

PRESS RELEASE



plasticpollutioncoalition

U.S. EPA Announces First-Ever Federal Standards to Regulate Toxic PFAS “Forever Chemicals”: Plastic Pollution Coalition Responds

March 15, 2023

Yesterday, the Biden-Harris Administration [proposed the first-ever national standards for six dangerous “forever chemicals.”](#) which have been [detected throughout drinking water sources in the U.S.](#)

“We applaud the Biden Administration’s ambitious new standards for regulating six common toxic ‘forever chemicals’ in U.S. drinking water. However, much more work must be done to regulate industries making the thousands of PFAS that currently exist, to end the use and production of these dangerous forever chemicals—which are so commonly used as additives in plastics, and to remediate and restore our environment.” –Julia Cohen, MPH, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Plastic Pollution Coalition

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, [have highly versatile properties and have been used near ubiquitously in consumer and industrial products—especially in firefighting foam and equipment, and plastic products and packaging—since the 1950s.](#) This latest Federal action complements [existing actions already set forth by the Biden Administration](#) to address toxic PFAS pollution in drinking water, including major investments to help communities on the frontlines of PFAS pollution and health assistance to firefighters exposed to PFAS.

To date, [more than 9,000 PFAS chemicals](#) have been invented and used worldwide. PFAS chemicals do not easily degrade in nature and are now found widely detected in air, soils, drinking water, and human bodies—where a growing body of research alarmingly indicates PFAS can lead to [serious health problems](#), including cancers, reproductive issues, hormone problems, and more. Children and pregnant people are especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of PFAS. PFAS can be removed from tap water by using [NSF-53 certified filters containing activated carbon or reverse osmosis membranes](#)—**it is important to note and often**

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overlooked that [bottled water](#) is commonly contaminated by PFAS. Plastic Pollution Coalition has been advocating for the use of [Filtered Not Bottled water](#) during U.S. lead pipe replacement projects.

RELATED UPCOMING WEBINAR:

Plastic Pollution Coalition is hosting a webinar next **Thursday, March 23**. The webinar, "[Safe Drinking Water for All: Protecting Communities from Plastic During U.S. Lead Pipe Replacement.](#)" will highlight the need to keep plastic—and its toxic impacts—out of our water systems. Panelists will discuss the health hazards of single-use plastic bottles and plastic pipes such as those made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and will recommend **options for safe, non-plastic drinking water solutions during lead pipe replacement** as well as **tips and resources to ensure community water sources remain free of pollutants**. These solutions are applicable not only for lead-impacted communities, but also the growing number of communities impacted by PFAs, microplastics, and other chemicals that commonly contaminate water resources.

Panelists include **Brandi Williams**, Good Trouble Department Civil and Human Rights & Fields Campaign Director, [Hip Hop Caucus](#); **Sharon Lavigne**, founder of [Rise St. James](#) and 2021 recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize; **Judith Enck**, President of [Beyond Plastics](#) and former Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; **Dr. Terrence Collins**, Professor of Green Chemistry at [Carnegie Mellon University](#); and **Erica Cirino**, Plastic Pollution Coalition Communications Manager and author of [Thicker Than Water: The Quest for Solutions to the Plastic Crisis](#). The webinar will be moderated by **Madison Dennis**, Filtered Not Bottled Campaign Coordinator, [Plastic Pollution Coalition](#). [Sign up](#).

About Plastic Pollution Coalition: *Plastic Pollution Coalition is a non-profit communications and advocacy organization that collaborates with an expansive global alliance of organizations, businesses, and individuals to create a more just, equitable, regenerative world free of plastic pollution and its toxic impacts.*

www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org

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