



Green Chemistry and Commerce Council Quarterly e-Newsletter

May 2010

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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, and news about green chemistry and design for environment.

GC3 Announcements

New Funding Structure as of May 1, 2010

As you already know, the GC3 Advisory Committee has approved an annual dues structure that will now be required for participation in the GC3 and any of its working groups. So as not to create barriers to participation, the GC3 dues structure is tiered based on the size of the organization. Dues levels are recommended rather than mandatory; however a minimum of \$250/year per organization will be required for GC3 participation as of May 1, 2010.

Detailed membership guidelines and a form through which dues will be collected is available [on the GC3 website](#). We ask that you **return it by June 30 in order to be considered an on-going GC3 participant and to continue to participate actively in the Council.**

If your fiscal year is an obstacle to meeting this deadline, please contact melissa_coffin@uml.edu to make other arrangements.

Working Group Changes

Over the past five years, the GC3 has been driven by the same three working groups focused on Tools for Safer Chemical Assessment, Advancing DfE and Green Chemistry, and identifying Drivers for Innovation and Marketing Safer Products. Each of these working groups has produced valuable and relevant reports and projects, as well as meetings and other discussions.

As the GC3 begins to grow in numbers and interest, it was agreed that projects would no longer be limited to those that fall within the three working groups. Projects will be chosen by the interest level of GC3 participants, and participants can be involved in any number of projects if they so choose.

Each project will be championed by one or two GC3 participants who, with Lowell Center staff, will facilitate the progress of the project. Project calls will no longer be scheduled through Meeting Wizard. Instead, the Lowell Center will find a time when the project's champion(s) are available for a call, and announce that time and date, dial-in information, and an agenda across the GC3 listserv. All who are interested in the project and who are available to attend are encouraged to join these calls.

See the [GC3 website](#) for a description of current projects.

GC3 In Action

2010 GC3 Annual Meeting

More than 80 people attended the 5th Annual GC3 Innovators Roundtable, April 26-28 at Sysco Corporation in Houston, TX.

Presenter slides and a summary of the meeting are available at www.greenchemistryandcommerce.org/events.past.php.



Roger McFadden (Staples), Joel Tickner (Lowell Center), and host to this year's Roundtable, Richard Cottrell (Sysco) smile for the camera.

This year's Roundtable featured a keynote address by one of the founders of green chemistry, John Warner, a presentation on technical improvement efforts in the DfE program, an overview of nanotechnology's role in sustainability efforts, and a training on the newly created iSUSTAIN Green Chemistry Index.

HP to Host the GC3 in 2011

The Lowell Center is pleased to announce that the 2011 GC3 Innovators Roundtable will be hosted by Hewlett-Packard at one of their west coast facilities.

We look forward to confirming a city and date for the event soon!

Upcoming Events

GC3 Quarterly Webinar

Topic: Moving From Class Rooms to Board Rooms: Approaches to Green Chemistry Education

Presenter: Amy Cannon, Beyond Benign

Date: Tuesday, June 29

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

Description: The mission of Beyond Benign is to use the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry to create tools, opportunities and partnerships to support the implementation of community involvement initiatives, workplace training, cooperative programs and K-12 education resources. Dr. Amy Cannon will discuss the Foundation's approach to green chemistry education in a way that ensures that companies seeking green chemistry innovations have the expertise they need in the lab, and within management.

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

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 Melissa Coffin (melissa_coffin@uml.edu).

Register Now! 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.

In the News

President's Cancer Panel Cites Chemical Exposures as Factor

In a [May 7 report](#), an expert panel that advises the president on cancer said that chemicals and other environmental and occupational exposures contribute significantly more to causing the deadly disease than previously thought. The panel advised President Obama "to use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our nation's productivity and devastate American lives." The panel noted that with nearly 80,000 chemicals on the market in the United States, many of which are largely unregulated, exposure to potential environmental carcinogens is more widespread than previously recognized. President's Cancer Panel [fact sheets](#) on industrial carcinogens, air and water pollutants, agriculture and cancer, and radiation and cancer are also available.

TSCA Reform Discussions Begin

Two pieces of legislation reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act, the [Safe Chemicals Act](#) (House version) and the [Toxic Chemicals Safety Act](#) (Senate version) were introduced to Congress in April. Despite areas of disagreement about key aspects of how TSCA should be reformed, most stakeholders agree that reform is necessary. See the [Lowell Center website](#) for more information about stakeholder positions.

EPA Action Plan for Bisphenol-A

Following similar reports for other priority chemicals, EPA released a [chemical action plan](#) for Bisphenol-A in March, 2010. Next steps as outlined by the Agency include, 1) potential listing under Section 5 of TSCA as a chemical of concern; 2) research into alternatives for BPA's use in paper coatings such as on cash register receipts; and 3) continued collaboration with FDA, CDC, and NIEHS to document the health effects of BPA.

iSUSTAIN Green Chemistry Index Launched

The [iSUSTAIN Green Chemistry Index](#) contains a set of sustainability metrics based on the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry and takes into account such factors as waste generation, energy usage, health and environmental impact of raw materials and products, safety of processing steps, and others. Users generate a scenario containing information on the materials going into a process, the materials out of a process, and the conditions used for the various steps in a process. Several alternative scenarios can be generated for the same product/process, making changes within them to evaluate their effect on the overall sustainability score, thus allowing the user to do a "what-if" analysis.

EPA Providing Free Access to TSCA Inventory

In March, EPA announced that it would begin providing free web access to the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory. This inventory contains a consolidated list of thousands of industrial chemicals maintained by EPA. The agency has also published this information on a new website developed by the Obama Administration to provide public access to important government information, [Data.gov](#).

California Releases Draft Green Chemistry Regulation

California's Department of Toxic Substances Control released an outline of their Draft Regulations for Safer Products, offering guidelines for prioritizing chemicals and products of concern. Based on this outline, DTSC is beginning draft regulations.

New Report on Supply Chain Challenges for Metals in Electronics

A report released in April maps the supply chain for tin, tantalum, and cobalt used in electronics. The report includes recommendations for ensuring that these metals

are sourced from conflict free zones in Central Africa.

Connecticut Innovations Institute Approved

On May 6, the Connecticut Senate unanimously approved the creation of a Chemical Innovations Institute (HB 5126) to advance green chemistry and clean technology development in the state. Housed at the University of Connecticut Health Center, the Institute will promote safer alternatives to toxic chemicals and will help with ensuring access to international markets for Connecticut-manufactured products.

Lab Tests Find Toxic Chemicals in Perfumes

A new [report](#) released by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics found more than a dozen potentially hazardous chemicals in fragrances for both men and women which were not listed on product labels. Many of these chemicals are allergens and endocrine disruptors. Fragrances tested included Britney Spears' Curious and Hannah Montana Secret Celebrity, Calvin Klein Eternity and Abercrombie & Fitch Fierce.

The Role of Retail

Five Winds has published a series of reports exploring efforts in the retail sector to influence approaches to sustainability. Reports can be downloaded from the [Five Winds website](#)