



Green Chemistry and Commerce Council Quarterly E-Newsletter

February 2010

In This Issue

Upcoming Events

GC3 In Action

Working Group Updates

GC3 Headlines

In the News

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 provides current information about upcoming and ongoing GC3 activities, as well as news regarding green chemistry and design for environment.

To subscribe to this newsletter, contact jessica_schifano@uml.edu.

Upcoming Events

Register Now for the 2010 GC3 Innovators Roundtable!



Where: Sysco, Houston, Texas
When: April 26-28, 2010

Register by March 26th and take advantage of reduced registration rates!

Panels and discussions will include leading practitioners from industry, the non-profit sector and government, including:

- Keynote address by one of the "fathers" of green chemistry, Dr. John Warner of the Warner-Babcock Center for Green Chemistry
- Challenges in advancing information and application of green chemistry across supply chains
- Selling Green Products in a Tough Economy
- Mechanisms for Data Sharing: Generating a Minimum Chemical Data Set
- Learning Lessons from the Pharmaceutical Industry in Applying Green Chemistry
- Government Agency Perspectives on a Green Chemistry Transition
- Successes and directions of GC3 working group projects

Registration information, Roundtable agenda, hotel details, and airport and ground transportation information are all available at

www.greenchemistryandcommerce.org/events.upcoming.php

GC3 Webinar

Topic: Nanotechnology and the Environment: Benefits and Risks
Presenter: Kristen Kulinowski, PhD, Director, International Council on Nanotechnology; Executive Director, Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology

Date: March 30, 2010

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

Nanotechnology is a broad area of technology that has already begun to affect every sector of product development. From arsenic sponges to cancer-killing nanoshells, precisely engineered matter at the nanoscale can result in products that enhance quality of life and the environment. However, novel properties may result in unwanted impacts on living organisms, a prospect that has undercut some of the widespread enthusiasm about nano-enabled products. This presentation will summarize the state of knowledge about nanoscale materials' potential health and environmental impacts and introduce new mechanisms for sharing information about responsible use.

Detailed call-in/log-in instructions will be sent in March.

Educational webinars will be held quarterly. If there is a topic that interests you or if you would like to be a presenter at an upcoming webinar, please contact Jessica Schifano (jessica_schifano@uml.edu).

Save the Dates--Beyond Green: Sustainability Action Summer Institute

Where: University of Massachusetts Lowell

When: June 21-24, 2010

- Learn practical tools, concepts, and resources that can be applied to accomplish your sustainability goals.
- Strengthen your understanding and capacity for making change.
- Network with others who share your passion for making change.

The Summer Institute offers an interactive training program led and facilitated by over fifteen experts and strategic thinkers from the Lowell Center and its partnering organizations. The subjects and discussion will be stimulating and practical, while providing an opportunity to step back from daily work to think about the larger issues guiding actions towards sustainability. The format will use discussions, demonstrations, peer learning, case studies, and practical exercises.

The Summer Institute is organized into two day-long modules (Applying Tools for Advancing Sustainability; Designing Sustainable Chemicals, Materials, Products and Practices) and one two-day module (Promoting Safer Chemicals). Participants may enroll in some or all modules. We encourage participants to come for all four days, if possible.

For further information about the Sustainability Action Summer Institute, please email sasi@uml.edu.

GC3 In Action

GC3 Promotional Materials

A GC3 video, entitled "A Call for Champions," a GC3 brochure, a GC3 poster, and a GC3 powerpoint presentation are now available to share with your colleagues and supply chains.

[View GC3 Video](#)

[Download GC3 Brochure](#)

[Download GC3 Poster](#)

[Download GC3 PowerPoint Presentation](#)



Working Group Updates

The working groups have been moving forward on a number of projects.

Advancing DfE and Green Chemistry in Government

The working group is pursuing several projects, which include:

(1) Pilot Project of Industry and University Partnerships

In February, the working group began a project assessing alternatives to materials used in wire and cable applications. This research project will act as a model for future collaboration between universities and industries seeking solutions to common problems.

(2) Green Chemistry Incentives Briefing Paper

The GC3 and Clean Production Action are collaborating with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and the Environmental Health Fund to draft a briefing paper for federal and state policy makers about incentives for businesses to adopt green chemistry. Two of four conference calls with green chemistry stakeholders to inform this briefing paper have been convened. A draft of the paper will be presented at the 2010 GC3 Roundtable in April.

(3) Advancing Federal Efforts on Green Chemistry and DfE

Following on the GC3 visit to Washington, D.C. in September, we have been in contact with staffers from the Senate Commerce Committee, who have reported that there has been no significant progress on the federal green chemistry bill. We have also been in contact with staffers in Congresswoman Niki Tsongas' office regarding the promotion of DfE and other prevention programs at EPA. We plan to work with them, in coordination with Representative Olver's office, to discuss a strategy to better fund these programs.

For more information or to be added to the working group or sub-group email lists, please contact Melissa Coffin (melissa_coffin@uml.edu).

Drivers for Innovation and Marketing Safer Products

The working group has been focused on two projects, including:

(1) [Best Practices in Product Chemicals Management in the Retail Industry](#)

The working group is in the process of discussing next steps for our retail work after the release and distribution of our report *Best Practices in Product Chemicals Management in the Retail Industry*. There is interest in developing an interactive retail resource clearinghouse, the details of which would be discussed at our working session at the 2010 GC3 Roundtable in April.

(2) [Green Glossary](#)

The Green Glossary project is in its final stages. Version One of the glossary will be ready for release at the 2010 GC3 Roundtable in April.

For more information or to be added to the working group or sub-group email lists, please contact Yve Torrie (yve_torrie@uml.edu).

Tools for Chemical Assessment and Safer Design

The working group has been focused on one project:

(1) [Minimum Chemical Data Set](#)

A survey of current and future chemical data needs has been designed and refined based on early corporate survey takers. This survey has been distributed via the green-innovation listserv. Responses received, with lessons learned from the [GC3 supply chain case studies](#), will form the basis of a data needs discussion at the 2010 GC3 Roundtable in April and a first draft of a white paper that will be circulated among the GC3 Tools Working Group for review and comment. This white paper could then be used to build consensus and momentum around the need for greater chemical data along supply chains, or could serve as a tool for GC3 companies to communicate with suppliers, and for suppliers to communicate with their customers. If you are interested in participating in this project, contact melissa_coffin@uml.edu.

For more information or to be added to the working group or sub-group email lists, please contact Melissa Coffin (melissa_coffin@uml.edu).

GC3 Headlines

[Report to Highlight Retailers' "Best Practices" Managing Chemicals in Products They Sell](#)

BNA Daily Environment--October 28, 2009

[Better Living Through GREEN Chemistry](#)

Washington State Department of Ecology--November 18, 2009

[New Report: Growing the Green Economy Through Green Chemistry and Design for the Environment](#)

Alliance for Nurses for Healthy Environments--November 19, 2009

[Being "Green" Doesn't Hamper Innovation, Case Studies Show](#)

The New England Business Bulletin--November 30, 2009

[An Updated Benchmark for Corporate Green Chemistry Practices](#)

GreenBiz.com--November 30, 2009

[How Companies are Committing to Reduce Toxic Footprints](#)

GreenBiz.com--November 30, 2009

[Getting a Grip on Your Company's Toxic Footprint](#)

GreenBiz.com--December 2, 2009

[Blow Molders Plan for Bigger BPA-Free Bottles](#)

PlasticsNews.com--February 5, 2010

[A Blow to BPA](#)

Core77.com--February 9, 2010

In the News

EPA Existing Chemicals Action Plans

On December 30, 2009, EPA posted [action plans](#) on phthalates, perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in products, and short-chain chlorinated paraffins. These action plans summarize available hazard, exposure, and use information; outline the risks that each chemical may present; and identify the specific steps EPA is taking to address those concerns.

Greening Consumer Electronics: Moving Away from Bromine and Chlorine

Two leading nonprofit environmental organizations, ChemSec and Clean Production Action, released a new precedent setting research report on companies that are leading the electronics industry by moving away from chemicals that can lead to health and environmental problems. The report features seven companies who have engineered environmental solutions that negate the need for most, or in some cases all, uses of brominated and chlorinated chemicals.

REACH Requirements for Substances of Very High Concern in Articles

REACH introduces new information obligations for articles that contain substances of very high concern. For such articles, producers and importers have substantial information obligations triggered by a SVHC concentration limit. But some controversial issues concerning the application to complex articles are still under debate. A [recent report](#) identifies and describes examples of implications in different product sectors induced by the new information obligations.

EU Cosmetic Products Regulation

On November 30, 2009 the new Cosmetic Products Regulation was adopted, replacing the Cosmetics Directive. The regulation introduces a number of important changes to the way cosmetic products are regulated in the EU. Some of the key elements include: notification, evaluation, and labeling requirements for nanomaterials; pre-market safety assessment; and elimination of trade secret justification for suppressing ingredients on labels.

China New Chemicals Regulation Adopted

The Ministry of Environmental Protection expanded the [Measures on the Environmental Management of New Chemical Substances](#), widely referred to as China REACH, on January 19, 2010. This is applicable to new chemicals which are not included in the Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances Produced or Imported in China and to products that release new chemical substances in their normal use. Some of the new provisions include: classification into general new chemicals, hazardous new chemicals, and priority hazardous chemicals; tonnage based notification (higher volume demands more data); annual reporting requirements for producers and importers of new chemicals; promotional provisions for the development and use of environmentally-friendly chemicals; a reference to GHS Standards; and a risk management concept incorporating hazards and exposure.