

## A Timeline Sampling of State Environmental Health Policy Victories

### 1997 - Maine

- State bans dioxin discharges from paper mills beginning 2002
- Fish downstream of paper mills must have the same dioxin levels as fish upstream

### 1989 - Massachusetts

#### Toxics Use Reduction Act

- Companies using some 900 chemicals must report on their usage and submit Toxic Use Reduction plans.
- Technical support provided by a state University
- Law has resulted in reduction of toxic chemical use by 40%, chemical waste by 60%, and chemical emissions by 80%.

### 1996 - Oregon

Toxics Use Reduction Act  
Required toxics producers to submit lists of toxic materials to the city to be posted online and pay a fee based on amounts of chemicals produced

### 1986 - CA

#### Prop 65

#### **Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act**

prohibits businesses from discharging chemicals with carcinogenic or reproductive toxicity effects into sources of drinking water

### 1999 - Oregon

Executive Order— Goal of eliminating Persistent Bio-accumulative Chemicals by 2020.

# 1980s & 90s

**Washington**

- First statewide program to eliminate and clean up PBTs - Persistent Bio-accumulative Toxins
- Children's Pesticide Right to Know act, limits highly toxic pesticides in schools.

**Maine**

- Act to Reduce the Release of Dioxin into the Environment from Consumer Products
- To limit the release of dioxin to the environment through backyard burning of construction materials, plastics, rubbers, and Styrofoam, and metals.

**2001 - Minnesota**

Mercury Products Bill  
Requires products containing mercury must be labeled, inform the buyer the product must be recycled.

**Health Care Without Harm**

Consortia Health care purchasing group offers PVC-free IV bags

**2001 - CA**

**Mercury Reduction Act**

Mandates the replacement of mercury switches in vehicles and appliances

**2001 - Minnesota**

- Bill requires parental notification when pesticides are used in schools.
- Child based envt'l health standards, used in setting health risk standards for groundwater contamination

**2000-2001**

**2003 - Boston Dioxin Resolution**

- City must use less toxic alternatives wherever economically feasible,  
- Requires implementation plan w. reduction targets for dioxin pollution and progress report.

**2002 - Seattle, WA**

First in the nation city purchasing policy banning PBTs and PBT contributing products

**2003 - Washington**

Mercury Reduction Bill passes

**Connecticut**

Set the first-in-the-nation mercury control requirements for coal plants resulting in 90% reduction of mercury emissions by 2008.

**2003- Michigan**

- Ban on use of mercury products in Hospitals

**Maine**

Ban on mercury thermometers, prohibition of using mercury containing products in schools, shift of responsibility from disposers to manufacturers of cars to be responsible for Hg auto components

**Healthy Building Network**

wins voluntary phase out of arsenic treated wood.

**2002 - CT**

Comprehensive mercury law Bans Hg thermometers, novelty products, includes labeling and take-back

**2003 - CA**

**PBDE labeling law**

Producers must provide information on safe use and disposal of the products

**2002-2003**

**Oregon**

Executive Order implements a plan to address the impacts of PBTs a priority by July 2005

**California**

Amendment to PBDE bill bans products with more than .1% of penta and octa BDE by weight.

**Buffalo, NY**

PBT-free or low PBT preferable purchasing policy

**Berkeley, CA**

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**

After January 1, 2008, the manufacture and sale of products that contain more than .1% of penta and octa BDE by weight are banned.

**Michigan**

- Bill phasing out penta and octa BDEs by June 1, 2006

**2004**

**New York**

Law phased out penta and octa BDEs by Jan 1, 2006 and reported on safer, cost and performance effective alternatives to deca BDEs.

**Oregon**

State bans penta and octa BDEs

**San Francisco, CA**

Enacted a law that requires city departments to buy products that "do as little harm as possible to people and the Earth."

**Seattle**

School Board adopts Strong Pesticide Reduction Policy

**Massachusetts**

Legislature appropriates 1/4 million for alternatives assessment for 5 priority chemicals

**Maine**

Requires car scrappers to remove mercury containing components before processing cars for recycling.

**CA— Safe Cosmetics Act**

Manufacturers must list of its cosmetic products that contain any ingredient that is a chemical identified as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity. The legislation also authorizes DHS to investigate any cosmetic product that contains chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects and to require manufacturers to submit relevant health effects data and studies.

**New York City**

- Law phases out acutely toxic and cancer causing pesticide by November 2006.
- 48 hour advanced notice required before outdoor application.
- City joined 7 other counties opting into the law

**2005**

**Computer Take Back Campaign**

Apple announces it will take back old Macs at its stores for recycling

**Massachusetts** -

February 2, 2006

House voted unanimously to restrict the sale of mercury-containing products that have safer alternatives.

**Maine**

- Starting this year, products containing BFRs must be labeled, including summary of health impacts of the products
- Ban on products w. 1% or more of BFRs
- Starting in 2010, use of deca-BDE is banned if alternatives are available

**Michigan**

Bill in the house to prohibit the manufacture and distribution of products containing deca-BDEs, commonly used in electronics

**Maine**

Executive Order

- Enacts an Task Force to Promote Safer Chemicals in Consumer Products.
- Names lead, mercury, brominated flame retardants, and pesticides as priority issues for the state of Maine;

**Olympia, WA**

City phases out highly toxic pesticides and also bans city purchase of PBTs

**As of April 3rd 21 US state legislatures and Puerto Rico are now considering legislation to address or restrict the use of mercury in electronic products**

**2006**