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When “Going Green” is not so Green

Organic food, hybrid cars, fluorescent lights, recycle/reuse—our society is bombarded with messages of going green everyday. Rising fuel costs and the depletion of fossil fuels have added pressure to solving energy dilemmas in an environmentally conscientious way. The pollution created from our existing energy consumption has caused an environment that is quickly becoming compromised. While making positive changes for the

Greensburg Kansas—Environmental Awareness in the Midst of a Disaster

When the little town of Greensburg Kansas was hit with a devastating tornado that leveled the entire town they decided to rebuild green. To read about Greensburg’s rebuilding efforts visit www.bigwell.org

future of our planet is generally a good thing, the process of moving forward needs to be a slow one and should take into account any problems with alternative technology. As an example, hybrid cars run on nickel-metal hydride batteries; an item that can cause extensive contamination without proper disposal and containment, particularly in mass quantities. That’s not to say that purchasing a hybrid is a bad thing but safe, adequate disposal of the by-products created needs to be available. It’s also prudent to keep in mind

that the term “green” does not have a universal definition. For example, several manufacturers use the term “green” in advertisements when they have decreased the use of energy in their manufacturing process; while that’s a step in the right direction that’s not to say that everything about a company’s manufacturing process is “green”. If you make the effort to purchase “green” make sure the manufacturer has made the effort to produce to your personal definition of “green”.

For stories on going green visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17950339/>



Effectively preserving our planet will take the effort and expertise of several disciplines.

The By-Products of a Flood

The recent floods of Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and the more distant flood of New Orleans brought an atmosphere of panic and survival to their respective locales. The immediate needs being evacuation, shelter, and safe drinking water. When the flood waters recede the extent of the damage begins to come into view. City officials evaluate homes, determining if they are structurally safe for reoccupation. Dwellings marked in red are deemed unsafe for living and are either abandoned or destroyed. Residences that remain structurally sound often require extensive remediation. Microscopic dangers can pose a great threat and can take repeat efforts to adequately remediate. Black mold (*Stachybotrys chartarum*), also known as toxic mold, is very difficult to get rid of and extremely toxic. Not all mold that is black is the dangerous *Stachybotrys*; it’s important to have any black mold tested to determine what type it is. Black mold can cause health problems including sore throat, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, dermatitis, mood changes, memory loss, immune dysfunction and intermittent hair loss. It also has a history of causing idiopathic pulmonary hemorrhage (bleeding lungs) in infants. Interestingly, one study found that 30%-40% of asthmatic/allergic patients’ homes were found to have black mold spores. Although black mold does not remain viable for long even the dead spores can cause extensive health problems. The only way to eradicate black mold is to remove all affected structural components.

For additional information on black mold visit <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/molds/index.html>

Analysis of the Month

Heavy Metals

For the month of July DataChem’s Salt Lake Lab is offering a discount on our Metals Analysis using NIOSH 7300. A panel of 27 elements for \$100, a single element for \$40 and additional elements for \$15.

Mold

For the month of July DataChem’s Salt Lake Lab is offering free media on mold analysis to all new clients. Analysis is \$25 for a standard three day turn. Media is limited to three canisters.

To take advantage of either offer simply refer to the newsletter in your analytical request. Discount is only available at our Salt Lake facility. For further details contact us at info@datachem.com. For a complete list of our Salt Lake laboratory services visit http://www.datachem.com/DataChem_2008_Test_Catalog.pdf

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