



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](http://www.healthandenvironment.org)



Biweekly Bulletin June 17, 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 ICEH website

ICEH's new web presence is as a working group on the website of the [Collaborative on Health and the Environment](http://www.healthandenvironment.org). You can visit ICEH at www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health and find our rich array of resources on children's environmental health.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Environmental Public Health Tracking Workshop

Saturday June 20, 2009
8:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. (choose one)
Atlanta, Georgia
at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

This preconference workshop is an introductory course, intended to train environmental health professionals in the basics of environmental public health tracking and informatics. Hands-on demonstration and use of computers and the showcased technology will be involved.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 303-756-9090, ext. 300 or staff@neha.org

2) 73rd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Sunday through Wednesday, June 21 - 24, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia
at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

The conference will offer a Wide variety of education, with sessions covering a broad range of environmental health. Continuing education contact hours are available.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 303-756-9090, ext. 300 or staff@neha.org

3) A Common Agenda for Health and the Environment: Goals for the Next Generation and Steps to Get There

Tuesday June 23, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

On May 11, 2009, the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and the Toward Tomorrow Initiative released A Common Agenda for Health and the Environment. The Common Agenda is a call to action and articulates a collective commitment to six ambitious cross-cutting "Generational Goals" to ensure a healthy future for our children. Creating the Common Agenda involved nearly 100 leaders of the healthcare, community development, environmental, labor and agriculture community working together to imagine the world we want to leave our children and what it will take to get there within one generation. CHE invites you to join in an important call with leaders from different sectors who worked on this impressive document. Speakers will provide an overview the Common Agenda, highlight specific features of some of the "Generational Goals", and describe action steps we can take to achieve these goals.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) PubMed®

Wednesday June 24, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Highland, New York

at the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council - SENYLRC, 21 S. Elting Corners Road

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

This full-day class is designed to teach students how to use PubMed® which includes MEDLINE citations. The class also includes an overview of the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) and its importance as a tool to both searchers and indexers. PubMed® is awarded 7.5 MLA continuing education credits.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

5) Birth Defects and Environmental Contamination: Current Science, Research Methods and Implications for Alaska

Wednesday June 24, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alaska time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

The speakers for this teleconference seminar will discuss the current science concerning birth defects in relationship with exposures to environmental contaminants. We will also learn about the work of a nonprofit organization, Birth Defect Research for Children, their services to parents and community-based research projects that investigate associations between birth defects and environmental exposures. Featured presenters are Betty Mekdeci, executive director of Birth Defect Research for Children; and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, science director of the Science and Environmental Health Network.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or info@AKAction.net

6) Reproductive Health and the Environment: Making the Work Real

Thursday June 25, 2009

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Eastern/10:00 - 11:00 Pacific time

Sponsor: Reproductive Health Technologies Project

RHTP is hosting a web conference featuring three organizations at the forefront of dealing with the environmental impacts on reproductive health: 1) Planned Parenthood of Connecticut helped to successfully pass one of the first state bans on bisphenol-A (BPA); 2) Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice fought to protect the health of nail salon workers and owners; and 3) MomsRising, a grassroots organization, experienced dramatic membership expansion as a result of their work on the links between toxic chemicals and health. Representatives from these three organizations will speak about their work around the mounting evidence that industrial chemicals are linked to infertility and a host of negative health outcomes such as early puberty, miscarriage and reproductive cancers. This web briefing will highlight their experiences, as well as allow callers to share information about efforts that their organizations have undertaken or want to undertake on this important nexus of issues.

Price: free

Contact: Amanda Bowes, 202-530-4401 or abowes@rhtp.org

7) National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Kick-off Meeting

Friday June 26, 2009

Washington, DC

at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR)

This day-long meeting will launch the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, a collaborative initiative to identify and prioritize actions for strengthening the public-health approach to chemical exposures. It is a stakeholder and public involvement initiative. The meeting will include a plenary session featuring Dr. Howard Frumkin, Director of NCEH/ATSDR as well as other guests. Breakout sessions will allow for discussion of specific issues related to public health and chemical exposures.

Price: unknown

Contact: nationalconversation@cdc.gov

8) Is It Healthy to Breathe in Southeast Queens?

Saturday June 27, 2009

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

New York, New York

at Springfield Park in Springfield Gardens

Sponsor: Eastern Queens Alliance

The discussion will address air quality in the region and some of the environmental and health concerns associated with it. The seminar is open to all residents, though space is limited and registration is encouraged.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 866-372-4255 Info@easternqueensalliance.org

9) International Actions to Protect the Health of Arctic Indigenous Peoples: Report

on Policy and Science from the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Monday June 29, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alaska time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

In May, more than 800 participants representing 149 governments and many nongovernmental organizations met in Geneva, Switzerland, at the fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Delegates made the historic decision to add nine new chemicals under provisions of the global legally binding treaty, with some limitations that concern public health advocates. Scientists from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) presented new results about the effects of POPs chemicals on human health and ecosystems of the Arctic as part of the effectiveness evaluation of the treaty. Representatives from Indigenous communities of the Arctic participated in order to urge Parties to the Convention to integrate a comprehensive human-rights framework through the United Nations and the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Presenters will include scientists and representatives of the Arctic Indigenous Delegation who will report on their participation and perspectives about the Stockholm Convention Conference of Parties in May. We will discuss recent findings about the environmental and human health implications of persistent pollutants in the north.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7715 info@AKAction.net

10) Improving Public Health through Leadership and Knowledge

Wednesday through Friday, July 1 - 3, 2009

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, One Dock Street (2nd and Walnut Streets)

Sponsor: National Association of Local Boards of Health

Conference activities will provide attendees with information, skills, and resources to help them improve public health in their communities. The conference will also offer time for attendees to learn and share information on critical public health issues, as well as the ability to describe how local, state, and federal partners share responsibility for promoting and improving public health. A conference track on environmental health is available, and Wednesday's keynote is "Climate Change: The Public Health Response."

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Tracy Schupp, tracy@nalboh.org

11) 2009 Annual Georgia Environmental Health Educational Conference

Tuesday through Friday, July 7 - 10, 2009

Helen, Georgia

at the Lodge at Unicoi, Unicoi State Park, 1788 Highway 356 Road

Sponsor: Georgia Environmental Health Association

The Georgia Environmental Health Association (GEHA) is a nonprofit, professional organization, dedicated to promoting, supporting, training, and registering, individuals working in environmental health fields throughout government, academia, industry and business.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

12) Site Remediation in New Jersey

Wednesday July 8, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Elizabeth, New Jersey

at the Crowne Plaza Newark Airport Hotel

Sponsor: Law Seminars International

Join this experienced faculty of lawyers, consultants, legislators and agency representatives to learn the current, specific issues which govern successful site remediation. We will discuss latest legal developments, practical tools and solutions important to the marketplace and stakeholders such as lenders, future residents and governmental agencies.

Price: \$695, government employees \$495, students \$347.50; home study is also available

[Visit the website](#)

13) Know Your ABCs: The Fundamentals of Reproductive Health and the Environment

Monday July 13, 2009

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will discuss the basics of environmental reproductive health science. This call is intended to help refresh continuing participants as well as inform those who are new to the information. On this call, presenters will discuss what we know about 1) how rates of infertility and other reproductive-health problems have changed as industrial chemical production has proliferated over the last 70 years; 2) what sound scientific evidence is increasingly revealing about links between environmental contaminants and these health problems; 3) where the limitations are in our health tracking and exposure data; 4) how policies can change to reflect what we know, even in the face of inevitable scientific uncertainty; and 5) what professionals and health-affected leaders can do. Featured presenters will be Ted Schettler, MD, MPH; Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH; Philip R. Lee; and Rivka Gordon, PA-C, MHS.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

14) Association of Early-life Exposure to Household Gas Appliances and Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide With Cognition and Attention Behavior in Preschoolers

Tuesday July 14, 2009

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Jordi Sunyer, MD, of the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Barcelona, Spain will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-424-3688

Announcements & Articles

A daily news feed with these articles and announcements is now available on CHE's

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

[Job opening: Oakland, California.](#)

The nonprofit Center for Environmental Health is seeking a Director of Development to direct CEH's fundraising activities.

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

The Reproductive Health Technologies Project is hiring a Senior Associate, Programs and Policy. The deadline for submitting applications is June 22, 2009.

[Oregon PSR is seeking a part-time executive director.](#)

Nonprofit management/development experience is essential for this half-time position. The submission deadline is June 28th.

[National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.](#)

ATSDR and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) have launched a National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, working with government, non-government, business and industry, and members of the public to create an action agenda. US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

[The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes.](#)

Acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH, has issued The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes. The Call to Action looks at the ways housing can affect health; its release will initiate a national dialogue about the importance of healthy homes. US Department of Health and Human Services.

[EPA extends comment deadline for proposed cement plant rules, sets public hearing dates.](#)

EPA is extending the public comment deadline to Sept. 4, 2009 on a proposal to slash mercury emissions and other pollutants from Portland cement kilns. The proposed standards would also set emission limits for total hydrocarbons and particulate matter from cement kilns of all sizes and would reduce hydrochloric acid emissions from kilns that are large hydrochloric acid emitters. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards Program.](#)

The US EPA's IAQ TfS Awards Program was initiated to recognize schools and school districts that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good indoor air quality (IAQ) practices. EPA offers four awards for which schools or districts may apply. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2009 competitive awards is September 30, 2009.

[EPA chemical database rules a political hazard, critics say.](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The Obama administration promised to end political meddling in scientific decisions, but some critics say the White House botched an early test on a key question of public health: how to assess the danger of industrial chemicals. Los Angeles Times.

[Pesticides linger in homes, whether we use them or not.](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

A new study shows that pesticides, some already banned for decades from the US market, continue to persist in homes. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Pesticide exposure and hypertensive disorders during pregnancy](#)]

[Remove additives 'to cut cancer risk.'](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

A former senior adviser for Canada's health authority says removing additives from food could reduce the incidence of cancer. He told a group of politicians and industry stakeholders in Canberra on Tuesday that there needed to be a closer examination of the health impacts of the five pillars of food contamination -- hormones, antibiotics, GM organisms, pesticides and slaughterhouse waste. Australian Associated Press.

[Mounting evidence shows native grasses could destroy explosives pollution.](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

TNT contaminates hundreds of sites, from military firing ranges to old production dumps to waterways. It poses a threat to the human nervous system and to the liver and kidneys, and may cause cancer and birth defects. Native grasses may be able to help. Kansas City Star, Missouri.

[Doctors release statement on urban sprawl.](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Turns out there's more to childhood obesity than junk food and bad genes. A national group of doctors places some of the blame on urban design. Environment Report, Michigan.

[Study shows possible link between deaths and ADHD drugs.](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Children taking stimulant drugs such as Ritalin to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder are several times as likely to suffer sudden, unexplained death as children who are not taking such drugs, according to a study funded by the FDA. Washington Post.

[Chlorination disinfection byproducts in drinking water and congenital anomalies: review and meta-analyses.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

Although some individual studies have suggested an association between chlorination disinfection by-products and congenital anomalies, meta-analyses of all currently available studies demonstrate little evidence of such an association. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Newborn weights affected by environmental contaminants.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

Investigators effectively show a sustained decrease in birth weight differences between boys and girls, which supports the hypothesis of growing endocrine disruption related to environmental contaminants. Science Daily.

[See related articles: [Healthy growth in womb tied to higher IQ scores](#) and [Hotter planet means more underweight babies](#)]

[Target targeted in waste-dumping lawsuit.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

Target stores across the state have been illegally dumping hazardous wastes in landfills, state Attorney General Jerry Brown and 20 district attorneys alleged in a lawsuit filed Monday in Alameda County. Silicon Valley Mercury News, California.

[Indoor air quality can influence health.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the air inside a typical home is, on average, two to five times more polluted than the air outside. Springfield News-Leader, Missouri.

[See a related article: [Indoor air pollution kills 46,000 people in Bangladesh every year](#)]

[Researchers find another estrogenic compound in soy.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

Researchers have isolated a new estrogen-like compound in soy called glycinol. The authors report that glycinol appears to be as potent as other, similar compounds found in the legume and its many food products, such as tofu and soy milk. Environmental Health News.

[Giving green paint new meaning.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

Adding paint color inside your home can provide vibrancy, enhance your mood and create a sense of personality in an otherwise drab room. It can also give you cancer. Kennewick Tri-city Herald, Washington.

[Cornflakes, white bread could boost heart risk.](#)

Monday, June 15, 2009

Eating a diet rich in carbohydrates that boost blood sugar levels -- foods such as cornflakes or white bread -- may hamper the functioning of your blood vessels and raise your risk of developing cardiovascular disease, a new study suggests. Health Day.

[Human hormones, chemicals a bad mix.](#)

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Research about everyday chemicals that may harm human health is piling up. Some people say government regulators have handled the situation irresponsibly. Others say more study is needed. Minneapolis-St. Paul Star-Tribune, Minnesota.

[Lake Superior fish meet contamination risk.](#)

Sunday, June 14, 2009

The largest, deepest and coldest Great Lake holds another distinction -- the highest levels of the contaminant toxaphene in the region and possibly anywhere in the world. Capital News Service.

[Air pollution linked to range of health issues.](#)

Sunday, June 14, 2009

The Des Moines Register's analysis of air pollution statewide looked at the six main pollutants for which the Clean Air Act requires federal regulations. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

[See related articles: [Analysis finds elevated risk from soot particles in the air](#), [Study claims L.A. pollution worst in morning](#), [Road particles pose 'higher risk'](#), [Health fears linked to pollution are justified, activists say](#), [Keep breathing](#), [DEC taking action to reduce air pollution emissions in Tonawanda](#), [Chronic fine and coarse particulate exposure, mortality and coronary heart disease in the Nurses' Health Study](#) and [Air pollution and emergency department visits for cardiac and respiratory conditions: a multi-city time-series analysis](#)]

[Ireland one of top lead polluters.](#)

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Half the lead produced in the world ends up discharged into the environment and Ireland and the UK are among the biggest culprits, a study of 52 countries shows. London Times, England.

[Critics find fault with DEP's mercury logic.](#)

Sunday, June 14, 2009

All of West Virginia's waterways are under a statewide fish advisory because of high levels of mercury. Despite that, last month the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection announced it intended to allow more mercury in the state's waterways. Charleston Gazette-Mail, West Virginia.

[See related articles: [Mercury levels in Chesapeake land rockfish "dangerous" label](#) and [Her work on mercury shaped policy](#)]

[Children's health research center planned at UWM.](#)

Saturday, June 13, 2009

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Children's Research Institute and the Medical College of Wisconsin have been awarded an \$8.5 million grant to form a national research center dedicated to the environmental impact on children's health. The Business Journal, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

[Sick Wagerup residents launch massive US Erin Brockovich law suit.](#)

Saturday, June 13, 2009

Residents living near Alcoa's Wagerup alumina refinery have filed a massive US lawsuit. The mining giant is accused of knowingly, negligently and recklessly operating its factory and poisoning surrounding communities with toxic emissions. Perth Now, Australia.

[EPA seeks public input on Palos Verdes pesticide cleanup.](#)

Saturday, June 13, 2009

Federal authorities are seeking public input on a \$36 million plan to clean up more than 100 tons of highly toxic pesticides dumped in the ocean off Palos Verdes. Long Beach Press-Telegram, California.

[Tennessee spill: regulation hazards.](#)

Saturday, June 13, 2009

For years, residents of the tiny lakeside community near Kingston, Tennessee, watched as the local power plant mixed tons of leftover coal ash with water and pumped the heavy mud into a massive pond just up the road. The Nation.

[See a related article: [Group calls on state to mandate monitoring at coal ash sites](#)]

[Chemicals sector key contributor to US toxic pollution.](#)

Friday, June 12, 2009

More than 5.5 billion kilograms of toxic pollutants were released and transferred by nearly 35,000 industrial facilities throughout North America in 2005, according to new data presented by the US Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). Chemistry World.

[Nanoparticle lung threat blocked.](#)

Friday, June 12, 2009

Scientists have identified how a type of tiny nanoparticle can cause lung cancer -- and blocked the process. Research has shown that most nanoparticles migrate to the lungs, but there is also concern about potential damage to other organs. BBC.

[See related articles: [Carbon nanotubes may suppress immunity](#) and [Health experts raise concerns over pollution nanoparticles](#)]

[Mohawk men: PCBs in native foods may be reducing testosterone.](#)

Friday, June 12, 2009

For two decades, the Mohawk Nation's Akwesasne territory has been turned into a human laboratory for studying the health effects of industrial chemicals. The latest finding? Low testosterone levels in men. Researchers say the contamination of the Mohawk has universal ramifications. The study provides the first human evidence that PCBs block male hormones. Environmental Health News.

[Lead-free agreement combats poisoning.](#)

Friday, June 12, 2009

The City of Long Branch has joined the growing list of New Jersey municipalities to sign an agreement with the New Jersey Public Advocate to aggressively respond to and prevent the problem of childhood lead poisoning. Long Branch Atlanticville, New Jersey.

[More troubling news about BPA.](#)

Friday, June 12, 2009

Heart arrhythmias in females and permanent, deleterious modifications of a gene that plays a pivotal role in reproduction are two new problems being linked to bisphenol A. Science News.

[See related articles: [BPA exposure may be higher than safe dose](#), [Medical group calls for reducing use of BPA](#), [House panel wants new review of BPA safety](#), [California Senate approves ban on BPA in plastics](#) and [Blumenthal: Chemical industry tried to kill legislation](#)]

[Senate approves tight regulation over cigarettes.](#)

Friday, June 12, 2009

The legislation, which the White House said President Obama would sign as soon as it reached his desk, will enable the Food and Drug Administration to impose potentially strict new controls on the making and marketing of products that eventually kill half their regular users. New York Times.

['Food, Inc.': Documentary on your dinner.](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Consider how safe your food is knowing that: in 1972, the FDA conducted 50,000 food safety inspections, but in 2006 only 9,164; or that cattle are given feed that their bodies are not designed to digest, resulting in new strains of the E. coli virus that sicken tens of thousands of Americans annually. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Report blames petroleum industry for 25% of toxic pollutants.](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2009

The US petroleum industry accounted for a quarter of toxic pollutants recorded across North America in 2005 by a government-backed environmental watchdog, an annual report said on Wednesday. Agence France-Presse.

[Scientists at MDI lab discover arsenic, immune system link.](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Scientists have known for some time that exposure to even low levels of arsenic can impair the development of immune systems in embryonic stages of life, but according to researchers the biological mechanism of how this might work has been unknown. That is, until now. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

[See a related article: [Using rust to remove arsenic from water](#)]

[Study finds little risk from a morning sickness medication.](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2009

The anti-nausea drug metoclopramide, used more on pregnant women in Europe and Israel, appears to have a statistically insignificant effect on fetuses. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Disney dumped illegally, suit says.](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2009

The Walt Disney Co. for decades has contaminated groundwater with toxic chemicals, including cancer-causing chromium 6, according to a lawsuit filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court. Burbank Leader, California.

[Omega-3 science review supports DRI for heart benefits.](#)

Tuesday, June 09, 2009

A comprehensive review of studies on the benefits of omega-3 consumption has led scientists to recommend the establishment of a Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) for EPA and DHA to reduce the risk of heart disease. FoodProductionDaily.com.

[Lake Huron fish sold without warnings despite health advisories.](#)

Tuesday, June 09, 2009

A regulatory loophole means that Great Lakes fish containing potentially dangerous levels of cancer-causing dioxin are being sold to consumers without warning. Michigan Messenger, Michigan.

[See a related article: [Dioxins In food chain linked to breastfeeding ills](#)]

[State lacks standards for private well water.](#)

Monday, June 08, 2009

New York doesn't require that well water ever be tested at all and there are no state cleanliness standards for private wells. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, New York.

[Newborn girls, boys behavior differs after prenatal phthalate exposure.](#)

Monday, June 08, 2009

Newborn girls exposed prenatally to phthalates scored poorly on a standard behavior test -- and very differently from boys. The phthalate metabolites found in the mother's urine were associated with the girls' poor performance on tests of attention and alertness. Environmental Health News.

[Legislature takes aim at school bus fumes.](#)

Monday, June 08, 2009

Oregon school districts would have to retrofit diesel-powered school buses with pollution-reducing exhaust controls by the year 2017 under a bill that won final legislative approval Friday in the Senate. Associated Press.

[Environmental whodunit discovers invisible killers.](#)

Sunday, June 07, 2009

Tests show every person on the planet, from remote South Seas islands to the frozen North, carries some of the chemical pollutants listed in this book [*Slow Death by Rubber Duck*]. Winnipeg Free Press.

[Protect children from environmental health risks.](#)

Sunday, June 07, 2009

All countries around the globe should exert greater efforts to eliminate environmental risks threatening the health of children, a senior World Health Organization (WHO) official said. Korea Times, South Korea.

[Breast milk less toxic: study.](#)

Sunday, June 07, 2009

Levels of PCBs and other toxic substances that babies consume via breast milk have declined considerably since the middle of the 1990s, a new Swedish study has shown. Stockholm Local, Sweden.

[Neuroscience, molecular biology, and the childhood roots of health disparities.](#)

Saturday, June 06, 2009

Early experiences can affect adult health in 2 ways -- either by cumulative damage over time or by the biological embedding of adversities during sensitive developmental periods. JAMA.

[Gov't studies health risks of playground surface.](#)

Saturday, June 06, 2009

For years, the Environmental Protection Agency has endorsed the use of ground-up tires to cushion the surfaces of children's playgrounds and sports fields - a decision now being reconsidered because of concerns among the agency's own scientists about possible health threats. USA TODAY.

[See a related article: [Greens call for national register after playground contamination](#)]

[Vitamin supplements may lessen miscarriage risk.](#)

Saturday, June 06, 2009

Taking vitamins before and during early pregnancy is associated with reduced risk for miscarriage, researchers have determined. However, it may be that the connection is related to generally healthy practices among vitamin takers. Reuters Health.

[Pesticide may seed infant formulas with melamine.](#)

Saturday, June 06, 2009

Infant formulas purchased from stores in Canada show widespread tainting with traces of melamine. New research suggests that melamine is a breakdown product of cyromazine, a pesticide legal for use on forage fed to dairy cattle. Science News.

[Online site relates weather to ailments, sends alerts.](#)

Friday, June 05, 2009

A Toronto-based physician has developed a free online service for allergy and migraine sufferers, heart patients, diabetics and arthritics that he says will alert them to coming weather patterns that could aggravate their conditions. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

[Colorado, New York reps want regulation of gas 'fracking.'](#)

Friday, June 05, 2009

Democratic Reps. from Colorado and New York plan to reintroduce a bill that would repeal a ban on regulating a widely used oil and gas drilling process under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Las Vegas Sun.

[Over long-term, eating rockfish could affect health, advisory claims.](#)

Friday, June 05, 2009

Eating rockfish or bluefish caught off the Atlantic coast could pose a health threat [due to high levels of PCB], but only after years of regular consumption of the fish, state environmental officials said. Delaware Coast Press, Delaware.

[See a related article from New Jersey: [Health officials tighten fish consumption limits](#)]

[Recession's doldrums come with silver lining for asthmatics.](#)

Friday, June 05, 2009

According to the Independent Electricity System Operator, the organization in charge of coordinating Ontario's energy supply, coal-fired output fell 45 per cent in the first five

months of this year versus the same period in 2008. Less coal means less smog. Toronto Star, Canada.

[Acrylamide in food not linked to prostate cancer.](#)

Thursday, June 04, 2009

Animal studies have indicated acrylamide may cause cancer, and in 2005 the World Health Organization called for lower levels of acrylamide in food. However, studies of any link to human cancers have produced variable results. Reuters Health.

[Recycled radioactive metal contaminates consumer products.](#)

Thursday, June 04, 2009

Thousands of everyday products and materials containing radioactive metals are surfacing across the United States and around the world. Scripps Howard News Service.

[EPA cracks down on improper CFL disposal.](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

Large corporations including CBS and Macy's Inc. have been just a few of the groups penalized as the EPA and state environmental agencies crack down on improper disposal of mercury-containing compact fluorescent lamps (CFL). In addition to imposing fines for violators, the companies are required to provide public education. Environmental News Network.

[Washington governor orders cutbacks in emissions.](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire sidestepped her Legislature's refusal to adopt a cap-and-trade program to limit greenhouse gases, signing an executive order Thursday to achieve similar reductions by ratcheting back coal-fired electricity and automobile emissions. Los Angeles Times.

[Children's lead poisoning drops, UCLA environmental report card says.](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

While cases of childhood lead poisoning have fallen dramatically in recent decades, some of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in Southern California are disproportionately affected, according to the UCLA Institute of the Environment. Media Newswire.

[BP faces new air pollution complaint.](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

BP acknowledged that for the last six years its Whiting refinery violated federal pollution limits on benzene, a highly toxic chemical linked to leukemia. The U.S. EPA cited BP for repeatedly violating the Clean Air Act at Whiting, the Midwest's largest oil refinery and one of the largest sources of air pollution in the Chicago area. Chicago Tribune, Illinois. [See a related story: [Congressional leaders call for BP investigation](#)]

[Nicotine's role In SIDS.](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

Exposure to cigarette smoke in the womb may dampen a baby's fight-or-flight responses, leaving the newborn vulnerable to sudden infant death syndrome, a study in rats suggests Science News.

[Folic acid offers more protection than thought.](#)

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

Baby-protecting folic acid is getting renewed attention: Not only does it fight spina bifida and some related abnormalities, new research shows it also may prevent premature birth and heart defects. Associated Press.

Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News, <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>.

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 Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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