

C U R R E



Israel's artificial reefs are helping to restore coral which is planted (right) and grown in floating beds (below).

ISRAEL'S BIG GREEN FUTURE

Stretching Resources, Saving Habitat and Mending Fences

© MADAV SHASHAR
On the Bergman campus of Ben-Gurion University (BGU), located in the city of Beer-Sheva on the northern edge of Israel's Negev Desert, researchers are doing what they can to maximize Israel's limited natural resources. Here, students in Zeev Weisman's lab are working with a variety of discarded seed crops like jatropha and castor for use in biofuel development projects.

They're also working with the waste products of the olive oil industry. According to student Rebecca Willson, the industry discards about two and a half metric tons of inedible oil each year. Although Weisman and his colleagues don't see biofuels as the long-term solution to climate change, they say they're an improvement over fossil fuels in the wait for fuel-cell technologies to mature.

Further south, in the heart of the Negev Desert, at Kibbutz Mashabei

Sadeh, Amit Ziv is also finding a use for a waste resource. On his fish farm, briny groundwater supplies two different aquaculture crops simultaneously and provides irrigation water and fertilizer to the kibbutz's farm. The groundwater is run through an outdoor reservoir where sea bass are

raised, and then through a group of ponds inside greenhouses housing a second fish crop of striped bass, sea bream and others. The resulting wastewater is used to irrigate jobjoba and olive plants, supplying the kibbutz with a steady source of income. A formerly useless water source is now raising fish where they cannot contaminate marine resources, and the waste from the fish farm has become an agricultural resource, providing both fertilizer and clean water.

Similar agricultural ingenuity is performed by all farmers in the Negev desert, and it's not limited to growing fish. "The Israeli farmer has to be very well educated," says Eilon Adar, director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research. The greatest challenge is water related, but it does not necessarily have to do with water availability. Many plants can only tolerate a certain amount of salt in the soil, and much of the water beneath the Negev Desert has a high salt content.

"The farmers don't ask me how long I can guarantee them water, but how long I can guarantee the quality of the



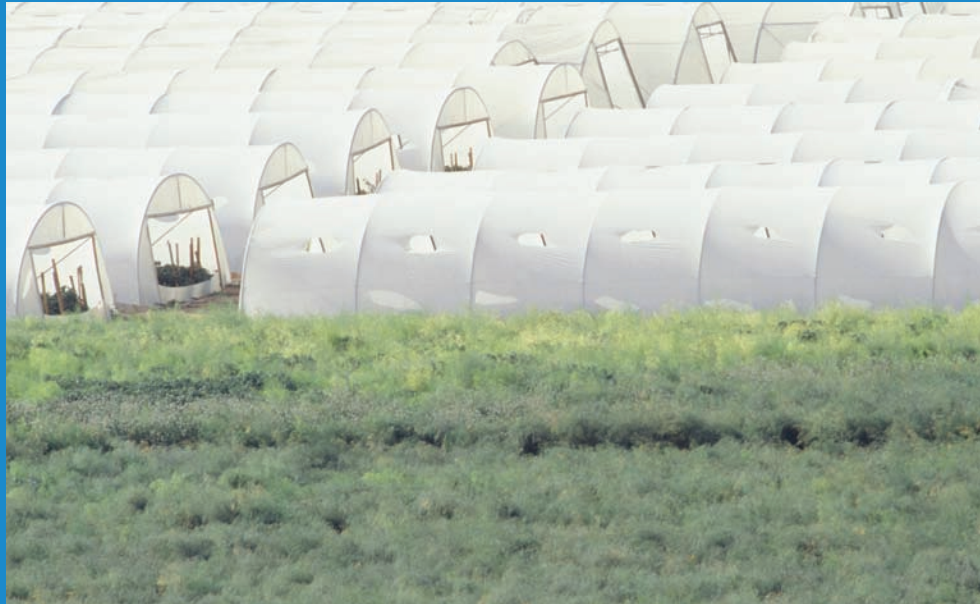
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Above: Blaustein International Center for Desert Studies.

Right: A plant nursery in Negev.

water,” says Adar. Removing salts from the groundwater is one of the greatest challenges of agriculture in the region, and it seems likely that the water quality will decline before the aquifer runs dry. Intelligent water use is required for the survival of agriculture and aquaculture throughout the region.

Nearby, at BGU’s Sede Boqer campus, Isaac Meir has just been awarded the chance to shape the path of green architecture throughout the country. The Israeli National Lottery, which helps to fund public buildings, has chosen the team he heads to create the green building standards the lottery will use, and compliance with these standards will be mandatory for buildings receiving lottery funds. Meir says the program may affect up to 50 percent of the public buildings in Israel.

As the head of the Department of Desert Architecture and Urban Planning, Meir’s expertise in designing structures to take advantage of harsh climatic conditions will be a great advantage in designing buildings for a country of mostly arid and semi-arid lands.

At the very southern tip of Israel, in Eilat, on the northern tip of the Red Sea, another BGU researcher, Nadav Shashar, is working on a coral reef restoration project in conjunction with colleagues in the city of Aqaba, Jordan. Rather than submersing old subway cars or oil platforms, Shashar and his colleagues have developed structures designed specifically for use as artificial reefs. Five artificial reefs are planned, three in Jordan and two in Israel, the first of which was installed in April 2007, to host corals raised at three “coral farms” run by the team. The reefs are built of concrete and steel blocks. In addition to replacing former reefs, providing habitat for reef-loving ocean fauna and increasing the population of breeding corals in the area, the new reefs will prevent future damage at nearby natural reefs, such as those at the Coral Beach Nature Reserve.

Removing salts from the groundwater is one of the greatest challenges.

“This reef probably sees 300,000 dives annually, and we can expect each visitor to break off a small piece of coral,” says Shashar. “We’ve talked to local dive leaders, and they have been very helpful and enthusiastic in leading divers to our artificial reef rather than to the natural ones.” In addition to improving the local coral system, the project has also increased cooperation between Israel and Jordan. “It can be very hard to do cross-border collaborations, due to difficulties with our Jordanian colleagues crossing into Israel,” says the dean of BGU’s Eilat campus, Shaul Krakover. With financial and political aid from USAID’s Middle East Regional Cooperative (MERC) program, the project has become a prime example of successful cooperation between these two former enemies.

CONTACT: Ben-Gurion University, <http://cmsprod.bgu.ac.il/home>.
—Brian Collier ▶

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Greening the Capitol

The House (but not the Senate) Cleans up its Act

Cafeteria stations feature fresh-made wraps and salads, hormone-free burgers and mounds of fruit arrayed on bamboo mats. Food is served on compostable sugar cane plates and beverages in cornstarch cups. Receptacles invite easy waste separation. Welcome to the Longworth House Office Building Café in Washington, D.C.

The food service makeover is a tipoff to how fast things are changing in one branch of the U.S. legislature. Just over a year ago—March 1, 2007—newly elected Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued her edict: the House of Representatives must become carbon neutral by the end of this year and cut its carbon footprint in half within a decade. The Speaker's first order of business was to lure Dan Beard out of semi-retirement to act as Greening Czar. Beard previ-



Lights in the Capitol dome will be replaced with energy-efficient bulbs. Greening Czar Dan Beard (above) made immediate changes to wasteful House operations.

ously held top jobs in the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, the House Appropriations and Natural Resources Committee and the National Audubon Society.

On arrival, Beard confronted the status quo. In 2006, the House was responsible for 91,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, equal to the output of 17,200 cars. Heating and air conditioning came from an ancient

carbon-belching coal-fueled plant, the third largest source of air pollution in the District of Columbia. House printers spewed 70 million sheets of paper annually, while non-recyclable refuse from almost three million meals was pitched in the trash. Inefficient lighting was everywhere, including the Capitol Dome, where fixtures were so hot workers needed protective suits to handle them.

Within six months of Pelosi's directive, Beard and his Green the Capitol crew had the House using 100 percent post-consumer waste recycled paper, sparing 30,000 trees a year. House vending machines were swapped for energy-sipping models. Bike racks sprouted around the Capitol campus. Meanwhile, the facilities folks in the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) office began to switch incandescents for compact fluorescent lamps, replace leaky windows and test new systems, such as dimmable ballasts which keep lighting levels constant but taper energy usage according to incoming sunlight.

The workload imposed by the House adds to what AOC has been quietly doing for years to comply with legislative mandates, most recently the Energy Policy Act of 2005. AOC actually exceeded the Act's energy-reduction goals for the Capitol complex—dropping use by 6.5 percent between 2003 and 2006 instead of the two percent required.

Restaurant Associates, whose clients include Google and *The New York Times*, transformed House food operations over one weekend last December. Now the menu is 85 percent fresh, filled with items baked or grown within 150 miles. The walls shine with eco-friendly

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"We were 100 percent composted from day one," says Perry Plumart, deputy director of Green the Capitol. Discarded food, utensils, cups, clamshell containers and other compostables are fed through a new on-site food pulper to remove water and dramatically shrink the volume. The U.S. Department of Agriculture commercially composts the output and uses it at facilities in nearby Maryland.

Despite the fact that some House office buildings date back to 1790, Green the Capitol is "struggling" for LEED certification, according to Beard. Turns out Congress members and Senators exempted their offices from no-smoking laws, so the buildings aren't eligible for energy-efficiency certification. But Beard is working on a compromise with the Green Building Council so certain areas can qualify.

To make up for what remained of its carbon footprint—30,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases—the House bought \$89,000 in carbon offsets on the Chicago Climate Exchange. That decision brought some flack. The *Washington Post* reported that some of the money went to programs which were either ineffective or terminated. But Beard makes no apologies. "This is a fledgling market," he says. "Yes, it has problems, but it's the only market we have. And I would say to any of the critics: if they've got a better system, then pass legislation to put it in place, and we'll participate in that market as well."

More substantial green steps are underway. The House is buying wind power to offset all of its electricity, and switching from burning mainly coal to all natural gas for its share of heat and air conditioning supplied by the Capitol Power Plant.

Meanwhile, in the U.S. Senate it's business as usual. The Senate has no equivalent to the Green the Capitol office, yet still benefits from green efforts. AOC sealed the building's 142 non-working chimneys, for instance, almost all of which belong to the Senate. The AOC tried to eliminate coal from the Congressional fuel mixture in 2000, but was thwarted by powerful coal state senators, including current President Pro Tempore Robert Byrd (D-WV) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

But change may be coming. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 orders the Capitol Power Plant

to operate "in the most energy-efficient manner possible to minimize carbon emissions and operating costs." Three million dollars was allocated to study ways to capture, store and use carbon dioxide emitted from the plant.

There is one green project on which the House and Senate agree: getting rid of those hot lights on the Capitol Dome. A test of energy-efficient replacement lighting should happen this summer, with hopes of a complete changeover by the end of September. But Beard says the move is largely symbolic because it will only save taxpayers

about \$10,000 a year in energy costs.

And what about savings from Green the Capitol as a whole? "The cost savings to the taxpayer is a moving target," says Jeff Ventura, communications director for Beard's office. "For example, properly metering our energy usage will save \$750,000 a year and pay for itself in six years." Ventura is confident that, overall, the multi-year effort will lead to a major reduction in energy usage and taxpayer dollars.

CONTACT: Green the Capitol, <http://cao.house.gov/greenthecapitol>.
—Jenifer Joy Madden ▶



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Wave Power

The Uncertain Frontier of Ocean-Based Energy Development

In the 2007 state legislative session, Oregon passed a renewable energy standard bill mandating that the state's largest utilities get 25 percent of their energy from homegrown renewable sources by 2025. To meet the requirement, Oregon is investing in several green energy technologies, including eight wave energy projects along some 360 miles of coastline. This represents the largest, most concentrated and fast-tracked development of wave energy anywhere in North America.

The idea of harnessing the ocean's power has been around for decades, but only recently have governments, investors and industries begun to embrace it as a feasible technology. Energy traveling through water is roughly 1,000 times denser than wind. The outlook is promising and investment in companies that provide this technology is spiking.

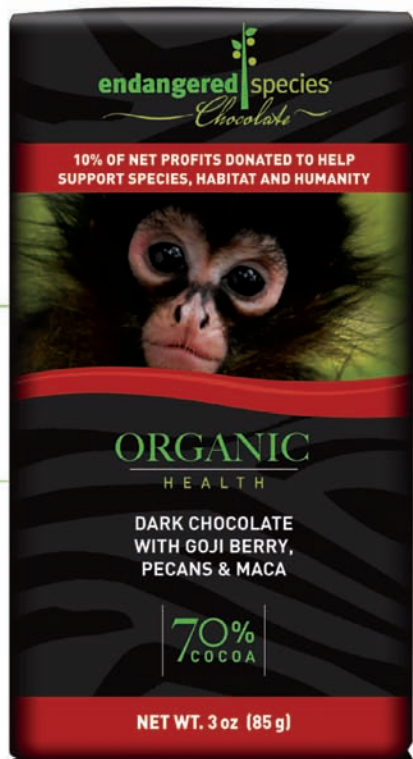
But to measure environmental



A test buoy launch in Oregon that later sank.

impact, there must be physical projects in the ocean. Wave farms might affect many aquatic species. Environmentalists and commercial fishermen are concerned with marine entanglement, whale and fish migration and the effects of electromagnetic fields (which are generated by the wave energy buoys) on electro-sensitive species like sharks, rays and salmon.

Proposals include offshore buoy arrays anchored to the sea floor, smaller offshore oil-platform-like structures and onshore facilities that are built on the coastline or the end of a jetty. Two of the main players working in Oregon, Ocean Power Technologies and Finavera Renewables, claim that about seven buoys are needed to create one megawatt (MW) of power. At 150 kilo-



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Sharks and other species are sensitive to electromagnetic fields.

watts (KW) each, each buoy could feasibly power 60 homes.

At press time, there were only four MW of installed capacity worldwide. The United Kingdom is leading with its WaveHub project thanks to £21.5 million (\$43 million) of mostly government funding. The WaveHub operates like a 10-mile-long extension cord with a power strip on the end that runs along the ocean floor and is connected to the energy grid—but takes power rather than gives it. This allows companies to hook up and test generation devices without having to build the transmission infrastructure from the ocean floor to shore. The project hopes to provide enough clean energy to power 7,500 households, which would

Who Owns the Tides?

Alaska's Fast-Tracked Wave Permits

Just over a century ago, the arrival of gold miners bearing shovels and mining claims stunned peaceful native residents along the Yukon River near the Alaska-Canada border. Now, an alternative energy rush is quietly sweeping the nation's backwaters. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is handing out preliminary permits to pursue a hot new form of "hydrokinetic" energy. The permits are exclusive property-use rights, legally similar to gold mining claims.

FERC defines hydrokinetic energy as produced by ocean waves, tides, ocean currents and river flows not involving a dam. Since last February, FERC has granted 47 permits to study hydrokinetic technologies for ocean, wave and tidal projects with 41 pending, as well as 40 in-river permits (55 more are pending). Developers holding these permits automatically get preference for a FERC license, which lasts up to 50 years. FERC's "first come, first served" system is designed to let private industry cut through red tape without input from communities.

Eagle Native Village Chief Mark Malcom was taken aback last March when FERC granted exclusive rights to study the Yukon for three years to the developer Hydro Green Energy, based in far-off

Houston, Texas. "AP&T [Alaska Power & Telephone] is going to put a turbine in the river and they asked us to send a letter supporting that," Chief Malcom says. "We did." Three miles down the frozen Yukon, his non-Indian counterparts in the City of Eagle were equally unaware of the Hydro Green permit.

The two Eagles, with less than 200 people, were united in support for the AP&T licensing effort, which they hoped would reduce rising energy bills in the two communities, which are powered solely by diesel generators. Eagle City Clerk Linda Nelson says the local electricity rate is 44 cents per kilowatt-hour, very steep compared to the average of 10 cents in the lower 48. "We now have people who are paying hundreds of dollars per month in electrical bills, which is more than their salaries," Malcom says.

AP&T spokesman Glen Martin says the utility still plans to test its project. The company's river turbine would generate 100 kilowatts. If the test works, AP&T would install three turbines, providing 300 kilowatts to power both the tribe and the town.

Hydro Green's preliminary permit envisions five arrays anchored to barges 1,000 feet apart with each array consisting of 10 100-kilowatt hydrokinetic turbine units, for a total installed capacity of

five megawatts. To Martin, that scenario demonstrates that the Houston company doesn't understand the absence of a grid in remote Alaska. Mark R. Stover, spokesman for Hydro Green, says the company isn't prepared to comment.

Preliminary FERC permits already issued include plans to claim more than 1,000 square miles of the ocean off the East Coast of Florida, to put turbines in the Niagara River below the falls and to place tens of thousands of devices in the Mississippi River. Wave energy proposals now cover much of the Pacific Coast north of San Francisco, the Columbia River and Puget Sound. Hydro Green is proposing more than a dozen projects, which would develop hundreds of miles of the Yukon, starting with the Eagle project 1,300 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and ending with a massive tidal energy development in the ocean at the river's mouth.

But selling all that power in remote Alaska might be a problem beyond the lack of an interconnected grid. "They would have to come to us, have to sell us the energy, have to have some community support," says Martin.

CONTACTS: Electric Power Research Institute, www.epri.com; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, www.ferc.gov; Hydro Green Energy, www.hgenergy.com.
—Frank Hartzell

FERC defines hydrokinetic energy as produced by ocean waves, tides, ocean currents and river flows not involving a dam.

reduce carbon emissions by almost 25,000 tons annually.

The U.S. has just one MW of capacity, but the projected capacity by 2011 varies from 116 to 120 MW. That's enough to serve more than 46,000 homes. The total is small compared to wind or solar capacity, but it's fair to say that the wave energy era is coming fast.

Still, many Oregonians embrace wave energy with only cautious optimism. In late 2007, the first test buoy was deployed off the west coast near Newport, Oregon. The Finavera Renewables buoy subsequently sunk (and is still on the bottom), even though the company had openly touted the buoy's survivability rating at 100 years.

CONTACT: Finavera Renewables, www.finavera.com. —Stiv J. Wilson

Glossed Over

*Nail Salon Workers and
Cosmetic Consequences*

On winter nights the neon sign "Nail Boutique" glows on Hudson Street in New York City's West Village. The door is shut tight to keep out the cold. At closing time, the manager doles out the day's pay to her all-Chinese staff, including her husband, a manicurist. He makes a big show of thanking his wife for his wages, drawing laughs from the other employees. Of everyone there, her English is the best, but still not good. She's six months pregnant and her belly bulges underneath her apron. I ask her if she's worried for her baby being around all the fumes in the salon. She says she's not.

She is one of the estimated 155,000 people working in the U.S. as manicurists and pedicurists, according to a 2007 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report, "Protecting the Health of Nail Salon Workers." Of these practitioners, more than 95 percent are female and more than 40 percent are of Asian ethnicity, primarily Vietnamese. These women, on average, are 38 years old and married with children.

And that is the extent of what is known about the workers who handle and inhale the toxic fumes from dibutyl phthalate (usually known as DBP), toluene and formaldehyde every day.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the nail polish, hardeners and remover under the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. But as▶

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the law is written, the FDA does not test cosmetics before they go to market. Instead the agency relies on internal studies conducted by the companies making the products. If the cosmetic is deemed unsafe, it can still go to market by adding a sentence on the label reading, "Warning—the safety of this product has not been determined."

The nail industry uses some 10,000 chemicals that have not been tested by the FDA. According to a 2006 study by the National Asian Pacific American Women's Union, 89 percent of these chemicals have not been tested for safety by independent scientists, either. Lab animals exposed to these chemicals have developed birth defects and hormonal and reproductive problems.

Only because of the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act are consumers privy to the ingredients in these products. According to the EPA, overexposure to chemicals commonly found in nail polishes and hardeners—including toluene, DBP, ethyl acetate and formaldehyde—can cause headaches, dizziness, irritation to the eyes, throat, skin and respiratory track. And the chemicals can interfere with human reproduction and development. In a study on Vietnamese nail salon workers in Massachusetts, 30 percent of employees reported a respiratory problem that improved away from work, 24 percent reported being allergic to something at work, 30 percent reported skin problems that improved away from work and 63 percent said that the odors at work made them feel bad.

"There are a lot of toxic products, and there's often very poor ventilation," says Dr. George Friedman-Jiménez, director of the Bellevue/New York University Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinic.

Toluene, found in polish and nail glue, is an aromatic hydrocarbon—hence its sweet smell. It is commonly used as a solvent in paints, paint thinners, glue and gasoline—the fumes of which are often illegally inhaled as a recreational drug for its intoxicating effect.

Anyone who dissected a fetal pig in high school biology knows the pungent smell of formaldehyde, commonly used as an embalming fluid. Formaldehyde resins, found in nail polish and hardeners, are also commonly used for paints and foams and to make insulation or casts for common household items like plywood or

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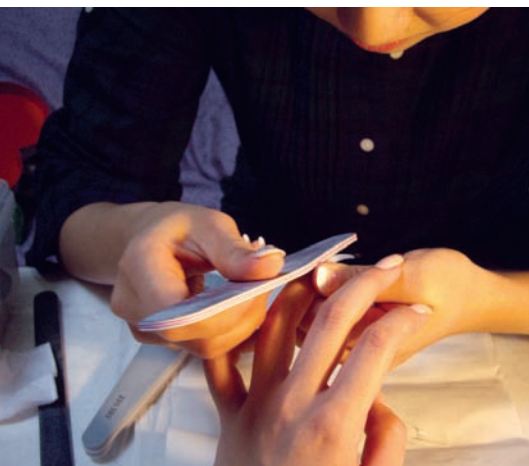
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carpeting, thought to significantly contribute to indoor air pollution. The EPA lists formaldehyde as a probable carcinogen.

Phthalates get a lot of media mention because they've been detected in babies' bodies via lotions and shampoos. Every day we are exposed to low doses of phthalates in food containers, perfumes, hairsprays, floorings, paints, toys and medical devices. These low doses may be toxic by mimicking and disrupting the body's natural reproductive chemicals.

But according to the Phthalate Information Center, whose panel members include BASF Corporation, Eastman Chemical Company, Exxon-Mobil Chemical Company and Ferro Corporation, there's no need to worry. The center calls these warnings "highly misleading" and brought by "anti-chemical lobbies."

"The volatilized pollutants are detected by air-quality monitors in the salon," says Alexandra Scranton, director of science and research at Women's Voices for the Earth. "But phthalates are hard to detect."

The European Union is determined to make the world safer for longer-lasting pink glossy nails, and has banned two types of especially harmful phthalates. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) has offered SB 484, the California Safe Cosmetics Act, which requires nail polish companies to disclose information about any ingredients identified as causing cancer or birth defects. Additionally, SB 484 allows the California Occupational Health and Safety Agency (COSHA) to regulate the products if they consider them a risk to nail salon workers.

In 2006, Dibutyl phthalates, or ▶

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DBPs, joined toluene and formaldehyde on California's Proposition 65 list of suspected teratogens, or chemicals that cause disfiguring birth defects. The concerns over the toxicity of DBPs were so troubling that major cosmetics manufacturer OPI Products voluntarily stopped using them in its polishes, even though they were not required by the FDA to do so.

The key is exposure level. To any one person using nail polish at home, the exposure to the toxins is low. But where high exposures in the workplace are concerned, the federal Office of Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) regulates. "OSHA's so-called 'safe levels' are really outdated," explains Scranton. "What levels are allowed are set for an industrial setting, geared toward men in factories, not women of child-bearing age."

The nail salon workers are caught unprotected in this regulatory web. The EPA began a program called Nail Salons Project Partners in Houston, Texas in 2001 to work with cosmetics companies and salons to find best management practices. The findings are published in English and Vietnamese. But best management practices only encourage handling techniques, like keeping products in properly labeled containers and wearing a mask and gloves.

"In the gap between OSHA and FDA, the population of nail salon workers has been glossed over. No one has looked at the health impacts," says Scranton. "Legally it's fine but no one has researched it. There are no epidemiological studies."

Because these products are still unregulated and human health protection relies on the nail salon workers themselves, there are still alarming gaps. For example, the EPA recommends that salons not purchase or use any nail product containing liquid methyl methacrylate (MMA) monomer.

"In artificial nail products, MMA has technically been illegal since 1974 because it's so toxic," explains Scranton. "But because MMA is so much cheaper than the safer alternatives, we believe there is a black market for it."

CONTACTS: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, www.safecosmetics.org; Phthalate Information Center, www.phthalate.org; Women's Voices for the Earth, www.womenandenvironment.org. —Erin Barnes



CHEMICAL CONNECTIONS

In the span of two months, researchers found that chemicals in baby's products were both more dangerous—and more present—than was previously thought (see "The Battle to Ban Toxic Toys," sidebar, May/June 2007). Last January, a paper released in the *Journal of Reproductive Toxicology* showed that the federal panel that had approved the use of bisphenol A for use in baby bottles and food can linings did so after disregarding hundreds of relevant studies. These showed that BPA can cause "breast cancer, testicular cancer, diabetes, hyperactivity, obesity, low sperm counts and miscarriage in laboratory animals," according to a related article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. An industry consultant was running the panel.

The following month, researchers found that some 80 percent of babies tested had been exposed to another class of potentially harmful chemicals called phthalates. The findings, released in the February issue of *Pediatrics*, shows a direct link between use of baby shampoo, lotions and powder, which contain phthalates to stabilize fragrances, and the presence of phthalates in babies' urine samples. "Right now, we still don't know the true long-term effects," says study author Dr. Sheela Sathyanarayana. But, she said it's wise to "decrease the amounts of products used, especially in newborns." While companies aren't required to list phthalates on their labels, consumers can seek out fragrance-free, organic products. In tests, phthalates have been linked to male reproductive problems. CONTACT: American Academy of Pediatrics, (847)434-4000, www.aap.org. —Brita Belli



A VILLAGE PROTESTS

The Alaskan village of Kivalina and its Inuit Eskimo tribe have filed suit against fossil fuel companies for emitting greenhouse gases that have significantly altered their traditional way of life. The village's suit names the

Exxon Mobil Corporation, eight other oil companies, 14 power companies and one coal company in the suit. The Eskimo village lies on an eight-mile barrier reef and residents depend on hunting whale, seal, walrus and caribou as well as salmon fishing. But that way of life has been severely threatened as sea ice has failed to form until mid-winter, instead of October, as a result of global warming (see "Losing Winter," cover story, January/February 2008).

Without the sea ice, the village is left unprotected from huge storms and devastating waves, and relocation costs are estimated at \$400 million or more. Two nonprofits, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment and the Native American Rights Fund, filed the lawsuit in San Francisco federal court.

According to attorney Matt Pawa, "This is really the first [lawsuit] that a discretely identifiable victim of global warming has emerged." Exxon Mobil had no comment. CONTACTS: Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, www.crpe-ej.org; Native American Rights Fund, www.narf.org. —B.B.

THE DRUGS IN DRINKING WATER SHOCKER

The Associated Press reported in early March that "a vast array of pharmaceuticals—including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones—have been



found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans."

The story made headlines everywhere but it was not exactly new news. *E* reported extensively on it last year (see "Water Worries," *Currents*, September/October 2007). And *Environmental Health Perspectives* reported in 2005, "Roughly 100 pharmaceuticals have now been identified in rivers, lakes and coastal waters throughout Europe and the U.S."

The basic facts have been known for more than a decade, especially since the publication of Theo Colburn's *Our Stolen Future* (written with Dianne Dumanoski and John Peterson Myers) in 1996. We're being affected, they wrote, by manmade chemicals that can "alter sexual development...undermine intelligence and behavior [and] make our bodies less resistant to disease."

The AP story noted that drugs get in the water because people take pills, their bodies process some of that medication and then flush it down the toilet, where it ends up being discharged into rivers, lakes and streams. CONTACT: *Our Stolen Future*, www.ourstolenfuture.org. —Jim Motavalli

UPDATES