



For Immediate Release

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Silent Spring Institute Lunchtime Research Update

Barnstable Town Manager John Klimm will host a public meeting to update citizens on Silent Spring Institute's recent studies of environmental links to health

- WHEN:** Wednesday, November 18, 2009
Presentation – 12:00-1:00 p.m. (*Lunch will be served*)
Q&A – 1:00-1:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Town of Barnstable, Town Hall - Second Floor Hearing Room
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601
- WHO:** Laurel Schaidler, Ph.D., and Robin Dodson, Sc.D.
Silent Spring Institute research staff

Pharmaceuticals and hormones in Cape Cod groundwater, ponds, and drinking water supplies

Silent Spring Institute reported last year on pharmaceuticals, excreted hormones, and endocrine disruptors (chemicals that affect hormones) in Cape Cod groundwater and ponds surrounded by residential development. A new study is underway to test for these and other wastewater contaminants in public drinking water wells. Nine water districts throughout Cape Cod have joined the study. Researchers will be collecting drinking water samples from approximately twenty wells to measure pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and hormones, as well as several herbicides, phosphate flame retardants and perfluorinated compounds (for example, from nonstick and stain-resistant surfaces). Several indicators of wastewater, such as nitrate, boron and caffeine, will also be measured. The goal is to understand the susceptibility of Cape Cod drinking water supplies to contamination by wastewater and evaluate the influence of factors such as land use in recharge areas. Cape Cod is not the only region grappling with water protection issues. Results of similar studies throughout the U.S. will be summarized to provide a broader context for this study.

Research-based tips for healthier homes

Silent Spring Institute research on household exposures on Cape Cod and in California shows that hormonal pollutants from everyday products -- such as plastics, pesticides, detergents, and personal care products -- are widespread in homes. Based on this research and to help answer the question, "What can we do?" Silent Spring Institute has developed suggestions for reducing exposures to endocrine disruptors in daily life, particularly at home. From improved ventilation to product selection and storage in the home, we will provide some practical research-based tips.