



For Immediate Release  
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## **Get the Lead Out - Lead Weights Clipped on Car Wheels Pollute Drinking Water and Harm Health**

Takoma Park, MD—Everyone knows that cars pollute the air and contribute to the climate crisis by burning fossil fuels. Driving less and choosing efficient vehicles such as hybrids are good ways to make a difference. But car tires and wheel weights are also cause for concern and can provide opportunities to green our fleets in new ways. To help vehicle managers stay ahead of the curve in meeting environmental goals, the Responsible Purchasing Network of the Center for a New American Dream has produced **The Responsible Purchasing Guide for Light-Duty Tires and Wheel Weights**.

“The average American car has 4.5 ounces of lead weights clipped to its wheels. We took the lead out of paint when we learned it was poisoning children. We removed it from gasoline when we realized airborne lead was a serious health hazard. So why do we still use it on car wheels? In America, every year nearly 6,000 tons of lead wheel weights go missing – much of which fall off our cars when we hit potholes or bump the curb, abrading into fine particles that end up in the air we breath and the water we drink.” says RPN Director, Chris O’Brien.

The Responsible Purchasing Guide for Light-Duty Tires and Wheel Weights provides an invaluable resource for developing a responsible tire policy; getting up to speed on tire and wheel weight options; understanding the leading standards and test procedures for tires; and developing bid and contract specifications. The Guide includes best practices addressing the procurement, use, and disposal of tires and wheel weights; over twenty sample policies from a variety of leading institutions; more than a dozen bid and contract documents for low rolling resistance (LRR) and retread tires and lead-free wheel weights; and detailed information on social and environmental concerns associated with the life-cycle of tires and wheel weights.

To launch the Responsible Purchasing Guide for Light-Duty Tires and Wheel Weights, RPN will host a **live webcast at 2pm EST on March 18<sup>th</sup>**. The webcast will feature experts on environmentally preferable tires and wheel weights and purchasers who have successfully implemented new policies. Register online at [www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org](http://www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org).

### **About The Responsible Purchasing Network**

The Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) is a national network of procurement-related professionals dedicated to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable purchasing. RPN is staffed and managed by the Center for a New American Dream, and advised by a Steering Committee of leading procurement stakeholders from government, industry, educational institutions, standards setting organizations, and related organizations. Learn more about RPN at [www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org](http://www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org).

### **About the Center for a New American Dream**

The Center for a New American Dream helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice. We work with individuals, institutions, communities, and businesses to conserve natural resources, counter the commercialization of our culture, and promote positive changes in the way goods are produced and consumed. Visit us at [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org).

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