



The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse 2023 Report

A Program of the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association

Fiscal Year 2023 IC2 Program At-a-Glance

- 13 state and local government members; 15 supporting members
- 3 active online databases
- 280+ companies using the High Priority Chemicals Data System (HPCDS) to report to Oregon and Washington on children's products
- 3 webinars reaching 140+ members
- Monthly IC2 e-Bulletins shared with 140+ people each month
- 7 active Workgroups focused on alternatives assessment, databases, environmental justice, PFAS, procurement, and TSCA
- 4 IC2 Board and 3 All-Member virtual meetings

The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2)

The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) is an association of state, local, and tribal governments that promotes a clean environment, healthy communities, and a vital economy through the development and use of safer chemicals and products.

The goals of the IC2 are to:

- Avoid duplication and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of agency initiatives on chemicals through collaboration and coordination.
- Build governmental capacity to identify and promote safer chemicals and products.
- Ensure that agencies, businesses, and the public have ready access to high quality and authoritative chemicals data, information, and assessment methods.

The functions of the IC2 include:

- Supporting health and environmental agencies with development and implementation of programs to promote use of safer chemicals and products.

- Supporting the development of alternatives assessment methods and identification of safer alternatives.
- Sharing data and information on use, hazard, exposure, and alternatives.
- Sharing strategies and outcomes on chemicals prioritization initiatives.
- Building the capacity of agencies by sharing materials, strategies, and training.
- Assisting agencies in meeting the relevant information needs of businesses, consumers, and the public.

IC2 Structure

The IC2 is a program of the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA). NEWMOA provides management and staff support for IC2 and serves as its fiscal agent.

IC2 Members and Supporting Members

IC2 has two member categories:

- [Members](#) comprise state, local, and tribal environmental and health agencies
- [Supporting Members](#) comprise non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, labor organizations, academic programs, and individuals.

IC2 Board of Directors

The state and local agency Members of the IC2 designate representatives to the Board of Directors. The Board oversees IC2's programs and activities, conducts strategic planning, sets priorities, prepares the annual workplan, establishes the budget, and manages other critical matters affecting the IC2.

IC2's Executive Committee

The IC2 Board elects a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary each biennium from among its members. These officers make up the Executive Committee, which meets frequently to oversee and plan IC2's activities, Board, Roundtable and All-Member meetings.



Saskia van Bergen, *State of Washington Department of Ecology*
2023 IC2 Board Chair

In FY 2023, the IC2 continued to facilitate its Workgroups, support its High Priority Chemicals Data System (HPCDS) and hold Board, All-Member and Roundtable meetings. Highlights from the workgroups and other initiatives are below, but I wanted to specifically note the IC2 Alternative Assessment Guide which went out for public

comment recently and the finalization of the new IC2 website. Several workgroups also identified specific resources of interest to members and as a result, the IC2 held three virtual webinars for members throughout the fiscal year. Building out resources and providing opportunities for members to learn more is a valuable part of the IC2.

The IC2 continued the monthly member bulletins. Thank you to those that sent in their updates. Please continue to do so as it is a helpful way to easily inform members of initiatives that can complement their work.

IC2's Executive Committee routinely meets to plan and hold virtual Board meetings, IC2 All-Member meetings and Roundtables. In addition, the IC2 Executive Committee meetings discussed the work of the Clearinghouse, helped develop the increase in membership dues to account for cost-of-living increases for staff, and drafted updates for BOD consideration on key documents such as the IC2 Strategic Framework and the IC2 Governance Framework.

Finally, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as chair. It has been a privilege to work with the lovely Executive committee team of Justin Waltz, Tiffany Skogstrom and Pam Hadad-Hurst, NEWMOA and IC2 staff and engage with all of you.

~Saskia

Outreach

IC2 Bulletin

Twelve monthly IC2 Bulletins were shared with 141 members in FY2023 to provide timely communication with members and included:

- Information and live links to all IC2's Workgroup meetings.
- Links to IC2 and member training and events.
- Member agency or organization updates, including position announcements and initiatives.

IC2 Website

The new IC2 [website](#) was launched in Spring 2023. The redesigned site includes a more robust member events page and better functionality for all areas of the site, including sharing resources with members and the public.

IC2 All-Member Meetings

The Clearinghouse's All-Member meetings support the mission and goals of the IC2 and provide a forum for sharing information and updating representatives of the IC2 Members and Supporting Members on the activities of the IC2 workgroups. The functions of the IC2 All-Member meetings include:

- Assisting with recruiting members for IC2 Workgroups and providing updates
- Promoting IC2 initiatives.
- Sharing information on international, federal, state, tribal, and local chemical policies and proposals.
- Sharing technical information resources and databases related to chemicals in commerce and identifying technical expertise related to focus areas.

Training

Training IC2's members on current technical, policy, and programmatic issues in alternatives assessment, green chemistry, ingredient disclosure, and toxics use reduction policy is an IC2 priority. The Clearinghouse offers topical webinars several times per year. It also convenes roundtables that provide an opportunity for each jurisdiction or organization to share updates on new policies, legislation, activities, tools, and research.

Webinars

The IC2 held three webinars for members in FY 2023. All the workgroups are tasked with identifying topics that would be of interest to IC2 participants. The webinars are open to all IC2 members and supporting members' staff.

- [**Environmental Justice Mapping Tools Presentation by & for IC2 Members**](#)
Presenters: Kari Sasportas representing the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) and Chris Greene representing the Minnesota Department of Health Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- [**Non-Toxic Procurement Presentation by The Ecology Center**](#)
Presenters: Rebecca Meuninck, Tracey Easthope, and Tonya Summer representing the Ecology Center and Matthew Naud representing Resource Recycling Systems
- [**EPA Hazard Comparison Module Presentation**](#)
Presenters: Antony Williams of the EPA's Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure

Roundtables

In 2023, IC2 held one All-Member roundtable that provided an opportunity for members to each share what initiatives their organizations are working on currently, and to ask questions of fellow members regarding their work.

IC2 Focus Area Work in Alternatives Assessment, Databases, Environmental Justice, PFAS, Procurement, and TSCA

Alternatives Assessment (AA)

Many state and local environmental agencies want to minimize the negative effects associated with toxic chemicals use while encouraging the viability and growth of the companies that employ their citizens and support the health of their economies.

Individual states and local agencies have their own policies, regulations, and technical assistance uses for the information obtained from an AA. IC2's goal is to promote a consistent process that allows programs to use each other's studies to minimize duplication and maximize dissemination of valuable information on safer alternatives to chemicals of concern.

AA Workgroup

IC2's AA Workgroup met twice in FY 2023 to share successes and challenges. The group supports the IC2 [Alternatives Assessment Guide](#), the [Alternatives Assessment Library](#), and the IC2 Chemical Hazard Assessment Database (CHAD). Pam Eliason, MA Toxics Use Reduction Institute, chaired this Workgroup in FY2023 with assistance from Rae Eaton, State of Washington Department of Ecology. with assistance from Rae Eaton, State of Washington Department of Ecology.

Update to the IC2 AA Guide

In FY 2023, the IC2 Alternatives Assessment Workgroup formed a smaller working group to make edits to the [Alternatives Assessment Guide](#). The workgroup, led by Rae Eaton of Washington Ecology, selected a set of high priority revisions for v1.2 of the guide, which focuses on addressing current needs and best practices in AAs. Key changes made to v1.2 in FY 2023 were:

- Revisions to the list of available hazard assessment tools that meet IC2 criteria.
- Changes to performance, cost, availability and exposure approaches to better support the evaluation of non-chemical alternatives.

- The replacement of tiered practices for stakeholder involvement with a single set of flexible recommendations for stakeholder engagement.

Additionally, in FY 2023 the Sustainable Chemistry Catalyst at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, funded by Washington Ecology, assembled a workgroup to identify current practices to address environmental justice considerations in alternatives assessment.

The final version of *Alternatives Assessment Guide* v1.2 will likely be published in FY 2024.

Databases

High Priority Chemicals Data System (HPCDS)

In FY23, the IC2 supported its [High Priority Chemicals Data System \(HPCDS\)](#), which provides an online portal for manufacturers to report on the presence of high priority chemicals in products. The HPCDS facilitates greater efficiency and cost effectiveness for states to fulfill the requirements under their children's products disclosure laws. It reduces reporting burdens and provides better service for manufacturers; increases opportunities for interstate involvement in data analysis and presentation; improves access to data for federal, state, local, and non-governmental stakeholders; and enhances the sharing of reported information with the public.

Throughout 2023, the IC2 administered and maintained the HPCDS. As part of these efforts, the IC2 provided ongoing technical support to manufacturers and state agency HPCDS users. IC2's information technology contractor, Eastern Research Group (ERG), provided support for the HPCDS under the supervision of IC2 staff and members.

In additions to the meetings mentioned in the database section below, IC2 staff also provided:

- Ongoing technical support to manufacturer and state administrative HPCDS users.
- Oversight of IT contractor work on enhancements to the HPCDS to improve reporting capabilities.
- Help with compiling Vermont's requirements for HPCDS scoping.
- Assistance with negotiating a contract with the Vermont Department of Health.

IC2 held additional exploratory meetings with IC2 member states on requirements and contract scope for developing a system similar to the HPCDS for product registrations under laws regarding PFAS in products.

Database Workgroups

IC2 has two workgroups focusing on the knowledgebase for the organization: an HPCDS Users Workgroup and a Database Workgroup. The HPCDS Users Workgroup met 26 times during FY

2023 to discuss HPCDS operations and make decisions about priority upgrades and improvements.

The Database Workgroup supports all IC2's database resources on the IC2 website, other than the HPCDS. The group met as needed during the building of the new IC2 website. The workgroup supports the [States' Chemicals of Concern Database](#), [Chemical Hazard Assessments Database](#), and the [Alternatives Assessment Library](#). Nancy Rice, Minnesota Department of Health continued to chair the Database Workgroup in FY 2023.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Workgroup

The IC2 Environmental Justice Workgroup identifies common goals and strategies to address chemical-related environmental and health disparities. The Workgroup supports IC2 members' collaboration on Environmental Justice (EJ) initiatives. According to the Environmental Protection Association (EPA), EJ is "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Kari Sasportas, Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance, chaired the group in FY 2023.

PFAS

State and local health and environmental programs around the U.S. are focused on reducing contamination of drinking water, groundwater, soil, and other environmental media by PFAS. IC2 is particularly interested in reducing the sources of PFAS, including in consumer products, packaging, and aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).

PFAS Workgroup

The IC2 PFAS Workgroup provides a forum to discuss and collaborate on PFAS use reduction, with the goal of learning from and not replicating work being done around the country. The Workgroup focuses on prevention and safer alternatives for current uses of PFAS in products. Holly Davies, Washington State Department of Health chaired the Workgroup, with support from Al Innes of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Procurement

State and local governments procure significant quantities of goods and services. Environmental and public health agencies have been working with their counterparts in purchasing offices to ensure that state and local contracts specify products free of chemicals

of high concern and safer alternatives where available and cost effective. Informing the development of environmentally preferable specifications and contract language is key to the success of these efforts.

Procurement Workgroup

IC2's Procurement Workgroup supports members' advancement of environmentally preferable procurement. Specific areas of interest include:

- Understanding how patterns of chemical use inform environmentally preferable procurement.
- Facilitating state and municipal cooperation to enhance the markets for less toxic products.
- Identifying product categories that are good targets for action.
- Sharing specification language and informing individual or joint procurement.
- Working with large vendors to harmonize green product claims with state requirements.

The Workgroup met four times during FY 2023. Julia Wolfe, Massachusetts Operational Services Division, continued to chair the workgroup for FY2023.

TSCA

IC2's TSCA Workgroup is a group of state and local governments with active toxics reduction programs working together to engage in the US EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) proceedings. The TSCA Workgroup meets monthly, including quarterly meetings with US EPA Assistant Administrator Michal Freedhoff and her team, to help members stay abreast of the many different activities occurring under TSCA.

TSCA State and Local Government Coordinating Workgroup

The Workgroup held 10 virtual meetings during FY 2023 to share general information and specific chemicals of concern. Ashley Evans, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (Washington) chaired the Workgroup for FY23.

Ken Zarker Award

IC2's Ken Zarker Award was created to support early career professionals working to advance safer alternatives and green chemistry principles and practices in honor of Ken Zarker, previously of WA Ecology. The award subsidizes costs for students and young professions to attend green chemistry or alternatives assessment conferences. The fund had a successful first round of funding, and currently has over \$7,000 ready to support students and young

professionals. IC2 hopes to award up to two early career professionals each year. IC2 continues to promote the award program with hopes to sustain it for years.

Support for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

IC2 staff participated in meetings with NYSDEC staff to support the Agency's efforts related to chemicals in product reporting for cleansing chemicals, children's products, and products containing 1,4-dioxane. In addition, IC2 staff:

- Responded to requests for information on other states' chemicals-in-products reporting rules and regulations.
- Reviewed technical specifications related to NYSDEC's third-party payee system.
- Met with NYSDEC staff/liason to scope the process for defining and addressing NYSDEC's information technology systems and security requirements.
- Helped with onboarding and knowledge transfer to new staff on HPCDS, inviting staff to participate in meetings with other HPCDS-user states.
- Prepared and submitted the FY 2023 IC2 Workplan and NYSDEC contract and other required paperwork.

Finances

IC2 relied on dues, contracts, and special contributions for funding in FY 2023. A foundational source of funding was state and local government dues. IC2 Members and Supporting Members paid annual dues directly to NEWMOA. Contributions from Members in the form of contracts made up another important source of funding.

THANK YOU

IC2 greatly appreciates the financial support provided by the following agencies and organizations in FY 2023:

IC2 2023 Members

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (CA DTSC)

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), and Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI)

Metro (Portland, Oregon)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Minnesota Department of Health (DoH)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ)
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
San Francisco Department of the Environment (SF DoE)
Vermont Department of Health (VT DoH)
Washington State Department of Ecology (WA Ecology)

IC2 Supporting Members

Center for Environmental Health
ChemFORWARD
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Clean and Healthy New York
Clean Production Action
Clean Water Action Minnesota
Clean Water Fund
Defend Our Health
Healthy Babies Bright Futures
Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at University of Mass Lowell
National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC)
New York State Pollution Prevention Institute
North Carolina Conservation Network
Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center
Oregon Environmental Council

Fiscal Year 2023 IC2 Staff

Melissa Lavoie, NEWMOA Executive Director
Stephanie Frisch, Project Manager
Andy Bray, Project Manager
Krishana Abraham-Petrie, Project Manager
Lois Makina, Office Manager

IC2 2023 Officers

Chair: Saskia van Bergen, Washington Department of Ecology
Vice Chair: Justin Waltz, Oregon Health Authority
Secretary: Tiffany Skogstrom, Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance
Treasurer: Pam Hadad-Hurst, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

IC2 2023 Workgroup Chairs

Alternatives Assessment Workgroup: Pam Eliason, Toxics Use Reduction Institute

IC2 AA Guide Update Workgroup: Rae Eaton, Washington Ecology

Environmental Justice Workgroup: Kari Sasportas, Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance

Database Workgroup: Nancy Rice, Minnesota Department of Health

PFAS Workgroup: Holly Davies, Washington State Department of Health

Procurement Workgroup: Jen Jackson, San Francisco Department of the Environment; Julia Wolfe, Massachusetts Operational Services Division

TSCA Workgroup: Ashley Evans, King County Washington