
A close-up, blurred image of a baby's face and hands in a bubble bath. The baby's face is at the top, partially obscured by bubbles. The hands are visible at the bottom, also surrounded by bubbles. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Working with our  
partners to get toxic  
chemicals out of  
consumer products**



**“It is far wiser and less expensive to prevent exposure to unsafe chemicals and air pollution than to have to treat the serious health problems that they can cause.”**

**Dr. Lynn Goldman**

*EDF Trustee; Dean, Milken Institute School of Public Health,  
The George Washington University*



## GUIDING WALMART TOWARD SAFER PRODUCTS

**W**ith the need for chemical safety reform growing increasingly urgent, EDF turned to the world's largest retailer to help place safer products on America's shelves.

In 2014, Walmart rolled out a policy developed with EDF the previous year to phase out potentially harmful ingredients from tens of thousands of products—shampoos, body lotions, cosmetics and more—in its U.S. stores, which serve 140 million customers weekly.

Most chemicals have never been tested for possible health impacts, even as research shows that babies in the womb typically carry dozens of toxic chemicals

and pollutants in their bodies. No wonder consumers are demanding change.

Walmart used a software program we helped develop to assess chemicals in formulated products. The results were disturbing: nearly 40% of Walmart's assessed products contained chemicals that may pose health risks. Walmart asked EDF to help create a policy for its suppliers to replace these chemicals.

With chemists and toxicologists, we prioritized chemicals according to their hazard, prevalence in products and potential for human exposure. Walmart then targeted a short list of chemicals of concern to remove from its products.

Under the policy, Walmart suppliers must show that newly added chemicals are safer than those they replace. Suppliers also must disclose all ingredients in their products by 2015. "Everybody must be transparent by January 1," says Michelle Harvey, EDF's supply chain director. "If not, they're threatening a very important business relationship."

With Walmart's unparalleled purchasing power, its policy will inevitably drive

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**“Pollution and toxic chemicals take a serious toll on our health. We owe it to our children to ensure the safety of chemicals and to significantly reduce the pollution that harms their health.”**

**Dr. Sarah Vogel**  
*Health program director*





**Dozens** of toxic chemicals and pollutants are typically present in babies in the womb.





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change throughout the \$250 billion global personal care and household products industry. We're already seeing ripple effects: Target and CVS have announced their own chemicals programs this year. "These actions show that what's good for people and the environment is also good for business," says EDF VP of corporate partnerships Tom Murray.

*Note: EDF accepts no funding from Walmart or any other corporate partners, or from their corporate foundations. We do accept funding from private foundations and from individuals.*



## A MORAL IMPERATIVE

Angela and David Filo / EDF donors

For Angela Filo, a photographer and mother of two young daughters, chemical safety is a moral imperative: "We don't know what we're exposing our children and families to." Filo and her husband David, co-founder of Yahoo, support EDF's efforts to remove chemicals of concern from consumer products and replace them with safer substitutes.

"We look to EDF to be a watchdog for children and families and to grow awareness of this critical but overlooked issue," she says. The Filos, who support EDF through their Yellow Chair Foundation, also admire the strategy of working with key corporations to change their chemicals policies. "We found in EDF a trusted partner who looks after the broader health of the community."



**"EDF brings to bear the science, integrity and legal expertise that drive progress through corporate channels." Angela Filo**

## BECAUSE VOLUNTARY ACTION WILL NOT BE ENOUGH, A PUSH FOR STRONG REGULATION

**T**he Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) makes it so difficult to prove harm from a chemical that, since TSCA was passed in 1976, companies have only had to test about 3% of the 85,000 chemicals available for commercial use.

In 2014, the need to reform this federal law was vividly demonstrated when a chemical spill near Charleston, WV, left 300,000 people without drinking water. Public officials could find virtually no hazard data on the spilled chemical, despite the fact that the coal industry has used it for years.

EDF scientist Dr. Richard Denison linked the problem to outdated regulations and questioned the government's assurances of safety given to Charleston residents. In Washington, he advised legislators in making hundreds of improvements to proposed TSCA reform legislation.

Meanwhile, EPA issued its first final risk assessments under TSCA in 28 years, finding that two commonplace chemicals pose unacceptably high risks to workers and the public. EDF is pushing the agency to institute safety measures for the chemicals.



Potentially dangerous chemicals that spilled from these storage tanks on the Elk River outside Charleston, WV, affected the drinking water of 300,000 people. Yet due to a lack of regulation, virtually no data were available to health officials who dealt with the tragedy.



# EDF FIGHTS EVERY DAY FOR CLEAN AIR AND WATER

**E**DF was a strong voice for public health when many of the nation's clear air rules were written. Through science, advocacy and the courts, we're defending existing standards and closing the remaining loopholes that expose Americans to harmful pollution.

## A legal team on the front lines

When industry groups challenge bedrock protections, EDF fights back. In 2014 we won important victories:

- In April, the Supreme Court upheld EPA rules which will reduce air pollution that

drifts across state lines and causes unhealthy soot and smog in Eastern states. EDF was a party to this case and was instrumental in advocating and defending the new rules.

- Also in April, a federal appeals court rejected a coal lobby challenge to a 2012 rule lowering mercury emissions from power plants. Mercury is highly toxic and linked to brain damage in children. EDF defended the standards, which represent one of the biggest public health advances in a generation.
- The Supreme Court denied an industry petition to throw out California's



Mercury in its most toxic form is found in many waterways and fish. EDF attorneys in 2014 successfully defended new standards that will eliminate up to 90% of mercury emissions from power plants.



low-carbon fuel standard, which cuts climate pollution from transportation fuels. EDF was a party to the case, and co-sponsored the landmark California greenhouse gas law.

### **Clean transportation**

Following decades of work by EDF to make cars and trucks cleaner, EPA issued a rule which will significantly cut the sulfur content of gasoline. The proposed rule, Tier 3, will dramatically reduce smog, soot and air toxics, saving thousands of lives every year.

### **Efforts in low-income communities**

Too often, the right to breathe clean air has been denied to people in low-income communities. In Houston, for example, the port abuts low-income neighborhoods. More than one-third of the port's air pollution comes from heavy, diesel-fueled trucks, so EDF created a program that helps truckers buy cleaner trucks.

The effort will lead to a dramatic reduction in trucks' diesel emissions, including fine soot and smog-forming nitrogen oxides. Both pollutants have been linked to asthma and respiratory illnesses, and smog is especially harmful to active children. The program is now a model for other ports around the country.

