

Community Action



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. – Margaret Mead

While being a smart consumer and creating a healthy home for yourself is an important step towards creating a healthy legacy for our children, it is also imperative that each of us take action in our communities to help spread the word and impact the environments and policies that affect everyone. Make changes at work, at schools, your local clinic, with your city council – every opportunity you have. Use the ideas and resources below to empower yourself as a voice for change in your community. Every phone call, every letter and every person counts.

Schools and Child Care Centers

Sample Resolution: Blueprint for Healthy, Environmentally Sound Schools
www.greenschools.net/schoolboardres.pdf

Go Green Initiative - The Go Green Initiative is a simple, comprehensive program designed to create a culture of environmental responsibility on school campuses across the nation. It unites parents, students, teachers and school administrators in an effort to make real and lasting changes that will protect children and the environment for years to come. <http://gogreeninitiative.org/>

Indoor Air Quality – Tools for Schools – US Environmental Protection Agency - The Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TfS) Kit shows schools how to carry out a practical plan of action to improve indoor air problems at little or no cost using straightforward activities and in-house staff.
<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/toolkit.html>

Green Schools – Center for a New American Dream – This comprehensive website has sample letters to send to school or city officials, a quick and easy guide to green cleaning in schools, a list of safer cleaning products, information on why safer cleaners are important to schools, a list of schools using safer products and much more. <http://www.newdream.org/cleanschools/>

PVC Fact Sheet and Model Policy for Governments (pdf) – (Could be used for schools, as well) -
<http://www.grrn.org/assets/pdfs/pvc/GovernmentAction.pdf>

Hospitals and Clinics

Heal Care Without Harm – Health Care Without Harm is an international coalition of over 440 organizations in more than 50 countries, working to transform the health care industry so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the environment. Their site has a wealth of information about changing hospital policy and practices and informative news and reports. www.noharm.org

Pediatric Environmental Health Tool Kit – Physician's for Social Responsibility - an exciting new project that will bring practical tools on preventing exposures to toxic chemicals to pediatric and family care practices

around the country. The *Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit* includes laminated desk and pocket reference guides for providers, and patient handouts including "Prescription for Prevention" sheets and refrigerator magnets. <http://psr.igc.org/ped-env-hlth-toolkit-project.htm>

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment - H2E's mission is to provide education, tools and information about best environmental practices to help health care professionals improve operational efficiency, increase compliance, and improve the health of their communities. www.h2e-online.org/

City or County Offices

Building Air Quality: A Guide for Building Owners and Facility Managers - U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation - This extensive, 228-page document equips building managers to prevent, identify, and correct problems with indoor air. Written in 1991, this guide lacks recent IAQ discoveries and approaches, but it offers a good introduction and systematic procedure for evaluating buildings. www.greenbiz.com/toolbox/reports_third.cfm?LinkAdvID=8439

The Green Cleaning Pollution Prevention Calculator (<http://www.ofee.gov/janitor/index.asp>) quantifies the projected environmental benefits of purchasing and using "green" janitorial services and products. It is designed to forecast the environmental benefits of reducing chemical use by doing some or all pollution prevention measures typically involved in the routine interior cleaning of an office building. This tool also enables users to identify which green cleaning measures will have the greatest impact in reducing their use of hazardous chemicals and in preventing pollution.

Model City-Wide IPM Policy - <http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/policy/legislation/ipm.htm>

PVC Fact Sheet and Model Policy for Governments (pdf) – (Could be used for schools, as well) - <http://www.grrn.org/assets/pdfs/pvc/GovernmentAction.pdf>

San Francisco's Precautionary Principle Policy - San Francisco's Less Toxic Pest Management, Less Toxic Purchasing, and Green Building programs. <http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/innovative/pp/>

Community Tool Box

The Community Tool Box is an invaluable resource for both the beginner and the seasoned community organizer. Their goal is to support your work in promoting community health and development and they have a plethora of tools to help you do just that. The Tool Box provides over 6,000 pages of practical skill-building information on over 250 different topics. Topic sections include step-by-step instruction, examples, check-lists, and related resources. <http://ctb.ku.edu/>

The Key to Protection is Prevention

Contact us to find out more and to join us on the path to a better future.

Call 612-870-3458 or log on to www.HealthyLegacy.org

Healthy Legacy

Healthy people, safe communities,
a clean environment and a thriving economy.



Coordinated by: Arc Greater Twin Cities, Clean Water Action Alliance, Environmental Justice Advocates of MN, Indigenous Environmental Network, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Learning Disabilities Association of MN, Minnesota Nurses Association and Women's Environmental Institute