



Investment firm advises companies to move away from Bisphenol A

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Many packaged food companies and US retailers have taken action to substitute the endocrine disrupting chemical Bisphenol A (BPA) during the last year, according to a new investor report. This in response to increased consumer awareness of the health concerns associated with using BPA in the lining of food cans, as well as several national and regional initiatives to limit human exposure to BPA.

Investment firm Green Century and advocacy group **As You Sow** encourage businesses to transition away from BPA to reduce financial risk "as the gap grows between industry leaders and laggards."

Their new report, Seeking Safer Packaging 2010, is an update of a report first published in 2009, and ranks food and beverage companies on their efforts to address BPA in their product packaging. The number of companies analyzed has expanded to include major U.S. retail companies that sell private-label canned products.

In 2009, only 7 percent of the companies covered in the report had established internal timelines to phase out BPA from packaging. In 2010 that number has increased to 32 percent.

"Companies are actually moving faster than regulators in phasing out BPA from food and beverage packaging", explained Emily Stone of Green Century Capital Management.

The report grades the performance of 26 major food and beverage firms from A to F.

"The commitment from innovative companies to eliminate BPA from their cans sends a strong message that it is possible for the sector to transition away from using this dangerous chemical in packaging", says Amy Galland, Research Director at **As You Sow**. "From the investor perspective, this is an important shift that is necessary to reduce chemical-related risks for these companies and help protect our assets".

Hain Celestial, ConAgra and H.J. Heinz are the highest-scoring companies in the report. Each of these companies has started using BPA-free can linings for certain products, is committed to removing the chemical from all of its packaging products, and has a timeline to achieve this transition.