



# Collaborative on Health and the Environment

## eNewsletter - February 2012



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*In recognition of CHE's 10th anniversary, colleagues who have been particularly instrumental to shaping CHE this past decade will be invited to write an introduction. This month's introduction is by Michael Lerner, president of Commonwealth and co-founder and vice-chair of CHE.*

What are my reflections on CHE after ten years?

I'm grateful.

- Grateful that science is our shared language.
- Grateful that science progresses through dialogue.
- Grateful that dialogue requires mutual respect.

"Science & Civility" is CHE's core value. We practice it every day.

"If CHE didn't exist, we'd have to invent it," a friend recently said. CHE actually invented itself. We co-created this global community of over 4,000 in over forty countries through our work together. We began with forty friends, gathered at San Francisco Medical Society and Commonwealth, committed to exploring how the environment is affecting our health and the health of our children. Now our partnership has multiplied over one hundred fold. Leading

scientists, physicians, health practitioners, patient advocates, environmental health advocates, foundation officers, government officials, and concerned world citizens make CHE what it is.

CHE Partners believe in the precautionary principle. We believe environmental health science must guide the policies and practices that safeguard human life. But this shared ethic is different from advocacy of specific campaigns. We leave campaign advocacy to others. What CHE stands for is civil dialogue on emerging science and research methodologies that explore the multiple environmental factors that can impact health across our lifespan.

CHE Partners have moved understanding of environmental health sciences forward in cancer, learning and developmental disabilities, autism, infertility and pregnancy compromise, Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative conditions, obesity and diabetes, and other health end points. We've contributed to science dialogue on EMFs. We are exploring the cumulative impact of multiple stressors, the ecological paradigm of health (or complexity theory), climate change, integrative medicine and environmental health. We are offering environmental health trainings for a growing community of patient advocates and health professionals. We continue to develop CHE's widely respected database.

I believe CHE is in its youth. I believe CHE's full power and promise lie ahead. While we have contributed significantly to shaping public and professional awareness of the impact of the environment on health, the decisive shift in human consciousness--the understanding of the fundamental oneness of the web of life--still lies before us.

A science-based unified understanding of life will mark the beginning of the next great stage in human civilization. One can see this unified theory taking shape with many different names in many different disciplines. Call it social neuroscience, conservation biology, cumulative impact, the ecological paradigm of health, complexity theory, biopsychosocial research, integrative health, psychoneuroimmunology or whatever you choose, the underlying premise is that the biosphere is ultimately a single whole. It is fundamentally characteristic of emerging fields of science that the nomenclature will be debated and contested for many years. That is a sign of the vitality and health of the field.

Because humanity is so diverse, science must be our common language in the exploration of this field. The more we understand the interconnectedness of living systems, the more precious their integrity becomes. The more precious their integrity, the more compelling the preservation of life's web will be for us.

CHE is an adventure. CHE is a delight. CHE is an ever-diversifying community. CHE is a state of mind. CHE is a promise we make to our children, to coyotes, to parrots, to dolphins, and to every being who still holds wildness sacred inside them. So I'm grateful. I'm grateful to be part of CHE.

Michael Lerner  
President of Commonweal and co-founder and vice-chair of CHE

\* \* \* \* \*

This essay is available on [CHE's blog](#) for comment and further discussion.

## CHE Partnership Calls

### **CHE Partnership call: Health Impacts of Indoor Air Contaminants**

Tuesday February 14, 2012 at 10 am Pacific / 1 pm Eastern

#### [RSVP for this call](#)

With some notable exceptions, most people spend far more time indoors than outdoors. Thus, the quality of indoor air is an important public health concern. Considerable effort has gone into measuring and monitoring the quality of outdoor air and its health effects. But we often know far less about indoor air contaminants and their health effects. This call, which will take place on Tuesday February 14, 2012 at 10:00 AM Pacific / 1 PM Eastern will feature experts whose research focuses on indoor concerns internationally and in the US.

Featured speakers include: William (Bill) Martin, MD, Associate Director for Translational Biomedicine at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is one of the world's leading pulmonary experts. His recent research has focused on the health hazards, particularly for women and children, created by indoor cook stoves still used in many countries around the world.

Ruthann Rudel, MS, Director of Research at the Silent Spring Institute, will speak about endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in indoor air and house dust from everyday consumer products and building materials. Her research has shown that indoor air levels of EDCs are higher than outdoor levels and that exposures in the home can be the most important source of exposure.

Ami Zota, ScD, MS, Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, University of California, San Francisco.

Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, CHE Science Director, and Science Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network; Coordinator of CHE's Science Working Group will provide a brief science update for this call.

The call will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

## Special Events and Announcements

**Registration now open:** The *Healthy Environments Across Generations* conference, which will take place at the New York Academy of Medicine, June 7-8, 2012, will address the environmental health aspects of how we live, eat, work, play, and socialize throughout life, and how we can transform our environments to promote health and prevent disease. Register now for this innovative event bringing together experts from many disciplines to help plan our collective future. Join us and over 40 sponsors to participate in "Thinking Forward" sessions, "Making Connections" roundtables with experts in many fields, and a range of creative special activities including a "wellness" tour of the Central Park Conservatory Gardens. New co-sponsors include the Alliance for Aging Research and the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging.

This participatory conference that will bring together leaders and innovators from multiple

sectors to:

- Catalyze innovative approaches towards a systems-based approach to health across the lifespan;
- Identify key intervention points and crosscutting environmental solutions to help reverse rising disease trajectories;
- Develop intergenerational programmatic and policy recommendations/models that reflect an integrated approach to wellness; and
- Create an ongoing network for collaboration to build healthier communities for all.

Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information and a link to the registration page.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Resources from recent CHE calls:**

If you missed any of the following CHE calls, you may listen to MP3 recordings and find supporting materials at the following links:

- January 19, 2012 - [Gut Microbiota and Environmental Chemicals in Diabetes and Obesity](#) (*Note: We apologize that there is no MP3 recording available for this call due to technical difficulties. However, speakers slides and additional resources are available on the call page.*)
- December 16, 2011 - [Breast Cancer and the Environment: A Life Course Approach: A New Report from the IOM](#)
- November 17, 2011- [Food Additives: Do They Subtract from Our Health?](#)

You can subscribe via podcast to receive notifications of new call recordings added to the CHE archives. [View past calls and subscribe to the podcast.](#)

## **CHE Working and Regional Group Updates**

**Stay in touch with CHE through social media:**

Visit [CHE's blog](#) to read a recent post by Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director of CHE and the Science and Environmental Health Network on low levels of vitamin D and health concerns.

Visit CHE's [Facebook page](#).

Join CHE on LinkedIn. CHE has set up a LinkedIn profile and a group for CHE Partners to better connect with one another. Join us and start a conversation, find Partners for networking and collaborations and otherwise expand your CHE conversations.

### **Cumulative Impacts Working Group hosted by CHE and SEHN**

~ coordinated by Elise Miller and Carolyn Raffensperger, for more information visit the [Cumulative Impacts website](#)

~ **February working group call: Climate Change Vulnerability and Cumulative Impacts**

Thursday February 16, 2012 at 11:00 am Pacific / 2 pm Eastern

Dial-in information: 1-270-400-2000, Access code: 198686#

Paul English, PhD, MPH, and his team at the California Environmental Health Investigations Branch have developed an innovative method to screen for climate change population vulnerability. The screening method can be easily implemented in regions where climate vulnerability is a key concern. Climate vulnerability includes three factors: exposure, population sensitivity and adaptive capacity, and Dr. English will discuss findings from his study in two California communities that identified high-risk populations within these communities by assessing and quantifying climate change impacts based on population vulnerability and other cumulative stressors.

The call will be moderated by Elise Miller, MEd, CHE Director. The call will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

### **CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum**

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **New report from Environmental Health Perspectives:** "Overall, the existing literature was judged to provide plausibility, varying from suggestive to strong, that exposure to environmental chemicals may contribute to the epidemic of diabetes and/or obesity." -- From the "Role of Environmental Chemicals in Diabetes and Obesity: A National Toxicology Program Workshop Report" (Thayer KA, Heindel JJ, Bucher JR, Gallo MA., 2012, Environmental Health Perspectives). This report is the first of a series of workshop reports to be published in EHP over the coming year.

[Read the full report](#)

EHP also features a news item, "Obesogens: An environmental link to obesity" in this month's issue. (Holtcamp W. 2012. Environ.Health Perspect. 120(2):a62-a68.)

[Read more](#)

### ~ **New research published in academic and scientific journals:**

Yang JH, Lee YM, Bae SG, et al. 2012. Associations between Organochlorine Pesticides and Vitamin D Deficiency in the U.S. Population. PLoS.One. 7(1):e30093.

[Read more](#)

Teitelbaum SL, Mervish N, Moshier L, et al. 2012. Associations between phthalate metabolite urinary concentrations and body size measures in New York City children. Environ.Res. 112: 186-193.

[Read more](#)

Vom Saal FS, Nagel SC, Coe BL, et al. 2012. The estrogenic endocrine disrupting chemical bisphenol A (BPA) and obesity. Mol.Cell Endocrinol.

[Read more](#)

Kim MJ, Pelloux V, Guyot E, et al. 2012. Inflammatory Pathway Genes belong to Major Targets of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Adipose Cells. Environ.Health Perspect.

[Read more](#)

Kelishadi R, Poursafa P. 2011. Obesity and Air Pollution: Global Risk Factors for Pediatric Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Hepat.Mon. 11(10):794-802.

[Read more](#)

Vaarala O. 2012. Is the origin of type 1 diabetes in the gut? Immunol.Cell Biol.

[Read more](#)

### **CHE-EMF**

~ coordinated by Michael Lerner and Antoinette Stein, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org) or [nettestein@gmail.com](mailto:nettestein@gmail.com)

~ **New CHE-EMF co-coordinator announced:** Please welcome Antoinette (Toni) Stein as the new Co-Coordinator of CHE-EMF. Toni comes highly recommended by both Cindy Sage and Nancy Evans, our two wonderful CHE-EMF Co- Coordinators for many years. Toni is an Environmental Engineer with a PhD and seven years of experience in industry bringing a scientific engineering perspective to research and development in manufacturing industry applications.

Toni has six years of experience working for the State of California in, the Department of Public Health in the Indoor Air Quality Program and in the Department of General Services in the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. She has been deeply involved in the development of many sustainability standards for a variety of different products and their life cycle phases.

Toni has also served on a number of boards and Commissions including the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Hearing Board, and the Solid Waste Advisory Board in San Mateo County. She co-founded the Zero Waste Task Force of San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito County in California a project of the non-profit Acterra and more recently co-founded of the [Eastbay Citizens Climate Lobby](#) working to develop nationwide GHG policies.

We are truly delighted to have Toni take on this important piece of CHE-EMF's work, as a guarantor of our commitment to informed dialogue on EMF that focuses on science and civility.

~ **Cell Phones: Technology, Exposures, Health Effects:** Environment & Human Health, Inc. has published a report that reviews the science on health risks due to cell phone technology and issues policy recommendations in addition to precautionary health recommendations for individuals.

[Read more](#)

### **CHE Fertility**

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, [karin@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:karin@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **NIEHS meeting on advancing research in women's reproductive health:** NIEHS welcomed leading scientists to a meeting Jan. 20 to lay the foundation for a consortium focused on advancing research in women's reproductive health. The all-day event was co-hosted by Jerry Heindel, Ph., a program administrator in the Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) and Karin Russ, national coordinator of The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) 450-member Fertility and Reproductive Health working group and the meeting's facilitator.

[Read more](#)

~ **High levels of mercury found in Minnesota's North Shore babies:** One in 10 babies

along Minnesota's North Shore are born with unhealthy levels of mercury in their bodies, according to a new report on contamination around Lake Superior, the first to look for the pollutant in the blood of US infants. *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Minnesota.

[Read more](#)

~ **Folic acid supplementation dysregulates gene expression in lymphoblastoid cells -- implications in nutrition:** Excessive folic acid supplementation may require careful monitoring in women who are planning for, or are in the early stages of pregnancy. Aberrant expression of genes during early brain development may have an impact on behavioural characteristics. *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*.

[Read more](#)

~ **Decoding neurodevelopment: findings on environmental exposures and synaptic plasticity:** Of special interest are key discoveries by investigators at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) about some of the basic mechanisms involved in synaptic plasticity, and work by other investigators that explores the hypothesis that environmental toxicants that disrupt synaptic plasticity at critical periods play a role in disorders that have roots in early brain development, such as autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and schizophrenia. *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

[Read more](#)

~ **Fish oil in pregnancy may reduce infant eczema:** A recent study published in the *British Medical Journal* found that long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid supplementation in pregnancy led to lower rates of childhood eczema in the offspring of women with a family history of allergic disease. *New Scientist*.

[Read more](#)

~ **Caffeine may alter women's estrogen levels, study says:** Caffeine changes women's estrogen levels and has different effects in Asian and white women, a new study says. *USA Today*.

[Read more](#)

~ **Call for Abstracts: APHA 2012:** American Public Health Association's 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition, San Francisco, CA. October 27-31, 2012. The APHA 2012 Call for Abstracts is NOW OPEN! This year's theme will be Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan. Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 10.

[Read more](#)

~ **Call for Abstracts: ISEE:** International Society for Environmental Epidemiology's 24th Annual Meeting, Columbia, SC, August 26-30, 2012. The ISEE 2012 Call for Abstracts is now open. This year's theme will be Environmental Health Across Land, Air and Sea. Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 10.

[Read more](#)

~ **Call for Abstracts: ARHP:** Association of Reproductive Health Professionals Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, September 20-22, 2012. The ARHP 2012 Call for Abstracts is now open. This clinical conference combines the latest research science with interactive, hands-on training and offers take home points for immediate practice improvement. Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 24.

[Read more](#)

~ **FOA: Biomedical and Behavioral Research Innovations to Ensure Equity (BRITE) in Maternal and Child Health (R15):** Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): April 3, 2012; October 11, 2012; October 11, 2013. This FOA seeks to increase the diversity of the pool of researchers involved in health equity research related to NICHD mission areas including infant mortality; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); child, adolescent, and/or adult obesity; uterine fibroids; pediatric and maternal HIV/AIDS prevention; violence prevention; health literacy; and outreach and information dissemination.

[Read more](#)

## **CHE Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative**

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, [mvalenti@igc.org](mailto:mvalenti@igc.org)

~ **New blog on healthy aging and the environment:** [AARP's Green Blog](#) was launched this past month with some provocative posts on issues relating to healthy aging and the environment, seafood contamination, global warming and other issues. Links to CHE resources including Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging and Toxipedia are helping to bring environmental health information to AARP's 35 million members.

~ **Rachel Carson contest:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites the public to submit creative projects to the 6th annual [Rachel Carson intergenerational "Sense of Wonder" contest](#). There are four categories: photography, essay, poetry and dance. This year, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the contest will focus on a "Sense of Water." Contest submissions are encouraged to focus on the various properties of water--how it tastes, what it sounds like, how it feels--and what water means to the entrants. The contest is sponsored by EPA, the Dance Exchange, the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., and Generations United.

~ **Gray is Green issues a call to action:** Gray is Green issues a call to action to support [The Clean Air Promise](#), a national campaign to protect the health of children and families across the country from dangerous air pollution. A broad-based coalition of public health, advocacy, and environmental organizations--along with concerned parents across the country--are joining together to mobilize citizens, share their stories, and demand a firm commitment to clean air from leaders in industry and government.

### **~ Upcoming Presentations**

May 18th: Healthy Aging and the Environment Conference--[Public Policy and Aging Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL](#)--co-sponsored by AARP. Invited presentation by Ted Schettler MD, MPH.

October 27th-31st: [American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting](#) October 27-31 in San Francisco--CHE members and colleagues will be presenting a symposium on Healthy Environments Across Generations at the 2012 APHA meeting. The theme of this year's APHA meeting is Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan, a subject near and dear to our hearts and work.

## **CHE Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative**

~ coordinated by Elise Miller, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **Resources and audio available from recent workshop on environmental**



**influences and neurodevelopment:** CHE and the Autism Society recently co-sponsored three workshops featuring national experts from diverse sectors who highlighted the latest research on associations between environmental exposures and early neurodevelopment as well as the implications for prevention-based public health policy. These workshops were intended to catalyze cross-discipline discussions among leaders in environmental, experimental and epidemiologic fields as well as those involved in public policy and environmental health advocacy.

Speaker presentation slides are being added to the workshop's webpage and audio from the workshop is now available.

[Visit the workshop webpage](#)

## CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

### **CHE Alaska**

~ coordinated by Pam Miller, [pkmiller@akaction.net](mailto:pkmiller@akaction.net)

#### **~ Working group call: Coal's Assault on Human Health**

Wednesday February 15, 2012 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1 pm Eastern

RSVP: To join this free call and receive the dial-up instructions, please RSVP to Alaska Community Action on Toxics at [heather@akaction.org](mailto:heather@akaction.org) or 907-222-7714.

At every stage--from mining, transportation, storage, combustion, and disposal of post-combustion wastes--coal development threatens human and environmental health. Pollutants from coal damage all major organ systems in the human body and contribute to four of the five leading causes of death in the United States.

Dr. Lockwood, Professor of Neurology at the University of Buffalo, is a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility and is principal author of the PSR medical report "Coal's Assault on Human Health" which takes a new look at the devastating impacts of coal on the human body. Coal combustion releases mercury, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and dozens of other substances known to be hazardous to human health. This report looks at the cumulative harm inflicted by those pollutants on three major body organ systems: the respiratory system, the cardiovascular system, and the nervous system.

### **CHE HEAL**

~ coordinated by coordinated by Lisette van Vliet, [lisette@env-health.org](mailto:lisette@env-health.org)

**~ New European Commission assessment is good news for climate, health and the economy:** The long awaited European Commission impact assessment of going beyond 20% GHG emission reductions is now out. There is plenty of good news on health benefits and savings which make the case for a stronger EU climate target. The report, which was released 30 January 2012, shows there is a clear opportunity to increase the EU's ambition for tackling climate change says that "the 30% reduction scenario has become considerably less costly" thus rebutting the arguments that have held Europe back from strengthening its emissions reductions target for 2020. The paper assesses the effects of a higher target on energy system costs, investments, fuel costs, air quality and health impacts in member states, and shows how deeper emission cuts benefit both public health and the economy.

[Read more](#)

**~ Cutting emissions boosts health:** A leading EU weekly newspaper, the European Voice,

recently featured an editorial from Professor Hugh Montgomery, co-founder of the Climate and Health Council and visibly influential voice for the health community in Europe and internationally. It brilliantly illustrates the co-benefits for health by tackling climate change. It also highlights the urgent call for action that was taken up by the health sector at the Durban climate talks.

The editorial is in response to a paper released earlier this week by the European Commission analyzing the costs and benefits of moving to a 30% greenhouse reduction target for the 27 EU countries.

[Read the article](#)

~ **Natural England provides joint methodology on health economic assessment tools for walking and for cycling:** The World Health Organization (WHO) just released a booklet supplying tools and guidance for facilitating the methodology of economic assessment of transport infrastructure and policies. One of HEAL's Executive Committee Members, Dave Stone of Natural England, was a co-author.

[Read more](#)

~ **Energy efficiency and indoor air quality: ENVI opinion highlights health concerns:** With their vote on the proposed EU Energy Efficiency Directive, Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) have underlined the centrality of health concerns for energy efficiency decisions. Health impacts should also be taken into account when deciding on energy efficiency management plans and in energy audits.

[Read more](#)

~ **PAN Europe reports on EFSA:** A new Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe report reveals that 10 out of 13 members of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) working group on TTC (Threshold of Toxicological Concern, a method to decide on the health impacts of chemicals), have a conflict of interest.

[Read more](#)

## **CHE Washington**

~ coordinated by Steve Gilbert, [sgilbert@innd.org](mailto:sgilbert@innd.org) and Aimee Boulanger, [aboulanger@whidbey.com](mailto:aboulanger@whidbey.com)

~ **CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group meeting scheduled:** Join the working group on **Thursday February 9, 2012 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am Pacific** for both a presentation by Sandra Smith, MPH, PhD, on health literacy and further discussion of the working group's goals for 2012. This meeting is hosted by Nicole Thomsen of Public Health Seattle and King County.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Julia Singer at [julia.singer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:julia.singer@kingcounty.gov) by Tuesday, February 7, or call 206-263-3042. Calling in by phone? Call in number: 206-684-1467. For last minute help on the day of the event, call Nicole at 425-372-6637.

Location: 401 Fifth Ave, Room 119/120, Seattle, WA 98104 (downtown Seattle)

Featured speaker:

Sandra Smith, MPH, PhD: Dr. Smith is director of the Center for Health Literacy Promotion and clinical instructor at the University of Washington School of Public Health. She is author

of the award-winning health education series *Beginnings Pregnancy Guide* and *Beginnings Parents Guide*; and co-author of the *Beginnings Guides Life Skills Development Curriculum*, and three medical text book chapters on health literacy. She earned a Master's degree in Public Health (health education) at University of Washington and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies (public policy) at Union Institute & University, Cincinnati. She is a member of the World Wide Universities Health Literacy Network.

Parking may be tight downtown, attendees are encouraged to walk, bus, use light rail and/or the train if possible. Note that all CHE-WA events are fragrance free--thanks.

~ **Conference: *Children's Environmental Health Research Matters: a "kickoff" conference to the conference Highlight Regional Research Contributions, Explore the Connection to Policy and Practice***: This conference will take place Tuesday February 28, 2012 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm Pacific at the University of Washington South Campus Center. The program includes presentations on the WA State environmental biomonitoring survey, indoor air quality and Alaskan Native children, and phthalates exposure and infant reproductive development. This conference is sponsored by the University of WA Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and the Center for Child Environmental Health Research (CHC).

There is no registration fee. For more details and to register, please visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/conference>

~ **2nd edition of "A Small Dose of Toxicology" now available**: "A Small Dose of Toxicology", 2nd edition has been launched as a free e-book for downloading for an iPad, kindle or as an PDF. Published by [Healthy World Press](#). All the chapters have been updated and several new chapters added with links into [Toxipedia](#).

## Announcements and News Highlights

### Call for comments on TSCA paperwork and regulatory burdens

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comments on administration of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Inventory which requires manufacturers, processors and importers to provide production volume, plant site information and site-limited status information. Comments are due by March 26, 2012.

[Read more](#)

### Built environment series to premier on PBS

*Designing Healthy Communities* is a multimedia project that highlights people and communities trying to balance health and nature with work, play, and life, and offers best practice solutions for all citizens. Stories and methodologies explored in *Designing Healthy Communities* point the way toward a healthy and sustainable future.

The host of our series is Dr. Richard Jackson, pediatrician, former CDC head of environmental science, top public health official in California, and current UCLA Department Chair and Professor of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health.

[Read more about the series](#)

[Watch a YouTube preview of the series](#) [Read an interview with Dr. Jackson for CHE's Partner Spotlight feature](#)

**Environmental Health News: email, Facebook, Twitter and a website archive**

EHN and its sister site, The Daily Climate, offer a wealth of valuable information each day at no cost to subscribers. The daily email subscriptions and the 350,000-item news archive have recently been supplemented by a Facebook page and Twitter feed.

[Visit the website](#)

[Visit the EHN archives page](#)

Friend EHN on Facebook by searching for Environmental Health News

### **February 2012 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online**

[Read more](#)

### **February 2012 issue of *Environmental Factor* available online**

[Read more](#)

CHE maintains a [news feed](#) of environmental health related news announcements and events collected from a multitude of sources on CHE's website.

## **Reports, Resources and Other Updates**

### **EPA releases new tool with information about water pollution across the US**

Developed under President Obama's transparency initiative, the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool brings together millions of records and allows for easy searching and mapping of water pollution by local area, watershed, company, industry sector, and pollutant.

[Read more](#)

### **New tool maps pollution, noise levels across Europe**

In December 2011 the European Environment Agency (EEA), Microsoft, and technology company Esri launched the Eye on Earth network, a "cloud computing" platform that maps air, water, and noise pollution across Europe based on government data and information uploaded by users.

The WaterWatch feature displays 22,000 locations where the EEA monitors water quality, AirWatch provides information on more than 1,000 air-monitoring stations, and NoiseWatch allows users to directly upload noise-level readings from their personal mobile devices.

[Read more](#)

### **New report published by the UCLA School of Law's Emmett Center on Climate Change and the Environment**

This report assesses California's new chemical regulatory program and concludes that the state must strengthen its program in significant ways in order to adequately protect public health.

[Read more](#)

### **New website: Toxics tools and resources for health professionals**

Environmental Health Policy Institute highlights some of great tools and resources for health professionals and others concerned about the health effects of industrial chemicals.

[Read more](#)

CHE lists hundred of reports, books, videos, databases and other resources in a searchable [Portal to Science](#) on CHE's website.

Thank you for taking the time to read the latest about CHE. As always, we welcome your questions and suggestions. Please direct comments to Elise Miller, Director of CHE, at [elise@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:elise@healthandenvironment.org).

Best wishes,

Elise Miller, MEd, Director

Steve Heilig, Director of Public Health and Education at San Francisco Medical Society and CHE

Erika Sanders, Administrative Coordinator

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