



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

121 East Court Street Ithaca, New York 14850  
Telephone (607) 274-5560 Fax (607) 274-5578  
www.tompkins-co.org/emc



**RESOLUTION NO. 02-2009** -- In Support of a Tompkins County Ban on Products Containing Bisphenol A

Whereas, Bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical commonly contained in polycarbonate plastics, including baby bottles and cups designed for use by young children and epoxy resins used to line the interior of commonly used food and beverage cans.

Whereas, studies have shown that BPA is a synthetic estrogen which disrupts healthy human development and can lead to such complications as an altered immune system, hyperactivity, reproductive health problems, increased risk of breast and prostate cancer, obesity, and diabetes.

Whereas, over 6 billion pounds of BPA are produced worldwide each year and 200,000 pounds are released into the atmosphere annually.

Whereas, BPA is released into food and beverages in food and drink containers manufactured with the chemical when those containers are warmed, and tens of thousands of U.S. workers, including mothers, are exposed to BPA annually through inhalation and dermal exposure.

Whereas, biomonitoring tests by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found over 90% of Americans tested carry BPA at levels found to show harm in laboratory animals.

Whereas, BPA has been shown to pose a significant health risk to infants and young children, the age group found to have the highest levels of BPA exposure.

Whereas, 20 states, including NY state, a growing number of municipalities and the federal government are considering a ban on BPA in food and beverage containers and other products that are intended for use by the general public.

Whereas, safer substitutes for BPA are available in many consumer product applications, as evidenced by voluntary market changes in the children's product, sport bottle, and canned food sectors.

Whereas, county retailers Wal-mart, RiteAid, CVS/Pharmacy, Wegmans, Kmart, and Target have already or are committed to phasing out baby products with BPA.

Whereas, most major manufacturers are exploring BPA-free infant formula and food can lining alternatives, and Tompkins County grocery stores have a selection of BPA-free infant formula and food can options.

Whereas, The Tompkins County Environmental Management Council is committed to protecting our natural environment and the public health and welfare of our County's residents who are vulnerable to the health hazards caused by BPA.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council supports this effort to reduce toxins in our environment and requests the Tompkins County Legislature pass legislation with the following components:

- Immediate ban on the sale of children's products in Tompkins County containing BPA, including baby bottles and sippy cups intended for children under age three.
- Phased in ban in Tompkins County on the sale of infant formula packaging (including powdered and liquid infant formula), children's toys intended for children under age three, and sports bottles containing BPA.
- Annually review the status of and promote the local use of BPA-free adult food can linings in conjunction with the Tompkins County EMC, with the goal of requiring the sale of BPA-free food cans in Tompkins County within 5 years of enacting the original legislation.

Date: May 13, 2009

Voting In Favor: 13

Voting Against: 1

Abstentions: 1