

## Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition Timeline and History

- 1976 - Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health (SCCOSH) founded by Amanda Hawes and colleagues
- 1981 - SCCOSH publishes *Unmasking the Hazards: A Workers Guide to Job Hazards in the Electronics Industry*, a 40-page booklet describing the semiconductor manufacturing process, an overview of the industry, and information on the hazardous chemicals used by this industry and their impact on human health; and *Toxic Substances Commonly Found in Electronics*, a guide developed for health professional that provides information on exposures, health effects and standards of the 79 most commonly used chemicals in the high-tech industry.
- 1982 - Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) founded, following the discovery of the Fairchild toxic spill in south San Jose
- 1983 - Hazardous Materials Model Ordinance and local Right-to-Know ordinance enacted in Silicon Valley
- 1984 - Leaking Underground Storage Tank bill passed in Sacramento
- 1985 - The Asia Monitor Resources Center (AMRC), a SVTC partner based in Hong Kong, publishes *Health Hazards in Electronics*, a handbook for union organizers, occupational health and safety trainers and activists.
- 1986 - US EPA lists 29 "Superfund" sites in Silicon Valley, in response to SVTC Campaign
- 1988 - SVTC publishes first Right-To-Know toxic release report in US, documenting the release of millions of pounds of high-tech toxic chemicals in Silicon Valley
- 1989 - Save the Ozone layer Earth Day rally at IBM in San Jose draws several thousand
- 1990 - Toxic Gas Model Ordinance passed throughout Silicon Valley
- 1990 - SVTC forms Campaign for Responsible Technology (CRT); later becomes International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT)
- 1992 - IBM and SIA publish reports documenting high rates of miscarriages in chip workers – SVTC and SCCOSH launch *Campaign to stop the miscarriage of justice*
- 1992 - CRT and allies persuade Congress to earmark 10% of SEMATECH budget for environmental R&D
- 1995 - CLEAN South Bay victory leads to establishment of Silicon Valley Pollution Prevention Center
- 1996 - SVTC launches its new web site at [www.svtc.org](http://www.svtc.org) – site wins Yahoo award
- 1997 – CRT and Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice publish "Sacred Waters: Lifeblood of mother Earth" documenting high tech water pollution in the Southwest

2000 - SVTC launches Computer TakeBack Campaign to promote extended producer responsibility in the US, modeled after European Union environmental protection laws

2002 - "Exporting Harm: The Techno-Trashing of Asia" published by SVTC and Basel Action Network to expose the harmful impacts of obsolete computers in poor countries

2002 - In conjunction with SVTC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we hosted the first "Global Symposium for a Sustainable High-tech Industry" bringing together labor and environmental activists, occupational health and safety organizations and other experts from around the world to discuss the increasing globalization of the electronics industry, its impact on workers and communities, and the growing legacy of hazardous electronics waste.

ca. 2005 – say something re. Apple campaign?

2006 – Following the Global Symposium, a dedicated group of experts and activists launched a collaboration that formed the foundation for the groundbreaking book: "Challenging the Chip: Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry" published by Temple University Press, edited by Ted Smith, David A. Sonnenfeld and David Pellow.

2006 - SVTC launched a series of health and safety trainings for workers and residents of high-tech manufacturing communities in India, China, Mexico and Taiwan.

2007 – University of California passes green electronics purchasing guidelines. SVTC's Toxic Free UC Campaign experienced its first major victory when the 10-campus University of California system became the first public university to adopt our purchasing guidelines, which includes responsible recycling and a ban on the export of discarded high-tech equipment.

Future –

SVTC, in collaboration with Amanda Hawes, The Asia Monitor Resources Center (AMRC) in Hong Kong, other experts and workers in electronics production and recycling will update and expand the resources available on chemical hazards in the electronics industry. These resources will identify chemical hazards faced by workers in the production of component parts for high-tech products as well as the chemical exposures to workers in electronics recycling. Modular sections will be developed for different target audiences and their needs - including, workers, community and labor organizers, health professionals and trainers - and will be available in print and on the Web, and translated into appropriate languages.

Organizations in Mexico, India, Taiwan and Hong Kong have expressed strong interest in collaborative research and campaigning; and resource and knowledge sharing. Health and safety trainings for workers and residents of high-tech manufacturing communities are planned for Mexico in the fall of 2007. It will provide skills and materials for local trainers to lead their own trainings.

SVTC is also in discussion with Dara O'Rourke at the University of California Berkeley, Consumer Information Lab who is utilizing his research into the chemical hazards in electronics production and

recycling as the foundation for a new database on the environmental, social and health effects of electronic products and information on high-tech manufacturers. SVTC will work to develop a methodology to translate qualitative stories of worker and community conditions into quantitative data for use by the Lab.

SVTC is currently planning to host the second "Global Symposium for a Sustainable High-Tech Industry" in the spring of 2008, in San Jose, California. The symposium will bring together allied partners to formalize governance and the decision-making process for the International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT). In addition, this group will examine a range of topics including: the best ways to support and facilitate north-south collaboration, support local base-building, identify research needs and the development of strategic campaigns.

Building on SVTC's successful Toxic Free UC Campaign, SVTC is creating a toolkit for students to educate and train others and develop nationwide student leadership for campaigns that promote responsible recycling, safe working conditions in electronics production and recycling, and the elimination of hazardous chemicals in high-tech production.