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EPA Software Helps Reduce Water Pollution as Part of President's Climate Action Plan

As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released the National Stormwater Calculator, an innovative addition to the administration's virtual climate resilience toolkit. EPA's new calculator will help property owners, developers, landscapers, and urban planners make informed land-use decisions to protect local waterways from pollution caused by stormwater runoff. Preventing stormwater runoff, which can impact drinking water resources and local ecosystems, protects people's health and the environment.

The calculator, which is phase I of the Stormwater Calculator and Climate Assessment Tool package announced in the President's Climate Action Plan in June, is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of stormwater runoff from a specific site, based on local soil conditions, slope, land cover, and historical rainfall records. Users can enter any U.S. location and select different scenarios to learn how specific green infrastructure

changes, including inexpensive changes like rain barrels and rain gardens, can prevent pollution. This information helps users determine how adding green infrastructure can be one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce stormwater runoff.

"EPA's research is providing innovative solutions to protect our nation's water resources," said Lek Kadeli, principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Research and Development. "The Stormwater Calculator demonstrates different types of green infrastructure approaches which can result in protection from flooding, energy savings, improved air quality, increased property values, healthier communities, and cost savings for the American people."

Each year billions of gallons of raw sewage, trash, household chemicals, and urban runoff flow into our streams, rivers and lakes. Polluted stormwater runoff can adversely affect plants, animals, and people. It also adversely affects our economy – from closed beaches to decreased fishing and hunting in polluted areas. Green infrastructure is an affordable solution to

promote healthy waters and support sustainable communities.

An update to the Stormwater Calculator, which will include the ability to link to several future climate scenarios, will be released by the end of 2013. Climate projections indicate that heavy precipitation events are very likely to become more frequent as the climate changes.

More information about the National Stormwater Calculator: <http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/wswrd/wq/models/swc/>

More information about the virtual climate resilience toolkit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27climateaction-plan.pdf>

More information on EPA's Green Infrastructure research: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>

[Click here to view the original press release.](#)

NPPR Declares July 14 “Ken Geiser Day”

Celebration of Ken’s retirement dubbed “Geiserstock”

Ken Geiser celebrated his retirement on July 14 with a “green” party in Tilden Park, California, among family, friends, colleagues and other well-wishers.

Ken has been an advocate for P2 for more almost 30 years. He participated on EPA’s Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) P2 subcommittee. He was the first recipient of NPPR’s “P2 Champion” award. He also participated in international efforts including the 8th High-level International

Seminar of Sustainable and Cleaner Production in Mexico and more recently on an excursion to China to promote chemicals policy and P2. He was a professor at the University of Massachusetts – Lowell starting in



1990 and served as the Director of the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute from 1990 to 2003. UMass Lowell established the Ken Geiser Endowed Fund for Global Sustain-

ability. For more information, go to <http://www.uml.edu/News/stories/2013/KenGeiser.aspx>



Pollution Prevention:

Where sustainable practices begin!

The EPA Adds to Its List of Safer Chemical Ingredients

The Safer Chemical Ingredients List is a comprehensive list of chemicals that the EPA had compiled in order to provide a framework for companies looking to manufacture safer products. The list was originally created in September of 2012.

Earlier this month, the EPA added 130 new chemicals to this list, which now contains 602

chemicals. 119 of these are fragrance chemicals used in the production of both consumer and cleaning products. The inclusion of these chemicals allows the EPA to provide a larger body of information for members of industries.

This list serves as a guideline for companies seeking the EPA’s Design for Environment (DfE) certifica-

tion. Over 2,500 products have been certified under the DfE Standard for Safer Products. This label indicates that these items have met the EPA’s rigorous standards for health and safety. Items certified include various cleaning solutions, detergents, and a wide variety of other products used in a range of industries.

The Safer Chemical list is also extremely useful for environmental advocacy groups pushing for the development of safer products in industry. As the hosts of the Safer Chemistry Challenge Program, NPPR will benefit greatly from the information that this list can provide.

[Click here to view the original press release.](#)

Air Pollution Killing Over 2 Million People Annually

A recent study published in the journal of Environmental Research Letters indicates that more than two million people are killed every year due to the effects of outdoor air pollution. Annually, 2.1 million deaths can be attributed to the anthropogenic increases in fine particulate matter, defined as particles with a diameter of equal to or

less than 2.5 microns (PM 2.5). Furthermore, increases in ozone pollution caused by human activity are responsible for an additional 470,000 deaths per year.

East Asia is most affected by the pollution; over a million people die prematurely due to the PM 2.5 exposure and over 200,000 due to the ozone level changes.

Though the distribution of fatalities is not even globally, all major regions are affected by these changing air contaminant levels.

In North America, over 75,000 deaths per year are related to changing ozone and PM 2.5 levels. Research from a British medical journal, the Lancet, has found a link between heart fail-

ures and pollution levels. Their research has concluded that the decrease in PM 2.5 levels could reduce the amount of Americans being hospitalized for heart failure, and save the US a third of a billion dollars.

[Click here to view the original article.](#)

School Bus Company to Install Automatic Idle Shut-off Controls and Pay Penalties under the Clean Air Act

As part of a settlement for excessive school bus idling in several Massachusetts communities, Eastern Bus Company will pay a \$35,000 penalty and will increase its efforts to eliminate excessive idling. In addition to posting anti-idling signs, enhancing driver training and increasing supervisory presence in school bus lots, Eastern Bus Co. will install automatic idle shut-off controls on all its buses by Sept. 1, 2013.

In November and December of 2012, an EPA inspector observed Eastern Bus Company idling for extended periods of time in school bus lots in Wellesley, Somerville and Newton, Mass. EPA alleged that the company's excessive idling was in

violation of federally-enforceable motor vehicle idling limits contained in the Massachusetts air quality state implementation plan. The applicable regulations establish requirements for all motor vehicles operating in the state, and, with very few exceptions, limit idling to no more five minutes.

"Idling vehicles waste fuel, emit unnecessary air pollution and contribute to climate change," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "Pollution from diesel vehicles is a serious health concern in Massachusetts and across the country. By dramatically limiting school bus idling, this settlement will help

protect the health of school children in communities throughout eastern Massachusetts."

Children, especially those suffering from asthma or other respiratory ailments, are particularly vulnerable to diesel exhaust. Idling diesel engines emit pollutants which can cause or aggravate a variety of health problems including asthma and other respiratory diseases, and the fine particles in diesel exhaust are a likely human carcinogen. Diesel exhaust not only contributes to area-wide air quality problems, but more direct exposure can cause lightheadedness, nausea, sore throat, coughing, and other symptoms. Drivers, school children riding on the buses, facility workers,

neighbors and bystanders are all vulnerable.

Idling school buses consume about one-half gallon of fuel per hour. By reducing the idling time of each bus in its fleet by one hour per day, Eastern Bus Co. would reduce its fuel use by 16,200 gallons per year and avoid emitting more than 350,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

More information: EPA Clean Diesel Campaign (<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/index.htm>)

[Click here to view the original press release.](#)

Las Vegas Takes Environmental Steps

While Las Vegas is generally thought of as a place of opulence and excess, many of its hotels and casinos are making big efforts to become more environmentally friendly. With 500,000 residents and 40 million visitors annually, Las Vegas has been struggling to meet energy and water demands, and has had to make some serious changes to operations.

Las Vegas depends on the Colorado River for its water supply, as do tens of millions of agricultural and municipal users in the surrounding areas. The heavily plumbed and litigated river system is now in a critical condition, so Las Vegas businesses are devising ways to save water and protect the river. For example, Caesars has installed aerators in sinks and showers, as well as new low-flow toilets to minimize water use. The Palazzo now uses an underground stream that runs beneath Las Vegas Boulevard for irrigation.

In addition, casinos are attempting to reduce their carbon footprint by recycling and reusing waste. Instead of their huge amounts of waste being sent directly to landfills, plastic, paper, and aluminum products are sorted and recycled, and food waste is sent to pig farms or composted. Even the oil used in cooking is collected and sold to be converted into biofuel. All this helps to divert about 55% of casinos' waste from landfills.

Currently, the Las Vegas Strip has one of the highest concentrations of LEED certified buildings in the world, which is a relatively new development since the passage of a green building incentive package by the Nevada state legislature in 2005. With all of these efforts, Las Vegas is now a model city for environmental stewardship and pollution prevention.

[Click here to view the original article.](#)

GM and Honda Join Together to Bring Fuel Cell Vehicles to the Market

GM and Honda are now working together to bring affordable hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles to the market before the end of the decade. Fuel cell vehicles generate power from a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, and their only emission is water vapor.

While this technology could go a long way in cutting back on air pollution caused by vehicles and reducing our dependence on petroleum, it is still too expensive for most to afford. Hydrogen must be stored in specialist carbon fiber tanks, and platinum is used as a catalyst, driving up the cost.

However, this setback has not prevented automotive firms like Honda and GM from investing in the technology. Together, they have 1,200 fuel cell-related patents, and they recently signed a "definitive master agreement" to co-develop fuel cell systems and hydrogen storage technologies. These two companies intend to make fuel cell vehicles more affordable with their plan to exchange expertise and combine sourcing strategies for parts and materials.

So far, successes include Honda's FCX Clarity, a fuel cell vehicle which was named World Green Car in 2009. Honda has delivered 85 of these FCX vehicles, and it plans to launch a follow-up in the U.S. and Japan in 2015, with a European roll-out expected soon after. In addition, GM has created "Project Driveway," which consists of 119 hydrogen-powered vehicles and has accumulated nearly 3 million miles of real-world fuel cell driving since 2007.

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