

We can get toxic chemicals out of our cupboards.

Ever worry about what's in that air freshener you just sprayed in the kitchen? What about your baby's shampoo? Thanks to a new policy on chemicals adopted by the world's largest retailer, consumers are a step closer to having safer, healthier products in their homes.



Toxic chemicals



Goal: Reform U.S. toxic chemicals policy.

Why: A stronger law is needed to replace the nation's obsolete chemicals law, which has not been updated in 37 years.

Our objectives by 2015:

1/ We build and help lead a coalition of health, environmental, labor, business, consumer and environmental justice groups to achieve fundamental reform of U.S. chemicals policies.

2/ New legislation is enacted that significantly improves the Toxic Substances Control Act and ensures that only fully tested and safe chemicals are allowed to enter and remain on the market.

EDF leadership:

Sarah Vogel, *Health Program Director*
Richard Denison, *Senior Scientist*

Consumer products



Goal: Accelerate safer product innovation through corporate partnerships.

Why: Major consumer-product retailers can leverage the supply chain to speed the introduction of safer product ingredients.

Our objectives by 2015:

1/ Reduction targets are set for key chemicals of concern in major Walmart product categories, and guidance is provided to suppliers on principles for chemical substitutions.

2/ The chemical screening tool EDF developed for the Walmart supply chain is adopted for use in other product categories.

EDF leadership:

Tom Murray, *VP Corporate Partnerships*
Elizabeth Sturcken, *Managing Director*
Michelle Harvey, *Senior Manager*

Power plant pollution



Goal: Cut air pollution from electric power generating plants.

Why: Today tens of millions of Americans live in areas where unhealthy particulate pollution from power plants exceeds the federal limits.

Our objectives by 2015:

Sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen pollution from power plants is cut by 75% from 2005 levels, and mercury pollution is reduced substantially.

EDF leadership:

Vickie Patton, *General Counsel*

Transportation pollution



Goal: Reduce pollution from transportation.

Why: Children who live near high-traffic roads face a higher risk of asthma, cancer and heart disease. Meanwhile, pollution from ships and trucks disproportionately affects those who live near U.S. ports.

Our objectives by 2015:

1/ National limits are secured on dangerous smog- and soot-forming pollutants from new cars.

2/ Substantial reductions of diesel emissions from marine sources and port-related transportation are achieved at all continental U.S. ports.

EDF leadership:

Elena Craft, *Health Scientist*
Mandy Warner, *Climate & Air Policy Specialist*

TAKING THE LEAD ON SAFER CHEMICALS

Because of its extraordinary size and purchasing power, Walmart has a unique capacity to influence its suppliers. Its decisions have industry-wide implications.

For 127 million Americans, a trip to Walmart is a weekly household ritual. In 2013, the retailer unveiled a new policy, which EDF helped develop, to begin phasing out some potentially harmful ingredients found in everyday products such as shampoo, baby lotion, cosmetics and air fresheners, and replace them with safer ingredients. It was the first major retailer to do so.

“Consumers are demanding safer products,” says Dr. Sarah Vogel, EDF’s Health program director. [“Scientific research points to serious health risks of chemical exposures, including cancer, diabetes and infertility.”](#)

In 2007, EDF opened an office in Bentonville, Ark., near Walmart’s corporate headquarters, to help the retailer lessen its environmental footprint. “The very first conversation we had was about chemicals,” says Michelle Harvey, our senior manager there.

Two years later, Walmart began using a software screening program, developed with help from EDF, to assess the chemical ingredients of personal care products, household cleaners and other formulated products. The software, called GreenWERCS, revealed disturbing news: Almost 40% of formulated products on Walmart shelves contain chemicals that may pose health risks.

Learning of these findings, Walmart took action. “Our goal is to sell products that sustain people and the environment,” says Andrea Thomas, Walmart’s senior VP of sustainability. “EDF was instrumental in assisting us with a rigorous yet achievable policy to further our goal and help ensure the products on our shelves are affordable and sustainable.”

Walmart’s new policy initially targets about ten chemicals commonly found in consumer products for replacement with safer ingredients. By 2015, it will require suppliers to disclose all product ingredients online. The company also plans to take its private label products through a more stringent screening process.

To safeguard our integrity and objectivity, EDF accepts no funding from Walmart or any other corporate partner.



WHAT KINDS OF PRODUCTS DOES WALMART'S SAFER CHEMICALS POLICY COVER?



Products in these categories must have ingredients disclosed online by 2015.

* Simulated products are solely to illustrate product categories. Some products may already disclose their ingredients.



“We’ve learned through experience that you can create environmental progress by leveraging corporate purchasing power,” says Elizabeth Sturcken, EDF managing director for corporate partnerships. “And who has more purchasing power than Walmart?” Walmart’s action is sure to have a ripple effect across the entire supply chain.

“When companies like this make a shift, it’s huge,” says Judi Shils, executive director of Teens Turning Green, a nonprofit that promotes environmentally conscious choices for young adults. “You’re influencing Middle America.”

These changes won’t happen overnight, but they represent a major step forward. EDF will closely monitor and verify the reduction of hazardous chemicals until the promise of healthier products becomes a reality. “Ultimately,” says Sturcken, “Walmart’s policy will be evaluated on results.”

REFORMING AMERICA'S CHEMICALS LAW

Voluntary efforts to rein in chemicals of concern are important, but they cannot take the place of strong regulatory standards. EDF is making progress there, too.

The nation's principal chemicals law, the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), hasn't been updated in 37 years. It imposes such a high burden on proving harm that EPA could not even ban asbestos. Companies have only had to test about 3% of 85,000 chemicals in commercial use.

EDF has been pressing for reform since 1997, when we published *Toxic Ignorance*, a seminal report that exposed the lack of health data for common chemicals found in everything from baby bottles to household cleaners.



“Pollution and toxic chemicals take a serious toll on our health. We owe it to our children and future generations to ensure the safety of chemicals and significantly cut air pollution.”

Dr. Sarah Vogel, *Health Program Director*

To build support for strong new legislation, we helped found a coalition of 250 health and environmental groups called Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families. We've since been working with state governments and health, labor, business and consumer groups to make the case for reform. Our prodding already has brought results. It pushed EPA to upgrade its chemical reporting practices.

And in 2013, we helped strengthen and advance a reform bill, introduced by the late Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Senator David Vitter (R-LA), that has strong bipartisan support.

“Reforming the nation's chemicals law is a top priority. With improvements, the bill opens a path to fix a policy that needs a major overhaul.”

Elizabeth Thompson, *President, Environmental Defense Action Fund*



“We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure the safety of common chemicals. We need to shift the paradigm, from assuming chemicals are safe unless proven dangerous to requiring evidence of safety.”

Dr. Richard Denison, *EDF Biochemist*

THE ROAD TO CLEANER AIR

In 2013, EDF and our allies achieved a major victory when EPA proposed standards to cut pollution from new passenger vehicles, in part by reducing sulfur in gasoline.

The standards, called Tier 3, will make the next generation of cars cleaner, cutting nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds by 80%. Cars also will emit less particulate pollution, a known trigger for asthma attacks, and less carbon monoxide.

That's good news for the 50 million Americans who live near high-traffic roadways. Children who live in such areas face a higher risk of asthma, cancer and heart disease.

EDF pushed hard to win the new measures. We testified at public hearings, and our members sent nearly 50,000 comments to EPA.

Fully implemented, the rules will prevent 2,400 premature deaths every year and provide up to \$23 billion in annual health benefits, EPA estimates. The cost: less than a penny per gallon of gas.

The proposed limits are backed by automakers because they harmonize policy across all 50 states—and help pollution control equipment work more efficiently. There will be challenges to securing strong final standards, but with health-care providers and automakers allied with us, we're confident we will prevail.

“This is one of the most cost-effective ways to get cleaner and healthier air while strengthening our domestic auto sector.” **United Auto Workers**

DRIVING DOWN EMISSIONS

1965_



Car culture explodes as 1965 Chevy Impala becomes the biggest selling model

1975_



Congress enacts first fuel economy requirements for cars

1985_



EDF helps convince federal regulators to phase out lead from gasoline

2000_



EPA finalizes Tier 2 emissions reduction program, cutting sulfur emissions up to 90%

2002_



EDF co-sponsors California's historic clean cars law

2007_



EDF plays key role in Supreme Court victory allowing for car greenhouse gas rule implementation

2011_



Automakers agree to limits on climate pollution and stronger fuel economy standards (54.5 mpg by 2025)

2013_



Proposed Tier 3 program will cut sulfur from fuel by 60% and reduce NOx emissions by 80%

Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome / Environmental justice advocate



“I think of environmental justice from a human rights perspective. We all have the right to live in an environment that’s safe and healthy, especially kids.”

Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome was raised in Detroit. Her family ran daycare centers in the inner city, where she saw firsthand the health impacts of pollution on children, including severe asthma and lead poisoning.

Now a policy analyst for WE ACT, an environmental justice group based in Harlem, White-Newsome is a key EDF ally for clean air. Testifying in support of EPA’s vehicle emissions standards in Washington, she spoke of a little girl with pigtails—the same age as her daughter—getting a nebulizer treatment for asthma at school. Such images reinforce her commitment.

The burden of roadside air pollution falls heavily on low-income families, White-Newsome explains. “We’re talking about people living check to check. They might be in a program trying to go from welfare to work. If they miss a day because their kid has asthma, they miss that opportunity.”

STANDING UP FOR TOUGH LIMITS ON MERCURY POLLUTION FROM POWER PLANTS

EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, one of the greatest public health advances in a generation, will eliminate 90% of mercury emissions from power plants and prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths annually. EDF and allies worked for a decade to secure this victory for Americans in 2011.

Now the coal lobby is trying to kill these mercury rules before they are fully implemented, but EDF’s legal team is committed to defending the standards.

“They have more money and more lawyers, but we have the law and facts on our side,” says EDF general counsel Vickie Patton.

Here’s a look at what’s at stake in the mercury battle:

35

tons of mercury are emitted from coal plants annually

40%

of U.S. lakes and rivers have mercury advisories

400,000

infants are born with high levels of mercury in their blood annually

\$293

million spent in 2009 and 2010 by opponents of EPA’s rules

5

major cases where EDF defended the mercury rule in 2013

61

petitions to halt the mercury standards filed in court

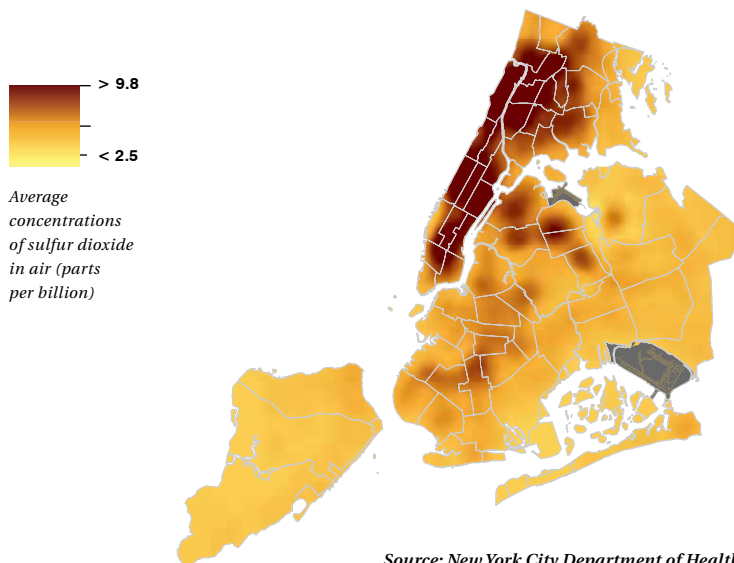
A BIG WIN FOR NEW YORK CITY'S AIR

New Yorkers are breathing the cleanest air in 50 years, thanks to a partnership between EDF and NYC to phase out dirty heating oil.



We launched the environmental health partnership in 2008, after our report, *The Bottom of the Barrel*, revealed that 1% of New York City's buildings were producing as much soot as all the city's cars and trucks combined. Those buildings, some of them in the city's most exclusive neighborhoods, burned the dirtiest kinds of heating oil.

New York City Air Survey, Wintertime 2008–2009



Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SINCE 2008

2700 > Buildings converted to cleaner heating fuels

69% > Reduction in toxic sulfur dioxide pollution*

35% > Reduction in toxic nickel pollution*

23% > Reduction in fine particulate matter (soot)*

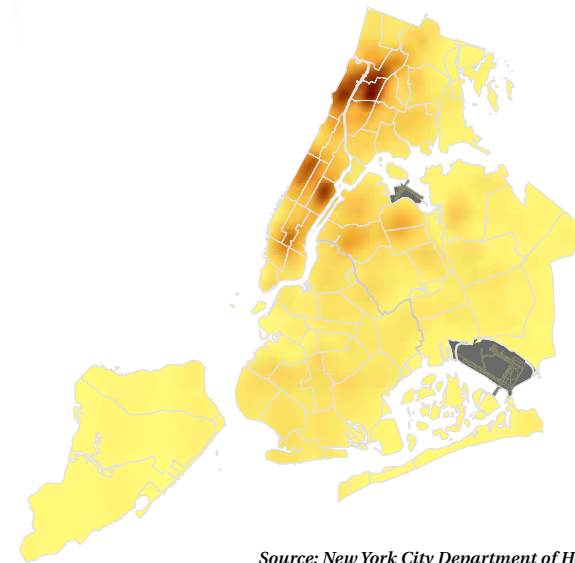
800 > Lives saved each year

2000 > Hospitalizations or emergency room visits prevented each year

*Average concentration in air

“The Environmental Defense Fund has played a big part in the success of our initiative.” **Michael Bloomberg**, *New York City Mayor*

New York City Air Survey, Wintertime 2012–2013



Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

CLEANER AIR FOR OUR NATION'S PORT CITIES



At the Port of Houston, more than one-third of the air pollution comes from 3,000 “drayage” trucks—diesel-fueled heavy trucks that move shipping containers. Many are older models that can be 60 times more polluting than new trucks.

Now, thanks to a program EDF and allies designed, truck owners at the port can obtain grants and low-interest loans to buy cleaner trucks. Shippers including Lowe’s, Target and Home Depot have agreed to use drayage truckers who track emissions and make the switch to cleaner trucks.

Our Houston program has become a model for other port cities around the country, including Baltimore, Charleston and Philadelphia. This builds on EDF’s recent victory requiring ocean-going vessels to use cleaner fuels when near the U.S. coast.

Joan Dukes / Eye on the future



Marion Johnston

“Our fire season in the West is now two months longer. That scares me.”

Last summer, Joan Dukes watched in horror as huge plumes of smoke from a wildfire billowed near her home in Prescott, Ariz. “Our fire season in the West is now two months longer,” she says. “That scares me.”

An EDF supporter for 35 years, Dukes has long worked as an educator. At Prescott’s Highlands Center for Natural History, where she is a board member, she introduces schoolchildren to local wildlife and plants. “I love hearing the children’s excitement,” she says. “Imagine a little leaf that makes its own sunscreen from

tiny light-colored hairs!” Dukes finds that having a toddler granddaughter has strengthened her commitment to the environment. Inspired by the EDF Legacy Match, she revised her estate plans this year to include a bequest to EDF.

“It’s a way to extend the power of my giving beyond my lifetime,” Dukes says. “When I look into the beautiful, trusting eyes of my granddaughter, my heart swells knowing that by supporting EDF I am doing what I can to make her future a little more secure.”

EDF LEGACY MATCH: Make an estate gift and we will receive a matching donation of up to \$10,000 today. For details: email legacy@edf.org / toll-free 877-677-7937 / edf.org/legacy.

Molly Rauch / One mom who got involved



“We need a committed army of moms determined to make our children’s health a national priority.”

EDF helped found Moms Clean Air Force, a band of mothers—now more than 150,000 strong—committed to taking direct action to protect the health and well-being of their families.

A key member of our team is Molly Rauch, a mom blogger who lives and works in Washington, DC. Her writing on environmental health has appeared in The Huffington Post, The Green Guide and elsewhere. She joined our effort after realizing the extent of health risks her own children face. “We’re in a cycle that, if left unchecked, could condemn our children to an unhealthy, unstable future,” she says.
