

California Green Chemistry Initiative

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Presentation to
State Water Resources
Control Board

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What is Green Chemistry?

... consideration of public health and environmental effects of chemicals—during the design of products and processes

Creates a fundamentally new approach to environmental protection



Why is this initiative needed?

- ✧ Regulatory efforts focus on emissions and waste
- ✧ A focus on design and process leads to better protection
- ✧ Mounting evidence shows relationship between chemicals in products and negative impacts
- ✧ Knowledge of chemicals in products and their impacts is limited
- ✧ Governments and industry are focusing in this direction



Four Challenge Areas

- ✧ How to Move from “Cradle to Grave” to “Cradle to Cradle”
- ✧ How to Stimulate Green Chemistry Technological Revolution in California
- ✧ Toxics in Products by Design
- ✧ Toxics in Products by Accident



What are we doing?

- ❖ Defining the challenges
- ❖ Soliciting input
- ❖ Identifying options for addressing each challenge
- ❖ Developing options & recommendations for action



How are we doing it?

- ✧ A transparent process
 - ✧ Stakeholder involvement
 - ✧ Workshops
 - ✧ Symposia/Conferences and Roundtables
 - ✧ Meetings
 - ✧ Web Site
 - ✧ Moderated Blog
 - ✧ Consultation with universities
 - ✧ Consultation with Canada and EU
 - ✧ Consultation with US EPA



Who is Involved?

- ✧ Creation of a cross-agency coordination working group:
 - ✧ All Cal/EPA Boards, Departments, & Office
 - ✧ Department of Public Health
 - ✧ Department of Conservation
 - ✧ Department of Industrial Relations
 - ✧ Office of Homeland Security
 - ✧ State & Consumer Services Agency
 - ✧ Health & Human Services Agency



Timeline

- ✧ May 2007 - Green Chemistry Initiative announced by Secretary Adams
- ✧ June to December - public stakeholder meetings
- ✧ January 1, 2008 - List of Options
- ✧ July 1, 2008 - Policy recommendations to Secretary Adams



Invitation to Participate

- ✧ Attend public meetings
- ✧ Sign up for the listserv
- ✧ Share your thoughts and ideas
- ✧ Encourage staff involvement

