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## Green Chemistry Revisited



Green Chemistry leaders with Maziar at Headquarters on July 6. L to r: Bill Magavern, Director of Sierra Club California; Steve Bradfield of Shaw Industries Group, Bill McDonough and Maziar.

## Share your News!

We want to know what you are doing, and how you are doing it. Do you have a co-worker, team or project you would like to see profiled? Send us your news, photos, ideas and information. Contact **Julie Bauer**; [jbauer@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jbauer@dtsc.ca.gov). The next deadline for *DTSC News* items is **August 3**. Submissions are subject to editing.



What is Wayne Hagen doing? To find out see page 5.

Bill McDonough, architect, co-author of the environmental book *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*, and international figure in sustainability and clean technology, visited with DTSC and others to explore opportunities for advancing Green Chemistry

On July 6, McDonough met with Maziar and representatives from Sierra Club California, the Breast Cancer Fund, Hewlett Packard, Proctor and Gamble, Environment California, the Chemical Industry Council of California, AMPAC Fine Chemicals and other Green Chemistry stakeholders at DTSC Headquarters.

After the meeting, McDonough told Maziar that among the many organizations he has been talking to, DTSC is the only entity that is open to involving everyone. He shared with Maziar his pleasure of seeing, for the first time, representatives from industry on one side of the table

agreeing with representatives of environmental and health organizations on the other. McDonough said this is the kind of "grand coalition that is needed to elicit change on a grand scale."

After the meeting at Headquarters, Maziar and McDonough met with the Governor, his Chief of Staff, Susan Kennedy, and Department of Conservation Director Bridgett Luther. "At the meeting, McDonough looked the Governor in the eye and said, 'DTSC is doing amazing work,'" said Maziar. "We are being recognized by others as world leaders in Green Chemistry," he concluded.



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# Companies Honored for Green Chemistry Breakthroughs

Two companies taking big steps to protect our environment have been honored by DTSC and the Chemical Industry Council of California (CICC). These companies are being recognized for their innovation and as early adopters of Green Chemistry principles. Rather than focusing on dealing with pollutants at the end of the process, they eliminated them from the start.

On June 24, AMPAC Fine Chemicals, based in Rancho Cordova, and Potters Industries, a subsidiary of PQ Corporation of South Gate, in Los Angeles County, received recognition plaques during a special ceremony at Headquarters. The presentations were part of the DTSC- and CICC-sponsored Chemical Industry Pollution Prevention (P2) Challenge Program. The partnership encourages businesses to use Green Chemistry as a way to reduce hazardous waste. DTSC scientists and engineers provide CICC businesses with proven scientific and technical information and techniques that save money and prevent pollution.

"Pollution prevention is good business, and it's the right thing to do," said John Ulrich, Executive Director of CICC. "P2 is continuous improvement in action with Green Chemistry being the ultimate pollution prevention. But, we will get there through continuous improvement and occasional 'breakthrough' discoveries. The important thing is to start the journey and recognize early successes such as AMPAC Fine Chemicals and Potters Industries have had."

AMPAC developed a process that cuts the amount of hazardous waste generated when cleaning equipment used to make pharmaceutical products. Two years ago, the company created a pollution prevention team called Sustainability Through Renewable Innovation Design and Engineering (STRIDE). Since that time, STRIDE projects have reduced hazardous waste generation by five million pounds, enough to fill 17 large swimming pools. This reduction saved AMPAC more than \$5 million. In addition to recognition from DTSC and the CICC, AMPAC was presented with a certificate of appreciation from California State Assemblymember

Alyson Huber (D-El Dorado Hills). AMPAC is in her district.

Potters Industries produces glass beads that serve as reflectors on road and highway markings. Recent testing found imported beads have dangerous levels of lead and cancer-causing arsenic. The levels were high enough to create a health hazard for highway workers who handled them, and there was the threat of dangerous chemicals leaching into the environment.

For three years, Potters Industries successfully reduced the amount of lead and arsenic in these glass beads until the levels were down to nearly non-detectable. Because California goes through more than 20 million pounds of glass beads a year, Potters Industries is responsible for preventing 12,000 pounds of arsenic and 8,000 pounds of lead from being introduced in California annually. The levels established by Potters Industries have become the standard in California. Other states, including Iowa, Colorado and Arizona either have adopted this standard or are in the process of doing so.

"As Californians become more aware of the long-term effect of pollutants on people's health and the environment, it is encouraging to see companies acting responsibly by voluntarily making changes

within their manufacturing process," said Maziar. "Both companies should be applauded for taking steps to eliminate significant amounts of waste."

DTSC is at the forefront of developing and implementing California's Green Chemistry Initiative, with the strong support of CICC. Legislation signed last year by the Governor directs the DTSC to identify and prioritize chemicals of concern and find safer alternatives. Industry's acceptance and use of Green Chemistry principles are critical to the successful implementation of the Green Chemistry program.

The result of these companies' pollution prevention efforts is a benefit known by the early adopters of Green Chemistry as the "triple bottom line:"

- It's good for the environment by reducing toxins entering the waste stream;
- It's good for workers, their families, and communities, by providing less exposure to dangerous chemicals; and,
- It's good for business profitability and competitiveness by meeting society's demand for greener products

*Submitted by Charlie Olivares, Research Writer*



*Maziar and CICC Executive Director John Ulrich (next to Maziar) honor members of AMPAC Fine Chemicals*