Changes to Recently Passed Clean Michigan Initiative (p.4)
1996 TRI Data Shows Lack of Real Progress with Pollution Prevention (p.4)
Resources Available (p.6)
Web Watch (p.7)
Calendar (p.8)

Steering Group members received updates on PPA's major programs from the previous year, including Sustainable Communities projects and EDF's release of the Chemical Scorecard (www.edf.org). Also discussed were major trends in pollution prevention, including regulatory reinvention, devolution, and product-oriented approaches.

A major topic of discussion included PPA's work to influence an agreement between state environmental heads and U.S. EPA on a set of principles that will guide the development and implementation of state-initiated regulatory innovation plans. Several Great Lakes states are expected to take the lead in developing such plans and PPA needs to keep tabs on them to ensure that they result in a cleaner environment and enhanced public involvement.

Also discussed was the Livability Index, PPA's new project establishing a set of indicators that communities can use to measure progress toward environmental sustainability. Steering group members expressed much interest in the project, suggesting potential indicators and data sources, providing insights as to how the Livability Index could be used, and agreeing to provide PPA with additional feedback on the Index via email listserve (contact Neel Scott at neel_scott@edf.org to join).

Steering Group members also discussed ways of improving communication amongst PPA member organizations and individuals. They agreed that the *PPA Newsletter* should be posted on EDF's website (www.edf.org) and that listserves should be established so members could post and receive timely announcements and share thoughts and ideas on common work areas. For more information, contact Ben Smith, EDF, at 202/387-3500 or benjamin_smith@edf.org.

...Followed by PPA's Sustainability Conference Highlighting Key Work in the Great Lakes Region

PPA's 3rd conference, "Building Sustainable Communities in the Great Lakes Region: Strategies and Tools for Environmental Sustainability," was held May 2, 3 in Chicago. The event brought together over 50 individuals from community-based, state, regional, and national organizations from

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, The George Gund Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The *PPA Newsletter* is published quarterly by EDF'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:

Environmental Defense Fund
Pollution Prevention Alliance
1875 Connecticut Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
202/387-3500, fax 202/234-6049
or:
1438 Vilas Avenue
Madison, WI 53711
phone/fax: 608/259-0268

Kevin Mills, Director/Attorney
Carol Address, Economist
Kevin Bryan, Assistant Project Manager
Bill Davis, Great Lakes Specialist
Lois Epstein, Engineer
Monique Forte, Program Assistant
Dean Menke, Staff Scientist
Neel Scott, Research Associate
Ben Smith, Outreach Coordinator

PPA staff can be reached via electronic mail through the Internet. Kevin Mills (kevin_mills@edf.org), Carol Address (carol_address@edf.org), Kevin Bryan (kevin_bryan@edf.org), Bill Davis (bill_davis@edf.org), Lois Epstein (lois_epstein@edf.org), Monique Forte (monique_forte@edf.org), Dean Menke (dean_menke@edf.org), Neel Scott (neel_scott@edf.org), Ben Smith (benjamin_smith@edf.org).

Newsletter Editor: Ben Smith

This issue of the *PPA Newsletter* is printed on Domtar: unbleached, 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Available from New York Recycled Paper at 212/645-2300.

around the Great Lakes to share information, resources, and lessons learned in the PPA's region-wide effort to establish more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable communities. The event highlighted innovative pollution prevention and environmentally sustainable communities projects taking place within the Great Lakes region, focusing on the informational, technical, and networking tools that had made these projects successful.

Madison, Wisconsin's Jane Elder, of the Biodiversity Project, launched the conference by introducing attendees to the often cloudy concept of "environmental sustainability." What followed were presentations by coordinators of PPA's various Sustainable Communities projects and other projects in the region that work with business, government, and community groups to promote pollution prevention, public involvement, and information dissemination. Presenters shared lessons learned and tools, resources, and strategies used to promote sustainability in the region.

The highlight of the event was an online demonstration of several Web-based databases providing activists with easy access to critical facility-specific pollution and health data in their communities. Conferees saw demonstrations of EDF's newly-released Chemical Scorecard (www.edf.org) (see story page 1) and US EPA's Sector Facility Index Project (www.epa.gov/oeca/sfi) (see Web Watch page 7), which provides enforcement and performance data on individual facilities. PPA's advocacy on behalf of SFIP was instrumental in overcoming industry attempts to block the release of this database. Conferees also saw a demonstration of US EPA's Envirofacts (www.epa.gov/enviro/index_java.html), a website offering the latest data on facilities regulated under many of US EPA's major regulatory programs.

The Institute for Conservation Leadership's David Hahn-Baker wrapped up the conference by outlining the challenges conferees have faced in their work throughout the Great Lakes region. He urged the group to think about how the tools and resources discussed at the conference could help activists overcome these challenges. For more information or

a copy of the conference proceedings, contact Ben Smith at 202/387-3500 or bens@edf.org.

PPA is Watching Initiative to Make Environmental Information on Auto Facilities Available to Communities in the Great Lakes

Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the "Big Three" auto makers, has launched the Community Environmental Awareness Project (CEAP). This initiative will provide environmental information and performance data to communities that surround auto manufacturing facilities. Environmentalists, however, are concerned that their input into the project is not being sufficiently sought.

Under CEAP, the auto industry and MDEQ will produce reports providing four basic types of information about manufacturing plants: 1) profiles of each plant and its products, 2) overviews of major environmental programs and regulations the plant must adhere to, 3) information on each facility's environmental performance, and 4) agency and plant contact information allowing users to get additional information. Both printed and online versions of the reports will be available.

MDEQ launched CEAP in 1997 and is now producing a "pilot" profile of Chrysler Corporation's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan. It is also pursuing pilots with Chrysler's plant in Belvidere, Illinois, Ford Motor Company's plant in Wixom, Michigan, and General Motors' plants in Hamtramck, Michigan, and Janesville, Wisconsin.

Since CEAP is to provide communities with information that is "useful" and "meaningful," MDEQ claims to be actively soliciting the advice of Great Lakes environmentalist who can best advise MDEQ as to the type of environmental information the public wants and how to most effectively present it. However, environmentalists have not felt adequately consulted and are concerned that the auto industry itself has been given too much influence over the production of these profiles. In fact, Chrysler Corporation was allowed to prepare the plant profile portion of the Sterling Heights pilot

report. Environmentalists are also concerned that the reports are too technical for the average user and do not provide enough environmental information about the communities surrounding the facilities, violating MDEQ's own goal to provide information that is "understandable" and "holistic." Representatives of PPA organizations, including Liz Wessel, Sierra Club's Caryl Terrell, Ecology Center of Ann Arbor's Charles Griffith, Citizens for a Better Environment's Joanna Hoelscher, and PPA's Kevin Mills, have been working with MDEQ officials to address these concerns. For more information, contact Charles Griffith, Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, at 313/663-2400.

Michigan Action Project Helps Win Improvements To Michigan Environmental Bond

Responding to the unified voice of Michigan's environmental community, the Michigan Legislature passed an improved environmental and economic development bond in early July. Many activists were able to urge their legislators to strengthen the bond through the Michigan Action Project (MAP), a quick-response email alert system developed by EDF that allows activists to send faxes directly to key local, state, and Federal officials. The Clean Michigan Initiative, which will be placed before the voters for approval in November, will spend nearly \$675 million on projects to redevelop brownfields, protect open space, protect the state's waterways, and prevent pollution from small business.

Governor Engler's original bond proposal was flawed, failing to address the state's most pressing environmental needs. However, Michigan environmentalists successfully called upon the Legislature to make vital improvements that would help it win voter support. MAP generated nearly 600 faxes sent directly to Michigan legislators urging them to strengthen the Clean Michigan Initiative. MAP is made up of activists from key state and national environmental organizations (most of which are PPA member organizations), including the Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, and others. MAP, which allows the Michigan activists to quickly respond to environmental problems with a coordinated voice, has so far sent

five alerts to activists since April. PPA hopes to replicate this action alert system in other Great Lakes states and is currently working to build a similar system in Ohio.

For more information on the Clean Bond Initiative, contact Michigan Environmental Council at 517/487-9539. For information on the Michigan Action Project, contact Lisa Wozniak, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, at 734/485-1162.

New Staff At PPA - Dean Menke

In July, PPA added Dean Menke to its staff of scientists and engineers. Dean is a Minnesota native who comes to EDF with over five years of experience in the areas of pollution prevention, cleaner products/production, and life cycle assessment. From 1993 to 1997, Dean was a Research Associate with the University of Tennessee Center for Clean Products and Clean Technologies. For the past year he worked with EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Risk Assessment Fellow. With degrees in Chemical Engineering (BS, University of Minnesota) and Environmental Engineering (MS, Purdue University), Dean will provide technical support for extended producer responsibility and right-to-know efforts within PPA. His first project is to design an enhancement to EDF's Chemical Scorecard which will enable users to identify pollution prevention and product stewardship opportunities in vehicle manufacturing. Contact Dean at 202/387-3500 or by email at dean_menke@edf.org.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS

1996 TRI Data for Great Lakes Shows Lack of Real Progress in Reducing Pollution At its Source

Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) figures for 1996 show that U.S. industry needs to work harder at making pollution prevention a standard business practice. While 1996 data, which was released by US EPA in June, shows an overall decrease in releases nationwide from 1995, most likely due to "end of pipe" pollution controls, companies still have

not made enough progress in reducing the generation of unnecessary waste in the first place.

Nationally, TRI facilities released 2.4 billion pounds of chemicals in 1996, compared to 2.5 billion pounds in 1995 -- a 4 percent decrease. However, the amount of production-related waste grew by 240.1 million pounds, to 23.4 billion pounds, a 1.3 percent increase from 1995. Facilities made uneven progress in reducing TRI releases by specific media. Toxic air releases and deep well injections declined by 7 percent and 15 percent respectively, while releases to

land and into surface water both increased by 9 percent.

Industry is managing more toxic materials than ever before and failing to control toxic pollution at its source. While improving end of pipe pollution control technologies is important, industry must reduce the generation of toxic materials in the first place by redesigning products and processes to become cleaner and more efficient.

Great Lakes states also varied widely in total releases of TRI chemicals. Here is how they performed:

	national rank	approx. total releases '96 millions lbs.	approx. total releases '95 millions lbs.	approx. percent change	approx. total-production related waste '96 millions lbs.	approx..total -production related waste '95 millions lbs.	approx. percent change
IL	6	107.7	116.3	-7.4%	728.1	612.1	+15.9%
IN	5	109	109.4	-.4%	828.2	707.2	+14.6%
MI	9	90.2	97.3	-7.3%	800.1	724.8	+9.4%
MN	31	20.9	24.3	-13.9%	244.7	258.5	-5.3%
NY	23	42.2	35.7	-15.4%	439.7	451.4	-2.6%
OH	3	145.1	151.6	-4.3%	1,007.2	1,012.3	-.5%
PA	4	122.4	127.4	-3.9%	896.15	908.5	-1.3%
WI	22	47	42.6	+9.4%	316.1	312	+1.3%

State TRI Fact Sheets may be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri> or by calling 800/490-9198. For more information, contact Lois Epstein, EDF, at 202/387-3500.

Detroit At Ground Zero in National Environmental Justice Policy Debate

Detroit's Mayor Dennis Archer has taken the lead in galvanizing opposition to US EPA's environmental justice policies. Claiming these policies will sacrifice economic development and jobs in urban areas, Archer pressed the U.S. Conference of Mayors to pass a resolution urging the Agency to abandon their interim guidelines protecting minority communities from polluters. Since then, many state and national government officials and organizations have joined the attack, including Michigan's Governor John Engler, National Association of Black County Officials, the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In February, US EPA issued interim guidelines under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to help resolve claims that development places an unfair share of pollution problems on communities of color. If a state agency issues a permit for projects found to harm minority communities, US EPA can withhold funds from that agency.

Archer reiterated his opposition to the policy to US EPA Administrator Carol Browner herself at a conference he convened on the issue in Detroit on July 17. Mayor Archer called on the Agency to revamp the guidelines so they do not stall development in cities like Detroit that are hungry for jobs. In response, Ms. Browner stressed that these policies are, "...not about stopping development, but about responsible development."

Voicing support for EPA's guidelines at this meeting was Donele Wilkins, chair of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, a statewide coalition of groups supporting strong environmental justice policies. Donele stressed the importance of appropriate development for urban centers like Detroit. She indicated that the best way to achieve this is by including citizens in the planning and permit process. For more information, contact Donele Wilkins at 313/821-1064.

Rick Jameson, Executive Director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Dies at 48

Rick Jameson died on June 20th from liver cancer. Rick was known for his inspirational leadership of Michigan's environmental community and of MUCC, steering the organization in new directions, bringing in new constituencies, and working on a broader range of environmental and conservation issues. He will be missed. Rick is survived by his wife, Robbie, and his 16-year old daughter, Christina.

NATIONAL NEWS

Comings and Goings at US EPA

Chuck Fox has left his position as Associate Administrator for Reinvention to become US EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Water. Jay Benforado, former Director of the Office of Reinvention Policy, is now serving as Acting Associate Administrator for Reinvention in his place. Fox replaces Bob Perciasepe, who has been appointed Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

Also, US EPA Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen will leave the agency in October to become the head of Tri-Met, the regional public-transportation authority in Portland, Oregon. Hansen has been the EPA's Deputy Administrator since October, 1994.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

National Environmental Trust (NET) (1998); This report finds that companies are disposing of more toxic chemical each year by pumping them directly

into the ground, a practice known as "deep well injection." In 1995, companies put 24.6 million tons of toxics into underground injection wells -- up 13 percent since 1988. The report also concludes that it is nearly impossible for citizens to get information on the location of these wells and what is being put in them. For a copy of this report, contact Tom Natan, NET, at 202/887-8800.

Trust Us. Don't Track Us.

U.S. Public Interest Research Group (US PIRG) (1998); This study indicts the Chemical Manufacturers Association's (CMA) Responsible Care program for failing to live up to one of its guiding principles: "Listen and respond to public concerns." To test this principle, US PIRG staff and volunteers called 187 CMA member facilities and asked them basic questions about chemicals used at their facilities. According to this report, over 75 percent of the companies called did not provide answers to the basic questions asked. For a copy of this report, call US PIRG at 202/546-9707.

Grants and Loans

Project XL Technical Assistance Grants

Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL); As a result of advocacy by PPA staff and allies, US EPA has made available grants of up to \$25k to stakeholder groups directly involved in projects under Project XL. ICL was chosen to administer these technical assistance grants which help stakeholder groups be more effective partners in Project XL, a pilot program that brings community groups and businesses together to test innovative environmental protection strategies. These grants have rolling deadlines. For more information or an application, contact Dianne Russell, ICL at 301/270-2900.

Environmental Loan Fund

Environmental Support Center (ESC); ESC has established an Environmental Loan Fund dedicated to stabilizing, increasing, and diversifying the long term funding base of grassroots environmental organizations. Loans ranging from \$10k - \$50k are available for a wide range of activities, including membership development, donor base expansion, special events, etc. The final deadline is September 15. Contact Pam Macedonia, ESC, at 202/966-9834.

The Greater Cleveland Environment Book

EcoCity Cleveland (1998); This reference book serves as an extensive overview of environmental issues as they pertain to Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. It provides data and statistics on environmental problems as well as listings of local, state, and Federal resources for getting more information or help solving the myriad of local environmental problems chronicled. This book is useful for the environmental novice or the experienced activist. For copies, contact EcoCity Cleveland at 216/932-3007.

Searching for the Profit in Pollution Prevention: Case Studies in the Corporate Evaluation of Environmental Opportunities

Resources for the Future (1998); This discussion paper, written by James Boyd, identifies many of the technical, marketing, and regulatory barriers that exist which have hampered pollution prevention efforts at the corporate level. The paper presents case studies outlining pollution prevention initiatives that were in some way unsuccessful. Access this report at http://papers.ssrn.com/paper.taf?abstract_id=84348, or call Resources for the Future at 202/328-5013.

Green Guide to Cars and Trucks: Model Year 1998

John DeCicco and Martin Thomas (1998); This book, published by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, ranks brand-name cars and truck according to their environmental impacts, including fuel efficiency, air pollution, and global warming. To order, contact ACEEE at 202/429-0063.

WEB WATCH

US EPA's Sector Facility Index Project

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/sfi>

This website provides activists with extensive local, state, and Federal environmental enforcement data for five industry sectors: petroleum refining, iron and steel production, metal smelting, pulp manufacturing, and automobile assembly. In addition, SFIP includes demographic information on surrounding communities so environmental justice and population density questions can be addressed, and production capacity information that allows

Toxics Release Inventory data to be normalized for plant size, allowing for performance comparisons.

US EPA's Center for Environmental Information and Statistics Website

<http://www.epa.gov/ceis>

EPA bills this website as a "one stop" source of environmental data on specific communities around the country, offering environmental profiles of communities and data on air quality, water quality, drinking water safety, hazardous wastes, and toxic releases. Users can also access custom maps indicating the locations of pollution sources.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation's Transboundary Agreements Infobase

<http://www.cec.org/infobases/agreements/>

This database provides access to summaries and text of 200 treaties and agreements on transboundary environmental cooperation in North America. Users can search by agreement name, subject, or by parties to the agreements.

US EPA's Transportation Air Quality Center (TRAQ) Website

<http://www.epa.gov/omswww/traq/>

This website provides state and local air quality regulators, transportation planners, and private businesses with information on transportation programs to reduce air pollution. TRAQ includes information on technical assistance, funding sources, publications, regulations, and key local, state, and Federal contacts.

Healthcare EnviroNet

<http://www.healthcare-environet.com>

This site was established by Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy. It provides extensive information and links on environmental issues related to the healthcare industry, including news, case studies, pollution prevention tips, and suppliers of environmental services and products.

Whats Up Northeast Ohio Listserve

Majordomo@igc.org

This email listserv keeps people informed about news, events, issues, and resources on available to residents of Northeast Ohio. To subscribe, send email message to address listed above with the words

“subscribe whatsapp-neohio” in the body of the message.

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

12 September - 9 October, 1998 - Great Lakes United Citizen Hearings on Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Pollution to be held in various cities in the region, including Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Duluth, Gary, Toronto, Buffalo, and Montreal. For information, contact Shelley Petrie at 416/596-0660.

18, 19 September, 1998 (Columbus, OH) - Public Hearing and Caucus on Audit Privilege. This meeting will gather people from across the country to develop strategies for fighting audit privilege laws and corporate secrecy. Contact Noreen Warnock at 614/263-4111.

24-26 September, 1998 (Milwaukee, WI) - 1999 Biennial Forum on Great Lakes Water Quality, sponsored by the International Joint Commission. Contact Jennifer Day at 519/257-6733 for information.

24 September, 1998 (Ashtabula, OH) - 7th Annual Ohio Lake Erie Conference at Kent State University's Ashtabula Campus, sponsored by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Lake Erie Office. For information, contact Debbie Katterheinrich of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, at Oleo@web.epa.state.oh.us.

26, 27 September, 1998 (Shippensburg University) - 5th Annual Pennsylvania Environmental Congress on “Environmental Stewardship: Personal, Political, and Corporate,” sponsored by the National Audubon Society's Pennsylvania State Office. Contact Jan Jarrett at jan_jarrett@msn.com or 717/697-2111.

6 October, 1998 (Oak Lawn, IL) - 9th Annual Pollution Prevention Conference, sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and McWhorter Technologies. For more information, contact Annette McCarthy at 217/782-8700.

Environmental Defense Fund
Pollution Prevention Alliance
1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, #1016
Washington, DC 20009