

Policy Planks APPROVED JAN 2020

Toxics cause cancer. Science is clear that toxic chemicals in our economy and environment are causing cancer and other health risks at an alarming rate. Our economy must be transformed to reduce and eliminate those risks across the life cycle of chemicals. Through our policy, community, and advocacy activities, the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFE Network) supports:

- **ADDRESSING HARMS IN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES.** We acknowledge that communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately harmed by exposure to toxic chemicals, and we actively support overburdened communities in their pursuit of an environment that is free of toxic chemical exposures.
- **ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF CUMULATIVE EXPOSURE**. Chemical assessments should take into account the negative health impacts of cumulative exposure to multiple toxic chemicals and non-chemical stressors over time. We support research and policy that acknowledges the effect of cumulative exposure to toxics and regulates chemicals accordingly.
- **AFFIRMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES**. We support the work of environmental health scientists and defend epidemiology, occupational health, and environmental health sciences against industry attacks. Ultimately, we work toward policies to prevent harm from toxic chemicals.
- REDUCING HARM CAUSED BY CHEMICALS AND ULTIMATELY ERADICATING
 TOXIC CHEMICALS. We advocate for more efficient assessment and regulation of
 toxic chemicals, incorporating community-based research. Chemicals should be
 assessed according to their potential health impacts at any hazard level or exposure
 quantity, and regulated and assessed by class. Pursuing less dangerous alternatives
 should always be considered. Ultimately, we support the eradication of toxic
 chemicals.
- (5) INNOVATING TO FIND SAFE ALTERNATIVES. Every effort should be made to develop safe, sustainable alternatives to toxic chemicals. We support research and innovation to find non-toxic alternatives to the dangerous toxic chemicals that are currently in use.



- (6) INTEGRATING CANCER RESEARCH. PRACTICE AND POLICY. We are committed to integrating the issue of environmental carcinogens into existing cancer research, practice and policy. We acknowledge the importance of existing efforts to eradicate cancer, and we work with cancer-focused constituencies to bring needed attention and action to the impacts of environmental exposures.
- ADVOCATING FOR PROTECTIVE LAWS. We campaign to pass and enforce local, state, and federal laws that regulate toxic substances. We specifically support laws that protect vulnerable populations, and we call for the effective implementation and equal enforcement of protections against toxic substances.
- **8 ENFORCING CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY**. The cost of negative externalities of the life cycle of chemicals—including the production, use, storage, and remediation of hazardous chemicals—should be borne by the companies that produce, use, and store such chemicals instead of communities.
- SUPPORTING TRANSPARENCY. We advocate for full transparency about chemicals used in commerce and their health impacts. We affirm the right of workers and the public to knowledge of the identity of chemicals to which they are exposed and information about associated health risks. We demand that chemical and chemical byproduct manufacturers and distributors accurately and thoroughly disclose product information, including potential impacts to human and environmental health.
- KEEPING FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND. The twin impacts of the petrochemical life cycle--both climate disruption and human cancers—are best addressed by keeping fossil fuels in the ground. Extraction and transportation of oil and gas, as well as the manufacturing made possible by oil and gas, in particular plastics and pesticides, has disproportionate impacts on workers and environmental justice communities. We support transitioning to a non-fossil fuel based economy.
- ENABLING A JUST ECONOMIC TRANSITION. We believe the transition from an economy built on cancer-causing chemicals to safer ways of producing goods and services should be just. This entails ensuring meaningful involvement of affected workers and local communities when crafting and implementing equitable, sustainable solutions.
- STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND EQUITY IN POLITICS. We work to make politics in the United States more democratic and meaningfully inclusive in order to ensure that overburdened communities are able to advocate for their interests. This includes fighting voter suppression, pursuing campaign finance reform, and working to reverse rulings such as Citizens United that concentrate power and wealth in corporations.