

TURA Program Update - August 2021

COVID-19 Pandemic

Note that all upcoming events are still planned as virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check TURI's website for on-going updates on events and resources, and feel free to contact TURI, OTA or MassDEP staff with any questions.

For the Latest News

For the latest news, sign up for program newsletters from [TURI](#) (see recent [August newsletter](#) and [July newsletter](#)) and [OTA](#) (see recent [Summer 2021 newsletter](#)).

Toxics Use Reduction Act Shortlisted for International Policy Award

- The Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) was among 12 policies from five continents [shortlisted for the Future Policy Award 2021](#). Awarded by the German-based World Future Council, the prize celebrates the most effective policy solutions that minimize the adverse health effects of exposure to chemicals on human health and the environment. In total, 55 policies from 36 countries were nominated in November 2020. Although TURA was not selected in the final round, it was a distinction to be recognized as the only policy from the United States that made the shortlist.

Current and Upcoming Meetings and Events

- [TUR Planner Certification Course - Fall 2021 Course](#) - kick-off Aug 13. On-line self-paced training through Sep 30, then four in-class practicum sessions 9/30, 10/6, 10/13, 10/28.
- [Fall Continuing Education Conference](#), November 2021 (dates TBD)
 - Fall CE Conference will be offered virtually, as the pandemic is still a concern for large in-person gatherings.
 - Sessions are being planned - contact [Pam Eliason](#) at TURI if you have topic requests or are interested in organizing a session, or if you are willing to share information or a success story with other planners!
- [Administrative Council Meeting - Aug 19, 2021](#)
 - Votes on whether to add PFAS NOL category to TURA list of Toxic or Hazardous Substances, and a regulatory clarification of the term substance are scheduled
- [TURA Science Advisory Board meeting](#) - Sep 23, 2021, beginning at noon. Topics:
 - Carbon nanotubes and nanofibers
 - Vote: quaternary ammonium compound recommendation amendment (revise number of chemicals in category to align with EPA categories)

Recent Events

- [Science Advisory Board Meeting](#) - Jun 30, 2021
- [CD Aero virtual demo](#) - May 13, 2021
- [Lean Manufacturing and Pollution Prevention for the Food and Beverage Sector](#), March-June 2021
Funding provided for this training through an EPA Region 1 Healthy Community grant
- TURA [Administrative Council Meeting](#) – March 5, 2021
- [TURA Program Strengthening Ad Hoc Committee](#) Meetings:
 - [TURA Fees](#) July 22, 2021
 - [TURA List of Toxic or Hazardous Substances](#) Apr 29, 2021
 - [TUR Planners and TUR Planning](#), Mar 30, 2021
 - [Alternative Planning - RC and EMS](#), Jan 13, 2021
 - [Compliance and Enforcement](#), Dec 14, 2020

- [Orientation](#), Nov. 19, 2020
- [Virtual Spring Continuing Education Conference](#) – April 2021; Keynote: Intersection of TUR and Environmental Justice; Sessions: materials accounting, resource conservation planning, alternatives assessment in the EU and energy conservation tools
- TURA Program staff Tiffany Skogstrom, Liz Harriman, and Rachel Massey recently presented at a [Massachusetts Environmental Health Association \(MEHA\) webinar](#) about the critical importance of source reduction for reducing PFAS contamination and exposure, and how OTA is working to help companies eliminate PFAS from their operations. A recording of the webinar is available [here](#) (passcode: **P46Acw7!**), and the slides are available for download [here](#).

OTA Update

OTA Activities

- OTA staff will soon resume in person site visits. In the meantime, we are still offering free and confidential virtual site visits to Massachusetts businesses via Zoom. [Download a listing of OTA contacts by industry.](#)
- OTA has undertaken activities to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). OTA staff are developing surveys to assist Massachusetts companies with identifying PFAS in their facilities. Industries targeted for outreach include paper and food packaging, metal finishing, and others. OTA has also conducted outreach to significant industrial users upstream from publicly-owned treatment works to offer them assistance with reducing PFAS in their facilities and communicating with vendors about PFAS in raw materials.
- The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), through its Environmental Justice Policy has directed that all EEA agencies establish an inclusive, robust public participation program for Key Agency Actions that may potentially affect Environmental Justice Populations. As part of this initiative, OTA, along with all EEA agencies, will be sharing its Key Agency Actions for public comment in the upcoming month. Our goal is to incorporate EJ principals into planned activities so that we are engaging thoughtfully with EJ communities and offering needed resources to communities and the industries within them.
- A group of interns from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) will be assisting OTA in reflecting on and revamping its services according to OTA clients' current needs. Interns will interview, survey, and converse with companies that have received OTA services throughout recent years and have an existing relationship with the TURA Program.

Recent Publications

- [Chromatographia Journal - Safer Solvent Blends for Food, Dye, and Environmental Analyses Using Reversed-Phase High Performance Liquid Chromatography.](#)
- [Family Martial Arts Center](#) – switches to safer disinfectants, eliminating quats and bleach
- [River Street Metal Finishing case study](#) - filtering acid to reduce chemical use
- [Riverdale Mills case study](#) - innovative brush roller reduces dragout and chemical use
- [Morgan Advanced Materials Triumphs over TCE](#) – eliminates TCE substituting an aqueous process.

Video

- [CD Aero Eliminates nPB](#)
 - [What are Nanomaterials? Uses and Hazards](#)
 - [TURI Overview](#)
 - [Riverdale Mills Reduces Use of Toxics in Wire Mesh Manufacturing Process](#)
 - [River Street Metal Finishing Reduces Use of Sulfuric Acid](#)
- More on [TURI Youtube channel](#)

Administrative Council

The [TURA Program Strengthening Ad Hoc Committee](#) had its final meeting in July. The purpose of the committee was to review experiences in the 10+ years since the 2006 TURA Amendments, and to look forward to the next decade and the critical priorities of Massachusetts with respect to toxic chemicals and safer materials. Discussion topics included compliance and enforcement, resource conservation and EMS planning, TUR planners and TUR planning, the list of TURA reportable substances, and fees. Committee suggestions and comments will be collected by the TURA Program staff and presented to the TURA Advisory Committee.

TURA Form S Reporting and Chemical List

- E-DEP Form S filing was available in April. Annual spring **Form S filer training** was offered online again this year, and is [posted on MassDEP's website](#).
- **New Reportable Substances for Reporting Year 2020** - Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) TRI/EPCRA category
 - Category of 13 specific NPEs
 - [TRI/Federal: First reports were due July 1, 2020 \(for RY 2019\)](#)
 - TURA/State: First reports were due July 1, 2021 (for RY 2020)
- **TURA Chemical List Updated for New Reportable PFAS** - under TRI for reporting year 2020, and under TURA for reporting year 2021

PFAS TRI listings as required by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA 2020): EPA has identified [172 PFAS chemicals](#) that have been added to TRI/federal reporting for 2020 reporting year, as required in the NDAA 2020 legislation. [See EPA's website](#) for more information. These chemicals have been added to the updated complete [List of TURA Chemicals](#), and will be reportable for 2021 (Form S's due July 1, 2022). In addition, EPA has added [3 more PFAS for TRI reporting year 2021](#). MassDEP will be adding these to the TURA list of toxic or hazardous substances as the Administrative Council promulgates regulations, along with a notation regarding the first year that they are reportable under TURA.

(See also spring CE conference [Session B: PFAS chemicals, uses and compliance obligations presentation](#))

TURA Data

TURI recently released a newly-designed [TURA Data online tool](#). Simply click on a chemical, company or town to view charts that make it easy to understand toxic chemical use in Massachusetts. The 2019 TURA data submitted to MassDEP has been uploaded to this site and the [extract files](#) are also available on MassDEP's website.

PFAS Resources

- OTA has created a [downloadable supplier notification template letter](#) to assist industries identify potential products that may contain the 172 PFAS chemicals recently added to the EPA Toxics Release Inventory.
- OTA is working with MassDEP and EPA to provide free and confidential technical assistance to potential PFAS-using industries upstream from wastewater treatment plants.
- The [Science Advisory Board finalized their recommendation](#) on a category of PFAS substances in June; TURI [updated the policy analysis in May 2021](#). Additional information from the [SAB deliberations](#) is on TURI's website.
- AFFF Alternatives Assessment - The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and TURI have received a DoD SERDP grant to help the DoD to make informed, efficient choices about alternatives to aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF), a fluorinated product used in firefighting.
- [PFAS in artificial turf](#)
- [TURI's PFAS information page](#)

Resources and Media Related to COVID-19 Safer Cleaning and Disinfecting

- See TURI's website: [https://www.turi.org/Our Work/Cleaning Laboratory/COVID-19 Safely Clean Disinfect](https://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Cleaning_Laboratory/COVID-19_Safely_Clean_Disinfect)

with updated list of safer disinfectant products

- [Guidance for Businesses](#): Find information about safer cleaning and disinfecting, and tools such as log and checklist templates and a [fact sheet](#).
- [Cleaning Secrets for Every Room](#), Consumer Reports, March 26, 2021
- The TURI lab is testing efficacy of safer disinfectant chemistries and devices. Using a surrogate virus for COVID-19, the TURI Lab is evaluating devices and chemistries such as steam cleaning, hypochlorous acid, UV light, electrostatic sprayers and fogging devices. Stay tuned for results.
- [Asthma and Chemicals fact sheet](#): a focus on cleaning, disinfection and sterilization, in English and Portuguese.
- Updated [guidance and webinar for cleaning and disinfecting in schools](#)

Staff Updates

- Kari Sasportas has joined OTA as its new Outreach and Chemical Policy Analyst. Kari brings over 13 years of experience in state and local government and municipal and regional emergency preparedness and holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Environmental Health and a Master of Social Work (MSW) from Boston University. Welcome, Kari!
- In May 2021, OTA Communications Analyst Caredwen Foley graduated from Boston University School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health, and was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. Caredwen was also awarded BUSPH's 2021 William B. Patterson Memorial Award for Excellence in Environmental and Occupational Health.

For more information, contact the TURA program. E-mail addresses are available on our websites and are the preferred method of communication while we are all working remotely:

- OTA: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/otas-team>
- MassDEP: Lynn Cain, lynn.cain@mass.gov or Walter Hope, walter.hope@mass.gov
- TURI: https://www.turi.org/About/Staff_List