



## Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin November 17, 2010

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](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

### Announcements

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

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

#### [EPA seeks public comments on "Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades."](#)

The EPA protocols and DOE guidelines are intended for voluntary adoption by weatherization assistance programs, federally funded housing programs, private sector home performance contracting organizations, and others working on residential retrofit or remodeling efforts. Submit your comments to EPA by December 9th, 2010.

#### [EPA seeks public comment on best practices for home energy upgrades.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing for comment today a series of best practice tools to maintain or improve indoor air quality and residents' health when performing home energy retrofits.

#### [Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance \(ABLES\) Interactive Database.](#)

To further the goal of reducing lead exposures in adults, NIOSH makes available to the public health community lead exposure data through this interactive database.

#### [Job opening: Bloomington, Indiana.](#)

The Department of Public Health at Indiana University School of Medicine is recruiting a highly motivated environmental health scientist. Applicants should have a research track record and interests in one or more of the core fields of Environmental Health Science or a related discipline.

#### [Job opening: Portland, Maine.](#)

Environmental Health Strategy Center has an opening for a sustainable economy program manager to manage campaigns and projects aimed at increasing the production and use of safer, greener products, materials and chemicals. Initial review of applications scheduled for mid November.

### 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) Health Effects of Chemicals on Humans**

Wednesday November 17, 2010

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

New Bedford, Massachusetts  
at Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School, 286 South Second Street

Sponsor: Technologies of the Future

This talk is part of the series of three talks to help increase interest in and raise public awareness of environmental issues facing the city. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Mitchell, specializing in epidemiology, public and environmental health and president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: John G. Andrade at 508-993-8500 or [obvdc@yahoo.com](mailto:obvdc@yahoo.com)

## **2) Environmental Excellence in Health Care: A Showcase of Best Practices**

Thursday November 18, 2010

7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Baltimore, Maryland

at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, 655 West Lombard Street

Sponsor: Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment and the University of Maryland School of Nursing

Join regional and national health care professionals, environmental industry experts, and educators for this learning and networking event designed to showcase the best practices of hospitals as they journey toward more sustainable environments for hospital staff, patients and communities. Session topics will include best practices for environmentally preferable purchasing, environmental best practices in the operating room, green design and construction, energy conservation, management of hazardous pharmaceuticals, and procurement and service of sustainable foods. Continuing nursing education contact hours are available.

Price: \$55

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Joan Plisko, PhD, 410-706-2107 or [plisko@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:plisko@son.umaryland.edu)

## **3) The Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields**

Thursday November 18, 2010

11:15 a.m. check-in/lunch, noon - 4:30 p.m. program

San Francisco, California

at the San Francisco Commonwealth Club Office, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor

Sponsor: The Commonwealth Club

Scientific experts will discuss the important emerging public health issue relating to widespread proliferation of electromagnetic fields. Radiation emitted by cell phones and cell towers has been linked to DNA damage, cancer, immunological impairment, neurological diseases and impacts on neurological function, including cognition, behavior, performance, mood status and disruption of sleep. Radiation may also be harming animals and nature, and is as much an environmental as human-health issue. Join us for scientific and health policy presentations about the little-known consequences of telecommunications technologies, electrification and new utility technologies like Smart Meters, and for a discussion of how governments, businesses, parents and schools should best respond. Speakers include Martin Blank, PhD, of Columbia University; Olle Johansson, PhD, of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden; Joel Moskowitz, PhD, of UC Berkeley; physician-epidemiologist Sam Milham, MD; and Magda Havas, PhD, of Trent University in Canada.

Price: \$20 members, \$32 non-members, \$10 students (with valid ID)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [club@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:club@commonwealthclub.org)

#### **4) National Coalition For Healthier Schools Technical Conference Call**

Thursday November 18, 2010

4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: National Coalition for Healthier Schools

The call topic is "Unhealthy Schools/Sick Kids: Uncovering Exposures, Tracking Symptoms", and the speaker will be Claudia S. Miller, MD, professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, assistant dean of the MD/MPH program, vice chair of Community Medicine in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and director of the South Texas Environmental Education and Research (STEER) Program in Laredo and Harlingen, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Price: free

Contact: Mollie Coleman, [mcoleman@healthyschools.org](mailto:mcoleman@healthyschools.org)

#### **5) National School Response Conference 2010**

Thursday and Friday, November 18 - 19, 2010

New York, New York

Sponsor: National School Response Conference

NSRC 2010 will address topics of high concern as wide ranging as school violence - school shootings, bullying, dating violence, vandalism, gang activity, alcohol and drugs, bomb threats, child abuse, vandalism, school massacres - catastrophic events such as pandemic outbreaks, tornadoes, terrorist attacks, and technological intrusions. Associations, academic institutions, EMS providers, and law enforcers will showcase the country's statewide initiatives on school security for the development of the best practices for the school community.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer McCrory, 425-996-7102 [jennifer@eve-ex.com](mailto:jennifer@eve-ex.com)

#### **6) Health Effects of Shale Gas Extraction: What Is Known and What Can We Predict?**

Friday November 19, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

at the University of Pittsburgh University Club

Sponsor: University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

This free conference will explore the science and methodological approaches behind understanding environmental health impacts associated with increasing development of natural gas extraction from shale deposits found under wide geographical areas of the United States. The conference will present the scientific challenges and issues that are being explored by government and academic investigators, as well novel methodologies being employed to assess the health impacts and reduce the hazards produced by gas extraction, refining and delivery operations. Registration is required.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 412-383-7540 or [seg14@pitt.edu](mailto:seg14@pitt.edu)

#### **7) Nurses & Environmental Health: Health Consequences of the Gulf Oil Spill**

Friday November 19, 2010

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

Mobile, Alabama  
at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing, 5721 USA Drive North

Sponsor: University of South Alabama College of Nursing; UAB School of Nursing, Leadership Education in Child-Health Nursing (LECHN) Program; and University of Maryland Environmental Health Education Center

This is a one-day workshop designed to inform nurses of the environmental health consequences of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and learn health-risk communication strategies. Nursing CEU's will be available

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dr. Anne Turner-Henson, 205-934-7533

### **8) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Multimedia Models**

Wednesday November 30, 2010

10:00 a.m. - noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. Mario Citra, PhD, will present "Internet-based multimedia chemical fate model for the Great Lakes ecosystem" and Deborah Swackhamer, PhD, will present "Multimedia model to support the assessment and management of chemicals of emerging concern."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

### **9) Introduction to Health Impact Assessment**

Wednesday December 1, 2010

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Oregon Public Health Division's Health Impact Assessment Program

The first of three webinars, this module will cover an introduction to HIA, a brief overview of the links between public health and other disciplines, like land use and transportation, and examples of HIAs recently completed in Oregon. There will be plenty of time for questions throughout the presentation.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **10) Linking Early Exposures to Late Effects: New Science, Tools and Modes of Action**

Sunday through Tuesday December 5 - 7, 2010

Montreal, Quebec Canada

at Delta Centre-Ville, 777 University

Sponsor: Society of Toxicology of Canada

On the first day, "Toxicology and the Developmental Origins of Adult Health and Disease" will examine evidence that toxicant exposure during fetal development can contribute to the development of diseases that are generally seen in adulthood including obesity, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes and effects on immune function. On day 2 in "The role of MicroRNA in Toxicity", we will examine the growing evidence that noncoding RNA may play a very significant role in mediating toxic responses in a wide variety of tissues. Our final session, "Novel Screening Methods in Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology", will critically examine the value of emerging tools for rapid screening for reproductive and developmental toxicology for predicting chemical hazards.

Price: see the [Registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [stcsecretariat@mcgill.ca](mailto:stcsecretariat@mcgill.ca)

**11) Cross-sectional Evaluation of Formaldehyde Levels of Portable Classrooms (= 3 years old) and Traditional Classrooms - Georgia, 2009 Pilot Study**

Tuesday December 7, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Environmental Health Initiative

High levels of formaldehyde measured in FEMA-supplied trailers and mobile homes used in recent hurricane events have prompted similar assessments in portable classrooms (350,000 in use in US), where school-aged children spend significant time in the course of a day. This presentation will describe the results of a pilot investigation conducted to assess formaldehyde levels and potential factors that could affect formaldehyde levels in portable and traditional classrooms in use in one school district in Georgia. Formaldehyde levels ranged from 7-36 ppb. In both traditional and portable classrooms, overnight formaldehyde median levels were higher than day median levels. Levels were slightly higher in traditional than in portable classrooms. This study did not identify levels of formaldehyde that are associated with adverse health effects. Isabela C. Ribeiro, PhD, will be the presenter. This presentation is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, [Laura@aaidd.org](mailto:Laura@aaidd.org)

**12) Scientific Workshop: Exploring the Environmental Causes of Autism and Other Learning Disabilities**

Wednesday December 8, 2010

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

New York, New York

at the New York Academy of Medicine

Sponsor: Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center

Featured speakers include Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSC; Linda S. Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS; Marion J. Balsam, MD; and others.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [katherine.southwick@mssm.edu](mailto:katherine.southwick@mssm.edu)

**13) Phone Seminar - Robin Guenther, Architect and Designer, Sustainable Health Leader, Perkins+Will**

Wednesday December 8, 2010

3:00 p.m. Eastern / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

"Linking Public Health, Regenerative Design, and Sustainability." As a Principal at Perkins+Will and a national leader in the conversation linking public health, regenerative design and sustainability, Robin Guenther synthesizes newly developing ideas and diverse groups to further the values she promotes. Robin is particularly skilled at achieving consensus for sustainable ideas, a quality valued by clients as well as the many advocacy groups with whom she works. Her work has helped shape healthier, more welcoming facilities for nearly every medical institution in New York City. Robin's many accomplishments include the second LEED™-certified healthcare project in the world, the Discovery Center. She was the principal author of the *Green Guide for Health Care*, the most commonly used method of tracking sustainability in health care spaces today. Her book, *Sustainable Healthcare Architecture*, was released in 2008, and she is currently working with the US Green Building Council to create the *LEED™ for Healthcare Reference Guide*. Robin was the recipient of the 2005 Changemaker Award from The Center for Health Design for her efforts in improving and supporting the environment.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

#### **14) Obesity and Food Environments**

Thursday December 9, 2010

5:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Health Care Without Harm

The medical community has long recognized the importance of good nutrition; new food-related diseases have created a public health crisis and exacerbated the financial health concerns of medical institutions. Obesity is now the leading health concern. Diet-related medical costs for six health conditions - coronary heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, hypertension and obesity - exceeded \$70 billion in 1995. And, by virtue of the increased resources focused on obesity, the crisis has become an issue for everyone, overweight or not. Our current food system favors the production of animal products and highly refined, calorie-dense foods, rather than the fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and other high-fiber foods important in prevention of these diseases. These food industry offerings are supported by US Federal Government subsidy programs, which favor five crops - corn, wheat, cotton, soybeans and rice - and account for two thirds of all subsidies. As a result, if we were to compare food pyramid recommendations with government subsidies, they would be almost perfectly at odds. Fruits and vegetables, those foods recommended by the pyramid, receive little support, while meat and grains receive by far the most support. Moreover, whether or not community residents have access to healthy foods in their communities has implications for individual health. There are several aspects of the neighborhood food environment that can ultimately influence dietary behavior, including the types of retail outlets present, the product mix offered, the quality and cultural appropriateness of available foods, and whether foods are affordable. Low-income people and people of color, in particular, face well-documented challenges to buying fresh fruits and vegetables and other nutritious foods: either they're not available in the neighborhood or the quality is poor and the price is exorbitant. Research suggests that the scarcity of healthy foods makes it more difficult for residents of low-income neighborhoods to follow a good diet, compared to people in wealthier communities. This presentation will provide an understanding of our food choices on health, the significance of the food environment on these choices, and opportunities for clinicians to influence food environments in service of health. Presenters will be Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, of the Science and Environmental Health Network; Leslie Mikkelsen, RD, of the Prevention Institute; and Judith Bell of Policy Link. Continuing education for physicians (CME) is available.

Price: free



[Visit the website](#)

### **15) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: PBT Measurement Techniques**

Wednesday December 15, 2010

10:00 a.m. - noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. Judith Perlinger, PhD, will present "Monitoring techniques and modeling of PBT transport in Lake Superior basin" and Frank Marsik, PhD & Thomas Holsen, PhD, will present "An Intercomparison Study: Mercury dry deposition measurement techniques."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[In depth: Shale gas exploration in Quebec.](#)**

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Deep below central Quebec lies natural gas that could meet the province's energy needs for 200 years, bring in new revenue and wean trucking companies and factories off high-polluting oil. But getting shale gas out of the ground could contaminate drinking water and boost greenhouse-gas emissions. Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

[See related articles: [Fracking hell: Busting the natural gas myth](#); [Energy: The pros and cons of shale gas drilling](#) and [Halliburton discloses fracking substances](#)]

### **[Rescuing Larry: Public health workers help a worried mom save her child from lead poisoning.](#)**

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Many parents are unaware that they can lower risk of lead poisoning by feeding their children calcium- and iron-rich foods. But residents of urban "food deserts" live miles from a store where healthy options are available. St. Louis Beacon, Missouri.

[See related articles and announcements: [EPA denies petition that sought a ban on lead in fishing gear](#); [Use of lead divides Fairfield Co. fishermen, environmentalists](#); [Lead poisoning cases drop in Florida, but threats linger](#) and [Lead limits in brass devices dangerously lenient, say experts](#)]

### **[Antimicrobial soaps and handwash toxic for human and environmental health.](#)**

*Saturday, November 13, 2010*

Soaps and handwash and other antimicrobial products that promise to kill the million germs surrounding you may be causing more harm than good -- both for humans and the environment, a recent study alleges. Medindia.

### **[New evidence links BP to health crisis in the Gulf.](#)**

*Saturday, November 13, 2010*

Exhibit A, says chemist Wilma Subra of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, is a recent evaluation she performed of blood sample analyses from eight BP cleanup workers and residents in Alabama and Florida. GlobalResearch.ca.

[See a related article: [Little cancer risk from BP oil burn dioxin, new studies conclude](#)]

### **[Increasing prevalence of parent-reported attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder among children -- United States, 2003 and 2007.](#)**

Friday, November 12, 2010

This report describes results from the second administration of NSCH in 2007 (6), which indicated that the percentage of children aged 4--17 years with a parent-reported ADHD diagnosis (ever) increased from 7.8% to 9.5% during 2003--2007. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

### **[A warming Earth could mean stronger toxins.](#)**

Friday, November 12, 2010

Global warming may be making pesticide residues, heavy metals and household chemicals more dangerous to fish, wildlife and, ultimately, humans, scientists warn. Nature.

### **[Toxic hotspots require global superfund.](#)**

Friday, November 12, 2010

One of the world's biggest health threats is also one of the least recognised -- more than 100 million people who literally breathe and eat toxic pollutants like lead, mercury, chromium every day, according to the first-ever detailed assessment. Inter Press Service.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [Toxic gas sites contaminate state](#); [Agency misled staffers, public about toxic contamination in KC, report says](#); [Website maps pollution in your neighbourhood](#) and [Oil spill still poisoning wildlife years later, native band charges](#)]

### **[Evaluating housing quality, health and safety using an Internet-based data collection and response system: a cross-sectional study.](#)**

Friday, November 12, 2010

The collected database can be used to evaluate the quality of the housing stock in terms of occupant health and safety, and to model its association with occupant health and well-being. Environmental Health.

### **[Canada's curbs on BPA premature, says WHO panel.](#)**

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Taking any public health measures to ban or control bisphenol A -- as Canada recently did -- is premature since evidence of its alleged health risks is not strong enough, the World Health Organization said Tuesday. Postmedia News.

[See a related article: [BPA eliminated through urination: WHO](#)]

### **[West Oakland activist wins \\$100,000 prize for environmental activism.](#)**

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Margaret Gordon did a happy dance after learning she had won a \$100,000 Purpose Prize for her work battling industrial pollution and educating people about the health effects on her West Oakland neighbors. Then, in typical fashion, she got back to work. Oakland Tribune, California.

### **[Genes as mirrors of life experiences.](#)**

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Scientists are turning their focus to an emerging field: epigenetics, the study of how people's experience and environment affect the function of their genes. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Atomic bomb legacy haunts Hiroshima families](#)]

### **[San Francisco to ban toys in unhealthy fast-food meals.](#)**

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

San Francisco has passed a law barring fast-food restaurants from giving away toys with children's meals that do not meet nutritional guidelines. It is the first major US city to approve a measure of this kind. BBC.

[See other articles about diet and health: [Less salt in teenagers' diet may improve heart](#)]



[health in adulthood; Dietary intervention in infancy can prevent the disease process leading to type 1 diabetes, Finnish study finds; This diet may prevent skin cancer and Mediterranean diet helps control cholesterol: Adding monounsaturated fats to a low-cholesterol diet can further improve levels\]](#)

**[EPA chemical health hazards program has 55-year backlog of work, report says.](#)**

*Wednesday, November 10, 2010*

Eighteen months after the Environmental Protection Agency announced reforms to its controversial process for evaluating health hazards posed by dangerous chemicals, significant problems continue to hamper the program, according to a new report by a nonprofit research group. Center for Public Integrity.

**[New book examines health and environmental impacts of common \(and not-so-common\) chemicals.](#)**

*Wednesday, November 10, 2010*

While the benefits to society from the development of these chemicals have been impressive, enabling safer, more efficient and more convenient consumer products and life-saving pharmaceuticals, many chemicals also have a dark side. PhysOrg.

**[Fitness benefits tempered by pool cleaning chemicals?](#)**

*Tuesday, November 09, 2010*

Swimmers exposed to chemical by-products of chlorine used to disinfect indoor swimming pools experienced increased cell damage associated with a higher risk of cancer, according to a study authored by a team of researchers in Spain. Environmental Health News.

**[Urologic disease: Smoking linked to half of all bladder cancers.](#)**

*Tuesday, November 09, 2010*

When most people think of smoking-related cancers, they probably think lung cancer. Some people may also think about throat cancer. Few people, however, realize that smoking is the primary risk factor for bladder cancer, the sixth most common cancer in the United States. Las Vegas Review-Journal, Nevada.

*[See related articles: [Rising hookah smoking trend among Oregon youths worries public health officials](#), [FDA proposes graphic cigarette warnings](#); [Citywide smoking ban contributes to significant decrease in maternal smoking, pre-term births](#); [Smoking in pregnancy could increase baby's sudden death risk 'by affecting breathing regulator in brain'](#); [Cigarette giants in global fight on tighter rules](#); [Lung cancer mortality from exposure to chrysotile asbestos and smoking: a case-control study within a cohort in China](#) and [Heavy smoking during pregnancy can set your baby up for a life of crime, researchers say](#)]*

**[Painkillers in pregnancy linked to male reproductive disorders: study.](#)**

*Tuesday, November 09, 2010*

The research found that women who took a combination of more than one mild analgesic during pregnancy had an increased risk of giving birth to sons with undescended testicles. Reuters.

*[See an article about painkillers and asthma: [Paracetamol: A bitter pill?](#)]*

**[Asbestos illnesses killing more women.](#)**

*Monday, November 08, 2010*

The latest official figures show that mesothelioma, a cancer caused by exposure to asbestos, is the most rapidly increasing cancer in women. London Daily Mirror, United Kingdom.

**[Study tracks benefit, risk of nanoinvaders.](#)**

*Monday, November 08, 2010*

A new study suggests that certain nanoparticles within a particular size range may be absorbed into the body and stay there, which could be of concern because tiny, ultrafine particles are found in air pollution. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

### **[A healthier America starts with healthy pregnancies.](#)**

*Sunday, November 14, 2010*

An emerging science known as the developmental origins of health and disease -- DOHaD for short -- is revealing that the conditions we encounter in the womb can have a lifelong impact on our health and well-being, affecting everything from our appetite and metabolism to our susceptibility to disease to our intelligence and temperament. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [and Prenatal exposures prompt EPA to re-examine chemical regulations](#)]

### **[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality keeps soft touch in regulating industry.](#)**

*Monday, November 08, 2010*

In the seven years since the state auditor issued a report highly critical of the commission, little has changed. The agency's coziness with industry and its reliance on weak penalties continue unabated, abetted by state lawmakers. Austin American-Statesman, Texas.

### **[Want some pesticides with that apple?](#)**

*Monday, November 08, 2010*

If new research holds true across the wider population, one mouthful out of five that children eat is tainted with pesticides. Miami Herald, Florida.

[See related articles: [Impact on fetal growth of prenatal exposure to pesticides due to agricultural activities: a prospective cohort study in Brittany, France](#); [Banned pesticides found in vegetables we consume Organic vegetables 'no better for health' than conventionally grown ones](#)]

### **[Is your laptop cooking your testicles?](#)**

*Saturday, November 06, 2010*

The researchers hooked thermometers to the scrotums of 29 young men who were balancing a laptop on their knees. They found that even with a lap pad under the computer, the men's scrotums overheated quickly. Reuters.

### **[Red meat linked to esophageal, stomach cancer risks.](#)**

*Saturday, November 06, 2010*

Red-meat lovers may have a greater likelihood of developing certain cancers of the throat and stomach than people who limit their intake of steaks and hamburgers, a new study suggests. Reuters.

[See other articles about food: [GM food debate to ignite again](#); [Raw-milk cheese in Northwest, elsewhere on the FDA radar](#) and [Program seeks to get religions involved in sustainable farming, food systems](#)]

### **[Chimneys of hell.](#)**

*Saturday, November 06, 2010*

A 2007 World Bank study said each year 460,000 Chinese die prematurely from breathing polluted air and drinking toxic water.

[See other articles about air quality: [Nearly 30 times so far this year, areas of muscatine have exceeded federal health standards for sulfur dioxide](#); [Metra riders subjected to high amounts of diesel soot](#); [Navajo health may improve with ozone curbs](#); [Air rules could force changes here](#); [Activists' air tests uncover compounds](#); [Acute effects of fine particulate air pollution on ST segment height: A longitudinal study](#); [Particle pollution watch issued for FdL area](#); [China to rein in dioxin emissions to help air quality](#); [EPA wants plans to clean up Calif air in 2 regions](#); [EPA works with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enforce the Clean Air Act](#); [Air regulators clamp down on lead emissions from battery recycling plants](#); [Work exposure to diesel fumes tied to lung cancer](#); [EPA issues pollution permitting guidance for states](#); [MMDA urges LGUs to boost drive against air pollution](#); [America's dirtiest cities](#) and [Czech company produces air-cleansing paint](#)]

### **[Healthier environments, one neighborhood at a time.](#)**

*Saturday, November 06, 2010*

Many, if not all, Minnesotans suffer some ill effect from exposure to everyday pollutants and from living in an unhealthy food environment. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation.

### **[Poverty drives diabetes epidemic.](#)**

*Friday, November 05, 2010*

Research shows that poverty is a leading predictor of diabetes and its devastating side effects. Many of the poverty-stricken are already genetically at high risk of developing the disease. It is a struggle that could have dire consequences. Toronto Star, Ontario.

*[See a related article: [America's hidden diseases](#)]*

### **[Smokeless tobacco products worry health officials.](#)**

*Friday, November 05, 2010*

While smoking bans are stomping out cigarettes in restaurants, taverns and other businesses, federal and local health officials are concerned that tobacco companies are undermining efforts to reduce smoking by marketing new smokeless tobacco products as substitutes for cigarettes where smoking isn't allowed. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

### **[Arsenic in drinking water tied to stroke risk.](#)**

*Friday, November 05, 2010*

People who live in areas with moderately elevated levels of arsenic in the drinking-water supply may have a somewhat increased risk of stroke, a study of Michigan residents suggests. Reuters.

*[See other articles about water quality: [A fight against fluoride in city water](#); [Contaminants found at FWB industrial site, health effects still unknown](#); [Hinkley water tainted by chromium 6 spreading](#); [Drinking water crisis: A California town fights back](#); [Radiation in your tap water - part 1](#); [State 'lowballs' radiation scores in drinking water - part 2](#); [Judge refuses to dismiss Camp Lejeune water exposure lawsuit](#); [Bacteria capable of cleaning rivers of metals found](#); [City urges people to run water to reduce lead](#); [There's something in the water](#); [Water quality at Delaware Guard site called into question](#); [Contaminated water in major Texas city has radioactive elements](#) and [Hundreds seek mediation in well lawsuits](#)]*

### **[New study warns of risks from emissions, suggests towers be kept away from homes.](#)**

*Friday, November 05, 2010*

Just as Ontario announces that cellphones don't need danger labels, the National Research Council Press publishes research saying we're awash in radiation from cellphone towers and it does have the potential to hurt us. And it says Wi-Fi transmissions and smart grids are worrisome too. Ottawa Citizen, Ontario.

*[See other articles about radiation risks: [Airline frequent fliers 'radiation poisoning risks' from space 'solar flare' storm activity](#); [Airport security: crowds, hassle, and a dose of radiation?](#); [Smart meters - they're smart, but are they safe?](#) and [For frequent fliers, a radiation risk in the skies](#)]*

### **[Second hand computers, electronics dangerous to health - doctors, IT experts.](#)**

*Friday, November 05, 2010*

Information Technology experts and doctors have said that second-hand computers and electronics being imported into Nigeria have negative effects on human health. Benin Nigerian Observer, Nigeria.

*[See other articles about consumer products and health: [Exposure of humans to cosmetic UV filters is widespread, study finds](#); [At some nail salons, feeling pretty and green](#); [Will doing up the front room make you ill?](#); [What's that smell in your doctor's office?](#); [Lead in lipstick not such a myth after all](#); [Investigation shows elevated levels of lead in grocery bags](#); [How green is your detergent?](#) and [Latest "Story of Stuff" sequel takes our gadgets to task.](#)]*

### **[Toxic chemicals in toys and children's products: Limitations of current responses and recommendations for government and industry.](#)**

*Thursday, November 04, 2010*

The 2007 recalls brought attention to the problem of toxic chemicals in toys and other children's products and the 2010 recalls have been a reminder that this problem is yet to be solved. Environmental Science & Technology.

[See related articles: [When toys attack: 5 dangerous toy recalls](#) and [Lead found in girls' jewelry](#)]

#### **Health experts sound alarm on cadmium.**

*Thursday, November 04, 2010*

Cadmium, a toxic heavy metal used for industrial purposes since the early 1900s and more recently in batteries, electronics and costume jewelry, is a clear and present danger in York Region, health experts say. York Region Era Banner, Ontario.

#### **Autism brain secrets revealed by scan.**

*Thursday, November 04, 2010*

Differences in the brain structure of people carrying an "autism gene" may offer clues to how the condition develops, say US scientists. BBC.

#### **Building-associated neurological damage modeled in human cells: A mechanism of neurotoxic effects by exposure to mycotoxins in the indoor environment.**

*Wednesday, November 03, 2010*

This study demonstrates that neurological system cell damage can occur from satratoxin H exposure to neurological cells at exposure levels that can be found in water-damaged buildings contaminated with fungal growth. Mycopathologia.

#### **Measuring exposure to phthalates not a simple task.**

*Wednesday, November 03, 2010*

Exposure to phthalate chemicals -- and the levels measured in people -- vary widely throughout the day depending on the source, a finding that may prompt scientists to rethink common research methods for measuring the chemicals in people. Environmental Health News.

#### **Plenty of foods harbor BPA, study finds.**

*Wednesday, November 03, 2010*

In their team's new paper, the Texas contingent locally purchased three samples of each of 31 types of canned or plastic-packaged foods. Another four examples of fresh meat and eight different types of pet food were also collected. Science News.

[See other articles about chemicals in foods: [Watchdog detects chemical BPA in foods](#); [Chemical controversy: Arsenic ban in poultry feed urged](#); [Microwave popcorn, tasty yet toxic, experts say](#); [U.N. panel: Food is main source of BPA exposure](#); [Food-safety test with almost instant results nears rollout by Colorado company](#); [Serving up heavy metal cuppas](#); [Some fish from Lake Worth still unsafe to eat, health officials say](#); [ADPH issues warning on eating fish caught in lake](#) and [Endocrine disrupting chemicals and other substances of concern in food contact materials: An updated review of exposure, effect and risk assessment](#)]

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- 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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Nancy Snow  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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