



**MULTNOMAH COUNTY
AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST
(Revised: 8/18/11)**

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 4/16/13
Agenda Item B.3
Est. Start 11:30 AM
Date 3/25/13

Informational Board Briefing on Toxics Reduction in Government Operations and the Community

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting April 2, 2013 **Time Needed:** 30 minutes

Department: Health, Sustainability, County Management **Division:** Environmental Health

Contact(s): Kari Lyons-Eubanks

Phone: 503-988-3663 **Ext.** 25860 **I/O Address:** _____

Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Kari Lyons-Eubanks, Policy Analyst; John Wasiutynski, Program Specialist; Sophia Cavalli, Finance Supervisor; Grant Swanson, Library Clerk

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Briefing requested by Commissioners updating the Board on the current state of concern regarding human exposure to environmental toxicants and an update on two County strategies to reduce exposure:

- The 2006 Toxics Reduction Strategy
- Healthy Purchasing Initiative

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Multnomah County has an almost ten-year history investing in toxics reductions and is poised to continue work reducing exposure to toxics that cause negative health effects in the community. Some key activities in the last decade include:

- In 2004, the Board passed Resolution 06-073, which directed the development of a Toxics Reduction Strategy. The strategy was developed and over the last eight

years, the Office of Sustainability and other departments have demonstrated success, including implementing a green cleaning program, purchasing chlorine-free paper, and increasing the use of biofuel in our fleet.

- In September 2012, the Healthy Purchasing Initiative, which seeks to promote transparency in the marketplace and the development of healthier products by asking vendors and manufacturers to disclose the health risks associated with the chemical content of their products.
- In 2011, the Multnomah County Health Department reviewed current research examining the health effects of Bisphenol-A (BPA) and found evidence of potential harm, especially to infants and toddlers. As a result, the Board of Health passed a policy banning the sale of beverage containers manufactured with BPA, including baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable sports drink containers.
- Multnomah County Environmental Health Services (MCEHS) served as a key stakeholder on the two-years long Portland Air Toxics Solutions Advisory Committee (PATSAAC), which created recommendations for the Department of Environmental Quality to reduce exposure to cancer-causing pollutants in our air. The recommendations have yet to be implemented due to fiscal constraints at the State level.

Current and past toxics reduction work affects Program Offer 40037 in Environmental Health and helps meet our strategic goal to build capacity by creating innovative solutions to ongoing or repetitive problems using strategies that increase our ability to improve and expand existing service needs. It also helps meet our Climate Action Plan goals to protect the public's health from adverse health effects of worsening air quality as the climate changes.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

No actions requested involve decisions impacting legal or policy issues. However, the toxics reduction strategies discussed are policy-level activities.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Multnomah County Health Department has served as a lead or key stakeholder on a number of initiatives to better understand and reduce exposure to toxics. Some of these initiatives include the Oregon Collaborative for Healthy Nail Salons, the Portland Air Toxics Solutions Advisory Committee and the study of the potential health impacts of the rail transportation of coal through Multnomah County.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**



Date: 3/25/13