



Our Neighborhoods

Citizens, government and industry working to promote public understanding and involvement in chemical risk management

Regional Environmental Summit Convened

Greater Cincinnati's *first ever* Regional Environmental Summit was held February 24 at Mt. Airy Forest.

Sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition, the Summit brought regional environmental organizations together to network, form partnerships, share resources and discuss future initiatives for the improvement and sustainability of the environment.

The Alliance for Chemical Safety was one of 55 groups that participated in the Summit. Environmental Community Organization (E.C.O.), Sierra Club, Hillside Trust, Concerned Citizens of Western Hamilton County and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, among others, also participated. Each group spoke briefly about its mission and opportunities to partner with other organizations.

Feedback on the event has been almost unanimously positive. For J. Standish Fortin of the Sierra Club, it was an opportunity to "see the extent to which

the smaller organizations in the region are making positive change."

Similarly, Dr. Eric Maurer of the University of Cincinnati said, "The most useful thing [about the Summit] was to see the array of activities, projects and organizations. Though the pace was a bit fast, we were able to get bite-size doses of information about the environmental scene in Cincinnati."

The smaller organizations found their



Attendees at the first ever Greater Cincinnati Regional Environmental Summit.

niche at the Summit as well. "This should become a regular occurrence," said Beth Ellis of E.C.O. "By varying the format and keeping close tabs on the networks that are being formed, Summits like these could be instrumental in forging strong alliances between groups which may be working in similar directions."

E.C.O. wasn't the only group stressing the need for networking. More than a dozen students from UC, Xavier and Mt. St. Joseph participated to broaden their understanding of local issues and rub elbows with the movers and shakers of the advocacy world.

The Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition is currently compiling the information from the Regional Environmental Summit. Once complete, the Coalition will work to further develop the partnerships established at the Summit and assist those environmental groups that want new partnerships in establishing environmental programs.

Written by Geoff Milz and Holly Christmann of HCOES.

Pilot Household Hazardous Waste Facility Opens In May

The average homeowner has 60 to 100 pounds of hazardous waste (i.e. cleaning chemicals, paints, pesticides) in the basement, garage or under the sink. Improper disposal or storage can cause accidental poisonings, environmental damage and/or harm to trash collectors and landfill workers.

Due to an overwhelming public response to four Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days held in the spring/fall 2003, the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District is currently negotiating a contract with a local recycling facility to continue the process.

A pilot HHW drop off program will operate from May-August. Public response to this pilot program will help

the agency determine whether to establish a permanent HHW collection facility.

Hamilton County residents can call Susan Schumacher at 946-7734 or email her at susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org to request a voucher that will allow them to drop off hazardous products at a centrally located facility. Once a voucher is received, residents will be given directions to the facility.

The HHW drop off program starts May 4. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Acceptable items include automotive fluids, pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, thinners, paint, pool chemicals, cleaning agents, batteries, paint, prescription

drugs, thermometers and fire extinguishers. The program will not accept appliances, smoke detectors, ammunition, fire works or other explosives, computers, large cylinders or oil tanks.



More than 1 million pounds of HHW was collected during four collection events sponsored by Hamilton County in 2003.

Regulatory News Briefs

Cincinnati's Nuisance Odor Law Back On The Books

Cincinnati City Council voted 8-1 May 5 to reinstate the city's nuisance odor law, effective in 30 days. Formerly known as Title X (Ten), the law was repealed by Council in 2002. Like its predecessor, the new law — called the Cincinnati Clean Air Act — allows citizens to make complaints about odors, emissions and dust from local industry that affects their quality of life. The complaints will be investigated, as before, by the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services. New to the law is that violators will now be prosecuted by the city solicitor's office through the Hamilton County Housing Court. Civil penalties of up to \$15,000 a day and misdemeanor criminal charges could be levied.

New Air Regulation To Affect Greater Cincinnati Area

Seven Greater Cincinnati counties, including Hamilton, Butler, Clermont and Warren in Ohio and Boone, Campbell and Kenton in Northern Kentucky, are out of compliance ("non-attainment") with a new federal 8-hour ozone standard that went into affect in April. Ozone is the main component of smog and a lung irritant.

To meet the new standard, Ohio and Kentucky will probably focus on reducing vehicle emissions, utility and industry emissions or a combination of both. Area residents may encounter reformulated fuels for their vehicles, tougher E-check systems and higher gas and electric bills.

If standards aren't met, federal officials can reduce funding for highways and other projects.

Cincinnati Schools Initiate Shelter In Place Drills

Tornado drills... fire drills... and now Shelter In Place drills. Cincinnati schools have recently begun practicing how to Shelter In Place during a chemical emergency. Drills at Meredith Hitchens Elementary in Addyston and St. Aloysius

in Saylor Park were held on March 23, and a drill at Saylor Park School was held on April 14. The Saylor Park principal will select the next school. The drills are coordinated by the Cincinnati Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau and the Cincinnati Health Department as part of a Shelter In Place education effort.

Fate of Winton Hills Transfer Station Up In The Air

The fate of Waste Management's garbage transfer station in Winton Hills is up in the air once again. In April, the Cincinnati Board of Health appealed the decision of the Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC) regarding Waste Management's request for 2002 and 2003 operating licenses. ERAC, an independent three-person commission, voted in late March in favor of Waste Management.

Also in April, the Board of Health voted to deny a request from Houston-based Waste Management for a 2004 license, which it needs to operate the facility. The 12,000-square-foot transfer station, which is already built, is located at 5701 Este Avenue. The location is the same as the now-closed ELDA solid waste landfill, previously operated by Waste Management.

It is now up to the 10th District Court of Appeals in Columbus to determine whether a waste transfer station will be built in Winton Hills.

Alliance Awarded Grants for Shelter In Place Education

The Alliance for Chemical Safety was recently awarded two grants for Shelter In Place education in the Greater Cincinnati area, a \$10,000 grant from FEMA and a \$10,000 grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The awards came in April — about a month after Miami Township (Hamilton Co.) residents "sheltered in place" following a large asphalt tank fire at the Marathon-Ashland facility in North Bend.



Company Contacts

Bayer Corporation, Addyston
Duane Day, (513) 467-2217

Cognis Corp., Winton Place
Mike Groh, (513) 482-2425

DuPont Specialty Chemicals, North Bend
Tom Burke, (513) 941-4121, x12

EMD Chemicals, Norwood
Rob Highley, (513) 587-5186

GRACE Davison, Bond Hill
John Terbot, (513) 305-8080

Gtr. Cincinnati Water Works, California
Bill Phelps, (513) 591-7971

J.M. Smucker Company, St. Bernard
Bob Harper, (513) 482-8116

Metropolitan Sewer Dist., Lwr Price Hill
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Pilot Chemical, Lockland & Middletown
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Dennis Callison, (513) 424-9700, x224
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Procter & Gamble Company, St. Bernard
Jack Dixon, (513) 627-4567

Queen City Terminals, Columb.-Tusculum
Gary Sampson, (513) 871-9018

Rohm and Haas, Reading
Curt Lambert, (513) 733-2195
Tami Todd (513) 733-2213

Royster-Clark Nitrogen, North Bend
Bill Chokran, (513) 941-4100, x14

RUETGERS Organics Corporation,
Crosby Township
Frank Canepa, (513) 738-1255, x118

Sanitation Dist. No. 1, Ft. Wright, KY
Rod Bell, (859) 578-7458

Shepherd Chemical, Norwood
Rob Paxton, (513) 458-6817

Southside River Rail, Sedamsville
Brandon Cox, (513) 921-8441

Please call these
Alliance for Chemical Safety
industry contacts if you have questions
about chemicals in your neighborhood.

The Chemical Industry & Public Awareness

Did you know that the chemical industry in Ohio employs more than 65,000 workers at an average salary of \$55,000 (23% higher than the average for all manufacturing jobs) with a value of technology produced each year in excess of \$20 billion? Local industries that are most dependent on the chemical industry include motor vehicles and parts industry, agriculture and food processing, and health care.



Ever wonder what a plant in your neighborhood does? The Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC), along with the American Chemistry Council (ACC), has developed a campaign to increase awareness of member company operations, products and overall commitment to the environment. The first step in this program is to encourage local and state legislators and lobbyists to tour local chemical plants so they can better understand the steps being taken to create a safe work environment.

The purpose of the campaign is to open doors and remove the perception of

“secrecy.” OCTC and ACC want to show that the chemical industry has nothing to hide, believing that tour participants will see first hand a high level of commitment to the environment, safety and health.

How can we all help? We can help this cause by spreading the word — writing letters, sending emails — to let politicians and lobbyists know that this is an important issue. It is up to all of us to work together to help the chemical industry continue to provide good paying jobs in an environment that is safe and secure.

OCTC and ACC are trade organizations that represent the Ohio and national chemical industry respectively.

Community Events Around Town

First Annual High School Survivor Eco-Challenge

Want to see a local version of Survivor (without the voting)? Morgan Eco Events LLC will host a High School Survivor Eco-Challenge for area high school teams on May 15 at Caesar Creek State Park. The course is comprised of a 4-mile raft race, 2-mile run, 8-station obstacle course and mystery tasks. Teams are comprised of three boys and three girls and one teacher/parent. Proceeds from the eco-challenge will benefit local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. Grand prize for the winning team is a trip to the Morgan's eco-resort located on a pristine beach in southern Costa Rica. For more information visit the web site at www.littlemiamitriathlon.com.



2004 Ohio River Sweep

The 16th annual Ohio River Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, June 19. The Sweep is a riverbank cleanup of the Ohio River and its tributaries. Last year, more than 21,000 volunteers from public organizations, civic groups, recreational clubs and general public came together in six states to remove more than 13,000 tons of trash and other debris from the Ohio River. The event is organized by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). For more information, call Jeanne Ison at 1-800-359-3977.

Alliance and Ohio EPA To Sponsor Spills Conference

The Alliance for Chemical Safety and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will host the 27th annual Spill Prevention and Response Conference at the Kings Island Conference Center September 27-29, 2004. This conference will provide the latest information on regulatory compliance and new technologies associated with spill prevention and response. A full conference agenda should be published by the end of May. For more information, please contact Bob Harper of J.M. Smucker Co. at (513) 482-8116 or bobby.harper@jmsmucker.com.

Sanitation District No. 1 Eliminates Chlorine, Receives Award

Sanitation District No. 1 in Northern Kentucky has stopped using chlorine to treat wastewater at its Bromley Pump Station. The chlorine was replaced with a less toxic hydrogen peroxide solution. The Bromley Pump Station, which serves Kenton and Campbell counties, was the last pump station to eliminate liquid chlorine. It provides pre-treatment of wastewater prior to final treatment at the Dry-Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The elimination of chlorine directly impacts an adjacent residential population of 12,000 people.

The Alliance for Chemical Safety honored the Sanitation District for its risk reduction efforts at a ceremony in January. The Alliance also honored the Cincinnati Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau and the Northern Kentucky Emergency Planning Committee for their work in educating the public about Shelter In Place, as well as RUETGERS Organics and PCS Purified Phosphates for their work with the Paddys Run Community Advisory Panel and Crosby Township community.

Cincinnati Museum Center To Host Safety Festival on July 17

The American Red Cross will sponsor its annual safety fair on Saturday, July 17 at the Museum Center. Dubbed Super Safety Saturday, the event is held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features exhibits and booths on safety topics. Free children's bicycle helmets will also be distributed.

Diesel & Gas Emissions Are Biggest Air Toxics in Cincinnati

Toxic air pollution has decreased in Cincinnati over the last 15 years, but significant pollution sources still remain, according to data from Hamilton County's three air toxics monitoring stations.

Two of the worst offenders are diesel fuel emissions and benzene (a component of gasoline), which together represent about 86% of the added cancer risk in Hamilton County¹. Benzene is a known human carcinogen, and diesel fuel contains about 40 compounds that are suspected carcinogens.

Hamilton County has operated air toxics monitoring stations in Carthage, Lower Price Hill and Winton Place since the late 1980s/early 1990s. An Ohio Environmental Protection Agency grant funds the program. The stations collect composite air samples every 12th day over a 24-hour period. The samples are analyzed for 60 volatile organic compounds, including refrigerants (freons), mobile source compounds, industrial solvents and straight-chain hydrocarbons.

Of the 60 chemicals tested for, about 25 were found in Hamilton County air in 2003. The annual average 24-hour concentrations at the three sites ranged from 0.2 to 2.5 parts per billion (ppb). The detection limit of the method is 0.2 ppb.

Most of the refrigerants found in the air were discontinued in the 1980s, but are

still persistent in the environment. These products pose no health risk other than their potential to destroy the ozone layer.

Hydrocarbons (i.e., butane, pentane, hexane and heptane) are found in the air as the result of high natural gas usage. These chemicals do not pose a health risk at low concentrations.

Industrial solvents such as methylene chloride, styrene, trichlorethylene (TCE) and others are emitted from industrial facilities in the area. Two of these chemicals, methylene chloride and 1,1,1-trichloroethane, are known animal carcinogens, but have not been confirmed as human carcinogens.

Mobile source compounds, such as benzene and toluene, are emitted to the air as evaporated gasoline or as combustion products from gas or diesel engines.

In total, emissions from trains, planes, automobiles and earth movers account for more than 90% of the added cancer risk in Hamilton County, while industrial facilities account for about 1.59%.

New air regulations coming down the pike (beginning in 2006) will specifically target diesel fuel and diesel engines. Hamilton County is also receiving grant money from the U.S. EPA to retrofit local school buses, which run on diesel, under the Clean School Bus USA program.

¹Environmental Defense Fund website, www.scorecard.org.

Q What does it mean when you're told to stay indoors during a chemical release?

Staying indoors is the same as being told to Shelter In Place. It means going or staying inside a shelter (i.e., your home), closing doors and windows, and turning off air handling systems (i.e., heat, air conditioning, fans, dampers) to prevent dangerous air from entering the building.

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This newsletter is a publication of the Alliance for Chemical Safety, a Greater Cincinnati non-profit group dedicated to promoting chemical safety. The Alliance holds monthly meetings (open to the public) from 3-4:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, 3805 Edwards Road (fifth floor), Cincinnati, OH 45208. Please call (513) 612-3074 or visit our web site at www.acs-online.org if you would like more information about our group, our local activities or our members.



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