



### **WELL Network Update May-June 2006**

Thanks to all who have joined with us to advance integrated health & environment policies in California. Here are some recent highlights and upcoming events.

#### **Come to the Netherlands**

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*October 11-15, 2006*

Take a trip this fall to witness a green plan in progress. Meet those who move political mountains in this low-lying nation, including women in a WELL-like network.

The 'policy tour' in the Hague and Amsterdam will precede Rachel's Network's annual meeting in London. We invite all RN members to add the stopover, and WELL Network members and supporters to come with us. Contact [plauer@wellnetwork.org](mailto:plauer@wellnetwork.org) for more information.

See the Resource Renewal Institute's website <http://greenplans.rii.org/inaction/index.html> for background on the Netherlands and its National Environmental Policy Plan, 17 years into a 25-year vision.

#### **Speaker Luncheon in San Francisco**

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Our annual Bay Area speaker luncheon is scheduled November 13. We will discuss how one person, armed with the knowledge of chemicals in her body, can change her world, and how the European Union is changing health and environmental policy on the macro level.

#### **CA Chemical Policy Symposium a Success**

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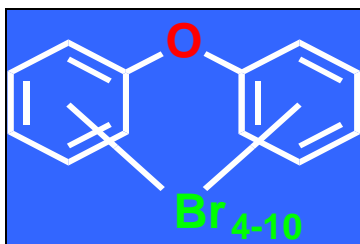
On March 16-17 in Oakland, over 120 NGO, government, labor, and business leaders came from as far away as Canada, Mexico and Europe to discuss and debate what a comprehensive chemical policy in California would look like, and what it could mean for everyone. The event was funded by the Fred Gellert Family Foundation, the Marisla Foundation, and the Women's Foundation of California. The Environmental Finance Center, Region 9 (EFC9) and the Delegation of the EC Commission to the US provided in-kind assistance.

WELL Network co-hosted the two-day event with EFC9. And although it was focused on comprehensive chemical policy, WELL sees the potential for its sparking a green plan approach in California, and other states.

We learned the day before the event that Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), chair of the Environment committee, was considering a task force to examine recommendations of a UC Berkeley report on safer chemicals and California competitiveness, issued a week prior to the symposium. WELL and EFC9 coordinators had suggested a task force as a focal point for discussion. Proceedings will be sent to all participants. See [www.cuop.edu/cprc](http://www.cuop.edu/cprc) for the UC report, "Green Chemistry in California: A Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation." Principal author is Dr. Michael Wilson. Thanks to member Julia Trilling for early assistance in connecting with UCB.

## CA Chemical Industry Looks at REACH

The concept of a statewide task force on comprehensive chemical policy was addressed by California's chemical association at their annual meeting on May 10 in Los Angeles. The California Chemical Industry Council (CCIC) is feeling the pressure of the European Union's precautionary REACH program (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization of Chemicals).



Several of the same speakers at the March Symposium challenged the resistance from the big chemical companies to consider an integrated approach to chemicals policy.

Sarah Diefendorf was invited to attend and is talking to chemical industry representatives in favor of change to join with us for an education trip to Sacramento.

### "Taking it to the States" – CA & NY

WELL's paper on green planning and comprehensive chemicals policy commissioned last year, "Taking it to the States: A Call for Action on Chemicals Policy, a Green Plan Approach" will be published alongside the proceedings of the March symposium. In it, author Eric Siy makes the case for California and New York to cross-fertilize ideas and people to support the work in both states.

Participants from New York at the March symposium have since secured support from State legislators and NGO leaders to develop their own chemical policy symposium for the fall of 2006. WELL Network will assist them, as part of our bi-state, bi-coastal efforts.

## WELL in the Media

Annette Gellert and Peggy Lauer were interviewed by *EcoTalk* host, and charter WELL member, Betsy Rosenberg for an April 15 airing of her show on Air America. (See [www.EcoTalk.net](http://www.EcoTalk.net) to hear the segment).

May 10: co-founder Annette Gellert, member Ann Hunter Welborn and their daughters spoke at a hearing for the re-introduced biomonitoring bill in Sacramento, before legislators, lobbyists and the press. Environmental Working Group arranged for their presence there, and for their body burden tests last December, to detect their inner pollution. Their results ([www.ewg.org/bodyburden/results](http://www.ewg.org/bodyburden/results)) helped illuminate the importance of this bill to bring attention to the links. See also an article on chemicals in breast milk and a group called Making our Milk Safe [www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=g/a/2006/05/17/gree.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=g/a/2006/05/17/gree.DTL)

## WELL Events

May 11: *WELL Morning*-- Renee Ingold hosted friends, community leaders, and other WELL members at her home in Fallbrook, in San Diego County. Annette Gellert and Peggy Lauer covered WELL's actions for the year.

On a related mission, Annette Gellert and her daughter, Heather, hosted a Mother-Daughter Green Tea for Marin Cancer Project's Safe Cosmetics campaign, part of a nationwide movement. MCP founder Judi Shils spoke about engaging teen leaders to educate their peers. See [www.cancerproject.org](http://www.cancerproject.org) for more information.

**New Members 2006:** Adelaide Gomer, Alicia Wittink, Chris Desser, Jacqui Erdman, Lisa Layne & Dick Silberman, Sandy Sohcot.

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