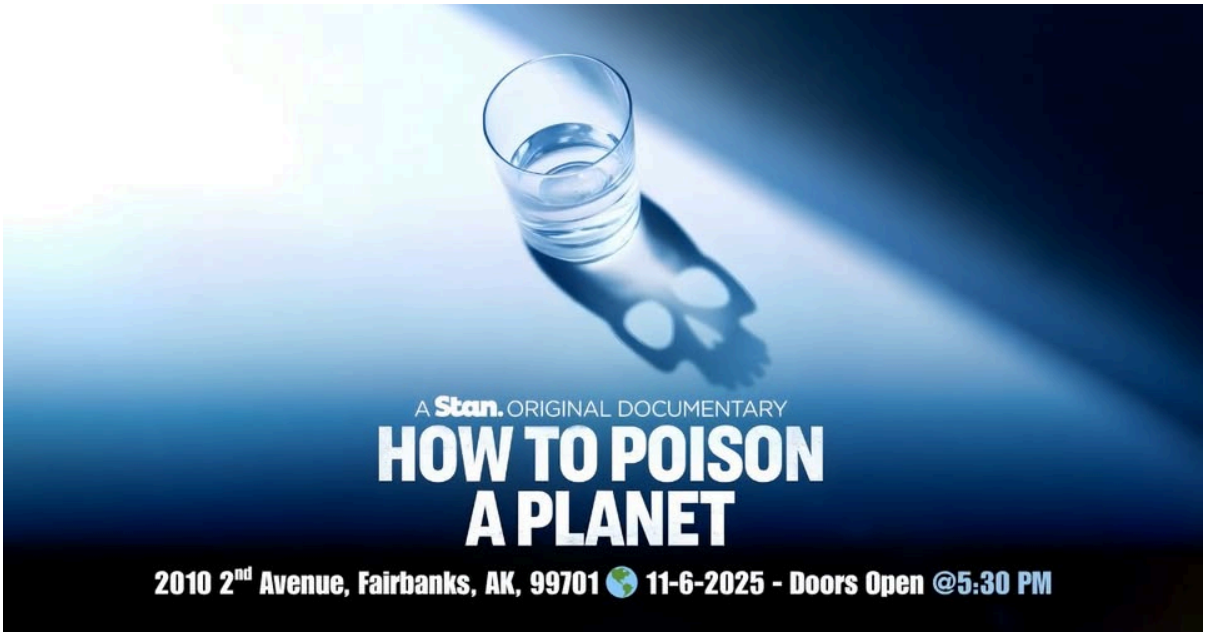
ACAT
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

November Newsletter



📽️ **Join Us TODAY for a Free Film Screening and Community Discussion in Fairbanks!**

Film: *Revealed: How to Poison a Planet*
Date: Thursday, November 6
Time: Doors open at 5:30 p.m. | Film begins at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Carlson Center – Prow Hall, 2010 2nd Ave, Fairbanks

Alaska Community Action on Toxics invites you to an evening of learning, conversation, and community. *Revealed: How to Poison a Planet* exposes the global PFAS “forever chemicals” crisis and explores its far-reaching impacts on our health and environment.

Following the screening, stay for a **panel discussion** featuring local and national experts, and enjoy **light refreshments** as we discuss how to take action to protect clean water and safeguard our communities.

💧 Together, we can protect our water, our health, and our future.

Film Trailer

Stockholm Convention Updates

Overview

The Stockholm Convention is the only global, legally binding treaty to eliminate the world's most dangerous chemicals known as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). ACAT played a key role in recent global bans of high-production chemicals that disproportionately harm Arctic Indigenous Peoples. These include medium chain chlorinated paraffins (additives to plastics), long chain perfluorocarboxylic acids ("forever chemicals"), and chlorpyrifos (pesticide). From April 28 to May 9, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) participated in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Pollutants Conference of the Parties (COP) in Geneva, Switzerland. The Arctic acts as a hemispheric sink for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) transported from lower latitudes. In a recorded presentation, ACAT's Executive Director, Pamela Miller and ACAT Water Quality and Community Health Protection Coordinator, Jasmine Jemewouk (Monroe) highlight how Indigenous Peoples in the circumpolar North face disproportionate exposures to toxic chemicals. The Stockholm Convention recognizes that Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous Peoples are particularly vulnerable to harm from these substances. The COP agreed to add the toxic pesticide **chlorpyrifos** and the group of **long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids** (LC-PFCAs), a large subclass of more than 200 PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), to the Convention's list of globally banned substances. It also listed **medium-chain chlorinated paraffins** (MCCPs) for global elimination. MCCPs are a large group of high production volume industrial chemicals commonly used in metal working fluids and in plastics, including in toys, flooring, kitchenware, and other products. The continued use of MCCPs is especially concerning for the Arctic, which already shows elevated concentrations of these toxic chemicals. MCCPs pollute the global environment, contaminate breast milk of women throughout the world, and pose dire health threats.

From September 29-October 3, ACAT Executive Director and Senior Scientist, Pamela Miller participated in the expert committee meeting of the Stockholm Convention, the POPs Review Committee (POPRC), along with colleagues from the International Pollutants Elimination Network.

The Committee is charged with evaluating threats from toxic chemicals, and at this meeting to decide whether brominated dioxins and furans (PBDD/Fs and PBCDD/Fs) meet the criteria as POPs that should be globally eliminated. While strong scientific evidence over decades shows that these chemicals pose similar threats as other chemicals that have been globally banned, the committee failed to come to agreement, leaving people and the environment globally at risk.

Studies on children's toys made from recycled plastics have found concentrations of brominated dioxins and furan that are similar to concentrations that would be found in hazardous wastes. They have also been found in eggs from 26 countries.

While most members of the POPRC agreed that there is sufficient scientific evidence to meet the criteria in the convention for global controls, a few individuals blocked progress, insisting that more data is needed. As a result, global action to control these substances will be delayed beyond the next Stockholm Convention meeting in 2027

The committee also looked at follow-up work on how to improve transparency and traceability of POPs, as well as monitoring of new POPs. IPEN Co-chair Pam Miller noted: "We appreciated the work of the Committee to advance work on POPs in stockpiles, articles in use, and waste. The work to improve Annex F information for risk management evaluations is also important and we strongly encourage a special focus on increased transparency and transmission of information to ensure health and environmental protection for workers and communities in countries where these products and wastes will end up. We also look forward to the closer coordination between the POPs Review Committee and the Global Coordination Group on the Global Monitoring Plan."

We will continue to work for the inclusion of brominated dioxins and furans and other POPs chemicals through the work of the Committee.

Resources:

Chemical Review Panel Delays Action on Highly Toxic Substances, Threatening Health and the Environment Globally | IPEN

CHE Highlights

Watch October recording

Register for November

October CHE Recap: On October 28, ACAT hosted a powerful conversation on breast cancer prevention, toxic chemicals, and the connection between Alaska Native language revitalization and community health.

Speakers included Rosalie Lincoln, Jasmine Jemewouk, and Dr. Samarys Seguinot Medina. You can now watch the full webinar on our website and YouTube to learn how culture, language, and environmental justice intersect in the fight against breast cancer. ❤️ '

November CHE: On November 25 at 10 a.m., ACAT will be presenting our next webinar on "Invisible Threats: Chemical Exposures, Climate Change, and Mental Health."

Announcements

Congratulations to Deilah Johnson

From Vi Waghiyi, Sivuqaq Yupik grandmother, Native Village of Savoonga, Environmental Health and Justice Director at Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) and past recipient of the Caleb Pungowiyi Award:

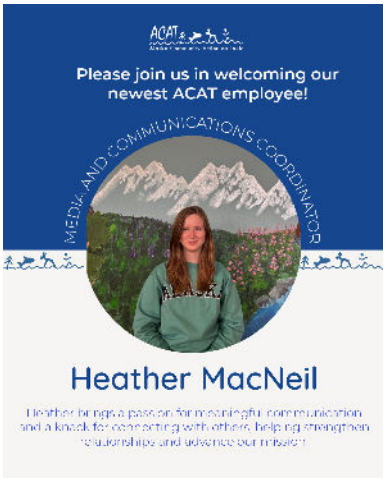
"It is a special honor to celebrate Deilah Johnson as this year's recipient of the Caleb Pungowiyi Award for Outstanding Achievements by an Alaska Native Organization or Individual. Having received this award myself, I know how deeply meaningful it is to carry forward Caleb's legacy of advocacy, leadership, and love for our people and the land. Deilah's tireless work embodies these values and inspires us all."

As a tribal member of the Native Village of Solomon, Deilah has dedicated her life to protecting her people's homelands, waters, and way of life. Since 2012, she has managed the tribe's Environmental Department, led opposition and awareness efforts around mining in the estuary, partnered with agencies on habitat studies, renewable energy, and water quality monitoring, and ensured the voices of Solomon and the Bering Strait region are heard at the highest levels — including traveling to Washington,

D.C., and leading formal consultations.

She also cultivates the next generation of leaders through the annual Youth & Elder Camp in Solomon, instilling in youth the importance of land, culture, and stewardship.

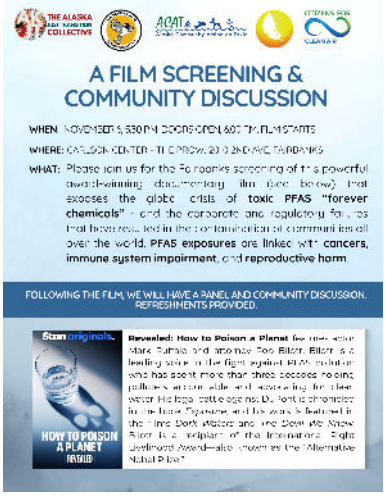
We at ACAT are proud to stand with Vi in honoring Deilah's extraordinary leadership and vision. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved recognition!



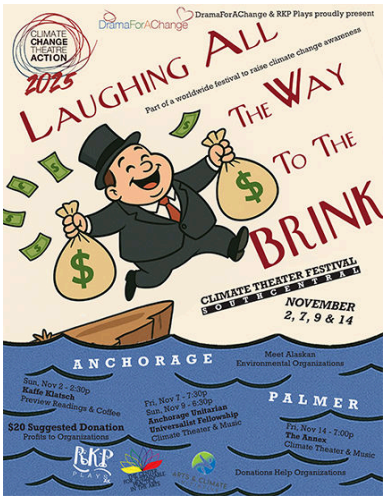
Please join us in welcoming our new Media and Communications Coordinator, Heather MacNeil!

Heather brings a wealth of experience in journalism and communications, having supported research and production efforts for outlets such as ABC News and The Washington Post. She shares ACAT's vision of a toxic-free, climate-stable future for Alaska and the world and is eager to engage with our community through compelling storytelling and strategic outreach. In her free time, Heather has been working on rehabilitating a feral dog, loves to go for walks, and spend time with friends.

Upcoming Events



TODAY, November 6 – Join us in Fairbanks at 5:30 p.m. at Prow Hall for a Film Screening and Community Discussion on PFAS exposures linked with cancer, immune system impairment and reproductive harm.



November 7 and 9 – Join Climate Change Theatre Action for "Laughing All the Way to the Brink,", a series of short plays on climate change, with proceeds supporting Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT). ACAT staff will be at both events to make short presentations about our work.

November 19 – Join us for our next Plastic Free 907 meeting at 6 p.m. at Alaska Community Action on Toxics office – 1225 E. International Airport Road, Suite #220, 99518.

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