



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin October 21, 2009

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to children's environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website:

http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins.

ICEH Highlights

New Children's Environmental Health Toolkit

As part of the Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum held earlier this month, a new searchable toolkit of resources on children's environmental health has been added to the [CHE-Washington website](#). Created by the Children's Environmental Health Working Group of CHE-Washington, the toolkit includes all the topics that were presented at the forum. Some materials are available in foreign languages. [Visit the toolkit](#).



Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

[EPA and MDEQ seek comment on proposed Dow Chemical Agreement: public meeting Nov. 5.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality said today that they are seeking comments from the public on a proposed agreement with the Dow Chemical Co. The agreement outlines the next steps in a comprehensive Superfund evaluation of dioxin contamination in the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River and Bay and their floodplains.

[Wipe out lead poisoning.](#)

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 18-24, is set aside to educate parents and children about the dangers of lead exposure, especially lead-based paint hazards in housing. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[See related news articles: [Brown County Lead Coalition wants parents to be aware of dangers](#), [Lead poisoning can impact a child's development](#) and [15,000 people to move away from lead poisoning threat in central China](#)]

[New EPA information on insect repellents.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched a new web page containing product information on certain skin-applied insect repellents. EPA's goal is to provide the public with information on registered insect repellents and their effectiveness claims in a clear, consistent, and user-friendly format.

[WMA proposes action plan to protect health from climate change.](#)

A package of proposals designed to raise the world's awareness of the link between health and climate change and to minimize the risks of increased malnutrition, death, disease and injury, particularly among the most vulnerable populations, have been put forward by the World Medical Association.

[See a related news article: [Health 'forgotten' in climate talks](#)]

[California to set first hex chromium drinking water level.](#)

Hexavalent chromium (hex chrome), the notorious cancer-causing chemical made famous in the film Erin Brockovich, contaminates drinking water in over 500 California communities, according to environmental and public health experts. The California Environmental Protection Agency is taking public comment through today on a proposed level for hex chrome in drinking water.

[EPA to weigh public comment on Indiana's new wastewater permit for U.S. Steel Gary Works.](#)

EPA is withholding final judgment on the new draft permit until Indiana Department of Environmental Management's 45-day comment period, including a Nov. 18 public hearing, is completed and all comments considered. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA administrator announces plan to retool and reinvigorate clean water enforcement program.](#)

The Clean Water Action Enforcement Plan is a first step in revamping the compliance and enforcement program. It seeks to improve the protection of our nation's water quality, raise the bar in federal and state performance and enhance public transparency. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[New website: Find Water Polluters Near You.](#)

The New York Times has compiled data on more than 200,000 facilities that have permits to discharge pollutants and collected responses from states regarding compliance.

[The future of U.S. chemicals policy conference videos.](#)

Videos of the "Future of U.S. Chemicals Policy conference are now available for viewing online.

[EPA issues final aircraft drinking water rule](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing a final rule to ensure that safe and reliable drinking water is provided to aircraft passengers and crew.

[EPA publishes voluntary guidelines for methamphetamine laboratory cleanup.](#)

EPA has issued a document providing state and local governments technical guidance for methamphetamine lab cleanups.

[New video: Don't Mess With Mercury.](#)

As part of Children's Health month, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry today launched its "Don't Mess with Mercury" video in an effort to protect children from the dangers of mercury.

[Job opening: Wenatchee, Washington.](#)

The Chelan-Douglas Health District has an opening for an environmental health specialist to conduct routine public health inspections, review facility designs for code compliance and more. The position will stay open until filled.

[Job opening: Tumwater, Washington.](#)

The Washington State Department of Health has an opening for an asthma projects coordinator within the Community and Family Health Division. The opportunity closes on October 28, 2009.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) 2009 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference

Thursday October 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wheaton, Illinois

at the DuPage County Administration Building, Building #421, 111 North County Farm Road

Sponsor: Illinois Department of Public Health

This conference is held to assist environmental professionals, renovation contractors, and home property managers in identifying home health risks and improving maintenance and remodeling practices while maintaining a healthy home environment for occupants. Sessions will focus primarily on exposure to lead and home toxicants that may cause short- and long-term health effects as a result of these exposures. This conference will cover the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vicky Ritz, 217-785-4475 or vicky.ritz@illinois.gov

2) Perspectives from UK/US Policymakers on Obesity Prevention

Thursday October 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Washington, DC

at the Institute of Medicine Keck Building, 500 5th Street, NW, Room 100

Sponsor: The Institute of Medicine, the UK Department of Health and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The workshop will provide insight to the similarities and differences between how the US and UK address obesity prevention and a forum for comparative understanding of obesity-related policies. In turn, this workshop can provide shared discussion on the possible solutions from each country to confront the obesity epidemic. Preregistration is requested.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Institute of Medicine, 202-334-2352 or iomwww@nas.edu

3) 2009 NECON Conference

Friday October 23, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Marlborough, Massachusetts

at the Royal Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: New England Coalition for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NECON)

In 1986, the New England Governors' Conference charged NECON to interact with the states' chief health officers and other health policymakers and to submit recommendations periodically for the improvement of the health status of the region. NECON responds to that charge through annual conferences and interactive working groups that continually address the prevention and control of chronic diseases.

Price: \$55

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NECON, 401-272-5522 or info@neconinfo.org

4) 16th Annual Canadian Conference on International Health

Sunday through Wednesday, October 25 - 28, 2009

Ottawa, Ontario Canada

at Crowne Plaza Ottawa Hotel, 101 Lyon Street N

Sponsor: Canadian Society for International Health

The 2009 Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) will examine inequities of health status and the impact on the health of marginalized, vulnerable and indigenous populations of changing environments, whether these changes are due to climate, technology, the economy or threats to human security. This conference will bring attention to our responsibility as global citizens to take action on progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ultimately health equity. The conference will address the best evidence and action on the progress of the MDGs, the role of health diplomacy and the evidence and opportunities for action as we integrate a social-determinants-of-health framework into our policies, programs and action at the global, national and local levels.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 613 241-5785 x 326 or 2009ccih@csih.org

5) 2009 National Environmental Public Health Conference

Monday through Wednesday, October 26 - 28, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street NE

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health, US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Environmental Health Association, US Department of Health and Human Services

With a theme of "Healthy People in a Healthy Environment", the conference seeks to promote the nation's environmental-health capacity by enhancing the expertise of environmental-health professionals - including public health and health-care professionals, academic researchers, representatives from communities and organizations, as well as advocacy and business groups with a primary interest in environmental public health. The conference aims to develop and encourage innovative strategies for addressing existing and emerging issues in addition to being a forum for CDC/ATSDR and its many partners to share research, scientific and program information focusing on environmental public-health priorities.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 678-261-7002 or d_cook@team-psa.com

6) ISES 2009 Annual Conference

Sunday through Thursday, November 1 - 5, 2009

Minneapolis, Minnesota

at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center

Sponsor: International Society of Exposure Science

The ISES 2009 Annual Conference will bring together scientists from a wide range of disciplines to share current research activities and to identify critical needs for exposure science in the 21st century. The goal of ISES is to foster and advance the science of exposure analysis related to environmental contaminants, both for human populations and ecosystems.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: ises09@gmail.com

7) 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish

Monday through Thursday, November 2 - 5, 2009
Portland, Oregon
at the Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Avenue

Sponsor: US EPA and co-hosted by the Oregon Department of Human Services

This event brings together public health and environmental professionals from governmental agencies, industry, environmental and health advocacy groups and other interested parties to discuss the many issues related to the risks and benefits of fish consumption.

Price: see the Registration tab on the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the Contacts tab on the website

8) Symposium on Food Systems & Public Health S3: Safe, Secure & Sustainable

Wednesday through Friday, November 4 - 6, 2009
San Diego, California
at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, 1441 Quivira Road

Sponsor: California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, California Department Farming A, California Department of Public Health, California Environmental Health Association, California Retail Food Safety Coalition, Loma Linda University and United States Food and Drug Administration

The health of the public, our environment and the economy are intrinsically linked to our food system and the food choices we make. The 2009 S3 Symposium will examine aspects of our current food system that define varying levels of food safety, security, and sustainability; explore the implications for our health; and unveil groundbreaking solutions to our most pressing issues. Featuring speakers such as Dr. Mark Horton, director of CDPH; A.G. Kawamura, secretary of CDFA; and Andy Fisher, executive director of Community Food Security Coalition, S3 sessions will appeal to a wide array of disciplines, including public health, environmental health, epidemiology, nutrition, food safety, food industry, agriculture, academia and more.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sheryl Baldwin, [530-676-0715](tel:530-676-0715) or sheryl@ccdeh.com

9) Technical Symposium on Corrosive Imported Drywall

Thursday and Friday, November 5 - 6, 2009
Tampa, Florida
at the Mainsail Suites Hotel & Conference Center

Sponsor: Florida Department of Health, University of Florida Hinkley Center, University of South Florida Sunshine Education and Research Center

Corrosive Chinese drywall has become the focus of health concerns, failing equipment and lawsuits. But what does the research really say about this controversial product and what is being done to fix the problem? This is the first conference to bring together researchers from the primary state and federal agencies to present their findings on materials analysis, emissions testing, exposure assessment and toxicology, remediation/repair and disposal.

Price: \$300

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 352-392-1701 conferences@dce.ufl.edu

10) APHA 137th Annual Meeting & Exposition

Saturday through Wednesday, November 7 - 11, 2009

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at the Pennsylvania Convention Center

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

The APHA Annual Meeting theme is "Water and Public Health: the 21st Century Challenge." The APHA Annual Meeting will address a wide range of public-health issues associated with water, including water-borne diseases, flood, droughts, ground water contamination, water treatment and sanitation. The APHA Public Health Nursing, Environment and Occupational Health and Safety sections are sponsoring a special session on climate Change, nursing and public health on Monday November 9th.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

11) Toxic Environmental Threats to Children's Development: What We Know and What We Can Do

Saturday November 14, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Boston, Massachusetts

at Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, 221 Rivermoor Street

Sponsor: the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, the Boston Institute for the Development of Infants and Parents (BIDIP) and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society

Emerging scientific evidence alerts us to the ways that environmental toxins affect children's brains, bodies and behavior. As family members and as professionals, it is critical that we understand the role that these substances play in children's development, and understand what we can do to minimize these risks. This conference will present cutting-edge research on the effects of toxins - such as lead, food additives, and endocrine disruptors found in plastics, cans and other sources - on intellectual, emotional and physical development. We will hear about practical approaches, programs and interventions that have successfully reduced exposure to these chemicals, including programs targeting families living in urban housing. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss how to apply the information learned at the conference in their own practices, communities and family lives. Speakers include Philip Landrigan, MD; David Bellinger, PhD; Bernard Weiss, PhD; Megan Sandel, MD; and Barbara Brenner, DrPH.

Price: \$135 for 6 CE credits, \$155 for 6 CME credits, or \$67.50 for 6 CE/CME credits for graduate students, unemployed or retired professionals

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: MSPP, 617-244-1682 or ce@mspp.edu

12) Oregon DEQ Toxics Reduction Opportunities Workshop

Tuesday November 17, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at The Ambridge, 1333 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Sponsor: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ will be hosting a day-long workshop on reducing toxic pollutants in Oregon's environment. Speakers will share their perspectives on toxics in the environment, and

DEQ will present information about existing efforts to reduce toxics. Participants will brainstorm positive solutions for the future during focused small group sessions. This workshop will be an exciting event for those interested in what could be done in the arenas of pollution prevention, public education, incentive-based programs and cooperative efforts to reduce toxics. Please pre-register by Monday November 9th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Chris Gannon, 503-229-5622 or gannon.chris@deq.state.or.us

13) Sixth Annual Early Environmental Exposures Meeting

Thursday and Friday, November 19 - 20, 2009

Sausalito, California
at Cavallo Point

Sponsor: Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers (BCERC) network is conducting epidemiologic and biologic studies investigating the influence of early environmental exposures on pubertal maturation and mammary-gland development and the potential of these developmental changes to alter the risk of breast cancer in later life. This scientific meeting seeks to build on the growing interaction between biologic and epidemiologic lines of research inquiry. The latest scientific findings from the BCERC and other relevant studies will be presented. Community participation and advocacy concerns will continue to be integrated into the program. Content will include the basic biology of breast development; environmental exposures that influence pubertal maturation, breast development and adult breast cancer; and public health communication of the risks associated with these exposures. Environment is defined to include diet, chemical and physical exposures, radiation and psychosocial factors. All participants must preregister and will be expected to stay for the entire duration of the meeting.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: admin@bcerc.org

14) World Congress on Disabilities Conference and Expo

Thursday and Friday, November 19 - 20, 2009

Jacksonville, Florida
at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center

Sponsor: World Congress on Disabilities

The conference will present issues facing the disability community from experts. Some presentations address nutritional and other environmental contributors to disabilities, especially autism spectrum disorders. See the full list of sessions on the website.

Price: \$150 until October 16th, \$175 from October 17th to November 15th, or \$195 after that

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: WCD, 201-722-9233 or info@wcdexpo.com

15) New Habits of Mind for New Solutions

Friday November 20, 2009

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington
at NWETC Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This eight-hour class is about systems thinking, systems in the natural world, and ways to increase our ability to address complex problems. Our class will give you the competence and confidence to start using systems thinking in your organizations and communities to better understand complex problems - whether you find them in the natural environment or in social systems. Participants will learn what makes a system a system, and why systems thinking is so useful and so necessary in our world. We'll share our understanding of the ways and habits of systems thinking, as well as how to apply these habits. We'll learn about some systems thinking tools, such as causal loops and behavior over time graphs, and how to identify feedback loops. We'll use the "iceberg model" to deepen our understanding of leverage points for change. At the end, we'll put it all together - applications and practice. Learning will occur through hands-on activities such as small group conversations, large group dialogue, individual reflection, system thinking games, viewing personal stories through a new lens, and the collaborative exploration of complex problems. Both instructors' intense interest in the natural world has been enriched through the study and application of systems thinking.

Price: \$195, \$155 reduced tuition for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, [206-762-1976](tel:206-762-1976)

16) Making Healthy Babies, Raising Healthy Children: Living Well in a Toxic World

Saturday November 21, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Berkeley, California

at the UC Berkeley Art Museum Theatre, 2625 Durant Avenue

Sponsor: Sage Femme, Ryder Foundation, Midwifery Today, Autism Recovery Consortium

The 2009 CIA World Factbook ranks the USA 45th among nations for infant mortality -- the worst among all industrialized countries. The autism rate in our country is now 1 in 100. How can we understand and take appropriate steps to ensure healthy mothers, births and children? Take a unique look at the entire system that affects our future generations. This symposium brings together scientists, doctors, researchers and professionals for a compelling conversation about environmental influences around birth and childhood. It features plenary speakers, panels, audience questions and film clips. Revolutionary new software will also be introduced that will help parents assess the risks our children may encounter from the environment before birth, at birth and during childhood. Our three-part program will make clearer to attendees what they should know about environmental health, their world, and how it affects them and their children.

Price: \$60 until October 31st, \$75 after that; a student discount is available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Exposure to p,p'-DDE: A risk factor for type 2 diabetes.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The results from the present case-control study, including a follow-up design, confirms that p,p'-DDE exposure can be a risk factor for type 2 diabetes. PLoS One.

[See a related news article: [DDT may cause androgyny in babies -- experts](#)]

[City awarded \\$105 million in Exxon Mobil lawsuit.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

A federal jury found Exxon Mobil liable for contaminating groundwater in New York City and awarded the city \$104.7 million in compensatory damages. Although the city didn't

get as much money as they wanted, lawyers called the decision a "total victory." New York Times.

[How safe is your drinking water?](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

An estimated one in 10 Americans have been exposed to drinking water that contains dangerous chemicals or fails to meet a federal health benchmark in other ways. We're talking carcinogens in the tap water of major American cities and unsafe chemicals in drinking water wells. Fresh Air, NPR.

[See related articles: [Atrazine in our water](#), [An assessment of exposure to prescribed estrogens in drinking water](#), [Senate Committee holds hearing for Lejeune water contamination](#), [Pollution an enduring legacy at old missile sites](#), [Boxer plans hearing on toxic school drinking water](#), [GRU won't remove fluoride: commission will vote](#) and [Contaminated wells threaten 2 million people in Ha Noi](#)]

[Landfill sites may be used to dump radioactive waste.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The government is poised to allow nuclear power generators to use ordinary landfill sites for dumping "hundreds of thousands of tons" of waste in an attempt to reduce the £73bn cost of decommissioning old reactors. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[Risky beauty business.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

A group of advocates are concerned the chemicals used in manicures, and especially acrylic nails, are affecting the health of nail salon workers. American Public Media.

[Mercury levels similar in autistic, normal kids.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Children with autism have mercury levels similar to those of other kids, suggesting the mysterious disorder is caused by a range of factors rather than "a single smoking gun," researchers said on Monday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Why are preemies more likely to develop autism?](#)]

[Michigan limits mercury emissions from coal-fired plants, requires 90 percent cutback by 2015.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Michigan's coal-fired power plants will be required to make drastic cuts in mercury emissions under regulations announced Monday. Associated Press.

[See a related article from New Jersey: [Environmentalists announce campaign against power plant](#)]

[Fossil fuels' hidden cost is in billions, study says.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Burning fossil fuels costs the United States about \$120 billion a year in health costs, mostly because of thousands of premature deaths from air pollution, the National Academy of Sciences reported in a study issued Monday. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Smog tougher on the obese](#), [Effect of early life exposure to air pollution on development of childhood asthma](#), [Air pollution worse on one side of the street](#), [State targets school bus emissions](#), [New York enacts ban on open waste burning](#), [Study finds danger in the air around Tonawanda Coke](#), [Particulate matter in the air and its origins in coal-burning regions](#), ['We have so far to go' in pollution fight -- EPA air chief](#), [Air pollutants from abroad a growing concern, says new report](#), [Canada quietly asks EPA to weaken anti-pollution measures](#), [Haifa kids at highest risk from pollution](#)]

[Household insecticides may be linked to autoimmune diseases.](#)

Monday, October 19, 2009

New research suggests a link between women's exposure to household insecticides -- including roach and mosquito killers -- and the autoimmune disorders rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Georgia.

[Is your new car making you sick?](#)

Monday, October 19, 2009

It used to be that buying a new car was a totally positive experience. That was until somebody started testing the interiors for toxins. That new-car smell is the factory-fresh, high-tech materials in the seats and on the dash undergoing off-gassing. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[Controversy heats up as cities look to incinerators.](#)

Monday, October 19, 2009

Waste-to-energy is being touted as a green technology that can produce energy, help with global warming, reduce waste and generate revenue. But a growing body of evidence suggests the hidden costs of incinerators outweigh the benefits. Canwest News Service.

[Halloween face paint can have a scary side.](#)

Monday, October 19, 2009

A recall of a face paint in May that gave some Girl Scouts rashes is one of the reasons the Food and Drug Administration is warning parents to be careful that Halloween face paints don't cause allergic reactions and other problems. USA Today.

[Center for Excellence in Children's Environmental Health launches.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

The Center provides consultations, referrals and medical management to children diagnosed with diseases that are possibly linked to toxins in the environment and to children who have been exposed to toxic substances. Long Island Press, New York.

[A new shade of hospital green.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

The hospital has nurtured an atmosphere that supports green initiatives -- everything from setting up recycling bins in patient areas to figuring out ways to prevent its pharmaceutical waste from ending up in landfills. Burlington Free Press, Vermont

[Blood cancer cluster researchers to hold public meeting.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Northeastern Pennsylvania at a meeting later this month can hear from scientists studying clusters of a rare blood cancer and learn about a community group that will serve as a liaison between residents and researchers. Wilkes-Barre Citizen's Voice, Pennsylvania.

[Hormone therapy possible culprit for Marin's high breast cancer rate.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Medical researchers trying to unlock the mystery of Marin County's high incidence of breast cancer now suspect that Marin women's use of estrogen and progesterone to treat menopausal symptoms was likely a major factor. Marin Independent Journal, California.

[EPA investigation into Atlanta lead smelter.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

An investigation by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to open an investigation of the site, also known as Metalico-Evans, said EPA spokeswoman Dawn Harris-Young. Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Georgia.

[See a related article about another smelter: [Frisco officials fight plans to expand lead smelter](#)]

[Green Intelligence: Creating Environments That Protect Human Health.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

One of the most significant lessons to be learned from books such as this one is how one country's actions impact significantly the rest of the world. Washington Times.

[Pesticide endosulfan considered for global ban.](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Endosulfan is under consideration for inclusion on the list of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the 166-member Stockholm Convention -- a treaty to protect human

health and the environment from chemicals. Reuters.

[Government recognizes more illnesses caused by Agent Orange.](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

The list of illnesses the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes as being caused by exposure to Agent Orange during the war continues to increase. Carrol County Times, Maryland.

[Beverly Wright tackles environmental racism.](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Noticing that the residents of "Cancer Alley," between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, were mostly African-Americans and other minorities, Wright realized race and ethnicity were factors in the environmental situation. Voice of America.

[Green spaces 'improve health.'](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

There is more evidence that living near a 'green space' has health benefits. Research in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health says the impact is particularly noticeable in reducing rates of mental ill health. BBC.

[See a related article: [Quiet green spaces needed to reduce stress in cities, study says](#)]

[Deforestation and the true cost of Europe's cheap meat.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

Cheap meat has become a way of life in much of Europe, but the full price is being paid across Latin America as vast soya plantations and their attendant chemicals lead to poisonings and violence. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[US report confirms smoking bans cut heart attacks.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

Indoor smoking bans are effective at lowering the risk of heart attack, even among nonsmokers, by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, a panel of U.S. health experts confirmed in a report on Thursday. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Smoking a factor in infant death disparities](#)]

[Radiation overdoses point up dangers of CT scans.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

At a time when Americans receive far more diagnostic radiation than ever before, the cases underscore the risks posed by a diagnostic tool when used incorrectly. New York Times.

[See a related article: [CT scans and cancer: How to minimize your risk](#)]

[Giving babies Tylenol may blunt vaccines' effects.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

Giving babies Tylenol to prevent fever when they get childhood vaccinations may backfire and make the shots a little less effective, surprising new research suggests. Associated Press.

[Is nanotechnology regulatable? Reporting from the Nano Summit.](#)

Thursday, October 15, 2009

On October 8-9, roughly 150 invited guests -- graduate students, researchers, government officials, and consultants -- gathered in North Carolina to discuss priorities and provide recommendations to businesses and policy makers to ensure the safe development of nanotechnology. Institute for Ethics & Emerging Technologies.

[See related articles: [Tiny technology may yield major finds -- and possible perils](#) and [Nanotechnology: sci-fi fears vs. a world of innovation](#)]

[\\$2.5M verdict over birth defects blamed on Paxil.](#)

Thursday, October 15, 2009

The closely watched verdict handed down Tuesday in Philadelphia was the first of about 600 similar cases pending across the country that blame Paxil for heart problems and other birth defects. Associated Press.

[Analysis of cellphone studies finds tumor risk.](#)

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Scientists looking at 23 studies involving almost 38,000 people initially saw no connection between cellphone use and the development of tumors. But a closer look at eight of the highest quality studies tells another story. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See related articles: [For kids: Are cell phones safe?](#) and [Attack of the antennas, Immunohistochemical study of postnatal neurogenesis after whole-body exposure to electromagnetic fields](#)]

[Blinded by the light.](#)

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

In every corner of the globe tonight, our nighttime sky shines brighter than it did less than 10 years ago with potentially serious consequences to humans, animals and ecosystem. Miller-McCune.

[Toxic milk.](#)

Monday, October 12, 2009

In India, the baby food scenario is complicated. A recent study by the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre found traces of highly carcinogenic aflatoxins in 87 samples of infant milk food, infant formula, milk-based and liquid milk samples. Popular brands are often counterfeited. Calcutta Telegraph, India.

[Cancer-causing virus linked to chronic fatigue.](#)

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Researchers have linked an infectious virus known to cause cancer in animals to chronic-fatigue syndrome, a major discovery for sufferers of the condition and one that concerned scientists for its potential public-health implications. Wall Street Journal.

[8 surprising ways to prevent breast cancer.](#)

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Choices in the kitchen -- from the foods we eat to the way we cook them -- can affect our risk of breast cancer. The Daily Green.

[Melting glaciers bring 1980s pollution revival.](#)

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Bad hair and shoulder pads are not the only things from the 1980s that we'd rather not see again. Nasty chemicals banned in that decade are also on the list. Unfortunately, melting Alpine glaciers are generating a revival of toxic organic pollutants. New Scientist.

[New rules for radon safety.](#)

Friday, October 09, 2009

Radon gas is an unwelcome predator in the neighborhoods of southeast Michigan. According to the EPA, thousands of cancer deaths each year are caused by radon gas. Detroit WXYZ TV, Michigan.

[Toxic chemicals found in Maine health workers.](#)

Friday, October 09, 2009

Doctors and nurses in 10 states, including Maine, tested positive for at least 24 different toxic chemicals in their blood and other body fluids in a study released Thursday by the national organization Physicians for Social Responsibility. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

[See a related article: [Study: Toxic chemicals endangering health](#)]

[Thalidomide victims still fighting for justice 35 years on.](#)

Friday, October 09, 2009

Britain's most revered newspaper editor returned to the scene of his greatest triumph yesterday, joining thalidomide survivors to demand that the Government acknowledge its role in the world's worst drug disaster. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[Event promotes environmental, health benefits of walking to school.](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

On Wednesday, a number of schools in different districts celebrated International Walk to School Day -- to promote the virtues of children walking to school. Sacramento Bee,

California.

[Arsenic in rice: a recipe for nutrient loss.](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Exposure to arsenic, a class 1 carcinogen for which there is no safe dose, affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Food could be a significant source of arsenic. In some regions, high arsenic levels may be depressing the micronutrients people need to stay healthy and fight disease. Environmental Science & Technology.

[Concerned about BPA: Check your receipts.](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Some -- but not all -- cash-register and credit-card receipts can be rich sources of exposure to BPA, a hormone-mimicking pollutant. Green chemist John Warner claims that receipts are the biggest BPA exposure source for people in urban environments. Science News.

[See a related article: [Scientists chastise government for drawing out BPA study](#)]

[Endocrine disruptors in our food?](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

The Cascade network of excellence is studying the ability of certain of these molecules present in our food to disrupt our hormonal system. Research.eu. Brussels, Belgium.

[Common air pollutants react and make more pollution.](#)

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

Common air pollutants can react with one another to form highly reactive and toxic chlorine gasses, reports a study published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Environmental Health News.

[Kids' weight a factor in hospital admission.](#)

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

Overweight or underweight children who are seen in the emergency department are more likely to be admitted to the hospital, and to stay longer, than normal-weight youngsters, according to a study reported Monday. Reuters Health.

[Regulators plan to study risks of atrazine.](#)

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

New studies linking atrazine in drinking water with birth defects, low birth weights and reproductive problems in humans have prompted the EPA to study its effects. New York Times.

[See a related journal article: [Chronic exposure to the herbicide atrazine causes mitochondrial dysfunction and insulin resistance](#)]

Most of the news articles above come from [Environmental Health News](#).

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

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choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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