



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin July 27 2011

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

Children's Environmental Health Training

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington Chapter (CHE-WA) and the Washington State Environmental Health Association are offering a six-hour course in which you and your colleagues will discuss the connections between housing and children's environmental health and participate in case studies designed to strengthen your ability to identify and resolve common children's environmental health issues. More details are shown in event #3 below.

New Members

The Initiative on Children's Environmental Health welcomes these new members:

- Daniel Becker, MD, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Jennifer Castrup, MA, Sherman Oaks, California
- Pam Cowley, Tacoma, Washington
- Donald Fox, PhD, Houston, Texas
- George Howell, PhD, Starkville, Mississippi
- Lynne Johnson, MD, La Veta, Colorado
- Claudia LAmoreaux, Oakland, California
- Dana March, RN, MSN, CPNP, Chicago, Illinois
- Michele La Merrill, PhD, MPH, New York, New York
- Kathleen Michels, PhD, Silver Spring, Maryland
- Jennifer Pere, RN, Mercer Island, Washington
- Jeannine Scow, Redding, California
- Kimie Ueoka, Portland, Oregon

Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:
<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

[The Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011.](#)

On July 13, 2011, The Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011 was introduced in the US Senate and House. This act is essential to facilitate and strengthen current chemical legislation such as the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act, as well as new legislation such as the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011, the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Enhancement Act of 2010, and others.

[Call for comments: Preventive Controls for Registered Human Food and Animal Food/Feed Facilities.](#)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the opening of a docket to obtain

information about preventive controls and other practices used by facilities to identify and address hazards associated with specific types of food and specific processes. Submit either electronic or written comments by August 22, 2011.

[New report: Transportation and Health: Policy Interventions for Safer, Healthier People and Communities.](#)

This report examines the effects of transportation policies on public health in three key areas -- environment and environmental public health, community design and active transportation, and motor vehicle-related injuries and fatalities.

[EPA seeks public comments on new air quality permits for Shell and ConocoPhillips Arctic oil exploration activities.](#)

EPA will accept public comments on the revised draft permits through September 6 and at public hearings in Barrow, Alaska on August 23 and 24, and in Anchorage on August 26.

[Obama Administration officials and industry leaders unveil federal strategy to promote U.S.-based electronics recycling market and jobs.](#)

The announcement today includes the first voluntary commitments made by Dell, Sprint and Sony to EPA's industry partnership aimed at promoting environmentally sound management of used electronics.

[Investigating PAHs: your own mini-epi study.](#)

This lesson plan for high school and college students is based on a recent article in Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Other environmental health lessons have been created: [Consider the source](#) and [Using a spoon to clean the air](#)]

[Epi Info 7 webinar demonstrations.](#)

Epi Info 7, scheduled for release in fall 2011, represents a complete technology overhaul of the Epi Info platform. The Epi Info development team invites interested public health professionals who work with epidemiological data to attend one of these upcoming LiveMeeting webinars.

[Call for papers: Environment and public health aspects of diabetes.](#)

The Journal of Environment and Public Health has issues a call for papers on the environment and public health aspects of diabetes. Manuscripts are due May 4, 2012, for publication in November 2012.

[EPA strengthens key scientific database to protect public health.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced plans to improve its Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program as part of an ongoing effort initiated in 2009 to strengthen the program.

[EPA opens public comment on secondary air standards for nitrogen and sulfur oxides.](#)

After a careful review of the best available science, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing secondary air quality standards to protect the environment from nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur oxides (SOx).

[Call for proposals: Using Systems Science Methodologies to Protect and Improve Population Health.](#)

This FOA solicits Exploratory/Developmental applications from institutions/organizations that propose to apply one or more specific system science methodologies to public health and health care systems problems and contribute knowledge that will enhance effective decision making around the development of and prioritization of policies, interventions, and programs to improve population health.

[Call for proposals: Translational Research to Help Older Adults Maintain their Health and Independence in the Community.](#)

The goal of this FOA is to support translational research involving collaborations between academic research centers and community-based organizations with expertise serving the elderly (such as city and state health departments, city/town leadership councils, and Area Agencies on Aging) that will enhance our understanding of practical tools, techniques, programs and policies that communities across the nation can use to more effectively respond to needs of their aging populations.

[Open grant opportunities in sustainable community design.](#)

Several grant opportunities are listed, including Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants and Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants.

[Job opening: Anchorage, Alaska.](#)

Alaska Conservation Foundation, the single largest grant maker to Alaska conservation efforts, has openings for an executive director and for a major gifts officer.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events, including requests for proposals and abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) How To Bring About Large-scale Behavior Change

Three parts, all held on Saturdays: July 30, August 13 and September 10, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Seattle Public Library main branch, Wright-Ketcham meeting room

Sponsor: Sustainable Seattle

One of the most confounding challenges facing the sustainability movement is how to bring about a massive shift in human behavior. This master class series explores a variety of powerful insights from cognitive science for developing successful social change strategies. You'll learn how meaning arises in the workings of the human brain, why emotions are absolutely vital for engaging people in a process of persistent change, and what the root causes are that have driven societal institutions to the edge of ecological collapse. Participants will explore the evolutionary origins of morality and discover the psychological foundations of identity that merge values, ideology, and institutions into the powerful stories we collectively live in the modern world. Techniques will be provided to begin using this knowledge to communicate effectively, increase civic engagement, and design better structures for bringing about large-scale behavioral change. Participants can register for the entire series or individual sessions.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

2) Coal Mining in Alaska: Hazards to Human Health and the Environment

Monday August 1, 2011

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Alaska

There is increasing pressure to develop Alaska's coal for foreign export and domestic use, yet coal development poses serious threats to human health and the environment. The coal mining industry is the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in the United States according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Inhaling coal dust causes black lung disease in coal mine workers. Coal mining is also hazardous to people living nearby, who have been found to have higher rates of cardiopulmonary disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, lung disease and kidney disease. Communities near coal mines may also face health problems linked to

water pollution, as exposed rock from rubble deposits and abandoned mines releases heavy metals and other pollutants that contaminate drinking water and surface water. Join us to learn more about the health hazards of coal mining and community concerns about the proposed Wishbone Hill and Chuitna coal mines in Alaska.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

3) Children's Environmental Health Training

Three dates: Tuesday August 2nd (Tumwater), Thursday August 4th (Shoreline) and Wednesday August 24th (Spokane), 2011

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tumwater, Shoreline and Spokane, Washington

Sponsor: The Washington State Environmental Health Association and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington Chapter (CHE-WA)

Children spend a large portion of their time in their homes, and this training will focus on providing safe, healthy, lead-free environments for young children in and around their homes. During this six-hour course, you and your colleagues will discuss the connections between housing and children's environmental health and participate in case studies designed to strengthen your ability to identify and resolve common children's environmental health issues. Lunch is provided.

Price: \$25.00 for preregistration by the deadlines on the announcement; on-site registration is \$35.00

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Kerri Wagner, 360-738-8946 kerri@wseha.org

4) ElectroMagnetic Detection & Mitigation Seminar

Thursday through Monday, August 4 - 8, 2011

Clearwater, Florida

at the Moccasin Lake Nature Park

Sponsor: Institute for Bau-Biologie and Ecology

This seminar offers five days of lectures, hands-on labs for instrumentation usage, and interactive discussions. Participants will learn to identify, detect and mitigate electromagnetic emissions through proven case studies and practical examples. Sessions will explore the vital interrelationships between the built environment and human health, with emphasis on communications radiations from cell phones, cordless phones, smart meters, wireless internet and wireless games. This seminar is geared to the environmentally conscious public, as well as to working professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, interior design, building trades, real estate, city planning, health care, etc.

Price: \$1275, applying an early-bird discount of \$100

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: IBE, 866-960-0333

5) Can Exposures to Toxic Chemicals Contribute to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

Tuesday August 9, 2011

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: The Arc

Which toxics are associated with IDD's? Which ones pose the greatest threat? Is there anything that can be done to minimize the risk of exposure? Join us for this webinar

about how environmental toxics may contribute or exacerbate IDD and how one chapter is putting this knowledge into action. You will walk away with research-based facts that will be helpful for the individuals and families your chapter serves. Session speakers include Elise Miller, MEd, executive director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, and Meredith Salmi with The Arc of the Greater Twin Cities in Minnesota.

Price: \$60, with discounts for affiliated chapters of The Arc and NCE members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laurie Ertz, ertz@thearc.org

6) Epi Info™ 7 Webinar Demonstrations

four dates from August 9 - September 27, 2011

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Epi Info™ 7, scheduled for release in fall 2011, represents a complete technology overhaul of the Epi Info platform. The Epi Info™ development team invites interested public health professionals who work with epidemiological data to attend one of these upcoming LiveMeeting webinars.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sara Bedrosian, eri7@cdc.gov

7) Third Safe Routes to School National Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, August 16 - 18, 2011

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sponsor: hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota; presented by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Transportation professionals, SRTS advocates, program representatives, elected officials and community members will connect with colleagues to discuss ideas, resources, projects and noteworthy practices to enhance work that is creating healthier kids and communities.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

8) 2011 Environmental Justice Conference: One Community-One Environment

Tuesday through Friday, August 23 - 26, 2011 (August 23 is an optional training day)
Detroit, Michigan

Sponsor: Co-sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and EPA's Offices of Air and Radiation (OAR), Water (OW), Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), and Research and Development (ORD); the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); and Greendoor Initiative

Conference participants can learn about the following: 1) models for effective community engagement and capacity building; 2) strategies for addressing pollution sources that impact EJ communities; 3) federal interagency working group on EJ; 4) workforce development training and job creation; 5) updates: federal agencies' priorities for EJ; 6) hands-on demonstrations of tools and resources; and 7) funding opportunities.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Lena (Vickey) Epps-Price, 919-541-5573 or epps-price.lena@epa.gov

9) Partnership on Alternatives to Certain Phthalates Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday August 24, 2011
Crystal City, Virginia and virtual

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning a Design for the Environment (DfE) Alternatives Assessment under the Phthalates Chemical Action Plan. This alternatives assessment will help stakeholders identify safer chemicals and provides a basis for informed decision making by developing an in-depth comparison of potential human health and environmental impacts of chemical alternatives. The alternatives assessment will build upon existing knowledge with an emphasis on the potential for disproportionate impacts on children and other sensitive subpopulations. An option to attend via telephone is available.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Cal Baier-Anderson of DfE, 202-564-1933 or Baier-Anderson.Caroline@epa.gov

10) Symposium on Ethics of Environmental Health

Wednesday through Saturday, August 24 - 27, 2011

Prague, The Czech Republic

at the Courtyard by Marriott Prague Flora

Sponsor: The Society of Radiation Research and Emergency Planning in the Czech Medical Association

This first Symposium on Ethics of Environmental Health will address highly topical issues at the intersection of radiation protection, toxicology, ecology, medicine, risk ethics and bioethics.

Price: around 480 EUR

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Epigenetic 'memory' key to nature versus nurture.](#)

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Researchers at the John Innes Centre have made a discovery, reported this evening (24 July) in *Nature*, that explains how an organism can create a biological memory of some variable condition, such as quality of nutrition or temperature. ScienceDaily.

[Climate change forcing buried toxics back into atmosphere, scientists say.](#)

Monday, July 25, 2011

Climatologists have found that as climate change heats up oceans and melts sea ice and snow, buried pollutants, known as legacy POPs, or persistent organic pollutants, are being re-released back into the atmosphere. Solve Climate News.

[See other articles about the effects of climate change: [The Tropic of Chaos](#); [Tens of thousands starving to death in East Africa](#) and [Climate change may wipe out wild fruits, herbs](#)]

[Toxic Substances in Consumer Products](#)

Friday, July 22, 2011

International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) has undertaken a study to test levels of these toxins in products sold internationally. Results are provided.

[See other articles about consumer product safety: [After long battle, safer cribs](#); [Triclosan: Is Bath & Body Works' new soap harmful to teens?](#); [Toxic toys sold in Metro malls, shops](#); [Children's Safe Products -- Reporting Rule](#) and [Furniture linked to PBDE levels in pregnant women](#)]

[Environmental pollutants lurk long after they 'disappear.'](#)

Thursday, July 21, 2011

The health implications of polluting the environment weigh increasingly on our public consciousness, and pharmaceutical wastes continue to be a main culprit. Now a Tel Aviv University researcher says that current testing for these dangerous contaminants isn't going far enough. ScienceDaily.

[Government lacks legislation to prevent 'Sick Building Syndrome.'](#)

Thursday, July 21, 2011

After hearing about a number of cases in which government workers have become seriously ill due to their building environments, the Knesset Environment and Health Committee held a hearing on Tuesday about "Sick Building Syndrome" and the lack of legislation regarding this subject in Israel. Jerusalem Post, Israel.

[School district asthma numbers leave parents, doctors gasping.](#)

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Asthma in school-age children has never been higher; the national and state average is 11 percent and climbing. A Team 4 investigation discovers several school districts in western Pennsylvania that are far higher than the average. Pittsburgh WTAE TV, Pennsylvania.

[See another article about asthma: [Breastfeeding may prevent asthma. research suggests](#)]

[Stress during pregnancy and offspring pediatric disease: a national cohort study.](#)

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Maternal life stress during pregnancy may be a common risk factor for impaired child health. The results suggest new approaches to reduce childhood diseases. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Depression in pregnancy linked to childhood asthma](#) and [Parents' stress tied to pollution's effect on kids](#)]

[San Francisco passes cell phone radiation law.](#)

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

San Francisco supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved legislation aimed at helping consumers reduce their exposure to cell phone radiation, a move that industry groups denounced but that Supervisor John Avalos said could "perhaps save lives." San Francisco Bay Citizen, California.

[See other articles about radiation: [New Army study says radiation from airport body scanners is minor](#); [Airport body scanners: MEPs demand strict safeguards](#); [Childhood cancer no higher in vicinity of nuclear power plants, Swiss study suggests](#); [Mortality by neoplasia and cellular telephone base stations in the Belo Horizonte municipality, Minas Gerais state, Brazil](#) and [Panel tries to quantify radiation exposure risk](#)]

[Audits show health violations in drinking water.](#)

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Environmental Protection Agency audits show that many states are failing to accurately note health violations such as elevated levels of arsenic and chlorine in drinking water, - according to a new report. Washington Post.

[See other articles about water quality: [First Nation drinking water quality discussed](#); [NRC chairman urges stronger steps to address groundwater contamination at nuke plants](#); [Public forum on Lejeune water to engage local community](#); [County drinking water tests show traces of harmful chemicals at many sites](#); [Teflon component linked to arthritis](#) and [EPA issues final guidance to protect water quality in Appalachian communities from impacts of mountaintop mining](#)]

[Researchers' quest for gold.](#)

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Ultrafine gold particles, which are 1/80,000th the diameter of a human hair, hold great promise for treating diseases as diverse as cancer, diabetes or AIDS, but scientists must prove that new ways to treat disease will do no harm. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[Cancer diagnoses in 40-59 age group soar 20% in a generation.](#)

Monday, July 18, 2011

Cancer diagnoses in middle-aged men and women have soared by 20% in a generation as screening picks up more cases and smoking, drinking, obesity and unfitnes continue to take a toll. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See other articles about cancer: [Cancer killing fewer in New York](#); [C8 panel says it has found cancer death rise at DuPont](#); [C8 panel releases new reports](#); [Construction workers run much greater risk of getting skin cancer, according to researchers](#); [Lung cancer rates are still RISING in women but are falling among men](#) and [Despite risk, embalmers still embrace preservative](#)]

[Meat Eater's Guide ranks foods by environmental, health effects.](#)

Monday, July 18, 2011

The guide considers the effects of meat, fish, dairy and vegetable consumption on the environment and the climate, as well as human health and animal welfare. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See other articles about food and nutrition: [Japan adds beef to the contaminated menu](#); [Years of eating seafood from county waters could raise health concerns, state report says](#); [Testing Gulf seafood](#); [Access to grocers doesn't improve diets, study finds](#); [N.J. DEP warns of health risks of eating blue claw crabs from Newark Bay](#). [Lower Passaic River](#); [Vegetarian diet may protect against common bowel disorder](#); [Nutrition, physical activity and obesity: a compendium of state laws](#); [Vitamin D may slash diabetes risk: Meta-analysis](#); [School of Medicine researcher finds link between caffeine consumption and female infertility](#); [Omega-3 reduces anxiety and inflammation in healthy students](#) and [Japanese scientists push for more radiation tests to assess seafood risks](#)]

[Few steps taken to address Iowa's growing radon threat.](#)

Sunday, July 17, 2011

Iowa has the nation's highest concentrations of radon, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health. All 99 counties, including 70 percent of homes statewide, fall inside the EPA's danger zone. Cedar Rapids KCRG TV, Iowa.

[See a related article from California: [Radon exposure risk could be greater than expected, effects difficult to measure](#)]

[EPA concerned about mountaintop removal link to birth defects.](#)

Sunday, July 17, 2011

Federal environmental regulators are looking closely at a new scientific study that found Appalachian residents who live near mountaintop removal mine sites face an increased risk of birth defects. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[See another article about environmental contributors to birth defects: [Birth defects linked to coal smoke, pesticides: China study](#)]

[Illness associated with exposure to methyl bromide--fumigated produce -- California, 2010.](#)

Friday, July 15, 2011

An environmental investigation revealed the potential for methyl bromide to accumulate in enclosed areas during the transportation and storage of fumigated grapes. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

[See other articles about pesticides: [Suicide and pesticide use among pesticide applicators and their spouses in the Agricultural Health Study](#); [Newfoundland and Labrador joins provinces outlawing cosmetic pesticides on lawns](#); [Group: Arsenic found in Mott's apple juice](#) and [Farmers at risk of pesticide poisoning](#)]

[A dam brings a flood of diabetes to three tribes.](#)

Friday, July 15, 2011

Native Americans in the United States have become 2.2 times more likely to develop diabetes than non-Hispanic whites. And they have all gotten there in pretty much the same way--they lost their land, became sedentary, consumed cheap and unhealthy food, and received worse health care than any other group of people in the country.

[See other articles about environmental justice and poverty issues: [Coal plant assailed by NAACP](#); [Massachusetts health care reform increased access to care, particularly among disadvantaged](#); [Feds plan environmental reforms in state's poor urban neighborhoods](#); [Appalachian poverty concentrated around mine sites, WVU study says](#) and [EPA Chief Lisa Jackson speaks at NAACP convention in Los Angeles](#)]

After styrene warning, concern about who's at risk.

Thursday, July 14, 2011

Last month's health warning from the Department of Health and Human Services' National Toxicology Program has set off a bruising battle with the makers of styrene, a chemical compound derived from crude oil. Reuters.

Tick-borne disease is a growing risk.

Thursday, July 14, 2011

Deer ticks that carry Lyme disease have expanded their range. Cleveland News-Herald, Ohio.

[See another article about infectious disease: [Haiti again caught in cholera's grip](#)]

Government agency vote means lower lead in toys.

Thursday, July 14, 2011

The amount of lead allowed in toys and other children's products sold in the U.S. will soon be reduced to one of the lowest limits in the world. The move was praised by consumer advocates but denounced by critics worried about job losses and shuttered businesses. Associated Press.

[See other articles about lead: [A geospatial analysis of the effects of aviation gasoline on childhood blood lead levels](#); [Lead paint regulations spark training sessions](#) and [Follow-up study on lead exposure in children living in a smelter community in northern Mexico](#)]

U.S. House votes to end EPA water pollution oversight.

Thursday, July 14, 2011

Fueled by coal industry complaints about the Obama administration's crackdown on mountaintop removal, legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday that would strip federal regulators of their authority to make state agencies properly police water pollution. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[See other articles about regulation: [Coal ash could be treated as city trash](#) and [Data gaps threaten chemical safety law](#)]

Study: BPA leaches from aluminum water bottles.

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Viewed as an alternative to plastics for consumers seeking a BPA-free water bottle, metal water bottles are not all created equal. See which bottles to buy, and which to avoid. Daily Green.

[See other articles about BPA exposure: [Even BPA-free plastic not always safe](#) and [High levels of bisphenol A in paper currencies from several countries, and implications for dermal exposure](#)]

Court limits Sparrows Point pollution liability.

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

In a ruling that's left Dundalk-area residents shaking their heads, a federal court has declared that recent owners of the century-old steel-making complex at Sparrows Point can't be made to clean up past contamination of surrounding waters. Baltimore Sun, Maryland.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [The U.S. Army struggles to unload a tainted asset](#); [EPA unveils plans for Crown Vantage Landfill Superfund site in Milford](#); [Toxic sheep dip sites warning](#); [Love Canal women had higher pregnancy risks](#); [EPA official delivers status report on cleanup of Hudson River PCBs](#); [State sticks Payson with Superfund cleanup costs](#); [EPA: No delay for river plans](#); [Merced to pay \\$1.5M in subdivision contamination](#); [Groups say \[Spokane\] river cleanup is flawed](#); [South Africa 'not managing' impact of uranium mining, says new report](#); [EPA announces measures to protect Raritan River from ground water contamination seeping from the American](#)]

[Cyanamid Superfund Site in Bridgewater Township, N.J.](#); [Study maps mercury fallout from Indianapolis power plant](#); [EPA seeking public input on significant remaining cleanup area on Camp Edwards](#); [Lawsuit blasts city PCB plan](#); [California Latinos sue EPA to force action on toxic dumps](#); [EPA provides update on efforts to address dioxin contamination in the Woonasquatucket River](#); [EPA: Haverford residents safe](#); [The Enbridge oil spill one year later](#); [Mideast lung disease up with chemical wars](#) and [Environmental groups unite, want more upgrades to cut lead from Exide plant in Frisco](#)]

[Air pollution linked to depression, forgetfulness.](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Feeling a bit slow and depressed? It just might be the Inland area's foul air. Riverside Press-Enterprise, California.

[See other articles about air pollution: [New report reveals toxic air near natural gas operations](#); [Schools tested for road fumes](#); [Chemical plume hovers in the air over Ward 8](#); [Diesel fumes pose risk to heart as well as lungs, study shows](#); [Enhanced insulin resistance in diet-induced obese rats exposed to fine particles by instillation](#); [A toxicogenomic comparison of primary and photochemically altered air pollutant mixtures](#); [Port of Seattle won't speed up cleanup of trucks' air pollution](#); [Summer skies may hold an unseen health risk](#); [Solar lanterns saving lives, lighting up Kenya](#); [NAACP draws attention to air quality](#); [Dirty trucks in port targeted](#); [Fort Worth air quality study: good news and a call for action](#); [On high-pollution days, doctors say don't run the risk](#); [Hydrofracking's impact on air quality concerns some](#); [Air pollution from traffic and cancer incidence: a Danish cohort study](#); [EPA is sued over smog in Los Angeles Basin](#); [Metra will clear the air in its train cars](#); [Study ranks air pollution from coal and oil-fired power plants](#); [Plant to cut emissions](#); [A case-referent study of lung cancer and incense smoke, smoking and residential radon in Chinese men](#); [MIT study says high RSPMs in Delhi's air poses threat to residents](#) and [EPA seeks to tighten ozone standards](#)]

[Are toxins in seafood causing ALS, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's?](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Neurologist Elijah Stommel enlisted students to punch the street addresses of about 200 of his patients into Google Earth. These patients have one diagnosis he particularly dreads: ALS, which kills motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord, progressively paralyzing the body. The distribution of cases that emerged on the computer-generated map of New England shocked him. Discover.

[See other articles about brain function: [NIH investigators discover new mechanism that may be important for learning and memory](#); [Is meditation the push-up for the brain?](#); [Keeping up your overall health may keep dementia away](#); [Single traumatic brain injury may prompt long-term neurodegeneration](#); [Over half of Alzheimer's cases may be preventable, say researchers](#); [Physical activity linked to lower rates of cognitive impairment](#) and [Vascular changes linked to dementia, experts say](#)]

[Birth defects linked for first time to smoking in pregnancy.](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Doctors are urging mothers-to-be to give up cigarettes after new research linked smoking in pregnancy to babies suffering birth defects such as clubfoot, missing limbs and deformed limbs. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See other articles about tobacco use: [State's low smoking rate masks ethnic disparities](#); [Lung cancer and cardiovascular disease mortality associated with ambient air pollution and cigarette smoke: shape of the exposure-response relationships](#); [Secondhand smoke tied to teens' hearing loss](#); [Passive smoking can damage the DNA of sperm, study in mice suggests](#); [Safety of dissolvable tobacco products disputed](#) and [Mothers using nicotine gum to avoid smoking in pregnancy 'put unborn babies at risk'](#)]

[Relative bioavailability and bioaccessibility and speciation of arsenic in contaminated soils.](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

The multifaceted approach described here yielded congruent estimates of arsenic bioavailability and evidence of interrelations among physicochemical properties and bioavailability estimates. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Lessons Learned

E-waste - a Badly Managed Hazard

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."
Wendell Berry, Citizenship Papers, 2003

"If we are really serious about protecting the environment, the discharge pipes and stacks of industry would all plug directly into their intake side, and costs would not be externalized to a voiceless environment."
Wes Jackson, 1987

"I've always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly underpolluted."
Lawrence Summers, chief economist of the World Bank, explaining why toxic wastes should be exported to Third World countries

How we manage the waste we create reflects our concern for human and environmental health. Nowhere is this more telling than in how we manage our electronic waste. Take a moment to scan the room you are in for things that plug in or require electricity to operate. Next walk around your workplace, home or school and consider all the gadgets that use electric power, and don't forget the car. While the numbers vary, the United Nations estimates that 20 to 50 million tonnes of electronic waste are produced every year. Some of the most hazardous waste is from televisions, computers and cell phones-e-waste-that contain lead, cadmium, mercury, PBDE, PCBs and other hazardous chemicals. How is this material managed? Who is responsible for the recycling or disposal of these products? In the US, approximately 20 million computers are discarded every year, and as little as 11%-14% of e-waste is appropriately recycled.

Tragically, e-waste is all too often shipped to China, India, Africa or other developing areas where people use 19th-century techniques to extract metals or other components from our 21st-century discards. The workers, including women and children, are mostly unaware of the hazards and unprotected from exposure to the hazardous materials. These chemicals cause cancer, respiratory disease, neurotoxic problems and other effects. Furthermore, waste such as lead is spread around the environment to expose young children and rob them of their intellectual abilities. In Guiyu, Guangdong Province, China, where primitive recycling / dismantling techniques are employed, a 2007 study of children's lead exposure found that children's blood-lead levels ranged from 4.40 to 32.67 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ with a mean of 15.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. 81.8% (135 of 165 children) had BLLs greater than 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.



From Basel Action Network
www.ban.org

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in Basel, Switzerland, on March 22, 1989, and entered into force in 1992. Its aim is controlling the environmental impacts of e-waste shipped from developed to developing countries. Initially, 118 nations signed the treaty and, to date, 172 countries have ratified the treaty. However, the United States has neither ratified the treaty nor adequately controlled shipments of e-waste to other countries.

When we buy our new computers or cell phones we do not pay an extra charge to ensure that at the end of



From Basel Action Network
www.ban.org

use the product is recycled safely. In essence we have externalized the cost to someone else, such as the children in a developing country. No new technology is needed to safely recycle our waste; we only need to manage the problem. One simple approach is to require that the manufacturers take their products back at the end of use. Fortunately, some states have started requiring safe recycling of e-waste.

We have an obligation to manage the waste we create and not externalize the costs to others. We have an ethical responsibility to ensure that children all over the world can reach and maintain their full potential, free of exposure to the hazardous chemicals found in our e-waste.

E-waste at Toxipedia: <http://toxipedia.org/x/zYRT>

Basel Action Network - BAN: <http://ban.org/>

Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](mailto:Steve.Gilbert@iceh.org).

Past Lessons Learned: <http://toxipedia.org/x/O6Jb>

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.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the ICEH Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you 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 Hepp
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)