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## **Chemical Threat Persists in Food and Beverage Packaging**

### **Investors Grade Food and Beverage Companies on Efforts to Prevent Bisphenol A Contamination**

SAN FRANCISCO / BOSTON – Fourteen of the largest public packaged food and beverage companies still use the controversial chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in their packaging despite studies linking the synthetic sex hormone to developmental problems, heart disease and diabetes, according to *Seeking Safer Packaging*  [<http://asyousow.org/health\\_safety/bpa-scorecard-2009.shtml>](http://asyousow.org/health_safety/bpa-scorecard-2009.shtml) , a new report by investors **Green Century Capital Management** (“**Green Century**”) and **As You Sow**.

BPA is used in can linings and some hard clear plastic containers. The chemical is known to leach from packaging into food and beverages. In March, rising consumer concern about BPA led the six largest baby bottle manufacturers to announce that they would phase out BPA from all bottles sold in the U.S.

“Given the number of studies linking BPA to serious diseases and developmental disorders, its continued use poses unnecessary risks for companies in the packaged food industry,” states Amy Galland, who helped write the report as Research Director of As You Sow.

For the report, *Seeking Safer Packaging*  [<http://asyousow.org/health\\_safety/bpa-scorecard-2009.shtml>](http://asyousow.org/health_safety/bpa-scorecard-2009.shtml), investors asked 20 publicly-traded companies what actions they are taking to respond to concerns regarding BPA. Green Century, an environmentally responsible investment advisory firm and manager of the Green Century Funds, initiated outreach to companies in November 2008. Of the fourteen companies that responded, the report found that all but four had failed to develop safer alternatives, and only one company had begun using a substitute.

*Seeking Safer Packaging* awarded top scores to **Hain Celestial**, **Heinz**, and **Nestlé**. These

companies were leaders because they research and test alternatives to BPA and because they plan to phase out the chemical in some products. According to the report, Heinz is the only respondent already using a substitute to BPA in some of its can linings.

The other companies contacted were **Campbell Soup, Coca-Cola, ConAgra, Chiquita, Dean Foods, Del Monte, General Mills, Hershey, Hormel, J.M. Smucker, Kellogg, Kraft, McCormick, PepsiCo, Sara Lee, Sysco, and Unilever.**

According to Green Century and As You Sow, companies that continue to use BPA in food and beverage packaging face competitive, reputational, and potential market exclusion risks.

“Green Century is very concerned about the lack of urgency with which the packaged food industry is addressing BPA,” states Larisa Ruoff, Director of Shareholder Advocacy for Green Century. “Alternatives to BPA exist for many products. We believe companies should implement all feasible alternatives and increase investments into substitute can linings for all products, including highly-acidic foods.”

#### **As You Sow**

As You Sow is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting corporate accountability, social justice, and environmental protection. The Corporate Social Responsibility Program is one of the nation’s leading proponents of shareholder advocacy. As You Sow is based in San Francisco, California. For more information about As You Sow, visit <http://www.asyousow.org>.

#### **Green Century**

**Green Century Capital Management** is an investment advisory firm focused on environmentally responsible investing. Founded by a partnership of non-profit environmental advocacy organizations in 1991, Green Century’s mission is to provide people who care about a clean, healthy planet the opportunity to use the clout of their investment dollars to encourage environmentally responsible corporate behavior. Green Century believes that shareholder advocacy is a critical component of responsible investing and actively advocates for greater corporate environmental accountability. For more information about Green Century, visit <http://www.greencentury.com>

You should consider the Green Century Funds' investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus that contains this and other information about the Funds, call 1-800-93-GREEN, visit [www.greencentury.com](http://www.greencentury.com) or email [info@greencentury.com](mailto:info@greencentury.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. Distributed by UMB Distribution Services, LLC 4/09

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