



Green Chemistry and Commerce Council Quarterly E-Newsletter

November 2009

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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

Save the Date--2010 GC3 Innovators Roundtable

Where: Sysco, Houston, Texas

When: April 26-28, 2009

[Download a flyer to share with colleagues.](#)

GC3 Webinar

Topic: Introduction to the Energy and Materials Flow & Cost Tracker (EMFACT) Software Tool

Presenter: Terri Goldberg, NEWMOA and Rick Reibstein, MA OTA

Date: December 15th, 2009

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

EMFACT(tm) is a software tool designed to be used within companies for systematically tracking materials and energy use; releases, discharges, and wastes; and associated costs in ways that can create value for their business. The tool can provide a comprehensive picture of resource use and its relation to production and planning that can help improve both business and environmental performance.

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association

(NEWMOA) and the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (MA OTA) created EMFACT(tm) because the agencies recognized the need and opportunity for manufacturers to more effectively implement environmental management accounting as a key tool to aid in setting pollution prevention priorities, identifying value-added opportunities for sustainable production, and implementing materials and energy efficiency improvements. EMFACT(tm) can be a useful adjunct for compliance assurance, quality management, lean manufacturing, environmental management systems, productivity and resource efficiency improvements, and preventing accidents and losses.

This webinar will introduce the participants to EMFACT and demonstrate some of its features and functions.

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

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).

GC3 In Action

GC3 Promotional Materials

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

[View GC3 Video](#)

[Download GC3 Brochure](#)

[Download GC3 Poster](#)



GC3 Visit to Washington, D.C.

On September 16th and 17th, GC3 participants visited Washington, D.C. to show support for green chemistry and design for the environment principles. The visit included meetings with Asst. Administrator Steve Owens (EPA),

Paul Anastas, NIST, Rep. Olver's office, Rep. Gingrey's office, Sen. Snowe's office, Sen. Rockefeller's office, and Sen. Commerce Committee Staffers.

From left to right: Joel Tickner (Lowell Center), Jack Daley (Daley International), Roger

Retailer Panel at RILA

GC3 participants presented a panel on "Best Practices in Product Chemicals Management in the Retail Industry" during the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) Environmental Sustainability and Compliance Conference. The session highlighted the innovative work of some retailers in addressing the issue of product chemicals management and presented a draft report featuring case studies of innovative retailers.



From left to right: Jenny Gitlitz (Green Depot), John Leyenberger (Walmart), Roger McFadden (Staples), Yve Torrie (Lowell Center)

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) Partnerships Between GC3 and Academia

Barbara Hanley (HP) and Roger McFadden (Staples) have been working to set up an in-person meeting to further elaborate on a pilot project that would be useful to both companies. The primary selling point of the project will be that an industry/academic partnership provides information to industry that is generated in an unbiased way and will be less vulnerable to criticism.

(2) Green Chemistry Incentives Whitepaper

The Business-NGO working group of Clean Production Action, in which many GC3 participants are involved, has also expressed interest in green chemistry incentives. NPPR may also be interested in working with the GC3 on this project.

(3) Federal Green Chemistry Bill

The GC3 had a successful visit to Washington, D.C. where we met with representatives from both the legislative and executive branches to show support for green chemistry and design for the environment principles. Once a bill is reintroduced, there will be a number of ways GC3 can work to support the legislation. NIST is currently engaging industry in a dialog about research needs and challenges in green chemistry in which GC3 participants could be involved.

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

John Leyenberger (Walmart), Roger McFadden (Staples), and Yve Torrie (Lowell Center for Sustainable Production), gave a presentation at the Retail Industry Leaders Association's (RILA) Environmental and Sustainability Conference on October 6th where they presented the group's draft report: Best Practices in Product Chemicals Management in the Retail Industry. The presentation and report were well received. The report will be finalized and released at the end of November, 2009.

(2) Green Glossary

The glossary of "green" terms commonly used to market products is being updated and will be sent to the group for final comment by the end of November, 2009.

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 two projects, including:

(1) Supply Chain Case Studies

The working group completed its first 3 case studies this fall (featuring Nike, HP, and SC Johnson) exploring the ways in which leading companies are gathering the chemical data necessary to advance safer chemistry within their supply chains (see www.greenchemistryandcommerce.org/projects.php).

(2) Minimum Chemical Data Set

To follow on the supply chain case studies, the working group is seeking companies interested in taking part in a second round of

case studies which would examine companies' efforts to gather and use chemical data, but would have a broader focus on the companies' full range of green chemistry and green product design activities. When thinking about participating, you might want to consider some of the media attention that the first round of case studies is receiving (see GC3 In the News section below).

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

Advisory Committee Updates

The GC3 Advisory Committee met and began planning for the 2010 GC3 Innovators Roundtable (April 26-28, 2010, Houston, TX). Other discussion items included a letter of support for green chemist Paul Anastas' nomination to EPA and a possible structure for GC3 participation dues. Those with ideas for panel discussions or speakers for this year's Roundtable or with thoughts on a level of support or annual dues should contact Melissa Coffin (melissa_coffin@uml.edu).

GC3 Headlines

[Nike, HP and SC Johnson Navigate Path to Greener Chemistry Supply Chain](#)

Greenbiz.com--October 14, 2009

[Hazardous Chemical Evaluation Evolves at HP, SC Johnson, Nike](#)

Environmental Leader--October 19, 2009

[Nike: From Considered Design to Closing the Loop](#)

Greenbiz.com--October 19, 2009

[HP Voluntarily Collecting Data from Supply Chain on 240 Chemicals](#)

Green Electronics Daily--October 20, 2009

[Gathering Chemical Information and Advancing Safer Chemistry in Complex Supply Chains](#)

Environmental News Bits--October 23, 2009

In the News

Why Sustainability is Now the Key Driver for Innovation

A [new study](#) in the Harvard Business Review has found that corporate sustainability is a key driver of innovation that also yields real financial rewards rather than extra cost. Tracking efforts by the likes of Wal-Mart, Hewlett-Packard and Clorox, the authors identified a five-stage process companies must navigate as they adopt green business models.

Solicitation of Comments on Draft Changes to DfE Criteria

EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics is [soliciting comment on several draft changes](#) to its criteria for participation in the DfE Safer Product Labeling Program. Comments are due by November 30, 2009 and should be designated by docket identification number EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-0829.

EPA Announces Essential Principles for Reform of Chemicals Management Legislation

EPA has announced [six principles](#) to help inform efforts underway in Congress to reauthorize and significantly strengthen the effectiveness of TSCA. The principles present Administration goals for updated legislation that will give EPA the mechanisms and authorities to expeditiously target chemicals of concern and promptly assess and regulate new and existing chemicals.

Public Launch of Pharos System

The [Pharos System](#), an authoritative, affordable and user friendly materials evaluation tool, was publicly launched on November 10, 2009. Pharos scores and elegant graphics offer users a fair assessment "at-a-glance" of the relative impacts of products. Pharos also includes a Chemical and Material Library containing health and safety information on nearly 10,000 chemical ingredients commonly found in building products.

OSHA Issues Proposed Rule to Adopt the Globally Harmonized Hazard Communication System

OSHA has announced a proposed rule to align OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard with Provisions of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The proposed modifications to the standard include: revised criteria for classification of chemical hazards; revised labeling provisions; a specified format for safety data sheets; and other related revisions to definitions of terms and requirements for employee training.

International Fragrance Association to Publish Fragrance Industry Ingredient List

The International Fragrance Association (IFRA) will publish a list of fragrance ingredients being used by the industry's customers in consumer goods by December 31, 2009. The list of fragrance ingredients will be generated from the IFRA 2009 Use Survey.