

EPA Proposes New Commonsense Measures to Cut Methane Emissions from the Oil and Gas Sector/Proposal Cuts GHG Emissions, Reduces Smog-Forming Air Pollution and Provides Certainty for Industry

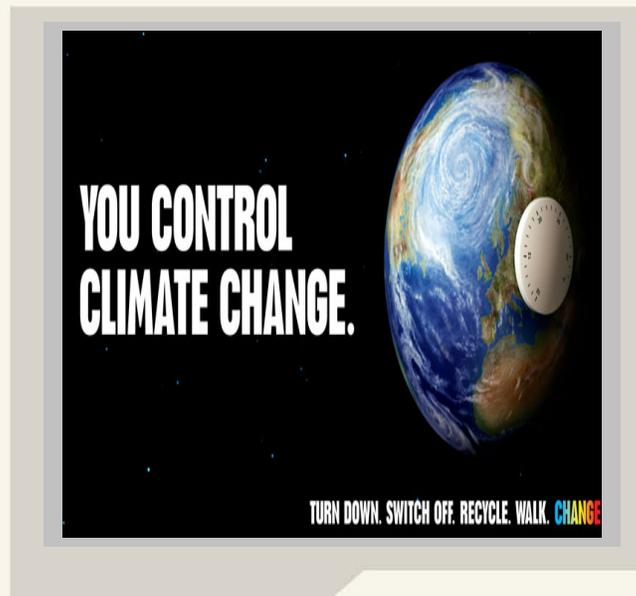
Continuing the Obama Administration's commitment to take action on climate change and protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing commonsense proposed standards that would reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) from the oil and natural gas industry. The proposal is a part of the Administration's strategy under President Obama's [Climate Action Plan](#) to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40 to 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025.

Methane, the key constituent of natural gas, is a potent GHG with a global warming potential more than 25 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. Methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas emitted in the United States from human activities, and nearly 30 percent of those emissions come from oil production and the production, transmission and distribution of natural gas.

"Today, through our cost-effective proposed standards, we are underscoring our commitment to reducing the pollution fueling climate change and protecting public health while supporting responsible energy development, transparency and accountability," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "Cleaner-burning energy sources like natural gas are key compliance options for our Clean Power Plan and we are committed to ensuring safe and responsible production that supports a robust clean energy economy." Read more on this proposal at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceeac8525735900400c27/e5f2425e2e668a2b85257ea5005176fa!OpenDocument>

**DO YOU HAVE ARTICLES FOR THE
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FORWARD TO: LILLIAN HARRIS AT:
HARRIS.LILLIAN@EPA.GOV
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Boston Receives Grant for Climate Change Preparedness

Mayor Martin Walsh recently announced that the [city of Boston](#) has received \$350,000 in funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support climate preparedness in Boston as part of the state's Office of Coastal Zone Management's Coastal Community Resilience Grant Program. The grant will support the Boston Climate Preparedness Planning Initiative, a project led by the city's Office of Environment, Energy and Open Space in partnership with the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. The Boston Climate Preparedness Planning Initiative will generate critical solutions for resilient neighborhoods, infrastructure and governance that help the region thrive and grow in the face of long-term climate uncertainties. In particular, it will identify "critical resiliency focus areas" and develop an initial portfolio of concrete solutions for each area. Read more on this Initiative at:

http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic_channel/environmental/article_bf928c26-4a06-11e5-9865-ff32b5bccf9a.html

California Air Resources Board Provides Grants for Dry Cleaners

To help dry cleaners comply with California's regulation to eliminate perchloroethylene by January 1, 2023, the **Assembly Bill (AB) 998 Grant Program** provides a \$10,000 incentive for each perc machine that is removed and replaced with a wet cleaning machine plus an additional \$7,500 to serve as a demonstration site.

Wet cleaning demonstrations provide successful outreach to inform businesses of funding opportunities and wet cleaning's viability. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), in collaboration with the California Cleaners Association and other government agencies, has hosted three onsite wet cleaning demonstration workshops throughout California. Cleaners bring their most challenging garments for testing. Shop owners share their expertise and answer tough questions.

The Ombudsman's office has found that hosting "dry cleaner to dry cleaner" demonstration workshops lends credibility to the effectiveness of wet cleaning technology while proving that a 100 percent wet cleaning plant is environmentally sustainable and profitable. The CARB created a grant summary tool showcasing three Southern California agencies that offer grants that can be combined to incentivize the purchase of wet cleaning equipment.

For more information, go to:

http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dryclean/grant_faqs.htm

or contact jenna.latt@arb.ca.gov.

To view the video, go to:

https://youtu.be/W3Qz3mWc_BM



Wet Cleaning Demonstration



End Results of Wet Cleaning

EPA FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES**EPA Introduces New Safer Choice Labels and Recognizes Five Chicago Area Partners**

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) Region 5 Administrator, Susan Hedman, recently highlighted the benefits of the Agency's new Safer Choice label and congratulated five Chicago area Safer Choice award-winners at an event at the Loyola University Chicago Searle Biodiesel Lab. "EPA's new Safer Choice label helps people choose products that are safer for families, pets, communities and the environment," Hedman said. "Our Safer Choice Partners of the Year are demonstrating that safer chemicals are also good for business."

This summer, EPA's new Safer Choice label began appearing on consumer products such as household soaps and cleaners. To qualify for the Safer Choice label, a product must meet stringent human and environmental health criteria. In the first year of the Safer Choice Partner of the Year Awards, the Chicago area has more winners than any other part of the country. The local award winners include: AkzoNobel, ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, Jelmar, LLC, Loyola University Chicago, Institute of Environmental Sustainability, and Stepan Company. Nationwide, 21 entities won the EPA Safer Choice Partner of the Year Award.

SUBJECT: Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-24/pdf/2015-19988.pdf>

Federal Register: Vol. 80, No. 183 Monday, August 24, 2015 / Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

ACTION: Proposed Rule

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing changes to the existing regulation concerning the certification of applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in response to extensive stakeholder review of the regulation and its implementation since 1974. EPA's proposed changes would ensure the Federal certification program standards adequately protect applicators, the public, and the environment from risks associated with use of RUPs. The proposed changes are intended to improve the competency of certified applicators of RUPs, increase protection for noncertified applicators of RUPs operating under the direct supervision of a certified applicator through enhanced pesticide safety training and standards for supervision of noncertified applicators, and establish a minimum age requirement for certified and noncertified applicators.

SUBJECT: Amendments to Regional Consistency Regulations

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-19/pdf/2015-20506.pdf>

Federal Register: Vol. 80, No.160/Wednesday, July 8, 2015 / Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

ACTION: Proposed Rule

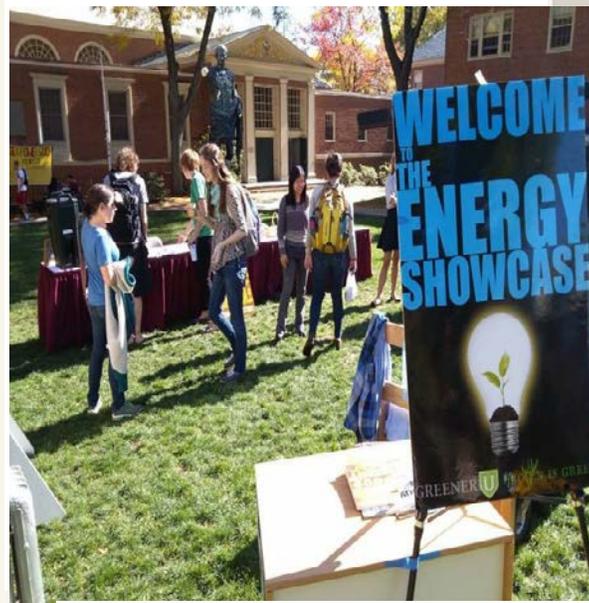
SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to revise its Regional Consistency regulations to ensure the EPA has the flexibility necessary to implement Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) programs on a national scale while addressing court rulings that concern certain agency actions under the Act.

Green Dorm Rooms Get Students on the Right Path

As universities and colleges work to become more sustainable, administrators are looking for ways to educate – and encourage – their students to adopt “greener” lifestyles. Consider the thousands (upon thousands) of students on each campus across North America, and the impact of students adopting a more sustainable lifestyle is quite significant.

Through environmental education and outreach, there is an “opportunity to facilitate generations of students in learning to lead sustainable lifestyles not only on campus, but for decades to come in their future communities,” said Jocelyn Breeland, Communications Director for Residential and Dining Enterprises at Stanford University. Read more on green dorm rooms at:

http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic_channels/community/article_70c5e52a-2fe9-11e5-b011-8b7d83ef4f8e.html?mode=story



Sustainability at Brown University

www.epa.gov/sbo

8th Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

Hosted by the City of Dubuque, Iowa and Sustainable City Network, the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference will be held at the [Grand River Center](#) located in the Port of Dubuque at 500 Bell Street ([View Map](#)). The 8th annual Conference is two days of education, inspiration and collaboration on topics of interest to anyone who cares about the convergence of economic prosperity, ecological integrity and social/cultural vibrancy in community design and development.

When: October 6-7, 2015

Where: Dubuque, Iowa



For More Information on the Conference,

Visit:

<http://www.gscdubuque.com/programming.htm>