World Wide Web Resources for Researching Environmental Issues

This list gives URL links to some of the best resources available on the World Wide Web for starting research on environmental topics. While the list is not exhaustive, it contains some of the most useful web sites. We have divided the list into categories.

This list was compiled by Maria B. Pellerano (maria@rachel.org) and is available online (with working hyperlinks) in html at http://www.rachel.org/library/index.cfm?St=110 and in pdf at http://www.rachel.org/library/index.cfm?St=169.

- **General Resources** – gives web sites that provide general information on environmental issues. Some of the web sites landed in this category because they do not fit elsewhere.

- **Researching Chemicals** – lists the web sites that help users understand the environmental, human health and wildlife dangers of chemicals.

- **Find Toxics Stored and Emitted in Your Community** – these sites help you learn about the toxics in your neighborhood.

- **Interactive Web Sites Displaying Toxics in Your Home and Community** – these web sites try to visually show possible toxic exposures in your home and community.

- **Good Web Publications** – provides information on web sites that offer free publications on a range of environmental issues.

- **Mapping the Relationship of Chemicals to Human Health** – is a listing of some of the best web sites that try to map the relationship between illnesses and environmental exposures.

- **Hormone-Disrupting Chemicals** – these chemicals, also known as endocrine-disrupting chemicals, are synthetic chemicals that mimic and interfere with hormones in humans and wildlife.

- **Pesticides** – lists the best web sites for finding information on pesticides.

- **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), including Chlorine, Dioxin, and PCBs** – POPs are a class of chemicals that are particularly troublesome and this section lists some of the web sites with the best information on POPs.

- **Waste Reduction, Pollution Prevention and Clean Production** – gives the best web sites for finding information on reducing and preventing pollution.

- **Emerging Public Policies** – provides information on the groups and web sites that are doing the best work on important policies, like the precautionary principle, that would help prevent future environmental problems.

- **Occupational Safety and Health** – lists web sites for committees on occupational safety and health that have resources on hazards on the job.
**General Resources**

**Environmental Research Foundation [http://www.rachel.org/]**

Environmental Research Foundation (ERF) publishes *Rachel’s Environment & Health News* to inform grass-roots activists and the interested public about the relationships between hazardous materials, environmental quality and human health. ERF’s bi-lingual (English and Spanish) web site includes all back issues of *Rachel’s Environment & Health News*, an extensive directory of citizens’ grass-roots action organizations, a library of documents, and links to many related web sites.

**Garden State EnviroNet [http://www.gsenet.org/]**

The *Garden State EnviroNet* (GSE) website is a central hub for the myriad of environmental news and issues spanning New Jersey. Using technology, GSE works to connect and involve people in protecting the environment. Most importantly on its website, GSE provides a timely environmental news service five days a week that includes New Jersey environmental news as well as other important environmental information. Over the years, GSE has built a free, accessible, on-line forum for exchanging information, networking and community-building among environmental and community organizations, government officials, educators, and the general public. GSE also provides free E-mail list hosting and web hosting services.

**GOV.Research_Center [http://grc.ntis.gov/]**

The GOV.Research_Center (GRC) is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Technical Information Service and the National Information Services Corporation to provide a single access point to valuable government information. GRC includes databases on agriculture and life sciences, energy science and technology, nuclear science, federal research in progress, occupational safety and health, and toxic effects of chemicals. While this databank is expensive ($275.00 to $1,995.00 for a single user per year depending on the database) it has a $15.00 one-day pass and a 30-day free trial offer.

**Law Librarian’s Society of Washington, D.C., Quick Links To House And Senate Committee Documents And Hearings [http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/gpolinks.htm]**

This site provides links to U.S. House and Senate Committee Hearings. The site is organized by Committees and includes schedules, transcripts, testimony, published hearings and publications. The House Committee on Resources and the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Environment and Public Works; and Energy and Natural Resources are of interest for environmental issues.

**National Cancer Institutes SEER Database [http://seer.cancer.gov/]**

The SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results) Program of the National Cancer Institute is the most authoritative source of information on cancer incidence and survival in the United States. Information on more than 3 million cancer cases is included in the SEER database, and approximately 170,000 new cases are accessioned each year within the SEER catchment areas. SEER data, publications, and resources are available free of charge. Of particular interest are the Cancer Statistics Reviews, the most recent of which is available on the web at

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/]

The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection maintains an extensive website related to its programs and services. You can navigate it either by topic (for example air, landfills, or West Nile Virus) or programs and units (such as Community Right to Know, Hazardous Waste Regulation and Pesticide Control). You can also navigate NJDEP’s website by your interest as a citizen or a business.

Sierra Club Toxics [http://www.sierraclub.org/toxics/]

This web site provides information on the Club’s work on cancer, environmental justice, Superfund sites, Brownfields (contaminated urban sites slated for re-development), incineration, and polluter secrecy. You will also find links to some of the reports the Club has published on these issues.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [http://www.epa.gov/]

The EPA web site is loaded with useful information particularly related to federal environmental laws and regulations. Particularly useful are the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) found at http://www.epa.gov/air/criteria.html and the National Primary Drinking Water Standards found at http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/creg.html.

Researching Chemicals

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs [http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html]

ATSDR ToxFAQs is a series of summaries about hazardous substances being developed by the ATSDR Division of Toxicology. Information for this series is excerpted from the book length ATSDR Toxicological Profiles and Public Health Statements. Each fact sheet serves as a quick and easy to understand guide. Answers are provided to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about exposure to hazardous substances found around hazardous waste sites and the effects of exposure on human health.


The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) produces “toxicological profiles” for hazardous substances found at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. Toxicological profiles are developed from a priority list of 275 substances. ATSDR also prepares toxicological profiles for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on substances related to federal sites. So far, 261 toxicological profiles have been published or are under development. Each lengthy profile for a single chemical reviews current scientific and medical literature and includes information on health effects; chemical and physical information; production, import/export, use and disposal; potential for human exposure; analytical methods; and regulations and advisories.
IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) [http://193.51.164.11/default.html]

The IARC Monographs series are authoritative independent assessments by international experts of the carcinogenic risks posed to humans by a variety of agents, mixtures and exposures. Since its inception in 1972, the series has reviewed more than 880 agents, and IARC Monographs have become well known for their thoroughness, accuracy and integrity. To aid in the selection of future topics, the program also monitors long-term carcinogenicity testing underway in various laboratories throughout the world and publishes the results on this web site as a Directory of Agents Being Tested for Carcinogenicity. This web site is searchable.


This web site and database helps you understand what is under your kitchen sink, in your garage, in your bathroom, and on the shelves in your laundry room. It tries to answer the question “Do these household products pose a potential health risk to you and your family?” You will also learn about what is in these products, what are the potential health effects, and other safety and handling information.


PubMed is the National Library of Medicine’s search service that provides access to over 12 million citations in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE, and other related databases, with links to participating online journals. A user can conduct research on specific chemicals and some combinations of chemicals. In conjunction with a service called Lonesome Doc a user can acquire these articles from a medical library.

National Library of Medicine’s TOXNET (Toxicology Data Network) [http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/]

This web site allows a user to search a cluster of databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, and related areas. Databases included on this site are: 1) Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB) – a scientifically peer-reviewed database including human and animal toxicity, safety and handling, environmental fate, and more; 2) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) – the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) database of human health risk assessments, focusing on hazard identification and dose-response assessment; 3) GENE-TOX – the EPA’s peer-reviewed mutagenicity test data; 4) Chemical Carcinogenesis Research Information System (CCRIS) – the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) database on carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, tumor promotion, and tumor inhibition; 5) TOXLINE – a bibliographic database covering the biochemical, pharmacological, physiological, and toxicological effects of drugs and other chemicals; 6) DART – a bibliographic database covering teratology and developmental toxicology literature published since 1950; 7) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) – contains annual estimated releases of toxic chemicals to the environment; and 8) ChemID plus – provides access to structure and nomenclature information for the identification of chemical substances cited in National Library of Medicine (NLM) databases.
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services’ Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets [http://www.state.nj.us/health/eho/rtkweb/rtkhsfs.htm]

Under the New Jersey Labor and Community Right to Know Law, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services was required to produce Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets. They have now published over 1260 profiles of chemicals. Over 920 of these have been put onto the Department’s web site. Designed for workplace use, we feel these are the best and most reliable Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). For each chemical you will learn about its health effects; its physical properties; workplace exposure limits; ways of and engineering controls to reduce exposure; fire hazards; spills and emergencies (including the steps to take if the chemical is accidentally spilled); handling and storage (including the chemicals with which this particular chemical is not compatible); first aid; and other commonly used names.

**Find Toxics Stored and Emitted in Your Community**

Enviromapper: Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/ej/]

EnviroMapper is a powerful tool used to map various types of environmental information, including air releases, drinking water, toxic releases, hazardous wastes, water discharge permits, and Superfund sites. Select a geographic area within EnviroMapper and view the different facilities that are present within that area. Create maps at the national, state, and county levels, and link them to environmental text reports. EnviroMapper is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Right-to-Know Network [http://www.rtk.net/]

The Right-to-Know Network (which pre-dates the world wide web by several years) provides free access to numerous databases, text files, and conferences on the environment, and sustainable development. With the breadth of information available on RTK NET, you can identify specific factories or industries and their environmental effects on particular geographical areas, including toxic releases, chemical spills and accidents, permit violations, and more.

Scorecard [http://www.scorecard.org/]

Scorecard is an environmental information service provided by Environmental Defense (formerly Environmental Defense Fund). Scorecard provides current information on toxic waste sites all over the U.S. You can enter your zip code and find out the air pollution levels, animal waste levels, etc. in your area. It also includes links to related health information and can show you maps of areas you select. This web site is a knock-out.
Interactive Web Sites Displaying Toxics in Your Home and Community

**HealtheHouse Website** [http://www.checnet.org/healthehouse/home/index.asp]

This web site created by the Children’s Environmental Health Coalition (CHEC) is an interactive resource for information on how to reduce environmental health risks to children in and around the home. HealtheHouse has four parts: 1) Virtual House provides a room-by-room peek at the everyday household products that carry hidden dangers and information on eliminating these dangers. 2) Take the HealtheHome Quiz to learn what you are doing right, what you can change, and how to change it. 3) Resource Room provides “CHEC lists” for your home and shopping, How To’s, Articles and a Chemical Database. 4) House Rules gives six simple and easy guiding principles for maintaining a healthy home.

**Tox Town** [http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/index.html]

This interactive web site provides an introduction to toxic chemicals and environmental health risks you might encounter in everyday life and in everyday places. Divided by town or city, Tox Town is designed to give you information on: everyday locations where you might find toxic chemicals; non-technical descriptions of chemicals; links to selected, authoritative chemical information on the Internet; information on how the environment can impact human health; and Internet resources on environmental health topics.

**Good Web Publications**

**Environmental Working Group** [http://www.ewg.org/]

The Environmental Working Group’s (EWG) staff of 18 researchers, computer experts and writers produces dozens of headline-making reports each year based on original EWG analyses of data from government and other sources. Be sure to check their archive for reports dating back to 1996 on air pollution, drinking water quality, enforcement, farm subsidies, pesticides, industrial toxicants, transportation, and wetlands.

**Natural Resources Defense Council** [http://www.nrdc.org/publications/default.asp]

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) website provides a broad-ranging perspective on what’s happening to the global environment. This omnibus site includes news, legislative updates, scientific research, and policy analyses. NRDC offers publications on clean air and energy; global warming; clean water; oceans; wildlife and fish; parks, forests and wildlands; toxic chemicals and health; nuclear weapons and waste; cities and green living; and environmental legislation.
Mapping the Relationship of Chemicals to Human Health

Alaska Community Action on Toxics [http://www.akaction.net/pages/mapping/mapindex.html]

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) has mapped contaminated sites in Alaska, including military and other federal sites; toxic sites identified by state government; and federal Superfund sites and radioactive waste sites. When you choose to see “all” sites at the same time, Alaska looks like it has a really bad case of toxic measles, an industrially transmitted disease.


The Environmental Health Coalition’s Toxic Free Neighborhoods Campaign focuses primarily on the San Diego neighborhoods of Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, National City and nearby neighborhoods. However, it is a model for what could be done elsewhere. EHC has created a series of maps that show demographic data and toxic pollution in these communities. Maps are used to display lead in housing, respiratory hazards, reproductive hazards, cancer risks, ethnicity, and income.

FactoryWatch [http://www.foe.co.uk/factorywatch/]

Factory Watch, sponsored by Friends of the Earth, United Kingdom (UK), gives facts about industrial pollution in the UK, helping citizens fight for a cleaner, healthier environment, and helping us all advocate for more thorough and more up to date information on pollution from all sources. By entering your postal code, you can easily:

See the official pollution figures for your local industry or factory; make local maps showing where, for example, cancer-causing chemicals are released; get information on the health hazards of particular chemicals; and discover who controls pollution and how you can influence them.


The Clary Meuser Research Network (CMRN) has performed environmental and demographic research, GIS [geographical information systems] analysis, and developed WebMap projects for non-profit environmental organizations for the past six years. From this site you can examine maps that they developed for organizations and local governments in 34 different states and in several other countries.

Ironbound Community Corporation GIS Maps [http://www.crp.cornell.edu/projects/ironbound/]

The Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) is a nonprofit community-based organization rooted in the ethnically diverse Newark, N.J. neighborhood called Ironbound. The organization’s GIS maps show individual hazards such as air and toxics street by street and also show these hazards with demographic information such as income and ethnicity.
Santa Cruz Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) [http://mapcruzin.com/scruztri/]

The Santa Cruz TRI is an interactive map-based resource intended for use by citizens of this small California city. It includes U.S. EPA TRI [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Toxics Release Inventory] releases and transfers from 1987 through 1997 (most recent data available from EPA). The Santa Cruz TRI also includes an extensive searchable right-to-know database and other resources for communicating information about toxics.

Toxic Hotshots [http://www.mapcruzin.com/svtc_maps/index.html]

Through the Silicon Valley Toxic Coalition’s (SVTC) Groundwater Contamination Mapping and Environmental Justice Project web site one can find: street level maps indicating groundwater contamination and superfund sites (including site reports), site-level demographic comparisons, and county-wide environmental justice maps shaded to indicate demographic variations.

**Hormone-Disrupting Chemicals**

Endocrine Disrupters Website [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/endocrine/index_en.htm]

Conscious of the potential threats from endocrine disruptors to humans and the environment the European Commission adopted a strategy in December 1999 aiming at addressing this pressing issue. The subject matter is complex and with this website the European Commission seeks to provide a basic understanding of endocrine disrupting chemicals and introduces the central issues at hand. A number of reports as well as the Commission’s strategy are also presented in detail.

Environmental Health News [http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/]

Environmental Health News is a daily news service that works to increase public understanding of emerging scientific links between environmental exposures and human health. Each day Environmental Health News provides breaking news (from newspapers), new science (from scientific and medical literature) and new reports (from organizations working to protect human health from environmental exposures).

Our Stolen Future [http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/]

This website is the web home for the authors of *Our Stolen Future*, a book that explores the emerging science of endocrine disruption: how some synthetic chemicals interfere with the ways that hormones work in humans and wildlife. This web site provides regular updates about the cutting edge of science related to endocrine disruption as well as information about ongoing policy debates, and suggestions about what you can do as a consumer and citizen to minimize risks related to hormonally-disruptive contaminants.
World Wildlife Fund [http://www.worldwildlife.org/toxics/]

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is dedicated to protecting the world’s wildlife and wildlands and recognizes that controlling pollution is important to conserving biodiversity. WWF’s efforts to increase scientific understanding of toxic chemicals and to restrict or ban harmful chemicals stem from evidence that some chemicals can undermine the basic functions of entire ecosystems, as well as harm wildlife and human health. WWF has done some of the path-breaking work on endocrine disrupting chemicals.

Pesticides

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy [http://www.iatp.org/]

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy’s (IATP) mission is to create environmentally and economically sustainable rural communities and regions through sound agriculture and trade policy, including pest control policies.

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides [http://www.pesticide.org/]

The Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) works to protect people and the environment by advancing healthy solutions to pest problems. They publish a well-respected quarterly *Journal of Pesticide Reform*, as well as numerous factsheets on pesticides and alternatives for pest control.

PAN’s (Pesticide Action Network) Pesticide Database [http://www.pesticideinfo.org]

Pesticide Action Network (see entry below for more information) manages this web-based pesticide database, which is a one-stop location for current toxicity and regulatory information for pesticides. Taken from a comprehensive set of data resources, this database has information on insecticides, herbicides, and pesticides. Each record includes information on chemical identification, poisoning symptoms, toxicity to humans, regulatory status (worldwide, U.S. and California), water quality standards and potential for contaminating water, toxicity to aquatic organisms, and related chemicals including breakdown products, salts, esters, isomers and other derivatives.

Pesticide Action Network North America [http://www.panna.org/]

Since 1982, PANNA (Pesticide Action Network North America) has campaigned to replace pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives. PANNA links over 100 affiliated health, consumer, labor, environment, progressive agriculture and public interest groups in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. with thousands of supporters worldwide to promote healthier, more effective pest management through research, policy development, education, media, demonstrations of alternatives and international advocacy campaigns. PANNA’s web site offers numerous resources on pesticides and alternative means of pest control.
Pest Management at the Crossroads [http://www.pmac.net/]

This site is maintained by Benbrook Consulting Services (BCS) as a public service to those who are working to advance the science and art of Integrated Pest Management. It includes information on environmental, food safety and pest management issues.

**Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), including Chlorine, Dioxin, and PCBs**

**Center for Health, Environment, and Justice (CHEJ) [http://www.chej.org/]**

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) – the organization founded by Lois Gibbs as a result of her experiences at Love Canal – is conducting a national campaign to reduce exposure to dioxin and has published an excellent peer-reviewed report, American People’s Dioxin Report, available at this site. CHEJ coordinates the Alliance For Safe Alternatives, a nationwide campaign focused on eliminating all sources of dioxin.

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) [http://www.protectingourhealth.org/]**

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) is a nonpartisan partnership network working to further knowledge, action and cooperation regarding environmental contributors to disease. ProtectingOurHealth, CHE’s science website provides a peer-reviewed analysis, interpretation of results, important recent papers, useful references, and useful links for each of the following diseases: asthma, brain cancer, breast cancer, childhood leukemia, endometriosis, infertility, learning/behavioral disorders, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. Not all of this material is on the site as of this review of this publication.

**Greenpeace Toxics Campaign [http://www.greenpeace.org/international_en/campaigns/intro?campaign_id=3941]**

This website is maintained by Greenpeace International, a global campaigning organization. It has an abundance of information on POPs (persistent organic pollutants), including information on dioxin and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). From this site, you can gain access to many of Greenpeace’s reports on these toxicants.

**Health Care Without Harm [http://www.hcwh.org/]**

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) is a collaborative campaign for environmentally responsible health care made up of more than 431 organizations. HCWH’s mission is to transform the health care industry so it is no longer a source of environmental harm by eliminating pollution in health care practices without compromising safety or care. The campaign looks at the production of dioxin from health care facilities that use disposable polyvinyl chloride products. This site also includes information on mercury.
In Harm’s Way: Toxic Threats to Child Development [http://psr.igc.org/ihw.htm]

Learning, behavioral and developmental disabilities including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism prevent our children from reaching their full human potential. Seventeen percent of children in the United States have been diagnosed with one or more developmental disabilities. These disabilities are clearly the result of complex interactions among genetic, environmental and social factors that impact children during vulnerable periods of development. Research demonstrates that pervasive toxic substances, such as mercury, lead, PCBs, dioxins, pesticides, solvents, and others, can contribute to neurobehavioral and cognitive disorders. In 2000, the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility released the book, *In Harm’s Way: Toxic Threats to Child Development* that looks at childhood development. The entire publication can be downloaded from this website.

Indigenous Environmental Network [http://www.ienearth.org/]

The Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) offers the perspectives of indigenous peoples on environmental issues – perspectives that eurocentric cultures would find enlightening and beneficial, we believe. Because POPs spontaneously move from warmer to colder regions, indigenous people of the far north are particularly endangered by POPs released by industrial nations in the mid-latitudes. IEN has been representing indigenous perspectives at the international POPs negotiations. The IEN web site offers information on POPs, pesticides and radioactive materials, among other environmental issues.


The International POPs Elimination Network is a global network of public interest non-governmental organizations united in support of a common POPs Elimination Platform. The mission of IPEN, achieved through its participating organizations, is to work for the global elimination of persistent organic pollutants, on an expedited yet socially equitable basis. This site has many links to information on POPs, including information on PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and dioxins. IPEN’s POPs elimination platform is available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Russian.

Physicians for Social Responsibility [http://www.psr.org/]

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is working to create a world free of nuclear weapons, global environmental pollution, and gun violence. PSR says of itself, “The active conscience of American medicine, PSR uses its members’ expertise and professional leadership, influence within the medical community and strong links to policy makers to address this century’s greatest threats to human welfare and survival.”

Waste Reduction, Pollution Prevention and Clean Production

Clean Production Action [http://www.cleanproduction.org/AAbase/default.htm]

Clean Production Action (CPA) is an international non-profit network dedicated to the advancement of sustainable production and consumption, taking the concepts and tools of Cleaner Production beyond the present process modification and emissions reduction focus.
Institute for Local Self-Reliance’s Carbohydrate Economy Web Page [http://www.carbohydrateeconomy.org/]

On this web site, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) is recommending a carbohydrate economy to slowly replace our hydrocarbon economy because the carbohydrate economy is compatible with natural systems and because it reduces pollution, builds stronger rural communities, and supports a rooted farmer-owned processing and manufacturing sector. Carbohydrates, the building blocks of plant matter, can be converted into chemicals, energy, textiles, building materials, paper, and many other industrial products. This web site offers information on biochemicals, the carbohydrate substitutes for petroleum-based chemicals, and at this point includes specific alternatives for the printing and automotive industries.

International Campaign for Responsible Technology [http://www.svtc.org/icrt/index.html]

The Campaign for Responsible Technology (CRT), an international network initiated by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition [http://www.svtc.org/], is a diverse network of organizations and environmental, worker/labor safety and health, economic development and social justice activists who promote broader grassroots participation in the design and development of new technologies as the computer industry rapidly moves into an increasingly dominant position world-wide. You can subscribe to the listserv of the Campaign for Responsible Technology at http://www.svtc.org/listserv/lssignup.htm. A pamphlet on Clean Production strategy can be found at http://www.svtc.org/cleance/pubs/strat.htm.

Lowell Center for Sustainable Production [http://www.uml.edu/centers/LCSP]

The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production has done important work developing and promoting environmentally sound systems of production, healthy work environments, and economically viable work organizations. This site provides skeletal information on their projects.

Toxics Use Reduction Institute [http://www.turi.org/]

The Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) was created to help Massachusetts businesses reduce their use of toxic chemicals. To help achieve this goal, the Institute’s web site provides information about many aspects of less toxic technologies and chemistries.

Emerging Public Policies

Chemicals Policy Initiative [http://www.chemicalspolicy.com/]

Sponsored by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, this website contains information, documentation, and analysis of emerging European and international chemicals management policies, as well as links to key organizations, agencies, and documents.


Although the International Joint Commission (IJC) is not a citizen’s group, the IJC pioneered many of the modern environmental policies that are replacing the old “prove harm” approach to environmental protection – and it did so in direct response to citizen concerns about toxicants in the Great Lakes ecosystem. The IJC was created by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty between the U.S. and Canada.
to oversee international matters related to the Great Lakes. In 1978, the two nations signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which the IJC oversees. In 1992, in its Sixth Biennial Report, the IJC wrote, “Are humans and our environment in danger from persistent toxic substances now? Are future generations in danger? Based on a review of scientific studies and other recent information, we believe the answer to both questions is yes.”

In its Sixth and Seventh Biennial Reports the IJC proposed and formally adopted several of the hazardous materials policies described earlier in this paper, making the IJC a source of wisdom for grass-roots environmental activists, world-wide. See the Sixth Biennial report (1992) at http://www.ijc.org/php/publications/html/6bre.html and the Seventh Biennial report (1994) at http://www.ijc.org/php/publications/html/7bre.html. All of the IJC’s subsequent reports are also available on the site.

Science and Environmental Health Network [http://www.sehn.org/]

The Science and Environmental Health Network (SEHN) began in 1993 when members of the scientific community met to respond to virulent attacks on the environmental agenda. It was clear that science was being misrepresented and misused in environmental public policy. SEHN is interested in developing policies of prudence rather than policies of degrade-and-cleanup; evaluating the abuses of risk assessment and cost benefit analysis; and assessing strategies for responding to the misuse of science in public policy decision-making. SEHN’s website has information on the precautionary principle, genetically modified organisms, and public interest science.

Occupational Safety and Health

The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) [http://www.masscosh.org/]

MassCosh is a coalition of approximately 50 unions together with over 100 health and legal professionals serving eastern and central Massachusetts. MassCOSH’s website has information on reproductive hazards on the job as well as indoor air quality problems in schools.

New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) [http://www.nycosh.org/]

NYCOSH provides technical assistance, training and education about workplace health and safety hazards to workers, unions, community members and organizations. NYCOSH’s website provides news and information about on-the-job safety and health, plus hundreds of links to more information that can be used to enhance occupational safety. One can find information on basic health and safety rights; workers’ compensation; strategies for safer workplaces; how to file a health and safety complaint; health and safety laws and regulations; and occupational hazards. Also NYCOSH’s website has become a repository of health and safety information for World Trade Center disaster’s first responders, clean-up crews, and local residents.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration [http://www.osha.gov]

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor manages this website and provides information on OSHA standards and interpretations of the standards. You can also learn about Inspections in OSHA covered facilities.