



CONTACT

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon
(nobot@cehn.org)

202-543-4033 x14

For Immediate Release

National nonprofit launches a Children's Environmental Health Movement initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This month the [Children's Environmental Health Network](#) (CEHN) launched an education-to-action monthly series as a key initiative of a Children's Environmental Health Movement (CEH Movement). The [CEH Movement](#) goals are to: increase awareness and understanding of children's environmental health; mobilize action on children's environmental health concerns; and establish/expand the community and network of partners working on children's environmental health issues. These efforts are born out of the recommendations and priority actions set forth in the [Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action](#) ("Blueprint"). The Blueprint is a resource developed, with input from federal partners and leading experts across multiple disciplines, to guide and align efforts so that *all* children across the nation have access to clean air, clean water, safe and healthy food, and safe toys and products for reaching their optimal health and development.

"This movement is working to place children at the center of all decision-making in our communities nation-wide. There are low-to-no-costs steps that can be taken to protect children and their families from environmental hazards and this movement aims to highlight those opportunities while broadening our collective impacts", said CEHN Executive Director, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon.

Each month, CEHN partners with a different organization to highlight an important children's environmental health issue. The partner organization provides educational content and direct calls to action that individuals and organizations can take to effect change and promote children's wellness. CEHN provides the platform to share this information and to promote the partner organization's efforts to protect children's environmental health. In this way, the CEH Movement is an intentional mechanism to uplift and to increase the connectivity and collaboration of all working in the children's environmental health field towards our common goal—protecting children, the environment, and our future.

The inaugural monthly education-to-action series topic addresses [health equity](#). This focus is especially important to highlight as we observe African American History Month and acknowledge how much progress has been made, but also how much more is needed, as that history continues to fuel health disparities in the United States. This month we partnered with [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#) (or "WE ACT"), who provides information on the link between health equity and product safety, specifically how children of color and children in low income communities face greater exposure to harmful chemicals in toys and products. WE ACT is currently working on a New York state legislation that creates guidelines for chemicals found in children's products that are of high relevance to children, such as toys, jewelry, and sippy cups.

"We are concerned about the availability of inexpensive imported goods from dollar stores in Northern Manhattan and nationwide that may contain toxic chemicals. Parents or anyone purchasing toys should be able to buy products without worrying about their children's health outcomes", said WE ACT Executive Director, Peggy Shepard. "We hope raising awareness about this issue will motivate others to advocate for toxic-free children's products in their community."

In March, CEHN will partner with the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs) and the American Association of Poison Control Centers to address chemicals in common consumer products such as cleaning solutions and personal care products.

To learn more about the Children's Environmental Health Movement, visit: www.cehn.org/ceh-movement. Children's Environmental Health Day (CEH Day), this year on October 11, is a day to anchor the CEH Movement. Observed every 2nd Thursday of Children's Health Month (October), [CEH Day](#) is a day of awareness of, advocacy for, and action on the protection of children's environmental health.

About the Children's Environmental Health Network

CEHN is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment. As the nation's leading organization dedicated to children's environmental health, CEHN: stimulates preventive research; promotes sound policy; provides education and training to various audiences; and elevates public awareness of environmental hazards to children. For more information, visit www.cehn.org.

###