

C R E A T I N G A

Safe & Healthy Connecticut



What if some of the factors contributing to cancer, learning disabilities and behavioral disorders, infertility, birth defects, neurological damage, and asthma could be prevented?

We believe they can! Join us in calling on government to better protect health and the environment by reducing toxic chemicals in our daily lives.

Toxic chemicals in everyday products—in our bodies, homes, workplaces, and communities. What's wrong with this picture?



Scientists Sound Alarm for Our Health

A growing number of scientific studies show that toxic substances are accumulating in all of us and contributing to an epidemic of chronic diseases and disorders. Scientists found that over 180 human illnesses are linked to toxic chemicals, and even small amounts can cause damage. **Health effects include many forms of cancer, behavioral disabilities in children, Parkinson's disease, chemical sensitivities, endometriosis, autism, asthma, and many other illnesses.**

“There are hundreds of illnesses linked to exposure to synthetic chemicals and heavy metals. As a growing public health issue, the most practical solution lies in prevention...and that remedy requires the right tools—better laws, better choices, and better consumer education.”

— Patricia Beckenhaupt RN, MS, MPH,
Director of Health for the Northeast
District Department of Health

People Especially At Risk

- **Children are especially vulnerable.** Even a small exposure to a toxic chemical during fetal development can cause long-term, irreversible damage. One particularly concerning study examined the umbilical cord blood of newborn babies and found an average of 200 toxic chemicals in these infants.*
- **Workers who regularly come in contact with dangerous substances receive even higher doses than the general public.** The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has adopted workplace exposure limits for approximately 7% of the chemicals used in the U.S. in high quantities.*
- **Minority and low-income populations bear a disproportionate share of the adverse impacts of pollution** and suffer from increased health hazards compared to society as a whole.* The siting of hazardous facilities, some cultures' reliance on fishing and hunting for food, and other factors contribute to the inequitable burden.



It's Time to Modernize U.S. Safety Standards

While Europe and other countries are restricting dangerous toxins, the U.S. has fallen behind. Fundamental flaws in government policies allow damage to our health and environment.

- Potential toxins are not usually tested for safety before use. Fewer than 5% of the 80,000 synthetic chemicals in commerce have been reviewed for safety.
- The government usually takes action only after harm is proven and widespread.
- Certain levels of harm are accepted and allowed by government authorities.

Time for Connecticut Government to Act

Connecticut has a leadership role to play, helping to move other states and the country toward policies that protect our health and the environment. The Coalition is calling on the legislature and the governor to pass new state policies that:

- Act on Early Warnings of Toxic Hazards
- Choose and Create the Safest Alternatives, and
- Base Decisions on Science & Democracy.

“We can improve the quality of life by reducing exposure to harmful chemicals by eliminating their production or emissions through green chemistry and manufacturing initiatives to replace toxic chemicals and processes with safer alternatives.”

— Professor R. A. Weiss, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor
at the University of Connecticut Institute of Materials Science



We can replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives...

Safe Products Made Safely

Replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives will help prevent illnesses and disabilities that burden our families and the economy. Companies seeking to sell in an increasingly environmentally-conscious global marketplace will be more competitive if they take toxins out of their products. A new wave of green chemistry innovation and development of safer substitutes will catalyze a healthier economy in Connecticut, adding jobs and growth from clean technology.

Some companies already use safer substances, and many more could. Children's toys can be made with safer plastics and without lead. Some personal care product companies already manufacture safer health and beauty products — free of toxic chemicals that Europe banned. Organic farming practices can control weeds and bugs without using toxic pesticides. The Government should protect us from known toxic hazards by requiring that the safest feasible materials and processes are used to meet a particular need.



Join a citizen initiative

Join a citizen initiative in Connecticut to establish new government policies to prevent harm from toxic hazards! We need stronger chemical safety standards to protect our health and the environment. Safer substances, green chemistry, and safer manufacturing will reduce toxic pollution.

The Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut is a growing alliance of citizens, health professionals, workers, scientists, educators, environmental justice groups and businesses seeking to reduce toxic hazards.

Many Governments Already Taking Action

In 2006, the European Union passed a major new law called REACH, which is expected to phase out some 1,400 highly hazardous toxins and require companies to register and provide safety data for some 30,000 hazardous chemicals. Companies that continue to use "chemicals of high concern" will not be able to sell their products in Europe, which is now the biggest market in the world.

U.S. states are taking action. California has banned phthalates in toys. Washington, Maine, and Hawaii have laws prohibiting the use of some brominated flame retardants. Coalitions in Massachusetts, Maine, and New York are proposing comprehensive approaches to chemicals policy reform.

Visit www.safehealthyct.org/resources7.html.



We believe in:

- Protecting HEALTH and the ENVIRONMENT
- Creating SAFE WORKPLACES and enhancing occupational safety and health
- Treating all communities EQUALLY and promoting ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- Promoting INNOVATION to help businesses phase out highly hazardous toxic chemicals and shift to safer alternatives.

Your help is needed to achieve smarter laws, safer products and workplaces, a cleaner environment, and a healthier economy. Please join us! Membership is free.

Be part of the solution! Join the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut by visiting our website www.safehealthyct.org or by calling 860-232-6232.



Do you know that there are toxic chemicals in common household products? Here are some examples.



Toxic cleaning chemicals can cause asthma, cancer, and infertility and can damage our hormone and nervous systems.



Many personal care products like shampoo, conditioner, after shave, lotion and makeup have ingredients that are known or suspected to cause cancer, birth defects and reproductive damage.



Common ingredients in plastics, pesticides, and toys have been shown to disrupt hormone systems and harm child brain and sexual development, and impair long-term memory.

**For more information on the problem, visit our website or give us a call.
www.safehealthyct.org/resources7.html • 860.232.6232**



Connecticut can work with other states and become a leader on reducing exposure to toxics and building a healthy economy based on safe products, safe communities, and safe jobs.

“We are swimming in a sea of chemicals at work and at home, most of them not fully tested and, practically speaking, unregulated. Promoting safer alternatives is an urgent and essential public health measure.”

— Tim Morse, Ph.D., CPE, Associate Professor at the Occupational and Environmental Health Center, University of Connecticut Health Center

The Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut is a growing partnership of citizens and organizations working for safer alternatives to toxic chemicals. For more information, visit our website www.safehealthyct.org or call us 860-232-6232.



*Reference information and other background can be found on www.safehealthyct.org

