

Green Chemistry & Commerce Council
Advisory Committee Call
September 8, 2010

Present:

Melissa Coffin (Lowell Center for Sustainable Production)

Bob Israel (Diversey)

Laura Kernan (student, University of Massachusetts Lowell)

Rich Liroff (Investor Environmental Health Network)

Joel Tickner (Lowell Center for Sustainable Production)

Yve Torrie (Lowell Center for Sustainable Production)

GC3 Participation Following the Institution of Dues

A large majority of the companies previously participating in the GC3 have remained as participants and paid dues while many of the consulting firms, NGOs, and government entities previously participating have opted not to pay dues. At this time, the GC3 is made up of 48 organizations, 30 of which are companies (see website for a complete listing). Nearly \$50,000 has been raised in dues revenue since May 1, 2010, approximately half of the projected budget necessary for GC3 activities in a given year, reaching the Lowell Center's goal for our first year. Many companies involved are willing to pay dues at the level suggested for an organization of their size (\$5,000, \$3,000, or \$1,000 depending on annual revenue), but were unable to pay more than the minimum dues of \$250 until the larger dues amounts are included in their operating budgets. The Lowell Center expects that dues revenues next year will be higher as a result.

Melissa is working on an outreach mailing to the electronics, apparel, and retail sectors in an effort to promote the GC3 and current projects of particular interest to these industries. If this first mailing is successful, subsequent outreach to other priority sectors will be planned.

GC3 Changes Since the 2010 Roundtable

Since the 2010 GC3 Innovators Roundtable, many of the changes to the Council discussed at the conference have been phased in. The GC3 website has been expanded to include a real-time accounting of progress on each of the current working group projects. By signing into an updated password interface, dues-paying participants can learn the status of a project, read notes from past calls and the documents discussed on those calls, and send comments, questions, or other feedback directly to the leader of that project. This new content is designed to allow those interested in a particular project but who are unable to join a call to know how the project is progressing, and the ability to contribute as their time allows. Melissa is actively adding and adapting GC3 website features based on feedback from participants. If you have suggestions for improving these or have ideas for other features, please be in touch with her.

Working groups have also transitioned from a basis in a topic area (ex. Tools for Chemical Assessment) to a defined deliverable (ex. publish a guidance document for improved data sharing along supply chains.) The Lowell Center has worked to find a balance between convening smaller and easier to manage core groups to produce these deliverables, and

promoting complete participation by everyone in the Council. Those on the call expressed concern that smaller groups overly burden a relative few and reiterated the value of inviting as many in the GC3 to participate in these projects as are available.

September will also see the first GC3 webinar free to participants, but for a fee to anyone not a part of the organization.

Update on GC3 Projects

Chemical Data Project

GC3 consultant Monica Becker and Melissa have drafted a guidance document intended for formulators and fabricators seeking chemical data from their supply chain to use when communicating with their suppliers. The working group is reviewing the document and will provide feedback in time for the document to be revised later this fall. In November the working group will meet at Bayer's meeting facility in Pittsburgh, PA for a two-day retreat to finalize this document and begin planning for a GC3 chemical data summit.

Business and Academic Partnerships Pilot Project

Greg Morose of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute and Melissa have been working with HP, Staples, and the Environmental Health Fund to develop a workplan for a GC3 project researching alternative plasticizers for wire and cable applications which would pilot a model of business and academic partnerships. This workplan was circulated to the GC3 in August and stimulated some discussion, but there was little interest from other companies in joining the project. Greg and Melissa have spoken with EPA about the Agency's action plan on phthalates to coordinate efforts rather than duplicate work, and is working with NSF International about the possibility of referencing reports they've written that are relevant to the project. Nike has also offered to connect the working group with PolyOne, a company using non-phthalate plasticizers for screen printing apparel. The group is solidifying funding for the project and hopes to start work by November 1st.

On-Line Portal for Product Chemicals Management Systems Used by Retailers

Building on the GC3 report published last year on best practices in product chemicals management in the retail industry, this working group is working to create an on-line portal of chemical screening tools, product screening tools, and labels/certifications available to retailers for managing chemicals in products. The small group has been meeting to make decisions about the kind of information to capture and the best way to present it, to make it of most use to retailers. Yve and Laura are beginning to populate a database of these initiatives. The next step for this project is a spring of 2011 retailer summit focused on the product chemicals management systems available to retailers.

Green Chemistry Incentives Paper

The working group has been developing a paper of green chemistry incentives but it has been sidelined by summer vacation schedules. Joel and Bob will talk by phone later in the week to revive the project.

Revisit Policy of 75% Business Majority

In previous discussions the Advisory Committee felt strongly that the GC3 maintain a majority business membership and that as much as 75% of the Council should be corporate. The participation guidelines drafted in May of this year spell this out, but allow for NGOs, government agencies, and trade associations to participate by invitation only. However no process has yet been established to offer guidance on how this majority or these invitations be achieved or maintained.

Because a quorum did not exist on the call, the following suggestions were made for addressing these issues which will be emailed to the remaining Advisory Committee for input before a decision is made:

Regarding a business majority

Any organization, corporate or otherwise, participating in the GC3 prior to the institution of dues should be grandfathered in if they so desire. Following that, the GC3 should reach a 75% majority of companies (consultants selling only services are not included in this count, but consulting firms which sell a product, such as software, are). Any non-corporate organization seeking to join the GC3 until this majority is met will be waitlisted. Upon reaching a 75% majority, wait-listed organizations will be invited to join at a rate that maintains this majority.

Regarding participation by trade associations

The issue of participation by trade associations should be tabled for the first year of the GC3's transition into dues. At the 2011 GC3 Roundtable and the end of the GC3 annual cycle, the Advisory Committee can discuss the issue further and come to a final decision.

Update on 2011 GC3 Roundtable

Melissa has been working with Barbara Hanley to finalize plans for the next GC3 Roundtable. Barbara anticipates the HP will be able to host the event in the Palo Alto, CA area in late April/early May, but hopes to have a commitment later this month.