



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC to sponsor Green Chemistry Symposium

SACRAMENTO – To promote pollution prevention and green chemistry, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will hold the first state sponsored Green Chemistry Symposium on Tuesday, October 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the California Environmental Protection Agency, 1001 I Street, Sacramento.

Experts in the field of Green Chemistry from throughout the country will present information on innovations in chemistry that emphasize the use of environmentally friendly chemicals and processes.

Green chemistry is not a particular set of technologies, but rather an emphasis on the design of chemical products and processes, sometimes at the molecular level, that reduces or eliminates the use and generation of hazardous substances. This approach offers environmentally beneficial alternatives to more hazardous chemicals and processes, and thus promotes pollution prevention.

“Since 1989, DTSC has worked with industry to incorporate principles of Green Chemistry,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “By helping businesses evaluate their materials, processes, and product design, they can make changes that will reduce or eliminate hazardous waste before it is created.”

After passage of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) began to explore the idea of developing new or improving existing chemical products and processes to make them less hazardous to human health and the environment.

In 1991, the US EPA began its model research grants program, “Alternative Synthetic Pathways for Pollution Prevention.” With this new funding source, research in the area of Green Chemistry expanded and partnerships between academia, industry, government agencies and non-government agencies were established.

“By sponsoring the first state sponsored Green Chemistry Symposium, DTSC and Governor Schwarzenegger continues to lead in this innovative movement to protect human health and the environment,” said Gorsen. “This symposium meets one of Governor Schwarzenegger’s environmental goals of providing leadership by example. It also emphasizes the state’s concerns about fostering pollution prevention by bringing best minds in the nation to tackle complex environmental issues that impact the quality of our lives.” Gorsen added.

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Guest speakers include;

- John Warner, PhD, University of Massachusetts Lowell, who will discuss “What is Green Chemistry?”
- Michael P. Wilson, PhD, University of California, Berkeley, who will discuss “Green Chemistry in California: A Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation” and,
- Leif Magnuson, US EPA, who will discuss “USEPA Green Chemistry Projects and Programs”
- Bruce Jennings, PhD, California State Senate, who will discuss the California legislature’s perspectives on this key environmental topic.
- Representatives from the Chemical Industry Council of California and the American Chemistry Council

DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen will provide opening remarks.

For more information, call Ron Baker (916) 324-3142 or visit the DTSC Green Chemistry Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.