



## Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin June 17, 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

#### Science Lecture Summary: June 2nd

On June 2, 2009, CHE-WA hosted a science lecture with special guest Elaine Faustman, PhD, of the University of Washington. Dr. Faustman shared with participants her recent research evaluating the pesticide residues in children of farmworkers in rural Washington. Disturbingly, over the years of the study, pesticide levels in children increased. Dr. Faustman shared information on some relative benefits demonstrated following educational interventions to change behaviors to reduce children's exposure to pesticide-laden dust on the farmworkers' clothes and vehicles.

We will stay in touch with Dr. Faustman on this important research and appreciate any further understanding of its implications on children's health and development. Of note, Dr. Faustman dedicated her presentation to the important work of Dr. Dust (AKA John Roberts) who passed away earlier in 2009. It was John who first flagged the important role that dust was playing in unhealthy toxic exposures. Also at the June 2nd meeting, CHE-WA heard from Laurie Valeriano of Washington Toxics Coalition, offering a perspective on environmental health issues in the 2009 state legislative session.

#### Children's Environmental Health Working Group Schedule

The CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group is taking a hiatus from our monthly meetings during July, August and September. We will begin monthly meetings again on October 8, 2009. This will allow group members to focus on the Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum on October 1st and 2nd, at the Tukwila Community Center. Hope to see you there!

#### Kudos to Antioch University Seattle

CHE-WA extends particular gratitude to Antioch University in Seattle for continuing to provide its conference room for CHE-WA's science presentations. Antioch has generously donated this service to CHE-WA's mission of environmental health education for many years. This contribution has increased all the more in value as Antioch now has the technology to provide high quality conference calling so that CHE-WA members outside the Puget Sound area - and locals also wanting to reduce their carbon footprint - may attend these meetings by phone. A big thanks to Kate Davies, director of the Center for Creative Change, at Antioch University and long time CHE-WA supporter.

#### CHE-WA Planning

CHE-WA is now being hosted by the nonprofit Institute for Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND), which is directed by Steve Gilbert, PhD. Steve can be reached at [sgilbert@innd.org](mailto:sgilbert@innd.org). CHE-WA is planning to offer its next science lecture in September 2009. At that time we will plan our late fall events. For more information and to share your ideas, please contact Steve.

### Lessons Learned

## Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a CHE-WA bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

### Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Heinrich Hoffman, born June 13, 1809, in Frankfurt, became a general practitioner in Frankfurt. As a physician, Hoffman wrote books on medicine and psychiatry, as well as poetry, humor, and satire. He described Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in 1845 in clever poem:

"But Fidgety Phil  
He won't sit still;  
He wriggles  
And giggles,  
and then, I declare,  
Swings backwards and forwards,  
And tilts up his chair."



We struggle to understand ADHD, now more prevalent than ever, and treat with an array of drugs.

Information on Hoffman: <http://toxipedia.org/wiki/x/kOg>

LDDI Scientific Consensus Statement on Environmental Agents Associated with Neurodevelopmental Disorders: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDI.html>

## Upcoming Events

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

### 1) A Common Agenda for Health and the Environment: Goals for the Next Generation and Steps to Get There

Tuesday June 23, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

On May 11, 2009, the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and the Toward Tomorrow Initiative released A Common Agenda for Health and the Environment. The Common Agenda is a call to action and articulates a collective commitment to six ambitious cross-cutting "Generational Goals" to ensure a healthy future for our children. Creating the Common Agenda involved nearly 100 leaders of the healthcare, community development, environmental, labor and agriculture community working together to imagine the world we want to leave our children and what it will take to get there within one generation. CHE invites you to join in an important call with leaders from different sectors who worked on this impressive document. Speakers will provide an overview the Common Agenda, highlight specific features of some of the "Generational Goals", and describe action steps we can take to achieve these goals.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### 2) Birth Defects and Environmental Contamination: Current Science, Research Methods and Implications for Alaska

Wednesday June 24, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alaska time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

The speakers for this teleconference seminar will discuss the current science concerning birth defects in relationship with exposures to environmental contaminants. We will also learn about the work of a nonprofit organization, Birth Defect Research for Children, their services to parents and community-based research projects that investigate associations between birth defects and environmental exposures. Featured presenters are Betty Mekdeci, executive director of Birth Defect Research for Children; and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, science director of the Science and Environmental Health Network.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or [info@AKAction.net](mailto:info@AKAction.net)

### **3) Reproductive Health and the Environment: Making the Work Real**

Thursday June 25, 2009

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Eastern/10:00 - 11:00 Pacific time

Sponsor: Reproductive Health Technologies Project

RHTP is hosting a web conference featuring three organizations at the forefront of dealing with the environmental impacts on reproductive health: 1) Planned Parenthood of Connecticut helped to successfully pass one of the first state bans on bisphenol-A (BPA); 2) Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice fought to protect the health of nail salon workers and owners; and 3) MomsRising, a grassroots organization, experienced dramatic membership expansion as a result of their work on the links between toxic chemicals and health. Representatives from these three organizations will speak about their work around the mounting evidence that industrial chemicals are linked to infertility and a host of negative health outcomes such as early puberty, miscarriage and reproductive cancers. This web briefing will highlight their experiences, as well as allow callers to share information about efforts that their organizations have undertaken or want to undertake on this important nexus of issues.

Price: free

Contact: Amanda Bowes, 202-530-4401 or [abowes@rhtp.org](mailto:abowes@rhtp.org)

### **4) International Actions to Protect the Health of Artic Indigenous Peoples: Report on Policy and Science from the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

Monday June 29, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alaska time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

In May, more than 800 participants representing 149 governments and many nongovernmental organizations met in Geneva, Switzerland, at the fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Delegates made the historic decision to add nine new chemicals under provisions of the global legally binding treaty, with some limitations that concern public health advocates. Scientists from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) presented new results about the effects of POPs chemicals on human health and ecosystems of the Arctic as part of the effectiveness evaluation of the treaty. Representatives from Indigenous communities of the Arctic participated in order to urge Parties to the Convention to integrate a comprehensive human-rights framework through the United Nations and the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Presenters will include scientists and representatives of the Arctic Indigenous Delegation who will report on their participation and perspectives about the Stockholm Convention Conference of Parties in May. We will discuss recent findings about the environmental and human health implications of persistent pollutants in the north.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7715 [info@AKAction.net](mailto:info@AKAction.net)

**5) Collecting and Handling of Water Samples for Trace Metal Analysis**

Friday July 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle, 7755 Seaview Ave NW

Sponsor: Northwest Environmental Training Center

This sampling course is designed for anyone collecting ambient water samples for low-level total and dissolved trace metals. This one-day course will include a half day in the classroom with lectures covering the circumstances in which low-level detection limits would be desired or required, potential routes of metals contamination, necessary sampling supplies, various sampling techniques, proper handling and preservation of samples, and field quality assurance sample collection requirements. During the second half of the day, students will engage in hands-on field exercises where they will be given the opportunity to practice several surface water sampling protocols using various sample collection methods and following the "Clean Hands/Dirty Hands" sampling techniques.

Price: \$295 (\$250 reduced tuition is available for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-762-1976

**6) Know Your ABCs: The Fundamentals of Reproductive Health and the Environment**

Monday July 13, 2009

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will discuss the basics of environmental reproductive health science. This call is intended to help refresh continuing participants as well as inform those who are new to the information. On this call, presenters will discuss what we know about 1) how rates of infertility and other reproductive-health problems have changed as industrial chemical production has proliferated over the last 70 years; 2) what sound scientific evidence is increasingly revealing about links between environmental contaminants and these health problems; 3) where the limitations are in our health tracking and exposure data; 4) how policies can change to reflect what we know, even in the face of inevitable scientific uncertainty; and 5) what professionals and health-affected leaders can do. Featured presenters will be Ted Schettler, MD, MPH; Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH; Philip R. Lee; and Rivka Gordon, PA-C, MHS.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

**7) Association of Early-life Exposure to Household Gas Appliances and Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide With Cognition and Attention Behavior in Preschoolers**

Tuesday July 14, 2009

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Jordi Sunyer, MD, of the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Barcelona, Spain will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-424-3688

## Announcements & Articles

A daily news feed with these articles and announcements is now available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### [Oregon PSR is seeking a part-time executive director.](#)

Nonprofit management/development experience is essential for this half-time position. The submission deadline is June 28th.

### [National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.](#)

ATSDR and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) have launched a National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, working with government, non-government, business and industry, and members of the public to create an action agenda. US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

### [The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes.](#)

Acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH, has issued The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes. The Call to Action looks at the ways housing can affect health; its release will initiate a national dialogue about the importance of healthy homes. US Department of Health and Human Services.

### [EPA extends comment deadline for proposed cement plant rules, sets public hearing dates.](#)

EPA is extending the public comment deadline to Sept. 4, 2009 on a proposal to slash mercury emissions and other pollutants from Portland cement kilns. The proposed standards would also set emission limits for total hydrocarbons and particulate matter from cement kilns of all sizes and would reduce hydrochloric acid emissions from kilns that are large hydrochloric acid emitters. US Environmental Protection Agency.

### [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards Program.](#)

The US EPA's IAQ TfS Awards Program was initiated to recognize schools and school districts that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good indoor air quality (IAQ) practices. EPA offers four awards for which schools or districts may apply. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2009 competitive awards is September 30, 2009.

### [EPA chemical database rules a political hazard, critics say.](#)

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

The Obama administration promised to end political meddling in scientific decisions, but some critics say the White House botched an early test on a key question of public health: how to assess the danger of industrial chemicals. Los Angeles Times.

### [Pesticides linger in homes, whether we use them or not.](#)

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

A new study shows that pesticides, some already banned for decades from the US market, continue to persist in homes. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Pesticide exposure and hypertensive disorders during pregnancy](#)]

### [Remove additives 'to cut cancer risk.'](#)

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

A former senior adviser for Canada's health authority says removing additives from food could reduce the incidence of cancer. He told a group of politicians and industry stakeholders in Canberra on Tuesday that there needed to be a closer examination of the health impacts of the five pillars of food contamination -- hormones, antibiotics, GM organisms, pesticides and slaughterhouse waste. Australian Associated Press.

### [Mounting evidence shows native grasses could destroy explosives pollution.](#)

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

TNT contaminates hundreds of sites, from military firing ranges to old production dumps to waterways. It poses a threat to the human nervous system and to the liver and kidneys, and may cause cancer and birth defects. Native grasses may be able to help. Kansas City Star, Missouri.

**[Doctors release statement on urban sprawl.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

Turns out there's more to childhood obesity than junk food and bad genes. A national group of doctors places some of the blame on urban design. Environment Report, Michigan.

**[Study shows possible link between deaths and ADHD drugs.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

Children taking stimulant drugs such as Ritalin to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder are several times as likely to suffer sudden, unexplained death as children who are not taking such drugs, according to a study funded by the FDA. Washington Post.

**[Chlorination disinfection byproducts in drinking water and congenital anomalies: review and meta-analyses.](#)**

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

Although some individual studies have suggested an association between chlorination disinfection by-products and congenital anomalies, meta-analyses of all currently available studies demonstrate little evidence of such an association. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[Newborn weights affected by environmental contaminants.](#)**

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

Investigators effectively show a sustained decrease in birth weight differences between boys and girls, which supports the hypothesis of growing endocrine disruption related to environmental contaminants. Science Daily.

[See related articles: [Healthy growth in womb tied to higher IQ scores](#) and [Hotter planet means more underweight babies](#)]

**[Indoor air quality can influence health.](#)**

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the air inside a typical home is, on average, two to five times more polluted than the air outside. Springfield News-Leader, Missouri.

**[Researchers find another estrogenic compound in soy.](#)**

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

Researchers have isolated a new estrogen-like compound in soy called glycinol. The authors report that glycinol appears to be as potent as other, similar compounds found in the legume and its many food products, such as tofu and soy milk. Environmental Health News.

**[Giving green paint new meaning.](#)**

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

Adding paint color inside your home can provide vibrancy, enhance your mood and create a sense of personality in an otherwise drab room. It can also give you cancer. Kennewick Tri-city Herald, Washington.

**[Cornflakes, white bread could boost heart risk.](#)**

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

Eating a diet rich in carbohydrates that boost blood sugar levels -- foods such as cornflakes or white bread -- may hamper the functioning of your blood vessels and raise your risk of developing cardiovascular disease, a new study suggests. Health Day.

**[Human hormones, chemicals a bad mix.](#)**

*Sunday, June 14, 2009*

Research about everyday chemicals that may harm human health is piling up. Some

people say government regulators have handled the situation irresponsibly. Others say more study is needed. Minneapolis-St. Paul Star-Tribune, Minnesota.

### **[Air pollution linked to range of health issues.](#)**

*Sunday, June 14, 2009*

The Des Moines Register's analysis of air pollution statewide looked at the six main pollutants for which the Clean Air Act requires federal regulations. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

[See related articles: [Analysis finds elevated risk from soot particles in the air](#), [Study claims L.A. pollution worst in morning](#), [Road particles pose 'higher risk'](#), [Health fears linked to pollution are justified, activists say](#), [Keep breathing](#), [DEC taking action to reduce air pollution emissions in Tonawanda](#), [Chronic fine and coarse particulate exposure, mortality and coronary heart disease in the Nurses' Health Study](#) and [Air pollution and emergency department visits for cardiac and respiratory conditions: a multi-city time-series analysis](#)]

### **[Study: Work-related stress could impact your health in retirement.](#)**

*Friday, June 12, 2009*

The damaging health effects of work-related tension could follow you long into your retirement years, suggests new research. U.S. News & World Report.

### **[Chemicals sector key contributor to US toxic pollution.](#)**

*Friday, June 12, 2009*

More than 5.5 billion kilograms of toxic pollutants were released and transferred by nearly 35,000 industrial facilities throughout North America in 2005, according to new data presented by the US Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). Chemistry World.

### **[Nanoparticle lung threat blocked.](#)**

*Friday, June 12, 2009*

Scientists have identified how a type of tiny nanoparticle can cause lung cancer -- and blocked the process. Research has shown that most nanoparticles migrate to the lungs, but there is also concern about potential damage to other organs. BBC.

[See related articles: [Carbon nanotubes may suppress immunity](#) and [Health experts raise concerns over pollution nanoparticles](#)]

### **[Mohawk men: PCBs in native foods may be reducing testosterone.](#)**

*Friday, June 12, 2009*

For two decades, the Mohawk Nation's Akwesasne territory has been turned into a human laboratory for studying the health effects of industrial chemicals. The latest finding? Low testosterone levels in men. Researchers say the contamination of the Mohawk has universal ramifications. The study provides the first human evidence that PCBs block male hormones. Environmental Health News.

### **[More troubling news about BPA.](#)**

*Friday, June 12, 2009*

Heart arrhythmias in females and permanent, deleterious modifications of a gene that plays a pivotal role in reproduction are two new problems being linked to bisphenol A. Science News.

[See related articles: [BPA exposure may be higher than safe dose](#), [Medical group calls for reducing use of BPA](#), [House panel wants new review of BPA safety](#), [California Senate approves ban on BPA in plastics](#) and [Blumenthal: Chemical industry tried to kill legislation](#)]

### **[Senate approves tight regulation over cigarettes.](#)**

*Friday, June 12, 2009*

The legislation, which the White House said President Obama would sign as soon as it reached his desk, will enable the Food and Drug Administration to impose potentially strict new controls on the making and marketing of products that eventually kill half their regular users. New York Times.

### **['Food, Inc.': Documentary on your dinner.](#)**

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Consider how safe your food is knowing that: in 1972, the FDA conducted 50,000 food safety inspections, but in 2006 only 9,164; or that cattle are given feed that their bodies are not designed to digest, resulting in new strains of the E. coli virus that sicken tens of thousands of Americans annually. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

**[Report blames petroleum industry for 25% of toxic pollutants.](#)**

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

The US petroleum industry accounted for a quarter of toxic pollutants recorded across North America in 2005 by a government-backed environmental watchdog, an annual report said on Wednesday. Agence France-Presse.

**[Scientists at MDI lab discover arsenic, immune system link.](#)**

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Scientists have known for some time that exposure to even low levels of arsenic can impair the development of immune systems in embryonic stages of life, but according to researchers the biological mechanism of how this might work has been unknown.

That is, until now. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

[See a related article: [Using rust to remove arsenic from water](#)]

**[Study finds little risk from a morning sickness medication.](#)**

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

The anti-nausea drug metoclopramide, used more on pregnant women in Europe and Israel, appears to have a statistically insignificant effect on fetuses. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[Omega-3 science review supports DRI for heart benefits.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 09, 2009*

A comprehensive review of studies on the benefits of omega-3 consumption has led scientists to recommend the establishment of a Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) for EPA and DHA to reduce the risk of heart disease. FoodProductionDaily.com.

**[Oregon soldiers sue KBR for exposure to cancer-causing chemical in Iraq.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 09, 2009*

Five current and former Oregon Army National Guard soldiers filed suit Monday against a war contractor that they say knowingly exposed them to a cancer-causing chemical [hexavalent chromium] in Iraq. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

**[Lake Huron fish sold without warnings despite health advisories.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 09, 2009*

A regulatory loophole means that Great Lakes fish containing potentially dangerous levels of cancer-causing dioxin are being sold to consumers without warning. Michigan Messenger, Michigan.

[See a related article: [Dioxins In food chain linked to breastfeeding ills](#)]

**[Too few women in clinical trials?](#)**

*Monday, June 08, 2009*

Women are under-represented in cancer studies, according to a survey of clinical research published today. Nature.

**[Newborn girls, boys behavior differs after prenatal phthalate exposure.](#)**

*Monday, June 08, 2009*

Newborn girls exposed prenatally to phthalates scored poorly on a standard behavior test -- and very differently from boys. The phthalate metabolites found in the mother's urine were associated with the girls' poor performance on tests of attention and alertness. Environmental Health News.

**[Legislature takes aim at school bus fumes.](#)**

*Monday, June 08, 2009*

Oregon school districts would have to retrofit diesel-powered school buses with pollution-reducing exhaust controls by the year 2017 under a bill that won final legislative approval Friday in the Senate. Associated Press.

**[Environmental whodunit discovers invisible killers.](#)**

*Sunday, June 07, 2009*

Tests show every person on the planet, from remote South Seas islands to the frozen North, carries some of the chemical pollutants listed in this book [*Slow Death by Rubber Duck*]. Winnipeg Free Press.

**[Protect children from environmental health risks.](#)**

*Sunday, June 07, 2009*

All countries around the globe should exert greater efforts to eliminate environmental risks threatening the health of children, a senior World Health Organization (WHO) official said. Korea Times, South Korea.

**[Breast milk less toxic: study.](#)**

*Sunday, June 07, 2009*

Levels of PCBs and other toxic substances that babies consume via breast milk have declined considerably since the middle of the 1990s, a new Swedish study has shown. Stockholm Local, Sweden.

**[New breast cancer prevention guideline released.](#)**

*Saturday, June 06, 2009*

Postmenopausal women who are at increased risk for breast cancer, because of a family history of the disease or other factors, can take either tamoxifen or raloxifene (Evista) to reduce their risk of the cancer. Reuters Health.

**[Neuroscience, molecular biology, and the childhood roots of health disparities.](#)**

*Saturday, June 06, 2009*

Early experiences can affect adult health in 2 ways -- either by cumulative damage over time or by the biological embedding of adversities during sensitive developmental periods. JAMA.

**[Gov't studies health risks of playground surface.](#)**

*Saturday, June 06, 2009*

For years, the Environmental Protection Agency has endorsed the use of ground-up tires to cushion the surfaces of children's playgrounds and sports fields - a decision now being reconsidered because of concerns among the agency's own scientists about possible health threats. USA TODAY.

[See a related article: [Greens call for national register after playground contamination](#)]

**[Vitamin supplements may lessen miscarriage risk.](#)**

*Saturday, June 06, 2009*

Taking vitamins before and during early pregnancy is associated with reduced risk for miscarriage, researchers have determined. However, it may be that the connection is related to generally healthy practices among vitamin takers. Reuters Health.

**[Pesticide may seed infant formulas with melamine.](#)**

*Saturday, June 06, 2009*

Infant formulas purchased from stores in Canada show widespread tainting with traces of melamine. New research suggests that melamine is a breakdown product of cyromazine, a pesticide legal for use on forage fed to dairy cattle. Science News.

**[Online site relates weather to ailments, sends alerts.](#)**

*Friday, June 05, 2009*

A Toronto-based physician has developed a free online service for allergy and migraine sufferers, heart patients, diabetics and arthritics that he says will alert them to coming weather patterns that could aggravate their conditions. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

**[Colorado, New York reps want regulation of gas 'fracking.'](#)**

*Friday, June 05, 2009*

Democratic Reps. from Colorado and New York plan to reintroduce a bill that would repeal a ban on regulating a widely used oil and gas drilling process under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Las Vegas Sun.

**[Recession's doldrums come with silver lining for asthmatics.](#)**

*Friday, June 05, 2009*

According to the Independent Electricity System Operator, the organization in charge of coordinating Ontario's energy supply, coal-fired output fell 45 per cent in the first five months of this year versus the same period in 2008. Less coal means less smog. Toronto Star, Canada.

**[Acrylamide in food not linked to prostate cancer.](#)**

*Thursday, June 04, 2009*

Animal studies have indicated acrylamide may cause cancer, and in 2005 the World Health Organization called for lower levels of acrylamide in food. However, studies of any link to human cancers have produced variable results. Reuters Health.

**[Recycled radioactive metal contaminates consumer products.](#)**

*Thursday, June 04, 2009*

Thousands of everyday products and materials containing radioactive metals are surfacing across the United States and around the world. Scripps Howard News Service.

**[EPA cracks down on improper CFL disposal.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 03, 2009*

Large corporations including CBS and Macy's Inc. have been just a few of the groups penalized as the EPA and state environmental agencies crack down on improper disposal of mercury-containing compact fluorescent lamps (CFL). In addition to imposing fines for violators, the companies are required to provide public education. Environmental News Network.

**[Washington governor orders cutbacks in emissions.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 03, 2009*

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire sidestepped her Legislature's refusal to adopt a cap-and-trade program to limit greenhouse gases, signing an executive order Thursday to achieve similar reductions by ratcheting back coal-fired electricity and automobile emissions. Los Angeles Times.

**[Nicotine's role In SIDS.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 03, 2009*

Exposure to cigarette smoke in the womb may dampen a baby's fight-or-flight responses, leaving the newborn vulnerable to sudden infant death syndrome, a study in rats suggests Science News.

**[Folic acid offers more protection than thought.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 03, 2009*

Baby-protecting folic acid is getting renewed attention: Not only does it fight spina bifida and some related abnormalities, new research shows it also may prevent premature birth and heart defects. Associated Press.

*Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News, <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>.*

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.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins)
- 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**

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