



Green Chemistry and Commerce Council Quarterly e-Newsletter

August 2010

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Join the GC3

The Green Chemistry & Commerce Council Quarterly e-Newsletter is a publication of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Each issue of the newsletter features upcoming and ongoing GC3 activities, and news about green chemistry and design for environment.

Announcements

New GC3 Participants!

The Lowell Center would like to welcome the following new organizations to the GC3:

- ACS Green Chemistry Institute
- Anvil Knitwear, Inc
- Avon Products, Inc
- Designtex
- Lockheed Martin Corporation

Business & Academic Partnerships Pilot Project Underway

The GC3 working group on business and academic partnerships is ready to begin work on a pilot project between the Lowell Center/UMass Lowell and any GC3 companies seeking to find alternative plasticizers for use in wire and cable applications.

To assess the greatest number of chemical or material alternatives and to make the data collected available to a wider audience, any GC3 company interested in the following is invited to participate in the project:

- Finding alternative plasticizers for wire and cable, or for other applications in which they are used;
- Accessing interim research findings prior to the release of a final public

- report;
- Advancing the GC3 model for business and academic partnerships; or
- Providing input on the chemicals of concern that should be the focus of future collaborative efforts.

If you have an interest in participating in the project, contact [Melissa Coffin](#) or [Greg Morose](#).

Southern California Edison Seeking Energy Efficiency Partners

In July the Lowell Center was contacted by Southern California Edison, an electric utility company, about interest in energy efficiency projects by GC3 companies.

The projects Southern California Edison proposes seek to provide their customers with a menu of solutions to cut costs, reduce carbon footprints, and align with the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry around energy usage.

If your organization is a customer of Southern California Edison and you would like to know more about the utility's energy efficiency projects, contact [Ron Cobas](#) for more information.



Upcoming Events

GC3 Quarterly Webinar

Topic: Presentation of California's Draft Regulations for Safer Consumer Products and their implications for Green Chemistry

Presenter: Jeff Wong, Chief Scientist at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Date: September 28, 2010

Time: 2:00 eastern/1:00 central/11:00 pacific

Description: Dr. Wong will give an overview of the California Draft Regulations for Safer Consumer Products recently released by DTSC for public comment. These form part of the California Green Chemistry Initiative.

This draft requires action on chemicals in products to happen in three phases. The first is the prioritization process in which DTSC will identify and prioritize chemicals of concern and products that contain them. These priority products will be the subject of the second phase - an alternatives assessment, conducted by manufacturers of these products, to identify safer alternatives. In the third phase, DTSC will impose various regulatory response actions to address any remaining concerns raised by the alternatives selected by manufacturers for implementation, and to move manufacturers toward designing safer products.

Cost: Participation in the webinar is free to any dues-paying organization. Others may join the webinar for a fee of \$50.00.

Call & Log In Information: Participation information will be circulated to GC3 members over the green-innovation listserv. Those paying for the webinar will be given this information upon receipt of payment. Contact [Melissa Coffin](#) for details.

3rd International Symposium on Green Processing in the Pharmaceutical & Fine Chemical Industries

Sept 30 - Oct 1, 2010
UMass Boston Campus Center, Boston, MA

The objective of the symposium series is to bring together experts from academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and industry including technology providers of the pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals industry to share knowledge and challenges with the intention of facilitating collaboration to expedite the integration of green chemistry solutions into these industries.

[Register here.](#)

2nd Annual Michigan Green Chemistry Conference: A Catalyst for the Economy

October 20, 2010
Kellogg Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

The 2nd Annual Michigan Green Chemistry Conference continues the momentum of the green chemistry program in Michigan. Now more than ever, Michigan organizations are transforming the way they do business with a focus on sustainability and the use of less-toxic materials and processes. The goal of this event, initiated by Governor Jennifer Granholm, is to promote green chemistry and protect Michigan's environment and public health while catalyzing the economy.

[Register here.](#)

GC3 In Action

GC3 Participation Remains Strong

Since the 2010 GC3 Roundtable, Lowell Center staff have been busy reaching out to all of the organizations that have participated in the Council over the years to answer any questions about our new dues structure, and to better understand how participation would change as a result.

We are happy to report that the majority of companies involved with the GC3 when it was an open organization will continue to stay involved with the introduction of dues. [Click for a listing of current GC3 participants.](#)

Improvements to the GC3 Website

Over the past several weeks we have been working to update the GC3 website to reflect the changes in GC3 working groups and projects that were discussed at April's Innovators Roundtable in Houston.

Understanding that time is a limiting factor in GC3 participation for many, we've put together a kind of [virtual warehouse](#) for each project. Individual pages have been created for each project, featuring:

- A real time summary of the project's status

- Notes from calls
- Working documents, drafts, and reference materials
- Contact information for the Lowell Center staff member(s) responsible for the project who can answer any additional questions you might have

Additional updates to the website include:

- All GC3 [publications](#) are now listed on one webpage, rather than scattered around other parts of the website. As new publications are finalized, they will be uploaded to this central location for public download.
- A brief [description](#) has been created for each of the current GC3 projects. As projects begin and end, this page will offer a publicly viewable summary of work in which the GC3 is involved.
- A new [password system](#) has been created for the website allowing each GC3 participant to log in with their email address and create their own password. Once logged in, participants can access:
 - Full contact information for anyone attending past GC3 Innovators Roundtable meetings and materials from other more informal GC3 gatherings over the years.
 - An updated GC3 Participant Directory to allow participants to more easily contact each other.
 - Recordings of quarterly GC3 webinars and slides presented.
 - Notes from past Advisory Committee calls.

We hope you find these new materials useful. Please let us know what other website features you would like to see.

In the News

EPA Releases More Chemical Action Plans

Pursuant to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's 2009 announcement that the Agency was taking steps to enhance its chemicals program, EPA has released [new action plans](#) for nonylphenol and its ethoxylates (NPEs), benzidine dyes, and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD). The Textile Rental Services Association, a trade association representing 98% of US industrial laundry service providers, announced that its members will phase out the use of all liquid laundry detergents containing NPEs by 2013, and powder detergents containing the chemical by 2014.

Hearing on TSCA Reform

A hearing was held on July 29 in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to discuss the Toxic Chemicals Safety Act of 2010. Representatives from EPA, industry associations, and environmental health and justice groups testified at the hearing. The text of the bill, written testimony, and a video of the hearing can all be downloaded from the [House Committee on Energy and Commerce website](#).

California Releases Draft Regulation for Safer Consumer Products

As part of California's Green Chemistry Initiative, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) released a [draft regulation for safer consumer products](#) for public comment on June 23. In a [press release](#) DTSC stated that the intent of the regulation was to stimulate innovation in product development while instituting a "systematic, science-based process to evaluate chemicals of concern in products."

Green Chemistry in America COMPETES

[America COMPETES](#) (H.R. 5116, S. 3605) has passed the House and was reported out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with a green chemistry provision included in the bill. The provision establishes a Green Chemistry Basic Research Program at NSF to award competitive, merit-based grants to support research into green and sustainable chemistry and provide

sustained support for green chemistry research, education, and technology transfer through a variety of activities. However, there is no additional funding established in the bill to support this program. Even if the bill is not enacted, which seems to be a likely possibility, the inclusion of this provision demonstrates a commitment, from both the House and the Senate, to move green chemistry forward in Congress. GC3 participants were involved in discussions with the American Chemical Society and House and Senate staff to discuss green chemistry language in the bill.

EPA Proposes Changes to TSCA Inventory Update Rule

On August 13 EPA published a proposed rule modifying TSCA inventory update reports. In addition to requiring electronic submissions, the Agency has also proposed that updates be done every 4 years as opposed to 5, reporting thresholds be eliminated, and that claims of confidential business information (CBI) be better substantiated. A full accounting of EPA's proposed changes can be found in the Federal Register, volume 75, number 156 and can be downloaded from [EPA's website](#). EPA has also prepared a [fact sheet](#) summarizing the proposed changes.

A Green Supply Chain

Chemical and Engineering News published a [story](#) August 2 which featured several GC3 companies' efforts to work with their supply chains in order to make greener products.

The Story of Cosmetics

On July 21 the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics released a 7 minute internet video seeking to educate consumers about the chemical ingredients in many personal care and cosmetic products. This video, [The Story of Cosmetics](#), has been viewed more than 230,000 times and been the subject of recent media attention.

Environmental and Feedstock Concerns Dominate Feedstock Sector

PlasticsToday.com recently published an [article](#) featuring interviews with several chemical companies sounding off on the role of environmentally aware consumers, regulation, and emerging markets on resin producers and compounders. Phase-out of heavy metals and halogens and improved recyclability are two trends in the industry cited by the article.

2010 Global Ecolabel Monitor

In July the World Resources Institute published the results of a survey of 340 existing ecolabels from around the world in their Global Ecolabel Monitor. The survey findings can be downloaded as a [report](#) or can be viewed at a [website](#) dedicated to the project.

Want to Join the GC3?

Joining the GC3 entitles you to:

- Access to a vibrant network of companies working to find green chemistry solutions to the challenges of chemicals management.
- Participation in any of the current working group projects.
- Participation in webinars at no cost.
- Reduced registration fees for annual meetings.
- Unrestricted access to the GC3 website.
- Eligibility to vote for and be elected to the GC3 Advisory Committee.
- Recognition in GC3 materials as a participating organization.

For more information visit the [GC3 website](#), or contact [Melissa Coffin](#) at (978) 934-2997.