



# Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut

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## Wishing you all a happy, healthy New Year!

### Federal Update:

We continue to work with our national SAFER and Safer Chemicals Healthy Families colleagues to press for meaningful reform of our outdated and ineffective federal Toxic Substances Control Act. The Safe Chemicals Act 2011, a bill supported by our national partners, goes a long way to fix our broken system. We've generated numerous calls and hundreds of citizen letters to our U.S. Senators urging them to support this bill. We are extremely grateful to Senator Blumenthal for his leadership in signing on as a co-sponsor. We continue to urge Senator Lieberman to do the same.

We are also grateful to Dr. Mark Mitchell for his work on the national level, negotiating with top members of the chemical and business industry to advance these discussions. Unfortunately, the Chemical Industry recently backed out of these talks despite their public statements supporting reform.



### State update:

Despite progress at the federal level, we do not anticipate that the Safe Chemicals Act will be signed into law in 2012. Therefore, it is critical that states, like Connecticut, continue to push for broad policies that move beyond banning one chemical at a time. Since October, we've held several meetings with policy makers and agency

officials to discuss our goal of developing a sustainable system of identifying and prioritizing chemicals of concern and phasing them out of products once safer alternatives are identified. We are encouraged by the interest in these discussions but recognize that any proposal of this type will face strong opposition. We will need everyone's help to be successful, particularly in the upcoming short session!

This session we will again work on a proposal to improve recycling rates of end-of-life mercury thermostats and may consider a proposal to restrict BPA in food packaging.



## Annual Gathering:

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we took time out to celebrate at our Annual Meeting. Each year, we gather to reflect on our work, celebrate our many champions and network with great speakers. This year was no exception. Ann Rabe and Mike Schade, from the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice in New York, presented on the great work they've done on green procurement. It was an inspiring presentation! We were also pleased to give out 6 awards to people that have made a huge impact in our work this year. The awardees are:

Central CT Oncology Nurses Society, new member leader  
Tsampika Apostolidis, citizen leader  
Hacah Boros, citizen leader  
Martha Kelly, citizen leader  
Loyola Welsh, citizen leader  
Senator Richard Blumenthal, national leader

Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to our awardees for all your support and contributions to our work this year!



As we close 2011, we wish you all a happy New Year filled with blessings and we look forward to working with all of you to continue Connecticut's leadership in protecting public health. Thanks for all you do!

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