

GC3 Visit to Washington, D.C., September 16-17, 2009

Trip Itinerary and Meeting Notes

Participants

- Richard Cottrell, SYSCO
- Jack Daley, Daley International
- Bob Israel, Johnson Diversey
- Roger McFadden, Staples
- Chris Pearce, SC Johnson
- Lauren Heine, Clean Production Action
- Booth Jameson, HP
- Joel Tickner, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production
- Jessica Schifano, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production

Trip Itinerary

September 16th

10:00-11:00—Meeting with Steve Owens, EPA OPPTS Assistant Administrator

11:15-12:00—Meeting with Paul Anastas

1:00-2:00—Meeting with Lisa Wiehl, Legislative Director, Representative Olver

3:30-4:30—Meeting with Michael Calvo, Senior Policy Advisor, Representative Gingrey

September 17th

9:00-11:00—Meeting with various groups at NIST

12:00-1:00—Meeting with Senate Staffers (Patrick Woodcock—Sen. Snowe, Patrick Bond—Sen. Rockefeller, Ann Zulkosky and Chan Lieu—Senate Commerce Committee)

Key Messages and Follow-Up

Legislative Strategy—Updates on Green Chemistry Research and Development Act

- On the House side, there is still interest in reintroducing and advancing the bill, but no current time line for reintroduction. The House side has had some frustrations of having passed the bill on multiple occasions with no Senate action to date. One of the biggest barriers to future passage will be the funding. Given the economic downturn, the bill must be fiscally responsible, which in practice means that the funding must come out of existing appropriated funds rather than new appropriations. Including vague language that refers to undetermined funds being appropriated to agencies may not help. A Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the bill would also help advance the legislation. There seems to be some openness to modifications of the previously introduced legislation, especially those changes that are budget-neutral. These might include policy statements that would advance green chemistry R&D.
- On the Senate side, there is a lot of interest in the bill from Senator Snowe's office, Senator Rockefeller's office, and the Commerce Committee. Since the House has not moved forward, the Senate feels they have some flexibility to revise the bill to strengthen and update the previous iterations (given that it is now three Congresses later). We discussed how if the bill is to stay in the Commerce Committee it will be important to not offer revisions that would significantly

involve other committees (such as greater inclusion of EPA, NIH, or HHS in the bill) as this could increase challenges in passing the bill. There is not a clear time line for reintroduction, but they would like to move it this session. Staffers hope to develop draft language and possibly hold a hearing on the bill in the fall/winter. Although TSCA reform is also a priority, there was a strong sense that green chemistry legislation can and should move separately from those efforts. Staffers will be consulting with the Environment and Public Works Committee Staff (there is some overlap of Senators on both committees) to discuss how the draft legislation relates to TSCA reform efforts.

- One area that was mentioned by both Senate and House staffers was the link to green labeling and standards (Senator Boxer introduced an ecolabeling bill that is not moving forward).
- Follow-up—There are a number of activities that were identified for future efforts to help advance the bill. Staffers suggested that many of these actions should be initiated following the introduction of draft legislation.
 - Keep track of what is going on/keep in contact with Senate/House staff
 - Develop letters of support from individual companies with specific examples of where this research could be helpful/has been helpful; analysis of green chemistry success stories—Make case why government should fund this. This could be a GC3 coordinated activity.
 - Garner broad support of Republicans and key Commerce Committee members (Isakson, Hutchison) on bill by meeting with Senate offices, letters of support from local companies
 - Do further education about what green chemistry is and what it isn't
 - Develop green chemistry roadmap

Executive Branch Strategy—Meetings with EPA, Representative Olver, and NIST

- Steve Owens, Assistant Administrator OPPTS, EPA was very engaged in and supportive of our discussion of the DfE program. He wants to work to further develop and promote the program and is interested in continued engagement on advancing the program and prevention programs in general.
- Staff at Representative Olver's office were interested in learning more about DfE and other prevention programs at EPA. Representative Olver (a PhD chemist by training), as a member of the appropriations committee with jurisdiction over EPA, is in a position to influence EPA's budget. The appropriations process for FY2011 will begin in January/February.
- There is a clear role for NIST in advancing green chemistry and DfE concepts. The Green Suppliers Network Program helps businesses achieve toxic material reduction or substitution. The Technology Innovation Program (TIP) is interested in better understanding the field of sustainable chemistry, a named area of critical national need. These efforts may eventually develop into an extramural grant program to fund high-risk, high-reward research in sustainable chemistry. NIST is also in early stage research efforts on sustainable manufacturing and, in collaboration with industry consortia, is engaged in basic research to find technical solutions to problems in industry.
- Follow-up—
 - Send letters to EPA Administrator and key policy staff to promote DfE and prevention programs
 - Develop memo on restructuring prevention programs at EPA, highlighting connection between DfE and green chemistry
 - Set up district meeting with Representative Olver
 - Put together information on EPA prevention programs, budgets, costs, achievements, and letters of support in preparation for engagement in FY2011 appropriations process. Contact Representative Olver's office in late fall.

- Invite someone from NIST to present at GC3 Webinar
- Get more information on NIST's Technology Innovation Program