Perspective on a Green Chemistry Transition

Barbara Cunningham Acting Deputy Director Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics US EPA

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Green Chemistry

An approach to chemistry, not a discipline of chemistry

> Design of chemical products and processes to reduce hazard at the source

- Applies to any process or product, so relates to programs across EPA and government
- Widespread, but still growing, recognition of concept
- Key, scientific foundation for sustainability; improves economy as well as environment

EPA's Chemical Management Program

Reform of chemicals management legislation

- Administration's principles specifically point to green chemistry and safer alternatives
- Senate's introduced Safe Chemicals Act of 2010 and House discussion draft Toxic Chemicals Safety Act
 - Promote innovation/market incentives use of green chemistry and safer alternatives to chemicals of concern

Chemicals Management & P2

Enhanced chemical management

- Identify and act upon chemicals of concern
- Promote/identify potential alternatives
- Increased public access to information about chemicals

Leverage P2 opportunities to ensure a greener, more sustainable economy and environment

Advancing green chemistries, processes and technologies

Identify and drive innovation/choices towards safer chemistry, technologies and products

- Green Chemistry Challenge Awards
- DfE greener chemistry product recognition; alternatives assessments
- Green Engineering
- New Chemicals P2 Recognition
- Promote sustainable Manufacturing
 - Economy, Energy and Environment (E3)
 - Green Suppliers Network

Advancing green chemistries, processes and technologies

□ Education:

- Green Engineering
- Green Chemistry
- DfE product labels
- Technical expertise/participation in Standards Development
 - Greener chemistry
 - Green buildings & products; green meetings

Advancing green chemistries, processes and technologies

Federal Leadership

- Purchasing of environmentally preferable products
- Implementation of Executive Order 13514
- EPEAT and Federal Electronics Challenge
- Within EPA and across Agencies
- Partnerships with other governments
 - P2 Rx Centers, Tribal portal
 - Grants to States, Local and Tribal governments
 - Specific programs, eg E3
 - International collaborations

Design for the Environment (DfE)

- 2000 cleaning products carry the DfE logo
- Assess Alternatives to Support Chemical Action Plans
 - BPA
 - Deca-BDE and HBCD
 - Phthalates
- □ DfE Alternatives Analyses for Safer Chemistry
 - Flame retardants in printed circuit boards
 - LCA for nanoscale innovations in batteries that enable electric vehicles

Economy, Energy & Environment (E3)

- Coordinated Federal/local technical assistance initiative that helps communities work with their manufacturing base to:
 - Promote sustainable manufacturing and growth
 - Improve the regional economy
 - Reduce environmental impacts
- □ Commerce/NIST and EPA provide
 - Customized, hands-on assessments of production processes and identify energy-saving opportunities
- Designed to be scalable and replicable
- Pilots initiated in Columbus, OH and San Antonio, TX
 - Expanding to other states, e.g., AL, MI, NC

Opportunities for strengthening the transition to a green economy: open discussion

