

Toward a Cancer-free Economy

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“The true burden of environmentally induced cancers has been grossly underestimated.”

Pres.Obama: “Use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that needlessly increase healthcare costs, cripple our nation’s productivity

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CANCER RISK

What We Can Do Now



Media and NGO responses

- Report received one billion “impressions” in the months following release
- Health Care Without Harm includes the Report in its “Science Resources” – see <https://noharm-uscanada.org/issues/us-canada/chemicals-resources>
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments featured Report in 2010

Stonyfield yogurt container top



Solutions going forward

“ ‘Green chemistry’ initiatives and research, including process redesign, should be pursued and supported more aggressively”



The Wet-Cleaning Example

- Perchloroethylene exposure is used by hundreds of dry cleaners in Mass.
- “Five Chemicals Alternatives Assessment Study” identified wet-cleaning alternative
- On-going training and small grants for transition to wet-cleaning (see http://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Business/Small_Businesses/Dry_Cleaning)

Mass. Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control State Plan, 2012-2016

- Ten Broad Goals, forty-four objectives
- Three (6.8%) objectives deal with environment
 - Increase number of providers with accurate understanding of role environment plays
 - Increase number of consumers aware of natural and man-made (industrial, manufacturing) cancer-causing substances
 - Increase number of school officials aware of PCBs in school buildings

Where do we go next?

- Campaign for a Cancer-free Economy
 - Continue to build a broad campaign, increase public awareness, advance safer alternatives
 - Develop model projects, educational materials, promote chemicals policy reform
 - Convene “change agents” to develop a “Roadmap”
 - Build partnerships, strategies and fundraising