

# Business Case for Safer Chemicals

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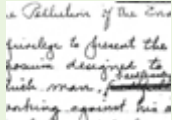
# Safer Chemicals and KP's History

1950s



Henry Kaiser's engineers installed \$5 million worth of air pollution control equipment. "We're working to be a part of the answer instead of part of the problem."

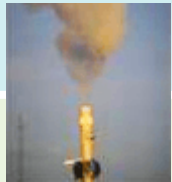
1963



Rachel Carson's speech

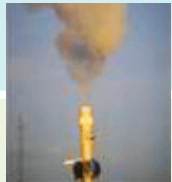
Rachel Carson: Invited by KP to address physicians and scientists. Considered to be a radical writer at the time, Carson's keynote address was her last public appearance before her death.

1996



US Environmental Protection Agency identified medical waste incinerators as the leading source of dioxin, a potent carcinogen.

1997



Creation of KP's national environmental stewardship activity, and founding of Health Care Without Harm.

2002



KP begins introducing DEHP-free and vinyl-free products in neonatal departments.

2004



Vinyl-free carpet created due to KP's influence with manufacturers.

2005



KP has the first vending machine in the country to offer Fair Trade coffee.

2006



KP contracts for "greener cleaners".

2007



KP is first health care organization to report greenhouse gas emissions to the California Climate Action Registry.

2008



KP adopts overarching principles for environmental stewardship, and guidelines on safe chemicals, climate change, and sustainable food.

# It's About Health

**A healthy environment is critical to individual health and wellness.**

**By reducing exposures to toxic chemicals, we can prevent cancer, asthma, Parkinsons and a host of other diseases linked to chemical exposure.**

# It's About Health

Chemical	Specimen	Units	Kathy Gerwig	Median
Mercury	hair	ng/g	918	918
Pesticides:				
4,4 -DDE	serum	ng/g fat	203	396
4,4 -DDT	serum	ng/g fat	3.3	4.6
DDE/DDT	serum	ratio	61	61
Flame Retardants:				
BDE-47	serum	ng/g fat	13.1	14.1
BDE-99	serum	ng/g fat	3.4	3.1
BDE-100	serum	ng/g fat	1.8	2.1
BDE-153	serum	ng/g fat	2.0	3.4
BDE-154	serum	ng/g fat	0.2	0.28
Perfluorochemicals:				
PFO6	serum	ng/mL	14.4	25.6
PFHxS	serum	ng/mL	0.87	2.44
PFOA	serum	ng/mL	7.94	5.30
PFPeA	serum	ng/mL	0.56	0.23
PFHpA	serum	ng/mL	0.61	0.14
PFNA	serum	ng/mL	2.68	1.67
PFDA	serum	ng/mL	0.79	0.43
PFUnA	serum	ng/mL	0.38	0.40
PFDoA	serum	ng/mL	0.10	
Bisphenol A:				
BADGE-4	serum	ng/mL	11.9	12.80
Bisphenol A	serum	ng/mL	0.922	
Phthalates:				
mMeP	urine	ng/mL	42.05	2.2

## Kathy's "Body Burden"



# KP's Guideline: Chemicals

**To advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are not harmful for humans as well as for our global environment and its non-human inhabitants, Kaiser Permanente adopts the following five guiding principles for chemicals:**

1. Understand product chemistry. To increase the transparency of the chemical constituents in products we buy, we will request product chemistry data from their suppliers.
2. Assess and avoid hazards. We will encourage suppliers to use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential, eliminate chemicals of high concern, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals.
3. Commit to continuous improvement. Create a framework for the review of product and process chemistry, and promote the use of chemicals, processes, and products with inherently lower hazard potential.
4. Support industry standards that, in KP's opinion, eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.
5. Inform public policies and be part of the public dialogue that advances the implementation of the above principles.

# Problems with Current State

**We don't know if products we're buying are safe.**

**We don't know if alternatives are safe.**

**Some so-called “green” products are made from materials that are toxic.**

**Conducting internal safety testing of products is not feasible for most products and materials we buy.**

**Therefore... mechanisms are needed to support downstream users in procuring the safest products and materials for our needs.**