



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



**Biweekly Bulletin August 25, 2010**

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

[www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/learning/r/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/learning/r/bulletins)

## LDDI Highlights

### **TSCA Reform Letter**

Maureen Swanson, director of the LDA's Healthy Children Project and a leading member of LDDI, wrote an op-ed that appears in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* regarding chemical policy reform, in particular the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). See the letter: [Get a grip on toxic chemicals](#).

### **Mental Health Working Group Meeting Postponed**

The Mental Health and Environment Working Group call originally scheduled for tomorrow is being rescheduled. To learn more about the initiatives of this working group, visit the [working group's webpage](#). To join the working group, contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org).

### **AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative Upcoming Teleconferences**

**Research and Science teleconference** on Tuesday August 31st from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Sherry Everett Jones, PhD, MPH, JD, FASHA, will present on School Health Policies and Program Study 2006 to make up for the technical difficulties experienced in her previously planned session. For more information, see event #5 below or contact [Laura Abulafia](#).

**Aging, Environmental Health, and IDD Teleconference Series.** This fall, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and our distinguished panels of guest speakers bring you a groundbreaking series of teleconference calls on aging, environmental health and disability. Scheduled webinars include these:

- 1) "Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging" with Ted Schettler and Maria Valenti  
Tuesday October 12th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 2) "Built Environment" with Kathy Sykes, Rodney Harrell and Regina Gray  
Tuesday October 19th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 3) "Psychosocial Environment" with Danny George and Peter Whitehouse  
Tuesday October 26th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 4) "Chemical Environment" with Maye Thompson and Marybeth Palmigiano  
Tuesday November 2nd, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 5) "Food Environment" with Michelle Gottlieb and Emma Sirois

Tuesday November 9th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

For more information, please visit AAIDD's [Teleconference webpage](#).

## Announcements

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

### **[EPA to take action on chemicals used in dyes, flame retardants, and industrial detergents efforts to limit exposure and reduce harm to people.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released action plans today to address the potential health risks of benzidine dyes, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) and nonylphenol (NP)/nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs).

[See another article about flame retardants: [Relationships between polybrominated diphenyl ether concentrations in house dust and serum](#)]

### **[Treating contaminants of emerging concern.](#)**

EPA is releasing the results of an extensive literature review of published studies of the effectiveness of various treatment technologies for contaminants of emerging concern (CECs).

### **[Administrator Jackson announces EPA's international priorities.](#)**

The international priorities echo Administrator Jackson's priorities for EPA, which she announced earlier this year, and aim to promote citizen engagement, improve public health and increase government accountability on environmental enforcement.

### **[EPA launches web forum on how to best protect America's drinking water.](#)**

EPA seeks input from water professionals, advocates, and anyone interested in drinking water quality issues about best solutions for issues facing our nation's drinking water -- planning, developing scientific tools, controlling water pollution and use of resources.

[See a related announcement [EPA releases draft strategy for clean water](#)]

### **[Result of state artificial turf fields study: No elevated health risk.](#)**

A new study of artificial turf fields containing crumb rubber infill conducted by four state agencies shows that health risks are not elevated from playing on the fields. However, higher contaminant levels at one indoor field indicate that ventilation of indoor fields should be considered. Connecticut Department of Public Health

[See a related news article from New Jersey: [Artificial turf concerns under investigation](#)]

### **[EPA accepting comments on proposed Lafarge hazardous waste permit.](#)**

EPA will accept public comments until Sept. 30 on Lafarge North America's request for a hazardous waste management permit at its Paulding, Ohio, facility through September 30th.

### **[Additional public hearings scheduled on coal combustion residuals.](#)**

In response to numerous requests, EPA is scheduling two additional public hearings and one additional webinar on the Coal Combustion Residuals Proposed Rule. Written comments are also invited through September 20th.

### **[EPA invites public to vote in Rachel Carson contest.](#)**

EPA's Aging Initiative, Generations United, and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc. are pleased to present the finalists for the second annual intergenerational photo, dance, essay and poetry Sense of Wonder contest. The deadline for voting is November 1st. The winners will be announced later that month.

### **[EPA Proposes Improvements to Chemical Reporting Actions to help keep children, families safer.](#)**

In addition to enhancing the information to be reported, EPA is proposing to increase the frequency of reporting.

### **[Job opening: Seattle, Washington.](#)**

King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program has an opening for a public

health policy manager. Open until September 1st.

**[Job opening: Eugene, Oregon.](#)**

Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA) is seeking a Community Outreach Coordinator to develop a comprehensive strategy for educating the public and help coordinate communications with OTA's existing and potential partners (organizations and individuals).

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi> The calendar now lists deadlines for funding proposals and conference abstracts.

### **1) Public Listening Session on Potential Revisions to Water Quality Standards Regulation**

Thursday August 26, 2010  
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold two public listening sessions on potential changes to the water quality standards regulation before proposing a national rule. The current regulation, which has been in place since 1983, governs how states and authorized tribes adopt standards needed under the Clean Water Act to protect the quality of their rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries. Potential revisions include strengthening protection for water bodies with water quality that already exceeds or meet the interim goals of the Clean Water Act; ensuring that standards reflect a continued commitment to these goals wherever attainable; improving transparency of regulatory decisions; and strengthening federal oversight. Water quality standards are the foundation of the water quality-based approach to pollution control, including Total Maximum Daily Loads and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Standards are also a fundamental component of watershed management. At the sessions, EPA will provide a review of the current regulation and a summary of the revisions the agency is considering. Clarifying questions and brief oral comments (three minutes or less) from the public will be accepted at the sessions, as time permits. EPA will consider the comments received as it develops the proposed rulemaking. EPA will also hold separate listening sessions for state, tribal and local governments.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dave Ryan, 202-564-7827 or [Ryan.dave@epa.gov](mailto:Ryan.dave@epa.gov)

### **2) School Health Policies and Program Study 2006: Healthy Physical School Environment**

Tuesday August 31, 2010  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

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

As society continues to focus on the importance of academic achievement, the physical environment of schools should be addressed as one of the critical factors that influence academic outcomes. The School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school and classroom levels. SHPPS 2006 provides a comprehensive look at the extent to which schools have health-promoting physical school environment policies and programs. This presentation will provide an overview of SHPPS and findings for topics such as inspection of school physical facilities; school plans for dealing with mold and moisture-related issues; indoor air-quality management; pest management procedures; purchase of low-emitting products; testing of drinking water; and the use,

labeling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. This is a rescheduling of a teleconference from mid July.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

### **3) Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health and the Promise of Green Chemistry: A Discussion with Author Elizabeth Grossman**

Wednesday September 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

Many dangerous chemicals from chemical manufacturing facilities and industrial agriculture operations around the world end up in the Arctic and stay there. Originating in Asia and southern latitudes, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) hitchhike on wind and ocean currents and accumulate in the fish, wildlife and people who call the far north home. Among those who bear a disproportionate burden of global contaminants are Arctic indigenous peoples who depend on berries, greens, fish and marine mammals for subsistence. In addition to being exposed to pollutants from distant sources, the people of Alaska's St. Lawrence Island are also exposed to contamination from abandoned military sites. Author Elizabeth Grossman highlights the ongoing struggle for environmental health and justice of the St. Lawrence Island Yupik people in her award-winning book *Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health and the Promise of Green Chemistry*. With *Chasing Molecules*, Grossman reveals that we can do better; that we can make materials that we have come to rely on with chemicals that have been tested to be safe and are in fact "benign by design." In a radical departure from how synthetic chemistry has been practiced, Grossman suggests that green chemistry should be used to create new materials for use in everything from sippy cups to carpets.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or [diana@akaction.org](mailto:diana@akaction.org)

### **4) Tennessee NADD Conference**

Thursday and Friday, September 23 - 24, 2010

Nashville, Tennessee  
at the the Radisson

Sponsor: National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD)

The featured speaker will be Terry McNelis, the senior vice president for Supports and Services to Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Adults with Autism for NHS Human Services headquartered in Pennsylvania. He has nearly forty years of experience as a service delivery administrator and is a 1- year member of the NADD Board of Directors. He is the recipient of the Dr. Frank J. Menolascino National Award for Excellence in Dual Diagnosis.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [George.Zukotynski@tn.gov](mailto:George.Zukotynski@tn.gov)

### **5) 8th Annual Conference on Children's Health and the Environment**

Friday September 24, 2010

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

Washington, DC

at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza

Sponsor: The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE), with co-sponsors listed on the website

This year's conference will explore how children's health is affected in the home and school environment. Topics include healthy homes, bisphenol A and phthalates, and schools. Continuing education credits (CME, CHES, CNE and CEU) will be available to participants.

Price: \$125 for healthcare professionals, \$50 for students, or \$150 for all others

[Visit the website](#)

## **6) A New Paradigm of Autism Research and Treatment**

### **CANCELLED**

Autism is a complex heterogeneous condition that begins prenatally or early in development but also can involve active ongoing brain and health problems throughout life. At the level of its chronic and systemic features, autism bears similarities to other chronic illnesses and to conditions with environmental modulation. A new and expanded approach to autism is emerging to address these chronic features. The integration of medical with behavioral dimensions in treatment and intervention can be supported not only by recent research but also by a reexamination of earlier findings in the light of more contemporary questions. This emerging approach can arguably increase and widen the windows of opportunity for clinical intervention and improvement in function and quality of life.

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## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[A bamboo curtain for Superfund site.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 24, 2010*

The Environmental Protection Agency is considering planting a bamboo fence around the AMCO Chemical Superfund site to help protect the neighbors from dust and the other nasty stuff coming out of the ground during the cleanup. San Francisco Bay Citizen, California.

### **[Later school start times and Zzzs to A's.](#)**

*Monday, August 23, 2010*

Overtired kids, studies suggest, struggle with depression. They gain weight and get in more car accidents. Their grades suffer. And many turn to caffeine, with questionable results for productivity and unknown effects on the development of young brains. Los Angeles Times.

### **['Legacy of Katrina' report details impact of stalled recovery on mental health status of children.](#)**

*Monday, August 23, 2010*

Although considerable progress has been made in rebuilding the local economy and infrastructure, there is still an alarming level of psychological distress and housing instability. PR Newswire.

### **[Toxic-jewelry ban squeaks through Assembly.](#)**

*Sunday, August 22, 2010*

California lawmakers took steps Thursday to ban jewelry that contains detectable levels of cadmium from being manufactured, shipped or sold in the state. Associated Press.

[See another article about regulation of toxics: [Toxic showdown between Feds, chemical industry](#)]

### **Thousands exposed to Shell's toxic waste in Brazil.**

Saturday, August 21, 2010

Former workers at a Brazilian chemical plant operated by Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell are relieved that a court has ordered the company to pay hundreds of millions of euros in compensation for their exposure to toxic substances. Radio Nederland Wereldomroep, Netherlands.

[See a related article: [Shell, BASF to appeal ruling on pollution in Brazil](#)]

### **Under-18 ban 'cut teenage smoking rates.'**

Friday, August 20, 2010

Teenage smoking rates in England have dropped since the legal age for buying cigarettes rose from 16 to 18, research by University College London suggests. Researchers surveyed more than 1,000 teenagers aged 16 and 17 before and after the age rise in October 2007. BBC.

[See other articles related to smoking: [How secondhand cigarette smoke changes your genes](#); [Smoking not tied to risk of early breast tumor](#); [Lethal habit: Smoking to claim 2 million each year](#); [Only a quarter of Chinese adults aware of smoking risk](#); [E-cigarette fans descend on St. Louis](#); [Wollongong's smoking crackdown](#) and [Nicotine in cigarettes linked to breast cancer for the first time](#)]

### **Study: Latinos most likely to live near toxic materials.**

Thursday, August 19, 2010

Latinos in Southern California are far more likely to be exposed to pollution from manufacturing plants than any other ethnic or racial group, a new UC Irvine study concludes. Riverside Press-Enterprise, California.

[See a website for environmental justice mapping: [EJView](#) and articles about environmental justice concerns: [Tiny toxic town takes on a corporate Goliath](#), [EPA questions plan for Canada-Texas pipeline](#) and [The Earth will move: Poisoned Hamden neighborhood braces for epic cleanup](#)]

### **B.C. government outs environmental, health law breakers.**

Thursday, August 19, 2010

For the first time, the B.C. government is outing companies and individuals who flout environment, health or safety laws in the province. CTV News.

### **Study: pesticides may double ADHD risk.**

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

As an increasing number of children are diagnosed with ADHD, parents and doctors have been scrambling to understand why. The answer might be on their dinner plates. A new study suggests that exposure to pesticides often used in commercial farming may be pushing the trend. CBS News.

[See other articles and announcements related to pesticides: [Organophosphate pesticide exposure and attention in young Mexican-American children](#); [Scientists, environmentalists claim pesticide authority is failing](#); [Cape coalition targets herbicide use](#); [Task force named on pesticide issue](#); [Slow poisoning continues unabated](#); [Bayer agrees to terminate all uses of aldicarb](#); [The ethics of human volunteer studies involving experimental exposure to pesticides](#); [Unanswered dilemmas](#); [PON1 and neurodevelopment in children from the CHAMACOS Study exposed to organophosphate pesticides in utero](#); [Consumer alert: EPA advises care when selecting pesticides for bedbug control](#) and [Businesses join 'no spray' campaign against NStar](#)]

### **San Francisco shares city-OK'd green products on website.**

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Consumers and businesses wary of toxics and eco-unfriendly chemicals have new places to research cleaning, cosmetics, automotive, food storage and other products. San Francisco Chronicle, California.



*[See related articles: [Health hazards lurk in household products, Fragrance chemicals and the scent of suspicion](#) and [Small changes can help planet and health, educator says](#)]*

### **Health effects of the Gulf oil spill.**

*Monday, August 16, 2010*

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico poses direct threats to human health from inhalation or dermal contact with the oil and dispersant chemicals, and indirect threats to seafood safety and mental health. JAMA.

*[See a related article: [2002 oil spill may shed light on health problems for Deepwater workers](#)]*

### **Waste from BP oil spill cleanup has gulf residents near landfills concerned.**

*Monday, August 16, 2010*

As beach cleanup is scaled down, the fate of all the oily trash created and collected along the Gulf Coast is causing a raging debate that BP and federal officials are trying hard to curb. Washington Post.

*[See other articles about waste disposal concerns: [What to do with trash left behind in Gulf cleanup?](#), [A global graveyard for dead computers in Ghana](#) and [What lies buried not far from Morehead, Ky.?](#)]*

### **Study finds less lead in Canadians' blood, but chemicals in their urine.**

*Monday, August 16, 2010*

A new study has found that blood lead concentrations among Canadians have fallen dramatically since they were last measured 30 years ago. But the Canadian Health Measures Survey says 91 per cent of Canadians aged six to 79 had bisphenol A in their urine. Canadian Press.

### **'CSI' for seafood: Gulf fish gets safety tests.**

*Monday, August 16, 2010*

Seafood from the Gulf of Mexico is being put under the microscope like no other kind on the market, with fish, shrimp and other catches ground up to hunt for minute traces of oil - far more reassuring than that sniff test that made all the headlines. Associated Press.

*[See other articles about food and health: [S.F. proposal: Healthier kids meals or no toys](#), [Health checkup: Who needs organic food?](#); [Toxic chemicals found in fertiliser](#); [Half a billion eggs have been recalled](#) and [New food-safety rules come amid egg probe](#)]*

### **Effects of hunger in children last longer than imagined.**

*Monday, August 16, 2010*

For most people, "hunger" is a figure of speech for a list of wants rather than needs. Without any doubt, a child that is hungry would feel empty and sad. Even worse is the fact that hunger can stunt growth, affect brain development, spur behavioural problems and increase the likelihood of falling sick. Nigerian Tribune, Niger.

### **Senate hearing emphasizes environment-autism links.**

*Sunday, August 15, 2010*

Four researchers from government and academia told a panel of U.S. senators on Aug. 3 that exposures to environmental toxins are a likely cause of autism in genetically predisposed individuals. Bloomington Alternative, Indiana.

*[See a related article: [Autism explosion half explained, half still a mystery](#)]*

### **Newark and Kresge Foundation working on a lead-safe city.**

*Saturday, August 14, 2010*

Newark officials and the Kresge Foundation have teamed up to combat the health risks from lead paint. The foundation contributed \$1.5 million to the city's "Getting the Lead Out" program, intended to increase the number of local children screened for lead. Newsroom Jersey, New Jersey.

### **Oil's not well in millennium city.**

*Thursday, August 12, 2010*

The deadly combination of diesel and kerosene by owners of commercial fleet is polluting the city's clean air and exposing residents to the risk of severe respiratory ailments and

life-threatening. Calcutta Telegraph, India.

[See other articles about air quality concerns: [Ogden plans to torch dozens of houses](#), [Figures show long-term drop in toxic emissions](#), [EPA considers expanding fracturing study to air quality](#), [Frisco's air has too much lead under new federal pollution rules](#), [Annual ambient black carbon associated with shorter telomeres in elderly men: Veterans Administration Normative Aging Study](#), [Community-based health study aims to reduce school-day environmental exposures](#), [The air we breathe: Air effects](#), [Survey to try to gauge impact of emissions around Delaware City \[also about water pollution\]](#); ['Gases emitted from plant can lead to cancer'](#), [B.C. smoke sparks Alberta health alert](#), [Growth undermining improved air quality](#), [New smog-fighting tactic planned for San Bernardino](#), [Toxic shocker: Air pollution worse than Superfund site](#), [2 studies monitoring pollution at rail yard](#), [Lawmakers say more air monitors in north Texas will increase data from gas drilling area](#) and [From good intentions to proven interventions: Effectiveness of actions to reduce the health impacts of air pollution](#)]

### **Russian fires threaten to stir Chernobyl radiation.**

Thursday, August 12, 2010

Wildfires threatened to stir radioactive particles left over from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster back into the air over western Russia, and authorities boosted forest patrols to keep the flames from contaminated areas. Associated Press.

### **Study finds chemicals from household products in water, animals.**

Thursday, August 12, 2010

Scientists are scratching their heads over how a type of chemical found in products such as Teflon and Gore-Tex is showing up in Washington waters and fish. Seattle KPLU Public Radio, Washington.

[See other articles about water contamination concerns: [Decades-old jet fuel spill sparks water contamination fears in south Bibb County](#); [Heat, pollution make Bay ripe for dangerous bacteria](#); [Kids in Punjab villages losing sight to polluted drinking water](#); [NJ considers new standards for radon in drinking water: some in Morris would flunk](#); [Researchers still missing links between slurry, water and health](#); [Report: Contaminated groundwater no threat to Mountain Top residents](#); [Federal Liberals call for more oilsands research](#); [Oil spill affecting Lake Ontario, Slater Creek blamed on thieves](#); [Cancelled federal hearing stalls fracking moratorium](#); [Salt Lake City officials warn East Central residents of contaminated water \[from perchloroethylene\]](#); [Cruise ships turn B.C. into 'toilet bowl of North America,' critics say](#); [MSU/Crow project confirms contaminated water on reservation](#); [Gas companies face new pollution probes](#) and [KDHE seeks input on remediation plan for north Wichita industrial site](#)]

### **Childrens' jump houses alleged to pose health risk as lead is found in alarming amounts.**

Thursday, August 12, 2010

The tests were done by the Center for Environmental Health and allege that in some cases, lead found was 70 times higher than federal limits. ABC News.

[See a related article: [Bounce-house makers sued](#) and another about toxics in children's products: [Excessive lead in toys](#)]

### **Public hearing on chemical scheduled for Augusta.**

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

A proposal to ban a chemical in baby products and food and beverage containers [BPA] that has been linked to a range of health problems will go before the public next week. Augusta Kennebec Journal, Maine.

[See other articles about BPA: [Feeding bottles putting babies at risk](#), [State invites input on plan to ban BPA](#) and [Teens carry 30 per cent more BPA than rest of population](#)]

### **MPs voice concern over safety of light bulbs.**

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

The push and pull over the Government's wisdom in introducing energy-saving bulbs continued in Parliament, with an MP now turning the heat on the Energy Minister Kiraitu Murungi for "knowingly exposing Kenyans to danger." Nairobi Daily Nation, Kenya.



### **PCB check-up in Northern Europe.**

*Wednesday, August 11, 2010*

A new study in the U.K. and Norway reports that although PCB levels continue to drop, the Stockholm Convention has had little influence on them since going into effect in 2004. Chemical & Engineering News.

[See other articles about PCBs: [Invasive species and toxic chemicals](#), [Changes proposed in dredging of Hudson River PCBs](#), [Toxic chemicals found in King County youth services buildings](#), [Preliminary tests find elevated PCB levels in 3 public schools](#), [Superfund status could come soon for St. Clair Shores canals tainted with PCBs](#) and [Neurodevelopmental toxicity of prenatal polychlorinated biphenyls \(PCBs\) by chemical structure and activity: A birth cohort study](#)]

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 general children's environmental health: [http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins)
- 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 LDDI 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 Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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