



Resource Management Commission

***Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals in
Building Products***

**Paul Robbins
February 15, 2022**

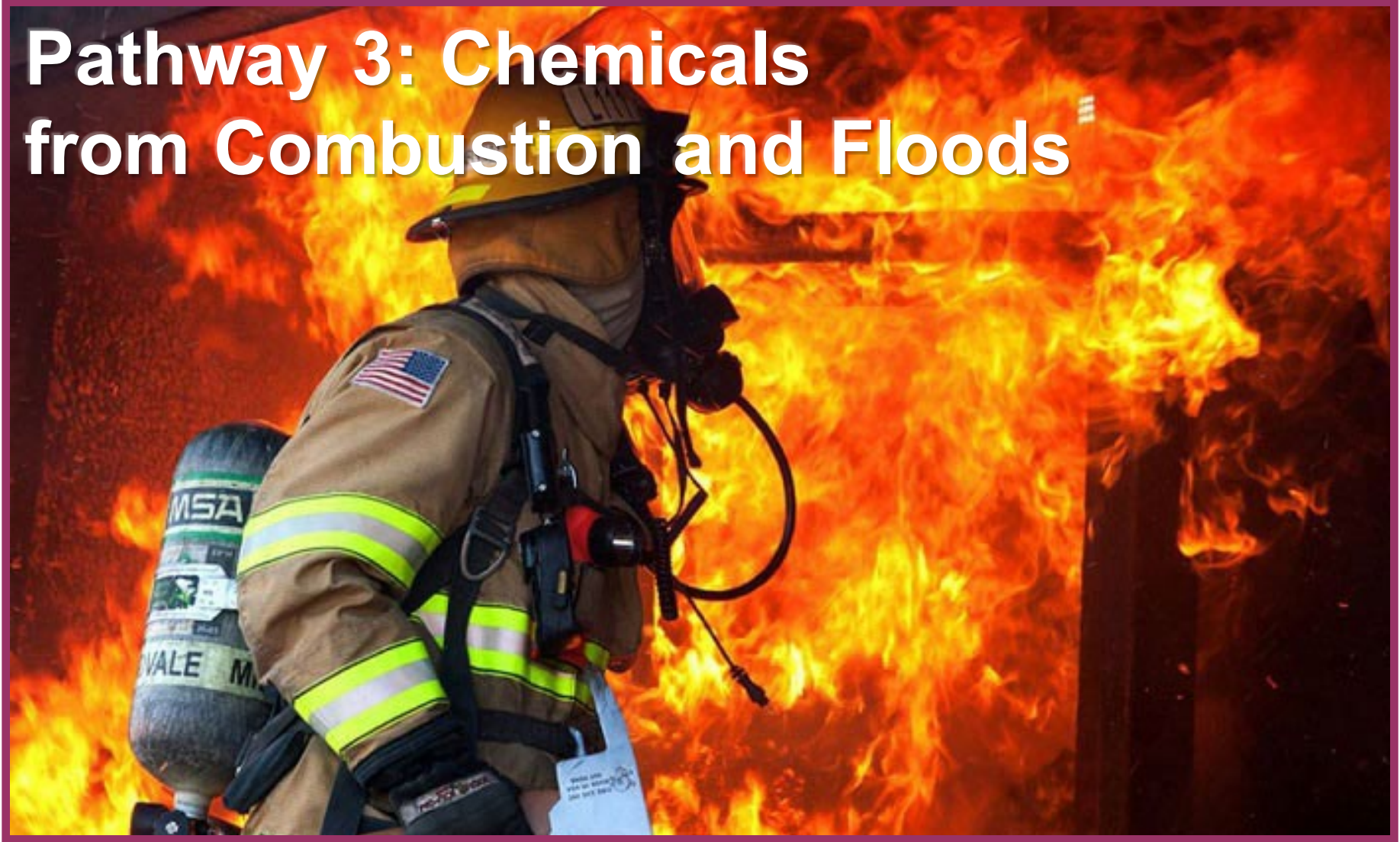
Pathway 1: Chemicals in Air



Pathway 2: Chemicals in Dust



Pathway 3: Chemicals from Combustion and Floods



Pathway 4: Chemicals from Contact



Pathway 5: Chemicals in Water



Pathway 6: Chemicals from Landfill Fire

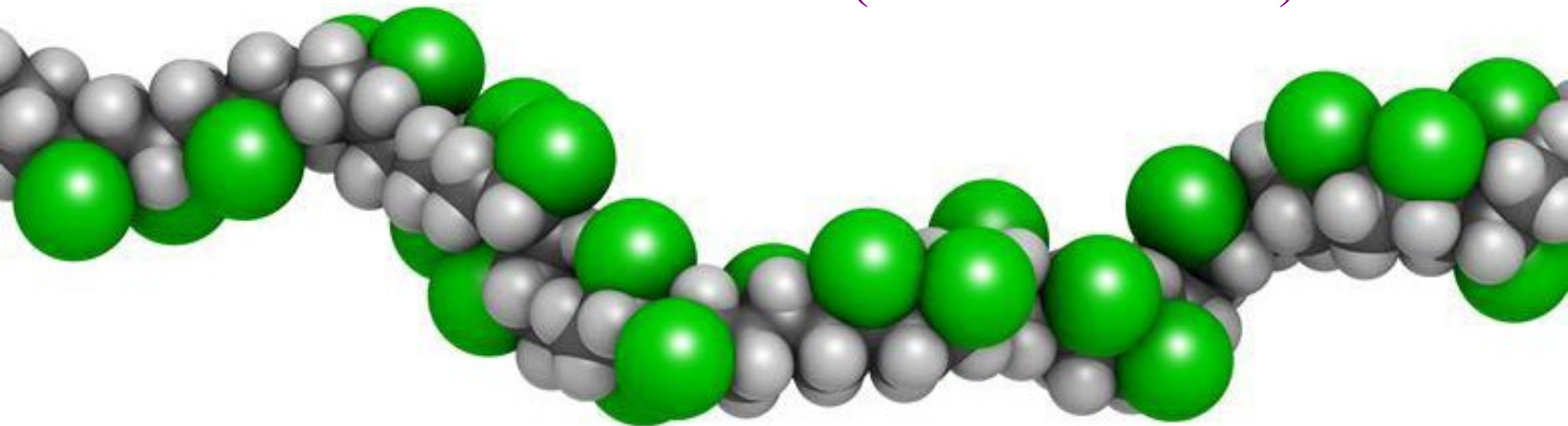


Pathway 7: Chemical Emissions from Chemical Factories



PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)

- Developmental toxin
 - Respiratory toxin
- Internal organ toxicant
- Highly Carcinogenic when burned (dioxin emissions)
 - Potent Endocrine Disrupting Chemical when burned (dioxin emissions)





- Blinds & Curtains
- Shower Curtains
- Carpet Backing
- Fence Material
- Sheet Flooring
- Plumbing Pipe
- Siding
- Wallpaper
- Windows & Doors

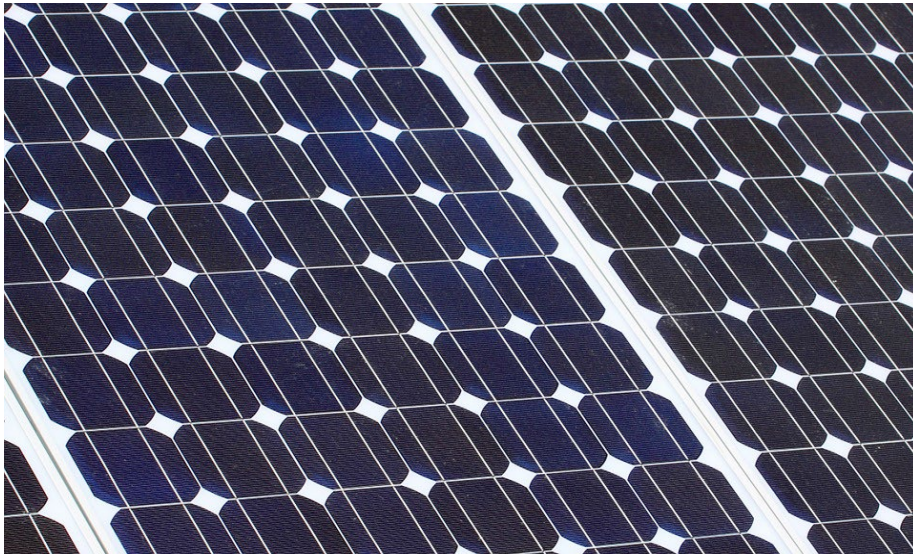


Chlorine fire and leak at Louisiana chemical factory



Perfluorocarbons (Teflon)

- Carcinogen
- Developmental toxin
- Reproductive toxin
- Internal organ toxicant
- Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin



- Carpet Coatings
- Countertop Coatings
 - Paint
- Caulking & Sealants
 - Adhesives
- Window gliders
- Plumbing Tape
- Roof coatings
- Solar module coatings



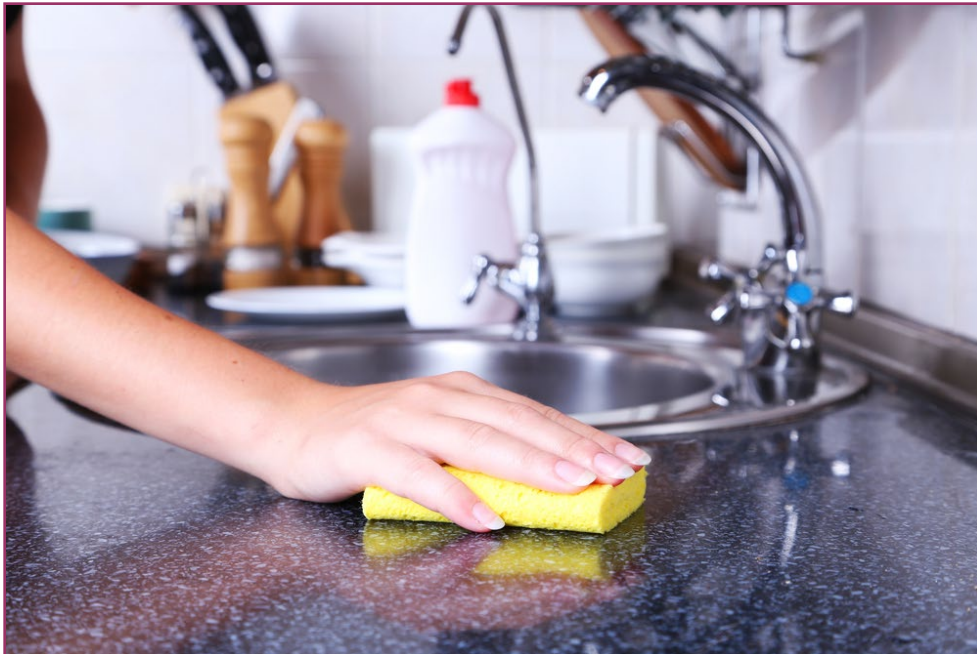
Antimicrobials

21 Separate Chemicals
including Triclosan,
Formaldehyde, Silver
Nanoparticles, and OBPA

Aquatic Toxicant, Carcinogen, Developmental Toxicant,
Mutagen, Endocrine Disruptor, Mammalian Toxicant,
Eye and Skin Irritation, Internal Organ Toxicant,
Neurotoxin, Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin,
Reproductive Toxicant, Asthmagen and Respiratory
Sensitizer, Skin Sensitizer



- Carpets
- Concrete
- Countertops
- Door handles
- Light switches & covers



- Paints
- Tile
- Toilets & toilet seats
- Wallpaper
- Wood products



***Antibiotic Resistant
Super Bugs***

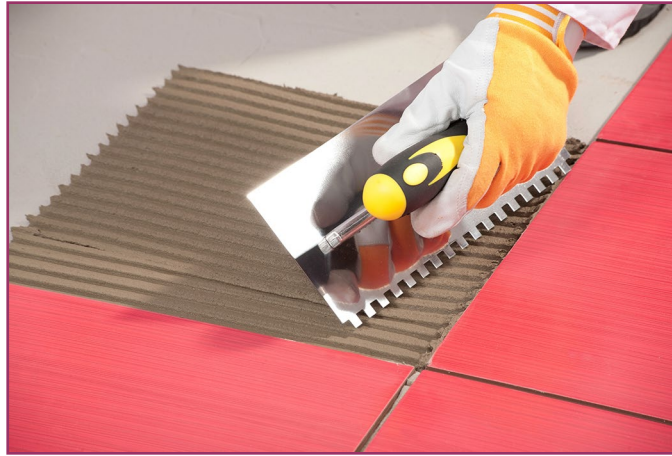
Wallboard w/ Coal Ash

- Arsenic
- Cadmium
- Lead
- Mercury

All are Carcinogenic,
Developmental Toxins, Endocrine
Disruptors, Internal Organ Toxins,
Neurotoxins, Reproductive Toxins,
and Persistent Bioaccumulative
Toxins



Flooring



- Over 70% in 2016 was carpet or PVC
- Carpet often has antimicrobials, PVC or styrene backing, coal ash fillers with heavy metals, flame retardants, phthalate plasticizers, organotin stabilizers, VOC emissions, and Teflon stain resisters
- PVC often has phthalate plasticizers, organotin stabilizers, and VOC emissions
- Imported glazed tile can contain lead pigments
- Wood floors finished onsite have VOC emissions

Caulking



- Almost all are petrochemically based and emit VOCs
- Various products contain toxic solvents, biocides, phthalate plasticizers, organotin catalysts, isocyanates, antifreeze, and flame retardants. Some even include PVC.



SM

AUSTIN ENERGY

**GREEN
BUILDING**



Lowe's Joins Home Depot to Tackle Toxic PFAS in Carpets

October 30, 2019

NRDC

The home improvement company is taking the right step in addressing the problem of these harmful “forever chemicals,” which can now be found in the blood of virtually every American.



An employee at a Lowe's in Brooklyn trimming carpet remnants for a customer



Reasons for Staff Opposition



**State Law Prohibits
Building Materials in Code**

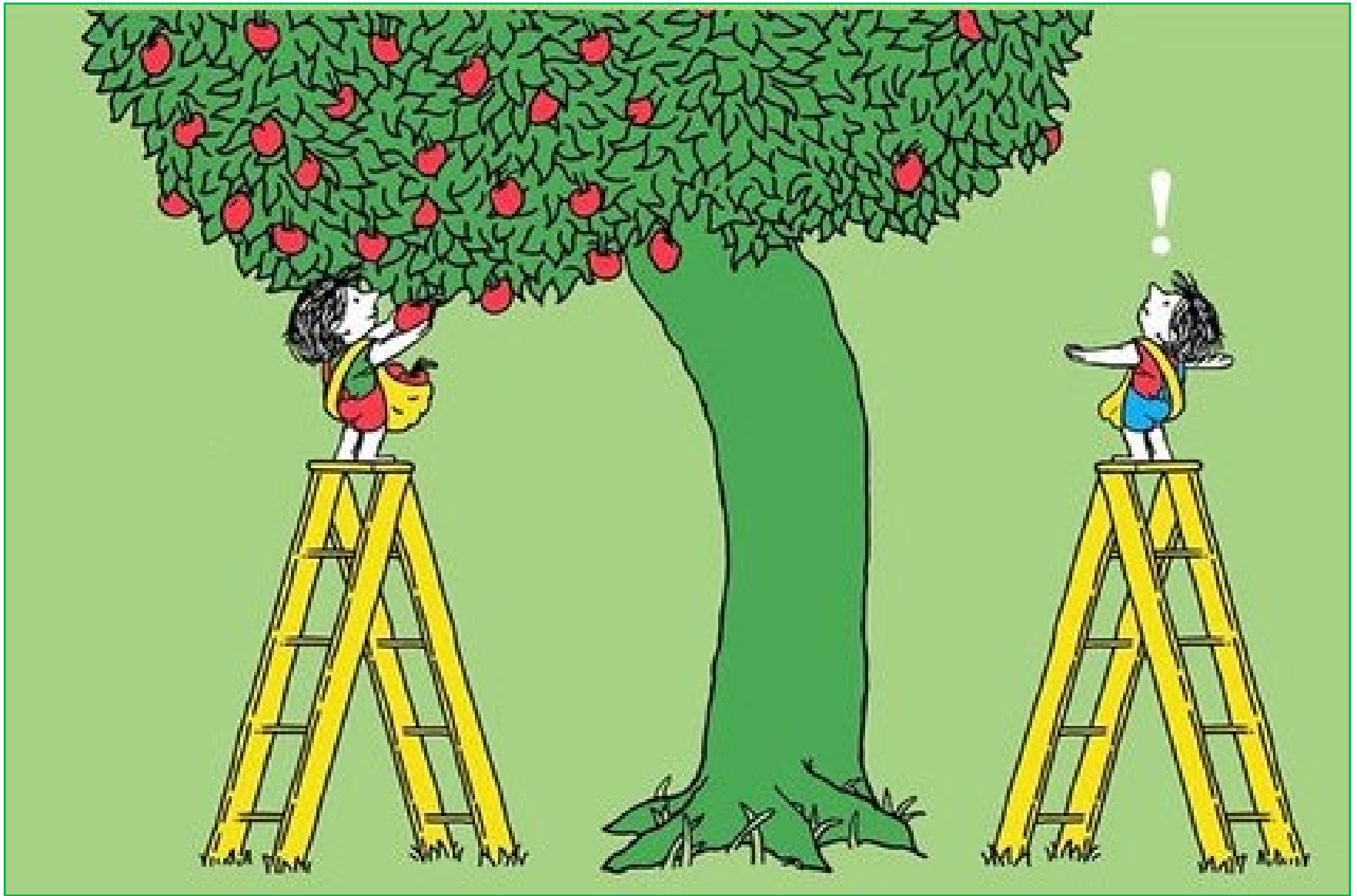
**But Green Building is
not a code**

Builders are “clients”

**Austin citizens are
the clients**



Equity in Toxic Building Materials?



The Resource Management Commission should advise City Council to:

1) Prohibit all voluntary participants from using building materials made with specific chemicals;

OR

2) Create a new category for toxic materials, with progressively stricter prerequisites and requirements for each higher Star level.

This should start at the beginning of FY 2023.

The Austin Environmental Directory 2020-21



Green Children, p. 72

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