



Lowell Center for Sustainable Production

One University Avenue, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA 01854

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Experts gather in Boston to discuss solutions to problems with industrial chemicals

Chemicals are a key element of the global economy. They are incorporated into millions of products we use every day, and they are essential to society. However, many chemicals have dangerous or environmentally damaging characteristics, and their use needs to be controlled to avoid harm to workers, the public and the environment. In a meeting in Boston this week, 175 experts from industry, government, non-profits and universities will get together to discuss how the management of chemicals can be improved, to ensure the protection of workers, consumers and the environment.

The meeting, “*Framing a Future Chemicals Policy: A Working Stakeholder Forum*”, is taking place on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th April at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston. In addition to plenary speakers and panel debates, a major part of the conference will consist of workshops, enabling discussion of important issues, such as how to promote green chemistry, integration of US policy with developments around the world, and how to assist companies using chemicals in handling them safely.

The meeting is hosted by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, based at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Ken Geiser, Co-Director of the LCSP, said:

“Industrial chemicals are a key component of manufacturing industry, but many of them have hazardous properties. This meeting gives us a chance to look again at how we ensure the use of chemicals is as safe as possible.”

“Many companies are now introducing their own chemicals management systems, while other parts of the world have been modernizing the way they control chemicals. We want to encourage discussion on what could be done by US companies, citizens and regulators in the future, to ensure that the US is at the forefront of safe use of chemicals”

Speakers at the conference include Andy King, of the United Steel Workers Union, Paul Anastas of the Green Chemistry Institute, John Strong of Consorta Inc and David C Long of SC Johnson.

Contacts: *Joel Tickner*, LCSP, 1 978 790 7353, joel_tickner@uml.edu; *Michael Warhurst*, LCSP, 1 617 820 7267, michael_warhurst@uml.edu. *Melissa Coffin*, LCSP, 1 978 934 2997, melissa_coffin@uml.edu;

www.chemicalspolicy.org

Note to editors

The meeting is only open to registered participants, and is now full, with 175 participants. Media who wish to report on the conference should contact us. The main conference will be preceded by an afternoon training session on Wed. 27th (also fully booked) providing an introduction to chemicals regulation in Europe, the US, Canada and globally. There is a pre-conference reception on the Wednesday evening with Jordan Barab of the US Chemical Safety Board and Dr. Andrea Larson of the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business speaking.



Framing a Future Chemicals Policy
A Working Forum for Stakeholders