2026 Alaska State Legislative Update - HB 25 and other priority legislation

In an historic bipartisan move, Alaska lawmakers passed House Bill 25, taking the state's first major step to reduce polystyrene foam and microplastics pollution. The bill phases out the use of carcinogenic polystyrene ("Styrofoam") in disposable food ware such as restaurant take-out containers, with limited exemptions.

Sponsored by Representative Andy Josephson, the legislation responds to growing concerns about the environmental and health risks of polystyrene, which breaks down into microplastics and can leach harmful chemicals into food.

"This is a meaningful step forward for Alaska," said Pamela Miller, Executive Director of Alaska Community Action on Toxics. "It reflects a shared recognition that plastic pollution is both an environmental and public health issue we can address together."

The bill received broad support from communities, businesses, and organizations across the state and now heads to the governor's desk. If signed, it will take effect in January 2027.

Update on other legislation:

Drinking Water Standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): **House Bill 235 and Senate Bill 219** (sponsored by Representative Hall and Senator Kawasaki, respectively) would establish health-protective, enforceable drinking water standards in Alaska for PFAS. Although the House and Senate State Affairs Committees held hearings on these bills, HB 235 and SB 219 did not pass this

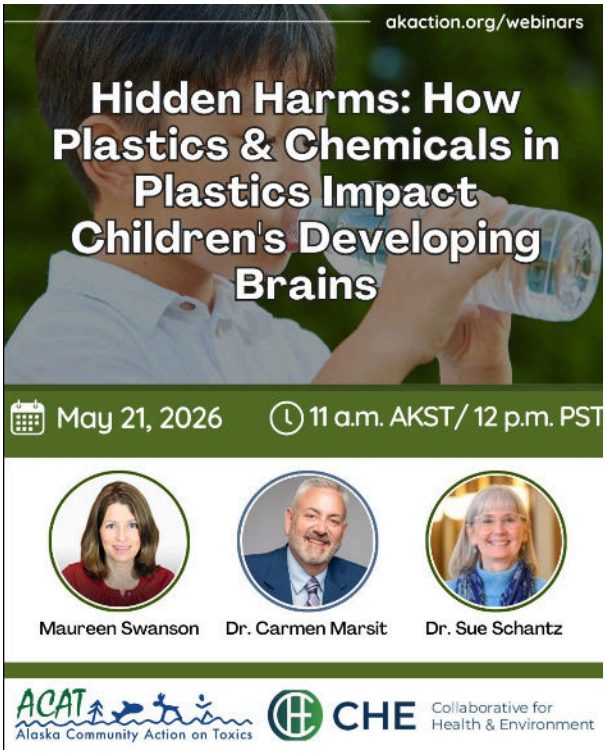
session. We will continue to educate policymakers and are committed to passing these bills in the 2027 legislative session.

Microplastics: **HB 332** (sponsored by Representative Genevieve Mina) would require the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to develop and implement a statewide plan to test Alaskan waters, soil, fish, wildlife, and other environmental media for microplastics. Microplastics are found in our foods, drinking water, wildlife and in the human body. In Alaska, microplastics are found in fish, seabirds, walrus, seals, and whales. Recent studies have found microplastics in placentas, brains, and testicles in people. Microplastics function as vehicles to transport harmful chemicals through the environment and into humans. Recent scientific evidence has raised concerns that they may affect fertility, neurodevelopment, and increase the risk of cancer. Many products contain intentionally added microplastics including personal care products, cleaning products, and certain paints. HB 332 was not heard in committee this session. We will work during the intersessional time and mobilize people to support this important legislation and additional legislation on chemicals and plastics. Please stay tuned and join our efforts to pass protective policies!

Hometown Heroes

We would like to uplift AlexAnna Salmon as our June Hometown Hero. She is the President of the Igiuggig Village Council, among many other roles, and a fierce advocate for sustainable lifeways and renewable energy in her home community. She recently co-led an inspiring discussion with the Alaska Outdoor Alliance about outdoors as regenerative commons. (Find it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZfpEFv3KsM&t=3s). We are thankful for her leadership and tenacity.

Last Month's CHE-Alaska Webinar



Last month, we were joined by Project TENDR scientists for an important conversation on how plastics and toxic chemicals can harm children's developing brains.

The webinar explored the growing body of research connecting exposure to harmful chemicals found in plastics with developmental and long-term health concerns, while highlighting actions communities and families can take to protect children's health.

Watch the webinar recording and learn more here:
[Hidden Harms: How Plastics & Chemicals in Plastics Affect the Developing Brains of Children]

Read peer-reviewed Project TENDR paper here: [Protecting the developing brains of children from plastics-derived chemicals and microplastic particles]

CHE-Alaska Upcoming Webinar

Register here

Join us June 17 at 10 a.m. AKST for a timely conversation with leading environmental and reproductive epidemiologist Dr. Shanna Swan and ACAT's Executive Director, Pamela Miller as we explore how endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and plastics are impacting reproductive health in Arctic communities already facing disproportionate exposure to persistent pollutants.

Building on the momentum of the national Collaborative on Health and Environment webinar, "Plastic, Chemicals & Infertility: What We Know Now," this discussion will connect the latest science to the rapidly changing realities in the Arctic — from shifting food systems to global pollution pathways intensified by climate change.

We'll also discuss findings highlighted in the documentary "The Plastic Detox" and the policy changes needed to

protect the health of individuals, families, and communities.

Event Details:
📅 June 17
🕙 10:00 AM AKDT
📍 Virtual: Register here

Fred Meyer Community Rewards

If you live in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon or Washington, you can now support ACAT every time you shop at Fred Meyer! When you use your Fred Meyer Rewards card, Fred Meyer will make a donation to ACAT based on a percentage of your annual spending. It's an easy way to make a small contribution to ACAT without any added cost to you. You'll still receive all your Fred Meyer discounts and rewards, just as you do now.

To participate, go to www.fredmeyer.com and sign in or create your online account. Enter your Reward cards number and then search for Alaska Community Action on Toxics or our nonprofit number "FR489." Be sure to click "save" to link your card to ACAT and use your card when you shop. If you don't have a Fred Meyer Rewards card, you can get one at any Fred Meyer store.

Thank you for all you do to support ACAT!

Upcoming Events

We will have an informational table at each of the events.

Please stop by to learn more about our work.

June 6 | Alaska Run for Women
Location: UAA
Time: 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We thank the Alaska Run for Women for their continued grant support of our breast cancer prevention work! On race day, you will find our table in the AKRFW grantee tent in the Cuddy Quad!

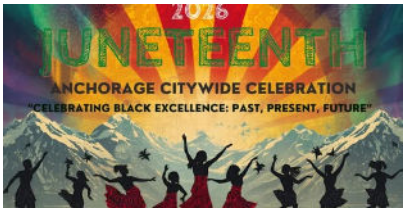
June 11 | Museum After Dark, 21+
Location: Anchorage Museum
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Join the Anchorage Museum for Museum After Dark: Refashioned, an evening celebrating fashion, creativity, and sustainability. Explore upcycled wearable art, games, and activities in a lively after-hours museum setting.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics will be there with a refashioned outfit and an informational table. Stop by and say hello.

June 17 | CHE-Alaska
Location: Virtual - Register here
Time: 10 a.m. AKDT

CHE-Alaska is part of CHE's broader network, which is an international partnership of almost 5,000 individuals and organizations in 87 countries and all 50 US states that are committed to addressing environmental impacts on human health across the lifespan.



June 20 | Juneteenth
Location: Delaney Park strip
Time: 12 p.m. start

Join a communitywide celebration with guest speakers, entertainment, education, and many ways to learn our history. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

June 27 | PRIDE
Location: Delaney Park Strip
Time: 11:30 a.m. start

Join us in downtown Anchorage to celebrate love, acceptance, and unity within the LGBTQ+ community. This festival and parade honors our resilience and diversity, reflecting on progress made and the journey ahead toward an inclusive society.

ACAT's "Currant Affairs" calendar has up-to-date event details on ACAT's organic gardening program (Yarducopia) as well as those of other food and garden organizations. Find the calendar on ACAT's website by clicking here.

Want to **Volunteer with ACAT's community gardening program,** Yarducopia? Check out our future events here: Volunteer in the Gardens | ACAT

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ACAT
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

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