

# BUSINESS NGO WORKING GROUP

FOR SAFER CHEMICALS AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

CREATING HEALTHY SOLUTIONS  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PEOPLE  
AND THE ECONOMY



## Who We Are

**T**he Business-NGO Working Group (BizNGO) is a unique collaboration of downstream users of chemicals who promote the creation, adoption and use of safer chemicals and sustainable materials. The BizNGO includes over 170 participants from businesses, environmental organizations, government agencies and universities.

In 2008, the BizNGO **released the Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy**—a set of principles designed to guide internal business decisions on chemicals in products. Endorsing organizations include Catholic Healthcare West, Construction Specialties, Kaiser Permanente, Hewlett Packard and Staples.

In 2009, the BizNGO **launched the BioSpecs**—environmentally preferable purchasing specifications for biobased and compostable food service ware—in collaboration with the Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative.

Also in 2009, the BizNGO **extended the voice of downstream users to government policy initiatives** that promote the use of safer alternatives to toxic chemicals, including the California Green Chemistry Initiative and reform of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

### Our issue areas:

#### • **Safer Chemicals:**

- The Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy
- The Implementation Guide—to the Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy

#### • **Sustainable Materials:** The BioSpecs—purchasing specifications for more sustainable bioplastics.

#### • **Policy Initiatives:** Promoting regulatory initiatives and industry standards that advance the development of safer chemicals and sustainable materials.

### Our objectives are to:

- **Model a new type and degree of collaboration** between NGOs and businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a safer, healthy economy.
- **Craft a “transition agenda”** for moving away from petro-based materials to sustainable biobased/bioderived materials.
- **Transform markets** to safer chemicals and sustainable markets by, for example, aligning purchasing criteria across sectors.

#### • **Develop tools and continuous improvement criteria**

for moving to safer chemicals and sustainable materials.

#### • **Engage in outreach and education** across supply chains and within business sectors.

#### • **Make the business case** for market transformation.

#### • **Share information** that facilitates the movement away from toxic chemicals to safer substitutes.

#### • **Advance policy initiatives** that accelerate the development and use of safer chemicals and sustainable materials.

#### • **Identify and facilitate the formation of research projects** that advance innovations in safer chemicals and sustainable materials.

The BizNGO creates opportunities to work with leading environmental organizations and downstream users of chemicals—including the electronics, health care, retail, buildings and cleaning product sectors—to develop and implement programs that integrate safer chemicals and sustainable materials into products.

**The BizNGO is a project of Clean Production Action. For more information contact Mark Rossi, PhD, Chair of the BizNGO, at 781-391-6743 or [Mark@CleanProduction.org](mailto:Mark@CleanProduction.org).**