# Green Science Policy Institute

How Policy Makers And Purchasers Can Reduce The Use Of Harmful Chemicals And Prevent Regrettable Substitutions

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## A Planetary Boundary for Chemical Pollution



Chemical pollution is global:

- Rapidly increasing global production
- Persistence and long range transport
- Finite capacity of the earth to absorb toxics

### Demands a globally coordinated response

Diamond et al, 2015, Environment International

## **Regrettable Substitution**



Decabromodiphenyl ether

Concerns:

- Persistence
- Bioaccumulation
- Toxicity



#### Decabromodiphenyl ethane

Concerns:

- Persistence
- Bioaccumulation
- Toxicity

One definition of insanity: "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"

EVALUATING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUAL CHEMICALS IS UNWORKABLE



#### BUT ADDRESSING SIX GROUPS OF CHEMICALS OF CONCERN IS MANAGEABLE









## The Six Classes

- 1. Highly fluorinated chemicals (PFASs) stain and water repellants
- 2. Chlorinated antimicrobials triclosan and triclocarban
- 3. Flame retardants

brominated, chlorinated, phosphate

- 4. Bisphenols and phthalates phthalates, BPA, BPS, etc.
- 5. Organic solvents

benzene, methylene chloride, xylene, etc.

#### 6. Certain metals

lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, etc.

Is it necessary?

# Is it worth it?

# Is there a safer alternative?

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## The Six Classes Challenge

Can the use of the Six Classes in consumer products be reduced by 50% in five years?



## SixClasses.org 15-minute webinars on Six Classes containing chemicals of concern

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# Classes I to 3

## **Class 1: Highly Fluorinated Chemicals**

Carbon-Fluorine bond strength:

- Leads to oil and water repellency
- Lasts for geologic time!





November 2014 Helsingør Statement on Poly & Perfluorinated Alkyl Substances

## May 2015 The Madrid Statement on Highly Fluorinated Chemicals



"We call on the international community to cooperate in limiting the production and use of PFASs and in developing safer non-fluorinated alternatives."

> Signed by 230 scientists from 40 countries 2015: Environmental Health Perspectives

## In the news

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED COLUMNIST

#### Chemicals in Your Popcorn?

JUNE 4, 2015



What do a pizza box, a polar bear and you have in common?

<u>All carry a kind of industrial toxicant</u> called poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFASs, that do two things: They make life convenient, and they also appear to increase the risk of cancer.

#### These Chemicals in Pizza Boxes and Carpeting Last Forever

More than 200 scientists around the world document the threats of perfluorinated compounds and call for more government control.

The New Hork Times Magazine

By Lindsey Konkel, National Geographic PUBLISHED MAY 01, 2015







## THE TEFLON

TOXIN

DuPont and the Chemistry of Deception

### The Lawyer Who Became DuPont's Worst Nightmare

Rob Bilott was a corporate defense attorney for eight years. Then he took on an environmental suit that would upend his entire career — and expose a brazen, decades-long history of chemical pollution.

By NATHANIEL RICH JAN. 6, 2016

The New Hork Times

E Home



November 2015 Highly Fluorinated Chemicals



#### November 2015:

Scientific Guidance Panel votes unanimously to add entire class of Highly Fluorinated Chemicals (PFASs) to priority list of chemicals.

http://biomonitoring.ca.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/SGPMeetingSummaryNovember2015.pdf

# Watersheds with point sources have higher detection frequencies for PFASs



# Air Force to stop using AFFF foam in training exercises

- Drinking water of six million Americans contaminated with PFAS
- AFFF firefighting foams used in training are a major contributor
- Air Force, on 19 August 2016, said:
  - "will stop using foam in training exercises"
  - "will replace all C8 foam with C6 by the end of this year"



# Are short chain safer than long?

- Industry Knowledge Foundation: "...short chain fluorinated chemicals have a favorable environmental, health and safety profile, rapid bioelimination and are not bioaccumulative... they are safe for workers, consumers and the environment ..."
- DuPont filed 16 reports to the EPA between April 2006 and January 2013 citing similar adverse health effects in animal studies from short chain exposure as found from long including cancer of the liver, pancreas, and testicles as well as kidney disease, liver degeneration, and uterine polyps. (Sharon Lerner, *The Intercept*)

#### BRANDS ARE ELIMINATING HIGHLY FLUORINATED CHEMICALS

adidas	ESIPIRIT	Crate&Barrel	HaM
LEVI STRAUSS & CO.	MARKS <mark>&amp;</mark> SPENCER	Sebenetton	BURBERRY
IKEA	MANGO	PUMA	ZARA

source: http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/detox/fashion/detox-catwalk

## **Class 2: Antimicrobials**

#### Triclosan





#### Triclocarban





Courtesy: Dr. Gary Ginsberg

## TCS/TCC in Soap Could Work, But Don't Why: Contact Time!



#### Lifetime exposure in aquatic organisms (toxic)

### **Triclosan & Triclocarban: Key Sludge Pollutants**



#### Number of Compounds, N = 72

**Mass of Compounds** 

McClellan & Halden, Water Res. 44: 626-636 (2010)

EPA Method 1694

## The Florence Statement documents environmental & human health concerns



Adapted from: Halden, ES&T, 2014. 48(7):3603-3611

## **Class 3 Flame retardants**

1970s Flammability Standards

- Children's sleepwear
- Furniture
- Foam plastic building insulation

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# **Technical Bulletin 117**



 Required furniture foam to withstand a small open flame for 12 seconds

 No significant fire safety benefit (fires start in exterior fabric not filling)

## San Antonio Statement on Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants

- Signed by over 200 scientist's from 30 countries
- Documents health and environmental harm and lack of proven fire safety benefit



#### 2010: Environmental Health Perspectives

## California Flammability Standard TB117-2013

#### Mandatory January 1, 2015

#### Flame retardants not needed, but can still be used

#### **Product Labels Required**

NOTICE THIS ARTICLE MEETS THE FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF ELECTRONIC AND APPLIANCE REPAIR, HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION TECHNICAL BULLETIN 117-2013. CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED NEAR OPEN FLAME OR WITH BURNING CIGARETTES.

The upholstery materials in this product: \_\_\_\_\_contain added flame retardant chemicals \_\_\_\_\_Contain NO added flame retardant chemicals

The State of California has updated the flammability standard and determined the fire safety requirements for this product can be met without adding flame retardant chemicals. The State has identified many flame retardant chemicals as being known to, or strongly suspected of, adversely impacting human health or development.

## PolyFR is the Replacement for HBCD



Brominated butadiene styrene copolymer







"Emerald Innovation 3000"

**2014** 10,000 tons/ year

"GreenCrest"

"FR-122P"

Began production 10,000 tons/ year

U.S. EPA, U.S. OSHA, Chemical Watch

## **Class 4:** Bisphenols and Phthalates

#### Uses:

- Bisphenols: plastics,
- cash register receipts, adhesives, can linings



http://www.susanfreinkel.com/books\_Plastic.html

 Phthalates: plasticizers, lubricants, solvents, emulsifiers, fragrances



## Class 5: Organic Solvents (aliphatic, aromatic, halogenated, oxygenated)

- Hydrocarbon solvents
  - Aliphatic organic solvents (petroleum-based)
  - Aromatic organic solvents (toluene, xylene, benzene)
- Chlorinated solvents
  - E.g., Methylene chloride, perc, TCE
- Oxygenated solvents
  - Acetone, glycol ethers, alcohols





## Class 6: Certain Metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury etc.)



## The Six Classes Challenge

Can the use of the Six Classes in consumer products be reduced by 50% in five years?

# "Tackling Toxics" in Science

Scientists can:

- Develop safer chemistries
- Evaluate impacts across lifecycle
- Translate research to catalyze action among users and regulators
- Contribute to policy recommendations
- Collaborate on scientific consensus statements

#### Purchasers can ask:



"Do we need this chemical, given the potential for harm?"

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## The Florence Statement on Triclosan and Triclocarban

- Consensus statement
- Documents health and environmental harm and lack of proven benefit



To Sign, please visit our table outside the Exhibit Hall or go to GreenSciencePolicy.org/Florence-Statement

# For monthly e-newsletters www.greensciencepolicy.org

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## By reducing use of Six Classes

# We can have a healthier world.

For more information Google: Green Science Policy