

GC3 Retail Project Group Call
Mapping Sustainability Efforts

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Present: Bob Buck, DuPont; Sally Edwards, LCSP; Michelle Harvey, EDF; Dennis McGavis, Shaw Industries; Sarah Shields, LCSP; Yve Torrie, LSCP

At the 2011 GC3 Innovators Roundtable, the Retail Project group discussed the focus of the group for the upcoming year, and decided upon three projects: (1) developing an inventory of groups, illustrated in a “map,” that are engaged around sustainability issues, including toxic issues, that are relevant to retailers; (2) developing a business case for green chemistry to help retailers “sell” green chemistry within their organization; and (3) creating an educational program for retailers to make green chemistry relevant to more retailers and their supply chains.

Deliverables for the first two projects are being developed; the third project will begin once the other two projects have been completed.

Map of Groups Engaged in Sustainability Issues, Including Toxics Issues

The goal of this project is to establish an inventory of groups engaged around sustainability issues, including toxic issues, that are relevant to retailers. The scope, goal, and projects of these groups will be collected and a “map” will be developed to illustrate areas where the groups overlap and areas where new projects could be developed. This will help the GC3 define its role in working with retailers. It will also help retailers make informed decisions about which groups to become involved with and why.

The groups to be included will be established initiatives with work products and projects. The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production will send an email to the GC3 asking for suggestions of groups, including international initiatives. Suggestions to date include:

- ACS GCI
- BizNGO
- CPA – Green Screen
- C2CPII
- EWG
- Good Guide
- Keystone (GPR) Green Products Roundtable
- OIA Eco Working Group
- Sustainability Consortium
- The Conference Board’s Product Stewardship & Regulatory Affairs Council

The information to be gathered on each group will include:

- Mission and purpose / goals
- Larger organizational body
- Work products and deliverables
- Future projects
- How this group compares with other groups
- How retailers can engage with this group –fees for engagement etc.?
- Web address and contact person

With this information an inventory of information on these groups will be developed.

Next Steps

- The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production will send an email to the GC3 in the next two weeks asking for suggestions of groups to be included in this “map” and their contacts. International groups will be included.
- The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production will follow up with Ken Geiser who is involved in international efforts.
- Once suggestions have been gathered, the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production will compile a list of groups and conduct preliminary research on them.
- Within 6-8 weeks this list will be made available to the group.
- Ten days later, a second call will be scheduled to make decisions about which groups to include and research in more depth, and to discuss next steps.