



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin May 8, 2009

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning environmental contributors to human health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. They are archived and searchable on our website: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

CHE-WA Highlights

1) Next science lecture

The lecture will be held Tuesday June 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Antioch University in Seattle (<http://www.antiochsea.edu/>). Elaine Faustman, PhD, of the University of Washington, will be discussing some of her recent research on household dust and associated potential health implications. In particular, a group at the Child Environmental Health Risks Research Center has collected house and vehicle dust of farmworkers before and after interventions in Yakima for many years and has interesting information to share. Also at this meeting we will have a series of other updates on health and the environment in Washington and nationally. This meeting is free and open to the public. For more information on this meeting contact aboulanger@iceh.org or sgilbert@innd.org.

2) New host for CHE-WA

CHE-WA is now being hosted by the nonprofit Institute for Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders, which is directed by Steve Gilbert, PhD. Steve can be reached at sgilbert@innd.org.

Later this month, the Institute for Children's Environmental Health, CHE-WA's founding organization, will merge into California-based Commonweal which hosts the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment program. Elise Miller, ICEH's founder and long-time executive director, is now director of CHE nationally. Through CHE she will be hosting a new national working group on children's environmental health which will allow ICEH's core mission to continue; Elise can now be reached at elise@healthandenvironment.org.

Elise and the full CHE-WA Steering Committee are most grateful to Steve and INND for taking on the role of hosting CHE-WA. Aimee Boulanger, ICEH's Program Director, will continue to serve as a volunteer on the CHE-WA Steering Committee and will also be an active member of the CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group. You can continue to reach Aimee at aboulanger@iceh.org (this address will still work throughout this transition time).

3) Children's Environmental Health Forum

CHE-WA's Children's Environmental Health Working Group is hosting a Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum October 1-2, 2009, at the Tukwila Community Center. Anyone interested in being involved with this event, or who would like to learn more about the efforts of the children's environmental health working group, please contact Margo Young at young.margo@epamail.epa.gov or Gail Gensler at gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov.

4) News feed from the Collaborative on Health and the Environment

CHE has begun publishing a daily news feed on its website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce> Articles and announcements, including those that will be used in these biweekly bulletins, are now available daily. Individuals can subscribe to the feed via RSS.

5) New members

CHE-Washington welcomes these new members:

- Sally Budack, ADN, Tacoma
- Kelly Grant, PhD, Washington, DC

For a searchable database of organizations with which CHE-WA members are affiliated, please visit the CHE-WA website: <http://washington.chenw.org/members.html>

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.iceh.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) Film -- Black Mold Exposure

in various cities around the US from April 21 - June 16, 2009
at select theaters

Sponsor: Looking Glass Entertainment Company

"Black Mold Exposure" explores the bizarre illnesses associated with exposure to toxic mold and the film participants' difficult task of regaining their health and lives in an atmosphere of political and social intolerance and disbelief.

Price: varies

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: contact@blackmoldexposuremovie.com

2) Healthy Buildings, Active Learners: Improving Indoor Environments for Oregon Schools

Thursday May 7, 2009
Cottage Grove, Oregon
at the Village Green Resort, 725 Row River Road

Sponsor: Oregon Schools Indoor Air Quality Partnership

This one-day conference will address air-quality issues for K-12 schools across Oregon. We encourage anyone interested in healthy buildings to attend this informative and hands-on event, including school administrators, facilities managers, custodians, teachers, nurses, PTA/PTO members, parents, and community leaders.

Price: \$25 includes lunch

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Beverly Stewart, 503-718-6146 or beverly@lungoregon.org

3) CHE Partnership Call -- Metabolic Syndrome: At the Crossroads of the Western Disease Cluster

Thursday May 7, 2009
10:00 a.m. Pacific time/1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will focus on metabolic syndrome, a cluster of conditions occurring together that

elevate a person's risk of developing certain chronic diseases such heart disease, stroke and diabetes, and its intersection with what is being called the Western Disease Cluster. On this call we will explore how metabolic syndrome is a red flag for the state of public health, how it is connected to environmental factors and what opportunities it presents for preventive interventions beyond medicine, such as public health policies, community planning and food systems. Speakers will be David Jacobs, PhD; Ted Schettler, MD, MPH; and Jill Stein, PhD, MD.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) Toxic Tub: Info, Tips, and Opportunities for Involvement

Tuesday May 12, 2009

12:00 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

This one-hour web conference will discuss the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics report *No More Toxic Tub*, released last month. The report revealed that top-selling baby products contain carcinogenic contaminants 1,4-dioxane and formaldehyde. There is no reason for children's bath products to contain chemicals linked to cancer and skin sensitivity. Why are these chemicals in products in the first place? What other harmful chemicals are common in cosmetics? And what can you do about it? Campaign staff members will cover all of this and allow plenty of time for questions from listeners. Preregistration is required at the website below.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

5) Exploring Energy & Design: Smart Solutions for the Built Environment

Wednesday May 13, 2009

Reception 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Seminar 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Post-seminar networking 8:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

Downstairs at Town Hall on Eighth and Seneca (1119 Eighth Avenue)

Sponsor: Sustainable Path Foundation, along with Antioch University Center for Creative Change, ShoreBank Pacific and the Sequoia Foundation

As the prospect of global economic crisis hits home, there is hope. The work being done to combat climate change through smart community design, green building and energy research gives communities the opportunity to respond to economic crisis with common-sense solutions. This seminar will highlight work being done right here in our backyard and explain what needs to be done in the future to ensure the sustainability of our region. With Alan Thein Durning and Jason F. McLennan.

Price: \$5 - 15; see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-443-8464 or info@sustainablepath.org

6) Green Chemistry & Chemical Policy Reform Webinar

Thursday May 14, 2009

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers

In this webinar, the second on green chemistry, a panel of experts will help outline the national priorities, opportunities and innovative legislative policy reforms in green chemistry.

Price: unknown

Contact: akulungara@astho.org

7) Film -- "The Accidental Advocate"

Thursday May 14, 2009

doors open at 6:15 p.m.; film at 7:00

Salem, Oregon

at the Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE

Sponsor: Salem Progressive Film Series

When Claude Gerstle, a surgeon and athlete, suffers a tragic bicycle accident that leaves him paralyzed from the neck down, he and his daughter, Jessica, discover hope in the politicized area of science called stem cells. "The Accidental Advocate" is a wheelchair odyssey of a father and daughter who track down the thinkers, the politicians, the crusaders and the naysayers in an effort to understand the potential of the science and why a political quagmire is stalling a cure. The film sorts the hope from the hype, the ideas from the ideology. The promise of stem-cell research has united diverse patients and families -- rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, religious and secular, a group of millions of Americans -- creating a very vocal national movement to reverse limits on the federal funding of the research. This is a film about science. This is a film about politics. This film is about ethics. But, finally, this is a film about a family. It tells the intricate, delicate, personal story of how one family deals with the life-changing impact of this kind of injury.

Price: \$3 or \$2 for students

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 503-588-8713

8) Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Seminar

Thursday May 21, 2009

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington, Room T-435 Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Jesus A. Araujo, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, cardiology at UCLA, will present "Air Pollution and Atherosclerosis: The role of particle size and chemical composition."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

9) Quality Assurance/Quality Control Management of Environmental Analytical Data

Thursday and Friday, May 28 - 29, 2009

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at Northwest Environmental Training Center Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

The course provides participants with an overview of QA/QC management of analytical data. It is intended for environmental professionals who require a basic understanding of QA/QC methodologies for managing the integrity of laboratory analytical data. The course

includes some hands-on data-screening exercises to apply the course concepts to real-world scenarios.

Price: \$495, \$395 reduced tuition is available for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, TAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NWETC, 206-762-1976

10) 2009 Toxics Conference

Tuesday June 1, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at World Trade Center Two

Sponsor: Environmental Law Education Center

This conference covers issues of interest and concern in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Topics include 1) pollution prevention and toxics reduction strategies, 2) legislation, initiatives and follow up to Senate Bill 737, 3) water quality standards and NPDES permits, 4) developing toxics-reduction plans, 5) Persistent Priority Pollutants (P3 List), 6) pesticides and emerging contaminants, 7) ecological and human health risks, and more.

Price: \$450 until May 15th or \$495 after that; \$350/\$395 for government or nonprofit employees

[Visit the website](#)

11) 2009 Northwest Chemicals Policy Symposium

Thursday June 4, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Hyatt Hotel at Olive 8

Sponsor: Snohomish County, Conference on Canadian Stewardship

In this highly interactive workshop, participants will share activities and successes, barriers encountered, and emerging strategies to improve chemicals policy nationally. The session will bring together diverse stakeholders working toward a green materials economy where manufacturing, use, and end-of-life management of consumer products have no adverse effects on our health our environment. Representatives from academia, local and state government, health and environmental organizations, business, and advocacy organizations are all invited to attend. The session will emphasize generating ideas and joint strategies for advancing policy change in our communities, states, and the nation.

Price: \$50

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Marni Solheim, 509-329-3564 or MSOL461@ECY.WA.GOV

12) CHE Science Café Call

Thursday, June 4, 2009

10:00 a.m. Pacific time/1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE as we host our first Science Café call featuring Steve Gilbert, PhD, with the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders. Dr. Gilbert will discuss Toxipedia (<http://www.toxipedia.org>), a tool he created that uses a modified wiki approach. Now with a contract from the National Library of Medicine and funding from King County and

the Washington Department of Ecology, he will be able to further develop the site and lessen the information gap between those with knowledge on environmental public health and those that need the information to lead healthier lives.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Announcements & Articles

Job opening, Washington, DC.

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), a national nonprofit organization, is hiring a program manager to help develop programs and other activities. A master's degree in environmental health/public health/policy and/or sciences is preferred. The position is to be filled immediately with a mid-May start date. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, salary requirements and short writing sample to Laura Washington: lwashington@cehn.org.

[Request for comments: Presidential Memo on Scientific Integrity.](#)

On March 9, 2009, the President issued a memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies on the subject of scientific integrity, stating that "science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of my Administration on a wide range of issues." Comments are due by May 13th. Office of Science & Technology Policy.

[Call for abstracts: Washington State Public Health Association.](#)

WSPHA invites abstracts for the 2009 Joint Conference on Health to be held October 5-6, 2009 in Yakima. Abstracts are due May 15th.

[Request for comments: Proposed Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under the Clean Air Act.](#)

There will be two public hearings for this proposed finding: May 18th in Arlington, Virginia, and May 21st in Seattle, Washington. EPA requests that those who wish to attend or give public comments register online in advance of the hearing. EPA will audio web stream both public hearings. Written comments are also invited online. [See a related story: [Administrator Jackson's message about the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding.](#)]

[Call for proposals: Building Strategic Alliances for Healthy Housing Pilot.](#)

Approximately \$650,000 will be available to fund up to 6 awards, each between \$75,000 and \$110,000. The purpose of the program is to reduce or eliminate housing-related health hazards and to promote housing that is safe, healthy, accessible and affordable. The deadline for a letter of intent is May 26th. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Call for proposals: Global Prevention of Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Promotion of Health.](#)

The purpose of the program is to promote health, provide expertise and training to regions and countries across the globe to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, their risk factors, and related causes through effective regional, national and community health programs. Applications are due by June 1st. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Detoxing to get rid of chemicals in the body increasingly popular and much debated.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

Proponents of detoxing say that chemicals from pesticides and other contaminants in food, drinking water, cleaning products and air build up over time and cause disease. Detoxing has become enormously popular, but it is the subject of much debate. Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio.

[Everyday pollutants in your home pose health risk.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

The Environmental Working Group has come up with a list of common pollutants in just about any home. Hampton Roads WVEC, Virginia.

[Arctic thaw may slow crackdown on toxic chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

A thaw of the Arctic linked to global warming may slow a drive to get rid of industrial chemicals that are harming indigenous people and wildlife, an expert said on Monday. Reuters.

[CPSC votes to delay lead law for ATVs.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission will delay enforcement of a new anti-lead law as it pertains to the sale of youth ATVs and dirt bikes. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Law puts brakes on kids' rides.](#)]

[Poison in the air.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

PM 2.5 may sound like a new kind of computer software but it's a highly destructive form of air pollution. You can't see PM 2.5, but experts agree it can cripple your health and take years off your life. Birmingham WIAT TV CBS 42, Alabama.

[Toxic hotspots affect 600 million in developing world.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

As many as 600 million people will die early from exposure to industrial waste, most of them in the developing world, the head of a non-profit group warned on Tuesday. Reuters.

[Special report: thousands of kids exposed to dangerous liquid mercury in schools, homes.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

When children encounter long-forgotten stashes of liquid mercury, schools have to shut down for days or weeks and the toxic trail left in classrooms, buses, homes and communities costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. Found in many old science labs and used in some cultural ceremonies, mercury triggered more than 37,000 calls to U.S. poison control centers in a five-year period. One specialist found traces in 40% of schools tested. Environmental Health News.

[See a related story: [CFL dangers: mercury exposure.](#)]

[New data analysis shows possible link between childhood obesity and allergies.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

A new study indicates there may be yet another reason to reduce childhood obesity -- it may help prevent allergies. National Institutes of Health.

[Stockholm convention meets over new ban on organic pollutants.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

Ministers and officials from 150 governments are meeting this week to advance global efforts to rid the world of some of the most hazardous chemicals produced by humankind. Lagos Guardian, Nigeria

[See a related story: [Indonesia to ratify Stockholm Convention on May 12.](#)]

[Kiddie Kollege ruling could have broad impact.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

A New Jersey Superior Court judge's decision last week to void the deed to a contaminated day-care building, freeing the owner from cleanup costs, has sparked a wide range of reactions and debate about its implications. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Earlier puberty in European girls.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

A 15-year study of girls in Denmark found the average age of breast development has fallen by a year compared to girls studied in the early 1990s. The findings add to a growing body of evidence that the timing of puberty is changing, possibly related to

environmental exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals. New York Times.

[A multi-individual pharmacokinetic model framework for interpreting time trends of persistent chemicals in human populations: Application to a post-ban situation.](#)

Sunday, May 03, 2009

Cross-sectional trend data (CSTD) provide quantitative information about trends in human exposure and can be combined with exposure studies to estimate elimination kinetics. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Weight gain can have many causes -- even smoking](#)

Sunday, May 03, 2009

Some intriguing research suggests that exposure in the womb to environmental chemicals, such as some of the fluorinated compounds used in greaseproof packaging, can be a predisposing factor for obesity. Montreal Gazette, Canada.

[Having your nails done could give you skin cancer, doctors warn women.](#)

Sunday, May 03, 2009

Women who visit beauty salons to have their nails done could be increasing their risk of skin cancer, according to a new report. London Daily Mail, England.

[You are what you eat \(but also what it was packaged in\).](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Grease-resistant paper used in food packaging exposes humans to perfluorochemicals that have been linked to problems with reproduction and development, the immune system, and the liver, a new University of Toronto study has found. The Daily Green.

[Agent Orange worsens prostate cancer prognosis.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Among Vietnam veterans who have undergone major prostate cancer surgery, those who were exposed to Agent Orange have an increased risk of an aggressive recurrence, according to results of a new study. Reuters Health.

[Tests of women leaders show how toxins turn up in Americans' blood.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Tests of the body burden of five leading minority women environmentalists found a mixture of flame retardants, synthetic fragrances, bisphenol A and rocket fuel, among other contaminants. Los Angeles KABC, California.

[EPA seeks rules for utilities' polluted runoff.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Faced with new evidence that utilities across the country are dumping toxic sludge into waterways, the Environmental Protection Agency is moving to impose new restrictions on the level of contaminants power plants can discharge. Washington Post.

[Big increase in ocean mercury found; study predicts more human threat from fish.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Mercury levels in the Pacific Ocean will rise by 50 percent within the next few decades as emissions from coal-fired power plants and other sources increase, scientists reported Friday. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Landmark U.S. Geological Survey study demonstrates how methylmercury, known to contaminate seafood, originates in the ocean.](#)]

[IAEA urges scheme to track radiation in patients.](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

A scheme to track the amount of radiation patients are exposed to from scans is urgently needed to help guard them against the risk of cancer, the United Nations nuclear body said on Wednesday. Reuters Health.

[Vets' work conditions tied to preterm birth risk.](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Long work hours and exposure to anesthetics may raise pregnant veterinarians' risk of premature delivery, a new study suggests. Reuters Health.

[Dealing with uncertainties in environmental burden of disease assessment.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Environmental burden of disease estimates enable policy makers to evaluate, compare and prioritize dissimilar environmental health problems or interventions. We have reviewed how different types of uncertainties affect environmental burden of disease assessments, and we give suggestions as to how researchers could address these uncertainties. Environmental Health.

[Acrylamide in food does not up lung cancer risk.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Consumption of foods containing acrylamide does not increase the risk of lung cancer in men, and in women, it may actually reduce the risk. Reuters Health.

[Receptor that responds to common pollutants also controls development.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

A genetic trigger in the cell, long studied for its role in responding to some of the most toxic compounds known, appears to have newly discovered important functions in directing development. Environmental Health News.

[America's most polluted cities.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Six in 10 Americans live in counties where ozone or particle pollution has reached dangerous levels, finds a new report by the American Lung Association. Both can be deadly and have been linked to worsening respiratory conditions like asthma, emphysema and bronchitis, and particle pollution may increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Forbes.

[See a related article: [Minority areas more polluted.](#)]

[Neurobehavioral effects of ambient air pollution on cognitive performance in US adults.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

This study provides the first epidemiological data supporting the adverse neurobehavioral effects of ambient air pollutants in adults. Neurotoxicology.

[Paying a price for loving red meat.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

A new study of more than 500,000 Americans has provided the best evidence yet that our affinity for red meat has exacted a hefty price on our health and limited our longevity. New York Times.

[See a related article: [How well-done meat can raise the risk of getting cancer.](#)]

[Sleeping with the enemy: indoor airborne contaminants.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

New research studying household air in homes in Arizona found more than 400 chemicals ranging from pesticides to phthalates, confirming that indoor air can be heavily contaminated with pollutants. Environmental Health News.

[See a related story: [Go green: local experts weigh in on how to make a greener home.](#)]

[Prevention: Enforcing law cuts teenage smoking.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Rigorous enforcement of laws on tobacco sales, including the use of people posing as underage buyers, has significantly reduced the smoking rate among teenagers, a new study has found. New York Times.

[Camphor-containing products tied to kids' seizures.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Camphor-containing products, commonly used to ease cold symptoms, deter pests, or for spiritual purposes, can be highly toxic to young children, researchers warn in the

journal Pediatrics. Reuters Health.

[20% of private water wells contaminated, research shows.](#)

Monday, April 27, 2009

One out of five private drinking-water wells in the United States contains at least one contaminant that exceeds public health standards, and wells in the San Joaquin Valley are no exception, according to new research from the U.S. Geological Survey. Stockton Record, California.

[Broken links in food-safety chain hid peanut plants' risks.](#)

Monday, April 27, 2009

The case reveals a food-safety system in which every key link in the chain of protection failed, food-safety officials and lawmakers say. USA Today.

[Unilever vows to cut salt across product lines.](#)

Sunday, April 26, 2009

If you want more food companies to cut back on salt, one giant manufacturer is granting your wish. Unilever, which makes such brands as Hellman's, Slim-Fast, Knorr and Lipton has announced plans to cut salt across its portfolio of 22,000 products. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri.

[Federal Court orders publication of all mining pollution data.](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

The Canadian government must report in a national public database all the pollution being produced by mining companies, a Federal Court judge ruled Thursday. CBC Canada, Canada.

[Health issues 'Through the eyes of a child.'](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Through the Eyes of a Child: First Nation Children's Environmental Health manual -- produced by UOI's FASD program -- looks at some of the environmental issues that are affecting First Nation children on and off reserve. North Bay Nugget, Canada.

[What if vitamin D deficiency is a cause of autism?](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

As evidence of widespread vitamin D deficiency grows, some scientists are wondering whether the sunshine vitamin -- once only considered important in bone health -- may actually play a role in one of neurology's most vexing conditions: autism. Scientific American.

[See related articles: [Vitamin D often low in mothers and newborns](#) and [Mother's antibodies may contribute to autism.](#)]

[Second-hand smoke, breast cancer linked.](#)

Friday, April 24, 2009

Parents who smoke are putting their daughters at increased risk of breast cancer, according to an expert panel that has unanimously agreed strong enough evidence now exists to link second-hand smoke to breast cancer. Vancouver Sun, Canada.

[See a related story: [Women smokers 'face higher risk of lung cancer than men.'](#)]

[Traffic-related air pollution and asthma onset in children: A prospective cohort study with individual exposure measurement.](#)

Friday, April 24, 2009

In this cohort, markers of traffic-related air pollution were associated with the onset of asthma. The risks observed suggest that air pollution exposure contributes to new-onset asthma. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Climate change poses threat to health, CDC official says.](#)

Friday, April 24, 2009

Dr. Howard Frumkin, an official with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned that climate change, more than just being an environmental problem, is a threat to many spectrums of public health that merits proactive planning now. Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah.

[See a related article: [Catholic coalition seeks action on climate.](#)]

Even low lead levels may be harmful to kids.

Friday, April 24, 2009

Even low blood levels of lead -- well below the 10 ug/dl threshold for harmful effects set by the U.S. CDC -- during early childhood can adversely affect how a child's cardiovascular system responds to stress and could possibly lead to high blood pressure later in life, new research hints. Reuters.

Group says flea collars for pets endanger kids.

Friday, April 24, 2009

Some cat and dog flea collars leave chemicals on fur that are hazardous to the pets and their owners, in violation of California's anti-toxics laws, according to a national environmental group's lawsuit Thursday. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

Safety of carbon materials in doubt.

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Carbon nanotubes are as light as plastic and stronger than steel, which quickly earned them a reputation as the wonder materials of the nanotechnology revolution. But they are now at the centre of safety fears that the nano-sized materials could cause mesothelioma. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

Vitamin D may lower asthma severity.

Thursday, April 23, 2009

A study has found that low blood levels of vitamin D were associated with an increased severity of the disease, with those youngsters experiencing significantly more hospitalizations, increased use of inhaled steroids, and weakened immune function. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

Health agency accused of overlooking environmental threats to public.

Thursday, April 23, 2009

The federal agency responsible for investigating human-health risks posed by contaminated sites or excessive industrial pollution is under fire in Congress. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry routinely conducts perfunctory investigations that use simplistic and outdated science, according to a report by congressional investigators and scientists. Environmental Science & Technology.

Kids now getting "adult" disease.

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Scientists have linked type 2 diabetes with obesity. So now, more than ever, doctors are urging young people to start developing healthy habits as early as possible. Science News.

'Cancer risk of nicotine gum and lozenges higher than thought.'

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Nicotine chewing gum, lozenges and inhalers designed to help people to give up smoking may have the potential to cause cancer, research has suggested. London Times, England.

Poisoned waters.

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

More than three decades after the Clean Water Act, iconic American waterways like the Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound are in perilous condition and facing new sources of contamination. Frontline.

Lead poisoning in adults.

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

The good news is that blood lead levels in American adults have declined significantly in the past 15 years. Between 1994 and 2007, blood lead levels dropped from 14 per µg/dL to 7.2 -- a drop of nearly 50%. See which occupations, hobbies and habits are most likely to expose you to lead. The Daily Green.

[EPA seeks tighter lid on kiln emissions in Oregon, elsewhere.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

The federal government is moving to drastically reduce air pollution from cement plants, and the biggest offender is here in Oregon. On Tuesday the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released proposed rules for airborne mercury and other pollutants from cement kilns. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

[Study confirms cot death link to smoking.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Sydney researchers have discovered the first evidence that exposure to cigarette smoke induces abnormalities in babies' brains, putting them at increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health: <http://www.partnersforchildren.org/bulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health and learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Washington State Regional Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Washington State regional group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Email Marketing by

