

## **Sustainable Practices 2005**

Innovations, Technologies, and Products

Coming Soon to a World Near You

January 21, 2005

### **California PUC Requires Utilities to Account for Carbon Emissions in Supply Choices.**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) now requires the state's electric utilities to account for the future cost of reducing carbon emissions in choosing energy sources. The Commission thus effectively requires utilities to invest in conservation, improving energy efficiency, and developing renewable energy sources before relying on fossil sources of energy. The CPUC will require utilities to account for carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions when considering purchases from fossil fuel plants and the CPUC considers cleaner sources more cost-effective if they prevent carbon emissions at a cost of less than \$8-25 per ton. (Union of Concerned Scientists News Release, December 17, 2004, [http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press\\_release.cfm?newsID=446](http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release.cfm?newsID=446))

**Electrolysis Cell Inexpensively Disinfects Water.** Proctor and Gamble has developed an electrolytic cell technology that uses the naturally occurring salts in water to produce a dilute solution of mixed oxidants, thus disinfecting water. The technology features a self-contained, floating apparatus that is self-powered (by AA batteries or solar cells) can disinfect a tank or container of water as well as remove biofilms that may form on the surface of the container. It can also be placed in-line to the water supply to kill bacteria, viruses, parasites, protozoa, molds and spores that find their way into a water supply. The company calls the technology, now in the verification and prototype stage, relatively inexpensive to manufacture and operate. (Yet2.com, January 2005, <http://www.yet2.com/app/list/techpak?id=33829&&sid=360&abc=0>)

**EU "Cosmetics Directive" to Remove Ingredients Suspected of Causing Harm.** The European Union member states have submitted plans to the European Commission to institute new guidelines established by the "Cosmetics Directive" which takes effect in February 2005. The directive calls for the removal of ingredients suspected of causing "harm to human health" from cosmetics and personal care products in Europe. The effects of this directive will be felt around the world. In the United States the main regulatory body for cosmetics is the industry itself, represented by the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association (CFTA). While the CFTA's official response was that the directive "represents an unnecessary change in the philosophy of regulation of cosmetic ingredients in the EU," major producers such as L'Oreal, Liz Claiborne and Gillette have already begun the process of reforming their products to conform to the requirements of the European directive. (Environmental Working Group and The Nation, December 27, 2004, [http://www.ewg.org/news/story.php?print\\_version=1&id=3287](http://www.ewg.org/news/story.php?print_version=1&id=3287))

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