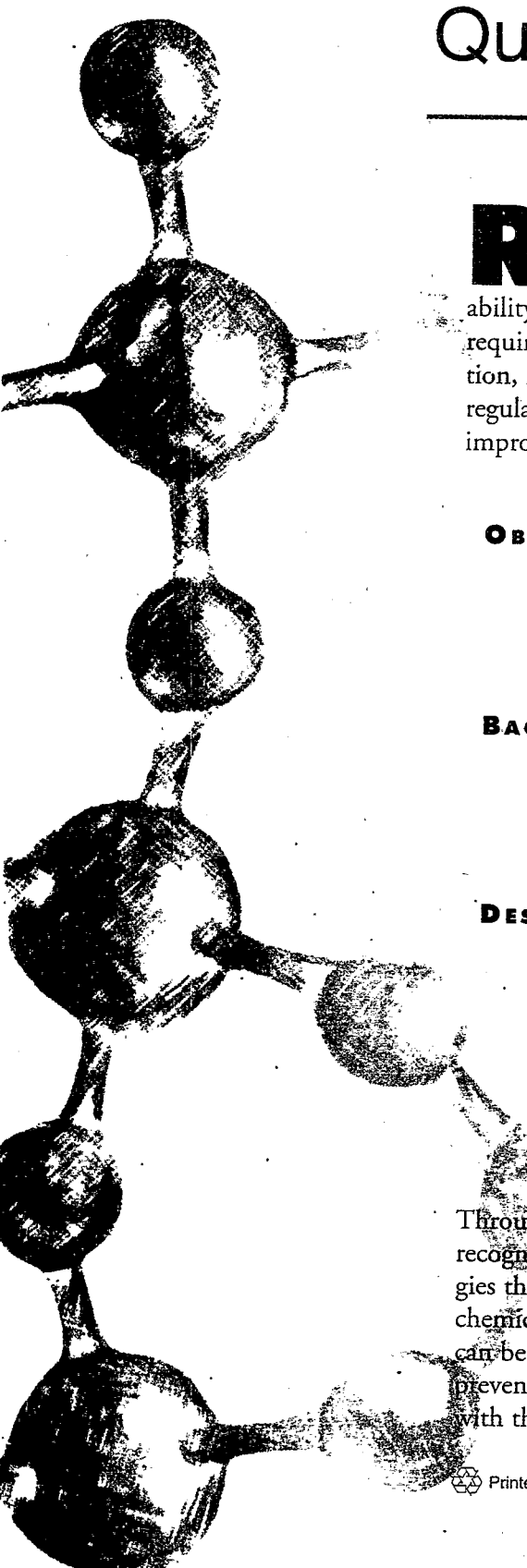




The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

A large, stylized illustration of a molecular structure, possibly a polymer chain, running vertically down the left side of the page. It consists of several large, dark, spherical atoms connected by lines, with smaller spheres branching off at various points.

Reinvention at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a new way of carrying out our mission. Reinvention at EPA is using common sense to focus on environmental results, providing flexibility with accountability, encouraging innovation, assisting citizens to comply with environmental requirements, and sharing decision-making with all stakeholders. Through reinvention, EPA is changing the way that it does business to make environmental regulation work better so that all Americans can enjoy continued environmental improvement that is less burdensome and less costly.

OBJECTIVE:

The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge seeks to promote pollution prevention and industrial ecology through a new EPA Design for the Environment partnership with the chemical industry.

BACKGROUND:

Design for the Environment Green Chemistry partnerships with the chemical industry can encourage changes that both promote economic development and benefit industry by helping find cost-effective ways to prevent pollution.

DESCRIPTION:

The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge was announced by President Clinton on March 16, 1995, as a voluntary partnership program charged with facilitating this goal. More specifically, the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge was established to recognize and promote fundamental and innovative green chemical technologies, i.e., chemical methods that accomplish pollution prevention and that have broad application in industry.

Through awards and grants programs, the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge recognizes and promotes fundamental and innovative technologies that incorporate the principles of green chemistry into chemical design, manufacture, and use, and that have been or can be utilized by industry in achieving their pollution prevention goals. The recognition and publicity associated with the awards program and the industrially and



economically viable chemical alternatives made available through the grants program can provide a strong incentive for broad industry cooperation in meeting the challenge to find cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to produce the materials that we depend on.

The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge operates through a broad consortium of partners including federal agencies, members of the chemical industry, trade associations, scientific organizations, and representatives from academia. EPA is working cooperatively with these partners to establish the program and provide technical assistance in designing safer chemicals and processes.

FIRST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge stakeholders workgroup was formed in June 1995.
- The scope and objectives of the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge were finalized in partnership with the program stakeholders in August 1995.
- The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards Program selection criteria and nomination procedure were finalized in partnership with the program stakeholders in October 1995.
- Nominations for the first Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards were solicited in November and December of 1995.
- Nominations received for the first Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards were judged by the American Chemical Society in February 1996.
- The first Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards were announced at a ceremony on July 11, 1996, at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC.
- Proposals for green chemistry grants were solicited in March and April of 1996 by the National Science Foundation and EPA's Office of Research and Development.
- Proposals received for green chemistry grants were reviewed by the National Science Foundation and EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics in July 1996.
- Green chemistry grants were awarded in August 1996.

Additional information on the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge program is available by calling EPA's Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 202 260-1023. Information is also available from Paul Anastas and Tracy Williamson of EPA's Industrial Chemistry Branch at 202 260-2659, and via the Internet at (<http://www.epa.gov/docs/gcc>).

