Options for Reforming State Chemicals Policy:
Policy Research by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production (LCSP)

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Policy Research by the LCSP to assist with new tools for developing state chemicals policy

- LCSP’s work in context
- Chemicals Policy Options Report
- State Legislative and Executive Branch Initiatives on Chemicals
  - Matrix
  - Analysis
- State Chemicals Policy Dialog
LCSP’s work in context

- LCSP project is the Chemicals Policy Initiative (CPI) which promotes scientifically informed tools and policies to support the use of chemicals and materials that protect human health and the environment.

- CPI works with:
  - advocates
  - industry
  - states, to develop a broad vision for chemicals policy.

- Opportune time to move chemicals policy discussion forward with current momentum in Europe, Canada, China and within the US: CA, WA, ME, MI, NY.

REACH will enter into force on 1 June 2007. Enterprises which manufacture or import more than one tonne of a chemical substance per year will be required to register it in a central database administered by the new EU Chemicals Agency. The Agency will provide IT tools and guidance and Member States will offer helpdesk assistance to the impacted companies.
Canada's New Government improves protection against hazardous chemicals

8 December 2006
Prime Minister Stephen Harper, along with the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, today unveiled Canada's new Chemicals Management Plan.

Latest News

27 April 2007
Release, for public comments, of a draft follow-up assessment report and a notice of intent to apply the Significant New Activity provisions of CEPA 1999 and the draft environmental performance agreement for certain Organotins

5 April 2007
Environment Canada Study Confirms Need to Improve Consumer Product Supply Chain Tracking, Traceability System
Update: China RoHS Standards Are Ready

May 29, 2006 -- When China's version of RoHS becomes active on March 1, four standards must be met:

- "Concentration Limits" of hazardous substances,
- "Marking" to indicate the presence of hazardous substances, as well as a safe-to-use period and the packaging material;
- "Testing Procedures" and;
- a "Catalogue" of products which are subject to substance restrictions and mandatory certification.

Since earlier this month, two of those standards, 'Concentration Limits' and "Marking" have been ready for approval by the Ministry of Information Industry. The maximum concentration values defined in the standard on 'Concentration Limits' will be published soon.
Modern chemistry keeps insects from ravaging crops, lifts stains from carpets, and saves lives. But the ubiquity of chemicals is taking a toll. Many of the compounds absorbed by the body stay there for years—and fears about their health effects are growing.
A toxic life

We're polluted from head to toe and though scientists can now measure minute amounts of chemicals in our bodies, no one knows the long-term health effects.

Apr. 21, 2006. 06:08 AM
NANCY J. WHITE
LIFE WRITER

Sarah Winterton is many things: a 45-year-old mother of three teenagers, a Toronto resident, a program director — and a toxic chemical dump.

Blood and urine samples show that her body is
AN ORDER PROMOTING SAFER CHEMICALS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, Maine is dedicated to the mutually dependent goals of economic development, public health promotion and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, further development of safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals in Maine has the potential to spur business growth, create jobs, improve public health, lower the costs of health care and special education, and protect the environment; and
Wal-Mart to Use Preferred Substances in Chemical Intensive Products

Source: GreenBiz.com

BENTONVILLE, Ark., Oct. 31, 2006 - Wal-Mart Stores says it plans to begin implementing its "Preferred Chemical Principles" to establish a clear set of preferred chemical characteristics for product ingredients.

The purpose is to drive the development of more sustainable products for "mother, child, and the environment," according to the company. The first three of these priority chemicals are being announced at the Molecule-to-Molecule meeting, a two-day event hosted by the Chemical Intensive Product Network (CIP), a group designed to engage suppliers, NGO's, government, academics and other subject matter experts on issues and opportunities around product sustainability.

"One of our environmental goals at Wal-Mart is to sell products that sustain our resources and our environment," said John Westling, senior vice president and general merchandise manager, Merchandise Division, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. "We are..."
'Green chemistry' pays off

By Elizabeth Weise, USA TODAY

There's a globby problem mucking up the nation's search for alternative energy sources.

When farmers take soybeans or corn and turn them into biodiesel, they end up with a whole lot of glycerin, a colorless, viscous, slick liquid that's the primary ingredient in clear soaps.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that when U.S. biodiesel production hits its stride, it will make about 1 billion more pounds of the glycerine than the market needs per year.

Enter Galen Suppes, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Suppes and his team have developed an efficient way to turn that unwanted byproduct into a cheap, non-toxic substitute for antifreeze.

Which is why on Monday Suppes is being honored with a coveted Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge award in Washington, D.C., according to officials at the EPA and the American Chemical Society. The recipients, whose work prevents pollution through better chemical design, are chosen yearly by a panel of distinguished chemists. The program, administered by the EPA, is awarded by the president.

Suppes created a process that fulfills numerous green chemistry goals. It takes something that would be a waste product and makes it useful. It finds a way to replace
Chemicals Policy Options Report

- Research paper on chemicals policy options:
  - A series of modules with a “connector” paper
  - Focus on options for state level reform and relevant to national policy reform as well
  - Focus on the pros and cons of regulatory and nonregulatory options / tools
  - Provide an overview for chemicals reform
Chemicals Policy Options Report

Topics

- Information generation needed for sound chemicals management
  - Richard Denison, Environmental Defense
- Information flow through the supply chain
  - Rachel Massey, TURI
- Evaluation, prioritization and decision-making
  - Joel Tickner, LCSP
- Chemical substitution and alternatives
  - Mark Rossi, Clean Production Action
- Innovation and green chemistry
  - Ken Geiser, LCSP
- Implementation of chemicals policy: capabilities needed, important dynamics and possible models
  - Amy Kyle, UC Berkeley
- Emerging Technologies
  - Steffen Foss Hansen, Nano DTU (Nanotechnology Center at Technical University of Denmark)
State Legislative and Executive Branch Initiatives on Chemicals

- Chemicals policy varies from state to state:
  - Data collection
  - Compendium of chemicals policy legislation and executive branch policies
  - Analysis of state/local legislation/executive branch policies
Data Collection

- What chemicals policy legislation or executive orders concerning chemicals policy have been issued at the state and local levels?
- Is there any chemicals policy legislation that is currently tabled or pending?
- Are there any chemicals policy bills that are being introduced or discussed?
Compendium of chemicals policy legislation and executive branch policies

- Matrix of passed legislation / executive branch policies
- Matrix of pending or draft legislation / executive branch policies
Analysis of state / local legislation / executive branch policies

- What groups were involved with the development of the legislation?
- How long did the legislation take to pass?
- What were the key strategies used resulting in its passing?
- What were the key points of contention and debate?
- How was the legislation framed?
- What policies have worked and what policies haven’t?
- What are the limitations and opportunities for state-level chemicals policy?
State Chemicals Policy Dialog

- State agencies and legislative offices dialog about current and future status of chemicals policy efforts at a state level: their implications, barriers to implementation, and opportunities for cross state collaboration.

- Beginning late June 2007, hourly discussions facilitated by LCSP on subjects:
  - Brominated flame retardant policies
  - Design for Environment and green chemistry policies
  - Data collection
  - Data flow through the supply chain
  - Chemical prioritization and evaluation
  - Chemical substitution and alternatives assessment
  - Regulation of emerging technologies e.g. nanomaterials
Dialog to continue…

- Is the US lagging behind in sustainable chemicals management?
- Do the states need to take leadership in promoting chemicals policy?
- Is the US approach to chemicals policy putting states at a global disadvantage?

What can and should the states be doing to address this problem?