

GC3 Advisory Committee Call

12:00 PM EDT, 60 min.

September 17, 2007

Present: George Wilkish, Prime Consulting; Richard Cottrell, Sysco; Eric Harrington, Interface Fabrics; Dave Long, SC Johnson; Lauren Heine, Green Blue Institute; Bob Israel, Johnson Diversey; Mark Buczek, Supresta; Tom Swarr and Wayne Wnuck, UTC; Roger McFadden, Corporate Express/Coastwide; and Joel Tickner, Yve Torrie, and Melissa Coffin, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production.

Updates on Working Group Activities

DfE/Green Chemistry

- Several GC3 members, both in person and by phone, met with EPA staff, including Assistant Administrator Jim Gulliford earlier this month to discuss and offer support for the DfE program and other EPA initiatives. The meeting was shorter than expected but was very positive. The group will send a follow up letter to EPA to initiate next steps in these discussions.
- While in DC, the group also met with staffers for John Olver (MA) who sits on the House Appropriations Committee, and Olympia Snow who is sponsoring the Green Chemistry bill.
- Richard Cottrell has taken the lead on coordinating an upcoming meeting between the GC3 and the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable in Chicago, October 3-4. The goal of the meeting is to establish a discussion forum for Green Chemistry and Design for Environment initiatives between states, the GC3, EPA and other interested parties. Washington, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Oregon, New Jersey, and California will all have their state agencies represented. There are 6 or 7 seats left for GC3 members, and all who are interested in attending are welcome.

Tools

- The working group has generated a comprehensive list of the restricted substances which have been generated by GC3 companies. There are some small gaps that need to be filled in. Once this is done, the Lowell Center will circulate the list and draft analysis for the group to edit as a “straw” document.
- The group has drafted a decision tree for chemical assessment which, having generated some comments, will be revised soon.

Drivers

- The Lowell Center will circulate a draft of the possible directions which this group could take: engaging retailers; eco- labeling / classification systems, etc. Once a list has been generated, the group will have a call to discuss them.

Comments on GC3 Website Pages

The test site for the GC3 website is up and is able to be navigated (<http://greenchemistryandcommerce.org/home.php>). Overall, the group agreed that the site looks good, though some small changes were suggested:

- Change the layout of the pages so text from the site can be printed without losing the right-most text;
- Work with Lowell Center web designers to get the website higher up on search results from internet search engines;
- Move the listing of Advisory Committee members to the publicly viewable section of the site as this information does not need to be confidential; and
- Create a link to the searchable database of state legislation applying to chemicals in commerce currently being built by the Lowell Center.

Participation Guidelines

A number of small changes to the participation guidelines were suggested:

- The GC3 should stress that it is an educational organization, as outlined in the mission statement, so the group is not seen as a lobbying effort to influence legislation.
- Vendors' involvement in the GC3 was clarified: vendors cannot solicit GC3 participants during GC3 activities, but occasions for vendors to show their products to the GC3 may be considered in the future.

Insisting on a quorum for phone calls could slow working group progress forward. To ensure transparency in decision making, all working group notes and materials will be made available on the GC3 website.

Next Steps

- The Lowell Center will send a note to the green-innovation listserv giving a deadline by which participants must notify Melissa if they do not want their company publicly listed as a GC3 participant. They will also have one last opportunity to raise concerns about the participation guidelines.
- In this month's GC3 update, the Lowell Center will include information on the October meeting in Chicago to encourage more people to go.
- Relevant links for the "Links" page on the GC3 website should be sent to Melissa.