

US shareholders question companies on use of BPA

Dentsply International, Yum! and Coca Cola asked to disclose use of endocrine disrupter and action on finding alternatives

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US firms will be questioned on their policies on the use of bisphenol A (BPA) through shareholder resolutions that are currently being filed, according to an annual preview of social and environmental shareholder proposals compiled by advocacy group **As You Sow**.

Its Proxy Preview 2011 - the sixth year the compilation has been published - notes that resolutions are proposed for Dentsply International questioning its use of BPA in dental sealants and for Yum! Brands on its use of BPA in cash register receipts.

The Yum! proposal was made by **As You Sow** itself calling on the company to "adopt principles for chemical policy reform, supporting public policies that protect retailers by ensuring that manufacturers: 1) Know and disclose product chemistry, 2) Assess and avoid hazards, and 3) Commit to continuous improvement." The principles are propounded by the multi-stakeholder group, the Business-NGO Working Group ([CW 29 October 2008](http://chemicalwatch.com/1268) (http://chemicalwatch.com/1268)).

Another resolution has been proposed for resubmission to Coca Cola after it received 21.9% investor support last year. It calls on the company to update investors on "how it is responding to the public policy challenges associated with BPA, including summarising what the company is doing to maintain its position of leadership and public trust on this issue, the company's role in adopting or encouraging development of alternatives to BPA in can linings, and any material risks to the company's market share or reputation in staying the course with continued use of BPA."

As You Sow reports a record-breaking year in 2010 when "nearly one-fifth of all investors supported calls for more disclosure and action on social environmental at US companies" adding that "the stage is set for more of the same in spring 2011".

[Proxy Preview 2011](#)