

## PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-made chemicals used in various industrial and consumer products, including firefighting foams, non-stick cookware, food packaging, and water-resistant fabrics. These chemicals are persistent in the environment and can accumulate in human bodies, posing a significant risk to public health.

Scientists are still learning about the health effects of different PFAS on the body. High levels of PFAS in the human body are tied to increased cholesterol levels, decreases in how well the body responds to vaccines, increases in the risk of thyroid disease, reduced fertility in women, increased risks of high blood pressure, and lower infant birth weights. In Wisconsin, PFAS contamination has been found in many locations, and it is critical to advocate for policies that address this issue effectively.

### Policy Proposals:

1. **Supporting Municipal Grant Funding to Address Known Contamination:** The Governor's budget proposal includes funding for municipal grants to address known contamination. Advocates should urge the legislature to support this proposal and ensure that the funding is adequate to address the scope of the problem.
2. **Supporting Testing Resources and Science Capacity at DNR:** The Governor's proposal also includes funding to increase testing resources and science capacity at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist impacted communities. Advocates should urge the legislature to support this proposal, as it is critical to have accurate data and analysis to understand the scope of the problem and develop practical solutions.
3. **Removing PFAS from Food Packaging:** Advocates should urge the state to phase out PFAS use in food packaging when alternative products exist. Consumption of PFAS-contaminated food is a significant source of PFAS exposure, and the manufacturing of food packaging with PFAS compounds can contaminate water resources. PFAS compounds can enter our food either through contaminated water or soil where the food is grown or from the food packaging.
4. **Providing Resources and Support for Private Well Owners Impacted by PFAS Contamination:** Advocates should urge the state to provide resources and support for private well owners impacted by PFAS Contamination. This could be done through the state's well compensation program, which could help provide clean drinking water through filters, new wells, or connecting to municipal systems.

**Conclusion:** PFAS contamination is a significant public health issue requiring policymakers' immediate attention. We urge the legislature to support policies that address this issue effectively, including supporting municipal grant funding, increasing testing resources and science capacity at DNR, removing PFAS from products like food packaging, and providing resources and support for private well owners impacted by contamination. We can ensure that all Wisconsinites can access clean, safe drinking water.

### Resources from the Department of Natural Resources

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS) [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Impacts](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Impacts)



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