

Governor's Toxics Reduction Initiative



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Overview



- Elements of Governor's proposed toxics reduction effort are outlined in July 9 clean water policy brief
- Updating the water quality rule alone does not get at majors sources of toxic chemicals
- Legislative policy proposal
 - WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) authority to require alternatives assessments and phase out chemicals by rule
- Toxics reduction work under existing authority
 - Support policy proposal, increase local source control efforts, partner with local governments and business

Toxic impacts to children's learning and behavior



The National Academies of Sciences suggest that 3% of brain development disorders are solely attributable to a toxic environmental exposure and another 25% result from a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

- Developing brain is very sensitive to chemicals early in life (fetal and infancy period)
- Examples: lead, methyl mercury, tobacco smoke, PCBs, organophosphate pesticides, bisphenol A, PBDE flame retardants.

Burden of disease Washington State children



	~Rate	Estimated children affected	Population of children included in survey Q.
Learning disability <i>(ever had)</i>	1 in 10	137,500	3-17 years old
ADD or ADHD	1 in 14	98,000	2-17 years old

Source: 2011-12 National Survey of Children's Health (parent survey of health and well being of children). Conducted by the National Center of Health Statistics Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) . Childhealthdata.org

Legislative Proposal Elements



Prioritizing Chemicals

- Ecology develops a list of priority chemicals.
- Build on existing lists from the Children's Safe Products Act (CSPA), water quality standards and the persistent, bioaccumulative toxics (PBT) rule
- Ability to add or remove chemicals from the list through rule-making.

Legislative Proposal Elements



Selecting Chemicals for Action Plans

- Identify four priority chemicals for Chemical Action Plan (CAP) development per biennium
- Criteria based on previous laws and rules (CSPA, PBT rule), biomonitoring, environmental monitoring and Department of Health priorities

Legislative Proposal Elements



Chemical Action Plans

- Ecology has experience developing CAPs
 - Mercury, PBDEs, lead, PAHs, PCBs
- Advisory committee engaged in each CAP
- Full suite of recommendations are considered
 - Alternatives assessment/ban, use reduction, green chemistry research, outreach and education, monitoring, product stewardship, environmentally preferred state purchasing
- Ban recommendation won't go forward without alternatives assessment
 - Existing or required by agency

Legislative Proposal Elements



Alternatives Assessment

- Alternatives assessment required if recommended in the CAP
- Alternative assessment can focus on chemical or a specific use of a chemical
- Minimum requirements of alternatives assessment would be outlined in rule

Legislative Proposal Elements



Authority to Prohibit Sale, Distribution, or Use

- Only recommended if alternatives assessment determines that a safer and feasible alternative exists
- Rule process would be required
- If no safer alternative is available, Ecology would not propose a ban
- Other CAP recommendations would be implemented

Other Elements of the Package



Advancing Safer Products

- Ecology will conduct alternatives assessments on chemicals where concern is already established
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in pigments and dyes
 - Phthalate plasticizers

Other Elements of the Package



Green Chemistry

A process to design chemicals/products that work while minimizing hazard and waste

- A competitive process to fund green chemistry innovations
- Develop and integrate green chemistry curricula and materials into college-level chemistry programs
- Increase consumer awareness and availability of green branded products under EPA's Design for Environment program.

Other Elements of the Package



Water Quality Improvement in Watersheds

- Water bodies in Washington are already impaired
- Accelerate actions to bring impaired water bodies into compliance
- Develop control programs for permitted and non-permitted dischargers
- Conduct effectiveness monitoring to measure the success of implemented actions

Other Elements of the Package



Expanded Local Source Control

- Source control in new areas of the state via contracts with local governments
- Source tracing efforts in 3-5 watersheds in the Columbia River
- Point of discharge sampling for comparison with future conditions to assess effectiveness

Other Elements of the Package



Lean and Green Business Assistance

- Provide financial assistance to jump start capital improvements recommended during “lean and green” consultations
- **Examples**
 - Accra-Fab – Liberty Lake - saved more than \$179,000 a year while increasing production capacity
 - Decagon Devices – Pullman – eliminated lead solder
 - <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/lean/>

Other Elements of the Package



Stormwater Center Projects

- Continue research on runoff from roofing materials
- Evaluate techniques to reduce stormwater toxicity (e.g. porous asphalt, rain gardens and bioretention facilities),
- Identify hot-spot areas where salmon die before spawning
- Evaluate whether tires play a role in producing stormwater toxicity

Other Elements of the Package



Preventing Early Life Exposure to Toxics

(Washington State Department of Health)

- Identify toxic exposures of most concern in WA and prioritize prevention efforts.
- Educate women, medical providers, policy makers on best ways to prevent harmful exposures.
- Evaluate impacts of prevention (biomonitoring).
- Identify and fill data gaps for priority chemicals.

