



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

eNewsletter - April 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 Maria Valenti, who serves as the national coordinator for CHE's Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative.

What do World Health Day, CHE's Healthy Aging Initiative, and Bruce Springsteen all have in common?

They are all about aging well.

April 7th was [World Health Day](#), an annual observation to mark the founding of the World Health organization (WHO) in 1948. The theme this year is "Good health adds years to life." According to a statement issued by the United Nation Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, this theme "conveys an important message: promoting health throughout life improves one's chances of remaining healthy and productive in one's later years."

This statement could have been lifted from the pages of the report [Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging](#) co-authored in 2008 by Drs. Ted Schettler and Jill Stein, myself, and Ben Rohrer. CHE's relatively new Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative was founded on this same premise, a life-course approach to health, which recognizes that the path to healthy aging is paved with healthy pregnancies, childhoods and mid-lives.

It is ever more important to consider the health of those who are aging as the number of this population swells dramatically, nearly doubling in the US over the next two decades. Soon, worldwide, for the first time in history, there will be more people aged 65 or over than children under 5.

How do we achieve the desired health? What does it mean to be healthy across the lifespan?

According to the WHO, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

In operational terms, this means a secure environment and freedom from violence, adequate shelter, access to sufficient and healthy food, clean water, sanitation, access to health care, and freedom from toxic trespass.

Australian aboriginal people (and probably many other indigenous cultures) define health in a little broader context: "Health does not just mean the physical well-being of the individual but refers to the social, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being of the whole community. This is a whole of life view and includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life." (see: [A National Aboriginal Health Strategy, 1989](#))

Adding in a spiritual or moral dimension is consistent with the one of the few longitudinal studies of the healthiest elders in the world, the [Okinawa Centenarian Study](#). Spirituality is a key component. Blue Zone researchers, who have been traveling the world to find the healthiest elders, have also found similar common denominators of the healthiest elder years: regular physical movement; good community and family relationships; eating healthy foods, and not too much; and a sense of purpose in life as well as a calm and centered outlook. All of the above depend in large part on some measure of economic justice or community support. Poverty and health are directly related. So economic justice is a companion to environmental justice.

The "systems" approach to health plays itself out in interconnected feedback loops. Bridging multiple environments necessary for health--the food, chemical, built, natural, psychosocial, economic--is a goal of CHE's upcoming conference at the New York Academy of Medicine, [Healthy Environments Across Generations](#). It will take place June 7 and 8th, and is now cosponsored by 50 organizations ranging across specialties and sectors, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, to the American Geriatrics Society, from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, to Smart Growth America. Please join us. We promise that this "unconference" will stimulate discussions to inspire all of us to find ways to help build an intergenerational, healthy aging movement that begins at the earliest age, and has a strong voice that resonates across many divides.

Which brings me to Bruce Springsteen--the Boss. A member of the over-60 age wave.

He is out on a new concert tour, "Wrecking Ball"--once again the voice of so many who have been disenfranchised and forced to the precipice of "un-health." In a recent *Rolling Stone* interview with Jon Stewart, he spoke of the economic meltdown and our responsibilities to future generations.

"I have faith that through pressing on and paying attention and listening and being vigilant and voicing your concerns and insisting that the right thing be done, you can move your world inches closer to where you want it to be for your children. You have to have faith in that. You have to have a clear eye, but you still have to have an open heart and mind. You have to have spirit, you have to have the soul."

Rock on Bruce. Healthy aging is indeed all about the health of future generations. I'm so glad we share something in common.

* * * * *

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

CHE Partnership Calls

CHE Partnership call: Nanoparticles: A Science and Policy Update

Tuesday April 17, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Nanoparticles are already in hundreds of everyday products, including the food we eat, but toxicology and safety studies are still in the early stages of development. Basic research on cell cultures suggests that nanoparticles can affect normal cell functioning. One recent study indicated that the uptake and accumulation of nanoparticles in cells can disrupt important intracellular interactions. With the proverbial cat already out of the bag, what is the current understanding of the science and potential health risks? What policy opportunities are there to ensure public health is protected? The researchers on this call will present the latest on what has emerged in this field since CHE held a national Partner call on this topic almost two years ago.

Featured speakers include:

Barbara Karn is the program director for the Environment, Health, Safety of Nanotechnology (NanoEHS) at the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF).

Jaydee Hanson works as a policy analyst for the [Center for Food Safety](#) on issues related to nanotechnology, animal cloning and animal genetic engineering. He also works for the Center's sister agency, the International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA) where he directs their work on human genetics, synthetic biology and nanotechnology. He is the US co-chair for the Nanotechnology Taskforce of the Transatlantic Consumers Dialogue and a fellow of the Institute on Biotechnology and the Human Future.

Jennifer Sass is a senior scientist in [NRDC's](#) health and environment program, working on scientific issues relevant to federal chemical regulations. Jennifer directs the scientific integrity project and the nanotechnology project. Jennifer received her doctorate degree from the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and a postdoctoral fellowship in toxicology from the University of Maryland.

CHE Cafe call: Designing Healthy Communities: a conversation with Richard Jackson, MD, MPH

Thursday April 26, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

In the provocative new 4-hour series, "[Designing Healthy Communities](#)" host/narrator Richard Jackson, MD, MPH, looks at the impact our built environment has on key public health indices--obesity, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, cancer and depression. Dr. Jackson

shows the connection between poorly designed communities with burgeoning health costs, then analyzes and illustrates what citizens are doing about this urgent crisis by looking upstream for innovative solutions. On Thursday April 26, 2012 at 10 am Pacific / 1 pm Eastern Elise Miller, MEd, CHE Director, will talk with Dr. Jackson about the built environment and keys to designing health-promoting communities.

Special Events and Announcements

Registration now open: The *Healthy Environments Across Generations* conference, which will take place at the New York Academy of Medicine on 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 50 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 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.

Also, join the [conference on Facebook](#) to stay up to date on speakers, cosponsors, conference events and new announcements.

Submit creative expressions to "Unpaving Our Way to the Future": Submit your creative expressions for viewing at the "Healthy Environments Across Generations" conference. What would it take to create communities that are no longer paved with concrete and asphalt, but instead are designed to nurture our health and well-being and that of our communities for generations to come? We welcome creative artists of all ages and levels of experience to imagine how parking lots and other paved areas that cover so much of our landscapes, urban and rural, could be transformed into healthy, sustainable environments. Artistic submissions can include photography, poetry, essay, dance, music, painting, drama, puppet show, etc. Deadline for submissions is May 15th. Download the flyer for complete submission details from the [conference webpage](#).

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:

- March 12, 2012 - [Phthalates and Proposed REACH Regulations](#)

- February 14, 2012 - [Health Effects of Indoor Air Contaminants](#)
- 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.)

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 CHE Partner Gina Solomon on the FDA's decision not to ban BPA in food packaging, as well as the introduction to this newsletter. Comments are welcome.

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.

CHE news feed and updates

CHE provides our members with an almost-daily updating of a newsfeed (<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>) that includes not only news articles, but also journal articles, job openings, calls for comments, calls for proposals and other announcements. Partners can subscribe via RSS. Excerpts from this feed of interest to three of our working groups--children's health, the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and CHE-Washington--are sent most business days, with subscribers having the option to receive a digest version once a week. The Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group receives a similar update once a week. If you'd like to receive any of these updates in your email, let us know which group you would like to join.

CHE Climate Change

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **Call for proposals:** Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change.

NIEHS encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change. Applications are due May 24th.

[Read more](#)

Cumulative Impacts Working Group hosted by CHE and SEHN

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

~ Join us!: Strategic meeting working group call:

Tuesday May 22, 2012 at 11:00 am Pacific / 2 pm Eastern

The Cumulative Impacts Project is well into its second year and it's time to take stock. Mark your calendars for a teleconference meeting of the Cumulative Impacts Working Group on Tuesday May 22, 2012 at 11:00 am Pacific / 2:00 pm Eastern. Note: this call is scheduled for 1.5 hours.

Dial-in: 1-605-475-6350, Access code: 198686#

We have much to celebrate.

The Cumulative Impacts Working Group (CIWG), co-coordinated by the Science and Environmental Health Network (SEHN) and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE), held its first organizing call on February 1, 2011 and has since grown to nearly 100 participants. Over the last year, we have held monthly calls with leading researchers, thought leaders and advocates in this budding field. Find links to these information-packed calls, including MP3 audio recordings, by entering, "cumulative impacts working group" in the search slot on the

[project website's search page](#)

[The website](#) is a gateway to hundreds of documents and links on cumulative impacts at all levels-ecological, community, and individual health. Its unique search system links both problems and solutions at all levels. For example, in the [Topical Search box](#) click on "community/environmental justice" and "best practices" and scan more than 90 entries that link the health of individuals, communities, and the natural world.

CIWG now offers a weekly summary of recent research and other postings that we don't want you to miss. Listserv members will receive these automatically.

What's next?

This 90-minute call will be a wide-open conversation around 4 questions:

- What have we each learned in our work on cumulative impacts?
- What barriers remain to understanding and addressing cumulative impacts?
- What are the best of the best practices and solutions?
- Where do we go from here?

CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact

info@healthandenvironment.org

~ Upcoming events:

Pollution in Our Bodies: How Chemicals Can Contribute to Diabetes

Friday, April 20, 2012, 1-2 pm PST/ 4-5 pm EST

TuDiabetes.org live videochat with Dr. David Carpenter, SUNY Albany.

[More information and to RSVP](#)

~ **New report:**

CHEM Trust has released a new report, "Review of the Science Linking Chemical Exposures to the Human Risk of Obesity and Diabetes," by Dr. Miquel Porta and Dr. Duk-Hee Lee.

[Read the report](#)

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

Ruzzin J, Lee DH, Carpenter DO, Jacobs DR, Jr. 2012. Reconsidering metabolic diseases: The impacts of persistent organic pollutants. *Atherosclerosis* [Epub]

[Read more](#)

Batista TM,onso-Magdalena P, Vieira E, et al. 2012. Short-term treatment with bisphenol-a leads to metabolic abnormalities in adult male mice. *PLoS.One.* 7(3):e33814.

[Read more](#)

Sargis RM, Neel BA, Brock CO, et al. 2012. The novel endocrine disruptor tolylfluanid impairs insulin signaling in primary rodent and human adipocytes through a reduction in insulin receptor substrate-1 levels. *Biochim.Biophys.Acta* 1822(6):952-960.

[Read more](#)

Lind PM, Roos V, Ronn M, et al. 2012. Serum concentrations of phthalate metabolites related to abdominal fat distribution two years later in elderly women. *Environ.Health* 11(1):21.

[Read more](#)

Silverstone AE, Rosenbaum PF, Weinstock RS, et al. 2012. Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Exposure and Diabetes: Results from the Anniston Community Health Survey. *Environ.Health Perspect.*

[Read more](#)

Li M, Bi Y, Qi L, et al. 2012. Exposure to bisphenol A is associated with low-grade albuminuria in Chinese adults. *Kidney Int.* [Epub]

[Read more](#)

Karoutsou E, Polymeris A. 2012. Environmental endocrine disruptors and obesity. *Endocr. Regul.* 46(1):37-46.

[Read more](#)

Patel CJ, Cullen MR, Ioannidis JP, Butte AJ. 2012. Systematic evaluation of environmental factors: persistent pollutants and nutrients correlated with serum lipid levels. *Int.J.Epidemiol.* [Epub]

[Read more](#)

CHE Fertility

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, karin@healthandenvironment.org

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

Maternal Metabolic Conditions and Risk for Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders. This study examined whether metabolic conditions during pregnancy (diabetes, hypertension, and obesity) are associated with autism spectrum disorder, developmental delays, or impairments in specific domains of development in the offspring. Maternal metabolic conditions may be broadly associated with neurodevelopmental problems in children. With

obesity rising steadily, these results appear to raise serious public health concerns. Pediatrics.
[Read more](#)

Associations of prenatal exposure to organophosphate pesticide metabolites with gestational age and birthweight. Prenatal urinary sum of six DAP concentrations were associated with shortened gestation and reduced birthweight in this cohort, but the effects differed by race/ethnicity and single nucleotide polymorphisms in paroxanase genotypes. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Read more](#)

Socioeconomic factors and phthalate metabolite concentrations among United States women of reproductive age. In fully adjusted models, the lowest quartile of overall socioeconomic status was associated with 1.83 times the concentrations of mono-benzyl phthalate (MBzP), and 0.72 times the concentrations of (molar sum) DEHP metabolites compared with the highest quartile of overall socioeconomic status. This latter association was driven primarily by educational attainment. Environmental Research.

[Read more](#)

Puberty before age 10: A new 'normal.' For many parents of early-developing girls, 'normal' is a crazy-making word, especially when uttered by a doctor; it implies that the patient, or patient's mother, should quit being neurotic and accept that not much can be done. But even if it's the new normal, why is it happening? New York Times [Registration Required].

[Read more](#)

CME: Maternal Pesticide Exposure May Yield Earlier Breast Development in Offspring. Prenatal exposure to currently approved pesticides in greenhouse workers appears to be linked to earlier breast development in their daughters as measured 10 years later, according to a new report by Christine Wohlfahrt-Veje, MD, from the University Department of Growth and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, and colleagues. The authors report their findings in an article published online March 9 in the International Journal of Andrology.

[Read more](#)

Danish EPA: Survey on exposures of pregnant consumers to potential endocrine disruptors. A new survey from the Danish EPA concludes that daily life exposure to multiple potential endocrine disruptors from food, indoor environment and consumer products may cause a risk for some pregnant women and further, that there is a need to reduce exposures of pregnant women to potential endocrine disruptors.

[Read more](#)

Autism Rates: New High In U.S. Inspires Renewed Debate. About one in 88 children in the United States has autism or a related disorder. Scientists had long estimated that 90 percent of autism risk was genetic and 10 percent reflected environmental factors. But a 2011 study of twins by scientists at Stanford University concluded that genes account for 38 percent of autism risk and environmental factors 62 percent. Huffington Post.

[Read more](#)

EPA call for comments: Implementation of the New Source Review (NSR) Program for PM2.5. A revision would correct an inadvertent error made in 2008 when the EPA issued its final rule to implement the new source review (NSR) program for fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5). Comments will be accepted until May 15th.

[Read more](#)

~ **MP3 Available for CHE Fertility Teleconference:** Environmental Contributors to Preterm Birth. Preterm birth is an intractable public health problem, affecting more than 500,000 infants per year in the United States. Long term sequelae of preterm birth include intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, vision and hearing loss, and respiratory and digestive problems. The annual societal economic burden associated with preterm birth in the US was estimated at \$26.2 billion in 2005. A mounting body of research links environmental contaminants to preterm birth. This March 19th teleconference featured Dr. Rita Loch-Caruso from the University of Michigan, Dr. Howard Chang from Emory University, and Dr. Kaylon Bruner-Tran from Vanderbilt University.

[Listen to the MP3 recording](#)

CHE Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org

~ **A Profile of Older Americans 2011:** A Profile of Older Americans:2011 is now available on the [Administration on Aging website](#). Highlights include that one in every eight persons is now an older American; about 29% of noninstitutionalized older persons live alone (8.1 million women, 3.2 million men). Nearly a half million grandparents aged 65+ had the primary responsibility for their grandchildren who lived with them. Social Security was reported by 87% of older persons as a major source of income and it constituted 90% or more of the income received by 35% of beneficiaries in 2009 (22% of married couples and 43% of non-married beneficiaries). Almost 3.5 million elderly persons (9.0%) were below the poverty level in 2010; another nearly 6% are classified as "near-poor". During 2011, the US Census Bureau released a new Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) which takes into account a range of other factors. The SPM shows a poverty level for older persons of 15.9%, an increase of over 75% over the rate of the official 9.0% mainly due to medical expenses. The official poverty level income is \$11,170 for one person and \$23,050 for a family of 4. Over 38% of 65+ reported income of less than \$15,000, over 62% less than \$25,000.

[Read more](#)

~ **The U.S. Senate Declares April "Parkinson's Awareness Month":** With a resolution introduced by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Mark Udall (D-CO), Mike Johanns (R-NE), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), the Senate declared April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. [Parkinson's Action Network](#) offers ideas for actions throughout the month to help people learn more and educate others on Parkinson's disease.

~ **Roadmaps to Health Prize:** Honoring the efforts and accomplishments of US communities working at the forefront of health improvement. Up to six \$25,000 winning communities to be announced in early 2013. Throughout the country, people are coming together with a shared vision, strong leadership, and commitment to making needed and lasting changes that broadly improve community vitality. The Roadmaps to Health Prize is intended to honor these successful efforts and to inspire and stimulate similar activities in communities across the country. The invitation to apply for this prize is being extended to all communities throughout the US.

[Read more](#)

~ **Upcoming Presentations**

May 8-10th: Healthy Aging and the Environment training, Commonweal. Trainers include Drs. Ted Schettler and Peter Whitehouse, with Maria Valenti, Davis Baltz and others. Invitation only.

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

October 27th - 31st: American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting 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. [Read more](#)

CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

CHE Alaska

~ coordinated by Pam Miller, pkmiller@akaction.net

~ **Working group call:** Assessing the Public Health Impacts of Coal Transportation and Export: From Whatcom County, Washington to Seward, Alaska
Wednesday April 25, 2012 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

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

In light of mounting scientific evidence, physicians are recognizing the public health impacts of coal development and export. In Whatcom County, Washington a group of 160 physicians is calling for a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project at Cherry Point, citing concerns over increased exposure to diesel particulate matter, coal dust, and noise pollution. In Seward, Alaska where Alaska coal is loaded onto ships bound for Asia, ongoing community concern about coal dust blowing from storage piles and the export facility, spurred a citizen air quality monitoring project. The project aims to answer questions about how much fugitive coal dust is getting into the air residents breathe and what substances it contains. Alaskans are particularly concerned about the public health impacts of increased coal exports in light of proposals to develop new coal mines at Wishbone Hill and Chuitna.

Featured speakers:

Dr. Frank James, family physician, public health officer for San Juan County, and member of the University of Washington School of Public Health faculty.

Denny Larson, Executive Director, Global Community Monitor.

CHE Washington

~ coordinated by Steve Gilbert, sgilbert@inn.org and Aimee Boulanger, aboulanger@whidbey.com

~ **Meeting:** The CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group invites you to their next meeting on Thursday April 12, 2012 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am Pacific.

Hosted by: [Environmental Council of South Seattle](#)

Location: South Park Community Center, 8319 8th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108 (FREE parking is available.)

Participate by phone: 206-684-1467. If you have problems finding the meeting or calling in contact Elizabeth Loudon at 206-767-0432 or 206-384-7700 (cell).

Speaker: B.J. Cummings, Community Health Projects Manager for the [Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition](#) (DRCC) will present an overview of the Duwamish Valley Healthy Communities Project. This project aims to work with residents, businesses, workers, visitors, government agencies and non-profit organizations, to identify, prioritize and develop action plans to address threats to the community's health from exposures to soil, air and water pollution as well as lack of healthy food, green space and other amenities.

Announcements and News Highlights

Endocrine Society says FDA excludes critical research in decision-making on BPA use in food packaging

The Endocrine Society, the world's oldest, largest and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology, expressed disappointment today in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for neglecting key research and endocrine principles in deciding not to ban BPA in food packaging. "The Society supports the FDA's continuing efforts to evaluate the safety of BPA, but it remains concerned that policy on BPA and other endocrine disrupting chemicals is ignoring the entirety of available scientific data," said Janet E. Hall, MD, president of The Endocrine Society.

[Read more](#)

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

April 2012 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

April 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

UK Conference Stresses Serious Threats to Global Environment and Natural Resources

Humanity's impact on the earth has become comparable to planetary-scale geological processes such as ice ages, warned the co-chairs of a "Planet Under Pressure" conference last week in London. In "State of the Planet Declaration" following the meeting, Lidia Brito and Mark Stafford Smith wrote that "without urgent action, we could face threats to water, food, biodiversity, and other critical resources," with the potential for "a humanitarian emergency on a global scale."

[Read more](#)

Recommendations Made to Improve Global Food Security

To address the impacts of climate change on food security, changes are needed with regard to policy, global investments, agricultural production, programs, food access and consumption patterns, food loss and waste, and information systems. Seven recommendations were put forth in Achieving Food Security in the Face of Climate Change, recently released by the Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change, an international initiative of the Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security, part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

[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.

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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