

## CACC



## NEWS

*The Future of the Earth is in our Hands*

[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)

### From the Admin's Desk: Good News!

*Wes Raymond, CACC Administrator*

Wheatland was a success yet again, thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers! We are happy to announce the addition of four new members to our board of directors. Steve Sanderson, Laura Sanderson, and Abe Dewey all volunteered to serve as board "members at large." Amanda "Panda" Dewey volunteered to be secretary of the board. An emergency election session was held during the CACC Kitchen's Sunday afternoon shift, with unanimous support of the slate of candidates from all voting participants. There is no limit to the number of "at large" CACC board members. Please email me at [admin@caccmi.org](mailto:admin@caccmi.org) if you would like to participate as a board member or in any other way.

### PLEASE SUPPORT CACC!

As you make decisions on your end of the year contributions, please consider including CACC. This year we have taken some very important steps, including renovating our office, hiring an administrator, improving our website, and engaging folks on social media. You have the opportunity to continue to assist CACC with your contribution. Because we value your support, we have made it easy for you to donate at our website, [www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org) or by mail at: CACC, 8735 Maple Grove Road, Lake, MI 48632-9511. Your generous gift will be spent wisely. And as you begin planning for 2016, please consider joining us at a meeting or event. We encourage your active participation!

**Please check CACC's online calendar at:**  
[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)

### Microbeads are a Mega Problem for the Great Lakes

*Jennifer Raymond, CACC Volunteer Coordinator*

Microbeads have been a hot topic as of late, both in social media and in state legislatures, including in Michigan, with House Bill 4345. These tiny plastic beads are found in many beauty products, but are unfortunately proving to be hazardous to our ecosystem. They are added to soaps, lotions, toothpaste, and other products to provide exfoliation. After use, microbeads flow straight from our sinks into our sewer systems. Unfortunately, wastewater plants are unable to remove this product during the water treatment process. The non-biodegradable beads eventually enter waterways and oceans, where they can become a part of the food system. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality officials report that microbeads are already accumulating in the Great Lakes, where fish are ingesting them.

Products containing microbeads have been banned in California and Illinois. If

Michigan's bill is passed, our state would join with a growing list of other states seeking to protect fragile marine ecosystems.

Fortunately, it is easy to replace microbeads in personal care products with environmentally-friendly alternatives. Check out your local market (or go online if you can't find these products locally) for handmade soaps and lotions that contain seeds, nut shells, sugar, herbs, and even coffee grounds as exfoliants! A little baking soda can easily replace microbeads in toothpaste. A few easy replacements will keep you and the Great Lakes beautiful and healthy!  
<http://ow.ly/TjTrS>



*Photo caption: Microbeads  
Photo credit: Alliance for the Great Lakes*

## CACC Board of Directors 2016

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## EPA Rules Court Case Update: Two Steps Back

*Bill Freese, Director, Huron Environmental Activist League (HEAL)*

In the past, for many of us old "tree huggers," it was one step forward and two steps back in most cases. We became more confident because we started winning more than losing. Most of the time, those responsible for protecting us seemed to be trying to do so. They were doing so carefully because there were (and still are) too many anti-environment politicians that are trying to stop the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from doing what is right.

Unfortunately, that is what we seem to have run into again. As mentioned in my past articles, Earthjustice is again representing HEAL and other environmental groups to intervene against the EPA and its proposed Commercial Industrial Solid Waste Incineration (CISWI) rules. As proposed, these rules would allow many facilities to burn or incinerate their own solid hazardous waste, such as tires, used oil, and processed waste, with very little oversight and without complying with the federal Clean Air Act. It is a can of worms for the people and a gift to polluters and their political friends.

Last May, a panel of three judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals heard our challenge to the rules. The judges seemed very skeptical of industry's arguments against the rules. EPA didn't need to use all its time to respond to them and neither did Earthjustice. We were optimistic that the ruling would be in our favor.

A decision on the case was not expected for up to six months. Unexpectedly and surprisingly, in early June, the court issued its judgement, rejecting our challenge, as well as industry's challenge to the EPA rules. It was a very short, perfunctory decision, and frankly disappointing. The court decided that the term "discarded" in regard to solid hazardous wastes is ambiguous and they will defer to EPA to decide how to interpret the term and rules.

To make matters worse, in September, the full court denied a rehearing of the case without comment. It is a long shot, but Earthjustice is considering the pros and cons of seeking Supreme Court review. So, good news will have to wait for another time.

## Study: Fracking Industry Wells Associated With Premature Birth

"Expectant mothers who live near active natural gas fracking wells are at an increased risk of premature birth and also show a higher rate of high-risk pregnancies, new Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health research suggests. The findings, published online in the journal *Epidemiology*, show some of the adverse health outcomes suffered by those who live near fracking activity. . . . 'The growth in the fracking industry has gotten way out ahead of our ability to assess what the environmental and, just as importantly, public health impacts are,' says study leader Brian S. Schwartz, M.D., a professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Bloomberg School. 'Our research adds evidence to the very few studies that have been done in showing adverse health outcomes associated with the fracking industry.' While the study can't pinpoint why the pregnant women had worse outcomes near the most active wells, Schwartz says that every step of the drilling process has an environmental impact. . . . 'Now that we know this is happening we'd like to figure out why,' Schwartz says. 'Is it air quality? Is it the stress? They're the two leading candidates in our minds at this point.'" Excerpted from the October 8, 2015 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health news release on the study. <http://ow.ly/TiVDZ>

## In The News

### World's First Solar Airport: Status Update

August saw the installation of more than 46,000 solar panels at Cochin International Airport, the seventh busiest in India, handling more than a thousand flights a week. As of October, the airport produces more energy than it needs. Challenge ahead: The airport plans to inaugurate a new international wing in January. More panels will be needed if Cochin wants to remain a fully solar-powered airport. <http://ow.ly/TikdR>

### Flint Residents Exposed To Lead-Contaminated Water

Water from the Flint River used for drinking water by homes in Flint proved so corrosive after processing that many of the remaining lead pipes in local plumbing systems were damaged, exposing the city's residents to high levels of lead for over a year. Lead exposure at low levels can result in serious health problems. Lead poisoning of young children can cause severe mental and physical development problems. In October, the city of Flint declared a public health emergency, and the state of Michigan began distributing free water filters and bottled water to residents. For up-to-date information, visit [www.flintwaterinfo.com](http://www.flintwaterinfo.com) or call the Genesee County Health Department Information Line 810-257-3158 for information about lead-clearing filters being distributed to Flint residents. <http://ow.ly/TjcUP>

### Researchers say Nevada Alpine Lakes May be Warmest in 7,000 Years

Ohio State University researchers have conducted studies at Great Basin National Park, 300 miles northeast of Las Vegas, aimed at reconstructing the climate record for the area over the past 7,000 years. Using core samples of lake-bed sediment and other data, they have identified a significant warming trend that began about 35 years ago and continues today. <http://ow.ly/TjLli>

### Hot September Makes 2015 New Hottest Year On Record

With the long-term warming trend caused by human activity boosted by the short-term warming caused by El Niño, it is now almost certain 2015 will be the new record holder for "hottest calendar year." <http://ow.ly/TIEgN>

### Sea Turtle Nesting Disturbed by Tourists, Quick Action by Officials Shows Results

Ostional Beach in Costa Rica is one of the most important nesting sites in the world for Olive Ridley sea turtles. Unlike other sea turtle species, Olive Ridelies nest together in a massive spectacle known as an "arribada." When an overabundance of eco-tourists descended upon the nesting site in September, the majority of the sea turtles returned to sea without laying their eggs. Public access rules were quickly rewritten to prevent tourists from disturbing the arribada, and two weeks later the sea turtles returned to find a quiet beach. More on this story and responsible wildlife viewing is at: <http://howtoconserve.org/2015/10/02/sea-turtle-arribada/>

### Food Producers Write Congress: Climate Action Now!

In a letter published during October in both the Financial Times and the Washington Post, CEOs of Mars, General Mills, Unilever, Kellogg, Nestle, New Belgium Brewing, Ben & Jerry's, Clif Bar, Stonyfield Farm, and Dannon asked U.S. and global leaders to "meaningfully address the reality of climate change" and called on world governments to negotiate a strong global climate deal at the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) this December.

Signatures from heavyweight corporations like Mars and Unilever tell us this is not a message from the radical fringe. Mainstream food producers are publicly announcing concern regarding the sustainability of modern agriculture. All food producers are invited to sign on at [www.ceres.org/JoinFoodStatement](http://www.ceres.org/JoinFoodStatement), and many have.

The letter reads in part: "Climate change is bad for farmers and for agriculture. Drought, flooding and hotter growing conditions threaten the world's food supply . . . By 2050, it is estimated that the world's population will exceed nine billion, with two-thirds of all people living in urban areas. This increase in population and urbanization will require more water, energy and food, all of which are compromised by warming temperatures." <http://ow.ly/Tma8Q>



Shortened links make it easier for readers to copy a link from the printed newsletter into a browser on a computer or mobile device.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Dec. 3, 2015.** Changing Planet Lecture by Peter Sinclair. Grace A. Dow Library, Midland. 7:00 p.m. Call 989-837-3449 for more information.

**Dec. 12, 2015.** Michigan Climate March. 200 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. 2 to 4 p.m. RSVP to [http://act.350.org/event/D12-solidarity\\_attend/11510](http://act.350.org/event/D12-solidarity_attend/11510)

**Jan. 29, 2016.** Farm School/Farms, Food & Health. Grand Traverse Resort, Acme. See [www.smallfarmconference.com](http://www.smallfarmconference.com) to register or for more information.

**Jan. 30, 2016.** Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference. Grand Traverse Resort, Acme. See [www.smallfarmconference.com](http://www.smallfarmconference.com) to register or for more information.

**Feb. 16, 2016.** Annual Networking Meeting for the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, Alpena. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Networking of schools, educators, and community partners for northeast Michigan stewardship projects. For more information, email [northeastmichiganGLSI@gmail.com](mailto:northeastmichiganGLSI@gmail.com) or call 989-354-9885. No cost, but pre-register at [www.nemiglsi.org](http://www.nemiglsi.org) is required.

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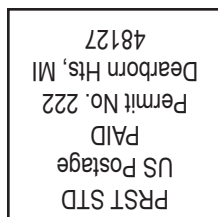
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