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## Conversations

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Topic options

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## Submit your questions for REI's Annual Member Meeting on May 16, 2022

We hope you can join us for REI's Annual Member Meeting, held on Monday, May 16th, 2022 at 6pm PT. All co-op members are invited to [attend virtually](#). You'll hear the co-op's senior leaders and board members reflect on our 2021 financial results, Board of Directors election results, the recent Co-op Membership relaunch, and more.

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*At REI, we believe time outside is fundamental to a life well lived.*



**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

## Other boards in this category



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## 84 Replies

Sort: [Threaded](#)

Why did it take so long to shift toward free shipping for members (regardless of the \$50 threshold)?



**JoeH** CO-OP MEMBER  
Happy Camper

4 weeks ago



0

[Reply](#)

In response to [JoeH](#)



Why the sudden, abrupt shift to free shipping for members?

*Superusers do not speak on behalf of REI and may have received one or more gifts or other benefits from the co-op.*



[hikermor](#) CO-OP MEMBER  
Superuser

3 weeks ago



0

[Reply](#)

The biggest question that myself (as a REI member) – and more than 110,000 REI customers – have for REI CEO Eric Artz is:

**When will REI ban PFAS “forever chemicals” in the products it sells?**

PFAS in outdoor gear continues to be a growing concern. Over the last few months, REI members and customers have [signed](#) petitions and sent e-mails to REI CEO Eric Artz and the board demanding action on the PFAS crisis. Recent testing identified PFAS chemicals in popular [REI brand jackets](#), including chemicals banned for manufacture in the United States and European Union.

And just two weeks ago, NRDC, Fashion FWD, and U.S. PIRG Education Fund released a new [scorecard](#) ranking 30 top retail and outdoor apparel brands on their policies to address PFAS. While REI competitor Patagonia earned a ‘B,’ the highest grade of all the outdoor apparel brands surveyed, REI earned an ‘F.’ If other major outdoor brands like Patagonia and [Keen](#) can take action on PFAS, surely REI can too.

**So far, REI has not meaningfully responded to the growing calls for leadership on the PFAS public health crisis.** REI has taken [some small steps](#), but we expect them to meet or beat Patagonia’s commitment. REI recently released its 2021 annual impact report, which included no new initiatives to address the growing PFAS crisis. For a company with such a strong commitment to sustainability and the outdoors, it is surprising the co-op has yet to take sufficient action to address chemicals that have polluted drinking water and even [breast milk](#) and that are contributing to [climate change](#).

The company is [proud to say](#) that “REI is a different kind of company. As a co-op, we put purpose before profits and act in the long-term interests of our members and community.” It’s time the company put that purpose into action. Surely selling products that leave behind a toxic trail of [PFAS pollution](#) is not in the long-term interests of its members, communities, or the environment.

With great market power comes great responsibility. REI recently announced it brought in a whopping \$3.7 billion in revenue for 2021, an [increase of 36% compared to 2020](#) and a record for the company. REI has a responsibility to leverage that market power to drive PFAS out of the products it sells.


With REI’s member meeting coming up, REI must respond to the calls for action from its customers, members, and more than [100 local, state, and national environmental and public health groups](#) that are urging REI to lead the outdoor apparel industry away from PFAS.

**As a values-driven co-op, will REI heed the call for change at its upcoming member meeting?**



[schadeyacres](#) CO-OP MEMBER  
Happy Camper

2 weeks ago



33

[Reply](#)

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



Thanks Schadeyacres. I really care about PFAS too – there are lots of hot spots for PFAS pollution in



Thanks Schadeyacres, I really care about PFAS too...there are lots of hot spots for PFAS pollution in Massachusetts waters so this feels like a super local issue for us. Can we address the issue of phasing out of PFAS in REI products at the member meeting? Looking forward to this conversation!



**Cluppi** CO-OP MEMBER  
Steady Visitor

2 weeks ago



18

Reply

In response to **Cluppi**



Yes -- would love to hear more about REI plan on phasing out PFAS at the member meeting. We need to protect the places we all enjoy so much, and banning PFAS is such a clear, concrete step we can make towards our commitment to that protection. Thanks!



**BBMontana** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



13

Reply

In response to **Cluppi**



I completely agree to banning the use of PFAS. I cannot understand why anyone could not see this as urgent. It should be completely unacceptable for REI to continue the practice of PFAS in products. As a member, I urge REI to immediately ban the use.



**rgs** CO-OP MEMBER  
Happy Camper

a week ago



2

Reply

In response to **schadeyacres**



As a long-time REI member, I'm also very concerned about PFAS chemicals in REI's products and the negative impacts these harmful chemicals can have on human health and our environment throughout their lifecycle. PFAS are extremely difficult to clean up and dispose of once they are created and out in the world. For this reason, they should not be used in the first place. Will REI be announcing a new policy to restrict PFAS chemicals and how do you plan to ensure that there aren't regrettable substitutes or other problematic chemicals used in your products? Thanks, Sue (a concerned member in California).



**SLC** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



10

Reply

In response to **SLC**



I have been a member of REI for almost 30 years and I am also really concerned about how REI is going to address toxic PFAS chemicals in the products that it is selling. If REI really cares about the environment and the outdoors, it needs to get these toxic chemicals that never go away out of its stores.

Thanks,

Renee



**rensharp** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Monday



2

Reply

In response to **schadeyacres**

Yes. When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting.



**Thandile02** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



10

Reply

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**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

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## 84 Replies

Sort: Threaded

In response to [schadeyacres](#)

PFAS in outdoor gear is my #1 concern, and the reason that I stopped shopping at REI this year is that my multiple questions to REI staff about PFAS in products were met by confused looks and no follow up. I demand that REI (who I used to think was a leader in environmental causes) take action to stop ALL PFAS in outdoor gear. Many retailers have already taken action; why is REI so late to act on this? I'm still a member, but won't be for long if REI continues to dodge doing the right thing.



joshuabarclay CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



4

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



Seriously, when are those PFAS going to be banned?



sdudek2 CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



3

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



This is what I would like to hear about too! I would like hear REI make and stick to a plan to phase out PFAS in their products to protect the environment. As an outdoor recreation company, I would like to see REI be a leader in environmental protection and policy regarding their products and practices. I want to shop at REI and trust that the products I'm buying live up to environmentally responsible practices without having to do hours of research myself.



katie6 CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



3

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



I agree with all of the above. As a longtime REI member (decades!), I want to know when PFAS will be banned.



slove CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

Monday



0

Reply

In response to [slove](#)



Thank you for your agreement. It is time for all of us to take a stand on toxic chemicals, whether in clothing, food or the overall environment. Companies like REI can assist in leading the way by refusing to allow toxic chemicals in their clothing and refusing to have money invested in fossil fuels.



rgs CO-OP MEMBER  
Happy Camper

Monday



0

Reply



In response to [schadeyacres](#)



I agree this is a very high priority item for me as an REI member (for many, many, many years going back to the 1980s). PFAS chemicals are leaving an indelible and irreversible stamp on our planet and all of its inhabitants. Now that we know about the problem, it's well past time to act and remove these problematic "forever chemicals" from commerce. REI is in a position to be a leader and longtime members like me expect the company (our company!) to lead, not lag.

As a member-owned coop we are mighty. We don't have to shop at REI -- we choose to. Not just based on price, but also based on VALUE(s). If REI remains silent or noncommittal about PFAS ingredients in the products it sells then what does that say about REI's values (which are also, in the end, OUR values).

Nobody is saying this transition will be an easy one. But making a serious commitment now, places and important marker and an example all businesses should aspire to follow.

I look forward to seeing the CEO and Board's response on this. It's a great opportunity for REI to make a big difference and demonstrate to its members and customers and business colleagues and employees that it stands firmly on the side of environmental health.



[jscottnh](#) CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

Tuesday



2

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



I agree, as a member and customer, I would like to know REI's plans to get PFAS out of the products it sells.



[bwphilly](#) CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

Tuesday



0

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



I so agree. As a long time and proud REI member, I expect the co-op to be a leader not an apologist for PFAS.



[CharlotteBrody](#) CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

yesterday



1

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



I'm also super concerned about PFAS. I live in North Carolina and went to college on the coast where there are extremely high levels of PFAS in the Cape Fear River. I'd like to know what REI is going to do work towards removing these chemicals from the supply chain and thus forcing outdoor companies to re-think their usage of PFAS.



[ramsdelisa](#) CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

yesterday



0

Reply

[Reply](#)

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



I strongly support REI removing PFAS from all of its products. I have been a REI member since 1971 and I look to REI to model environmental sustainability.

Jaydee Hanson

policy Director Center for Food Safety



[JaydeeHanson](#) CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday

[Reply](#)

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**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

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## 84 Replies

Sort: [Threaded](#) ▾In response to [schadeyacres](#)

I agree with this - when will REI phase out ALL PFAS products, not just a select few. Be a leader in the industry, reflect your - OUR - values. Listen to your members. As a member for well over a decade, this is important to me, it's clearly important to a lot of other members judging by the comments just on this page and it's important to the general public. For us to be able to truly enjoy the outdoors and have the ability to pass on that love to future generations, we need to do everything in our power to ensure that the outdoors is still around, clean and healthy. This is one step to do that. Phase out ALL PFAS products.



**ColeenB** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



1

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



Absolutely this - how is REI responding to the PFAS pollution crisis?

Will you ban these chemicals in the products that you sell?

Our health depends upon it - looking forward to hearing REI's response.



**khughes** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



0

Reply

In response to [schadeyacres](#)



Yes would love to know. It's time for REI to get harmful PFAS chemicals out of the products you sell. When will REI take action on PFAS chemicals? What is REI's plan? There are proven sustainable products that create plastic like materials that can be used both functionally and affordably. Bamboo, hemp, etc. are great alternates. Whats your plan REI?



**kevsmall** CO-OP MEMBER  
Newcomer

6 hours ago



0

Reply



Currently the REI Credit Card is underwritten by US Bank, which funds pipelines and fossil fuel based projects. I hope that REI can find a better provider that is in line with trying to mitigate the climate emergency, and also more in line with preserving the planet and REI values. I would love to hear REI position on this choice and future plans to change.

Warm Regards, Joe

*Superusers do not speak on behalf of REI and may have received  
one or more gifts or other benefits from the co-op.*



**Joe** CO-OP MEMBER  
Superuser

2 weeks ago



13

Reply

In response to [Joe](#)



I second this! I hate using my US Bank REI credit card and am switching to my credit union card. REI should and can do better.





**Jhoudek** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



1

Reply

In response to **Jhoudek**



In total agreement. Its why I do not have a US Bank REI credit card. Hopefully REI will take responsibility and make changes.



**rgs** CO-OP MEMBER  
Happy Camper

Monday



1

Reply



REI talks about a future where used gear and rentals make up a majority of the co-op's business. I've been very impressed with the advances in used gear circularity (e.g. the trade-in program, making the garage sales permanent ongoing fixtures in stores, etc). Are there plans to advance the gear rental program, for example by creating a subscription allowing unlimited rentals, or enabling customers to rent from and return to different locations?

Thanks!



**DannyBoy** CO-OP MEMBER  
Happy Camper

2 weeks ago



2

Reply



Really concerned about PFAs and the build up of these chemicals in our environment -- what are REI's plans on to ban these chemicals in the products you sell and your commitment to protecting all the beautiful places we love to dearly!



**BBMontana** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



9

Reply



As a longtime REI member, I'm concerned by the company's continued reliance on dangerous PFAS that not only pose a threat to human health, but also persist in the environment. I'm not just a concerned member, but also a resident of the Pacific NW where I rely heavily on rain gear to keep me dry and comfy, yet these are the products that are often made with PFAS. The good news is some companies have found safer alternatives to make rain gear that's just as effective in my climate. Until REI stops using PFAS, I will have to be going elsewhere for my outdoor gear.



**rommwatt** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago

Casual visitor



8

Reply



Why hasn't REI yet made a commitment to ban forever chemicals (AKA PFAS) in the products you sell? I've been a REI member for years, but as a North Carolinian I'm disappointed REI hasn't done more on this issue. Almost 5 years ago, we learned that many North Carolinians had been over-exposed to PFAS through their drinking water. Since then we've learned a lot about how common the chemicals are and how damaging they are to our health. NC families cannot afford one more drop of PFAS - not in our water, not in our outdoor gear.



**StephanieSchweickert** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



10

Reply

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**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

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## 84 Replies

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Please address REI's plans for phasing out PFAS from the products it sells. Other outdoor apparel brands and companies are already doing this. REI's silence on this issue so far is surprising and disappointing. I want to know that the products I buy at REI are not polluting the environment or the communities where these products are made!



**melissabee** CO-OP MEMBER

a week ago



Casual Visitor



9

Reply



Hi,

Our family has had an REI membership since the mid 1980s. Although purchasing products at REI was sometimes more expensive than other sources, we preferred the coop because it is a coop and thought the values of the Coop aligned more with good environmental stewardship. Now I've learned about the problem of the toxic Per and polyfluor chemicals called PFAS in REI products. In California, I've read that the water systems serving over 19 million people have been tested and found contaminated with PFAS. Of course not all the PFAS come from REI-sold products, but still as a member, I want and expect REI to be leading on the phase out of these products that harm our beautiful environment and our health!

**What is REI going to do about no longer selling PFAS-laden products? Are you going to ban them not only from REI branded gear but also stop from selling other brands that use these chemicals?**



LisettevanVliet CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



9

Reply



I echo the questions raised by others about PFAS in the gear that REI sells. I've been an REI member for 2 decades and have bought many boots, rain jackets, backpacks and other outdoor gear from REI. Recently I've learned that it all probably contains PFAS chemicals that don't break down in the environment or my body, are linked to cancer and other illnesses, and have contaminated drinking water all across my home state of Massachusetts and the country, with devastating impacts on communities that have been the hardest hit. Please make a pledge and a plan to get PFAS out of your stores!



ElizabethS CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



7

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell?



Willeault CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



3

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? They pollute our environment and our bodies.



Isaatheshnae CO-OP MEMBER

a week ago





herheinousness CO-OP MEMBER

Frequent Visitor

a week ago



2

Reply



As a very long time coop member and a cancer survivor, I am asking you to drastically step up your commitment to ban forever chemicals like PFAS. We cannot afford to continue use of these types of products, they are killing us and making us (and all the other beautiful beings on this planet) sick. If we as a coop are really what we stand for in promoting environmental protections, we need you to take this issue seriously and act quickly and decisively on behalf of us all to stop these polluting behaviors.



MJA CO-OP MEMBER

Frequent Visitor

a week ago



3

Reply



PFAS and all forever chemicals should be banned. That's what REI should talk about.



AliciaSchultz CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

a week ago



2

Reply



I'd like to see REI find alternatives to PFAS chemicals in products, and to ensure that all products are either safe or recyclable, and clearly labeled with any risks. Does REI plan to make this happen?



Explorercat CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

a week ago



2

Reply



I am a longtime REI member and I encourage REI to take action on PFAS at the upcoming board meeting.

This member urges REI to address the PFAS issue directly in this meeting and urges a commitment in keeping with their commitment to **"put purpose before profits and act in the long-term interests of our members and community."**

The bottom line: PFAS has very serious environmental health impacts, contaminates our water, builds up in our bodies and in breast milk. REI is uniquely positioned to take on this issue, act in our long-term interest and join Patagonia in phasing out PFAS in outdoor gear.



herheinousness CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

a week ago



3

[Reply](#)

When is REI going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products it sells? We want to hear at the member meeting. Thank you.



**LordRe** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



2

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*At REI, we believe time outside is fundamental to a life well lived.*



**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

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## 84 Replies


Sort: [Threaded](#)

When will REI stop using PFAS chemicals in your products? It is well past time. These harmful chemicals have no place in our clothing and camp gear. Please address this important issue at the meeting.



**Harris**  
CO-OP MEMBER

a week ago

 Casual Visitor



3

Reply



As a Biochemist with considerable environmental background I urge you to move expeditiously to move away from PFAS treated materials and related products. If you do not already have an independent department to evaluate the health and environmental impact of the items you sell I encourage you to do so. Such actions will have a fiscal impact however, REI can be a leader in putting health and the environment we love first. **Please address how far down this path you are and what additional steps you intend to take.**



**jjones** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



3

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell?



**DianeP** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting.



**charles73** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply



I'd love to know when REI will ban PFAS chemicals in all products. Thank you!



**2mightyberts** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



1

Reply





Hi - When is REI going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? Please stop using them, to help protect people and the planet!



valeriemates CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



1

Reply



I am a longtime REI customer and was pretty shocked when I heard that REI has not responded to requests to stop selling products waterproofed with toxic PFAS chemicals. I would like to know when are you going to ban such chemicals in the products you sell. Please address this issue at the member meeting. Thank you so much.



lindas CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



2

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting. You are one of the last few large companies in the US that still uses PFAS, please make a change at your upcoming annual meeting.



brianklene CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting



Lexi\_18 CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply



When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting.



RimeOfMom CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago

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**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

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## 84 Replies

Sort: **Threaded**

When are you going to stop using PFAS chemicals in the products you sell?



**dustyskis** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply



It seems as though it is time for REI to address the PFAS issue. Based on information that I have received, this product can and does cause issues for environments when it is exposed to them by people wearing garments which have been treated with them. They may also be a potential risk to the wearer themselves. What does REI know about the potentially detrimental effects of these products, and what action do they plan to take to deal with these potentially problematic effects?



bthompson CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



1

Reply



I have been shopping at REI since I was a teenager. I was flabbergasted to see that REI got such a bad grade for failing to address the PFAS crisis. See <https://www.wral.com/report-finds-major-retail-apparel-brands-use-dangerous-chemicals-called-pfas/20...> and <https://www.nrdc.org/media/2022/220406>. I recently learned from a report from an environmental group that there are PFAS in my drinking water where I live. Obviously, I am wondering where that came from, but to learn that a company as great as REI is still using PFAS in its gear and refusing to commit to getting rid of these toxic forever chemicals is really disappointing.

I always thought that REI was ahead of other companies since we're a coop and our members care about the environment. I worry when I read about PFAS on Mount Everest and in every one of our bodies. How come other brands like Patagonia have been able to make the commitment to stop using PFAS and our coop has not? It makes me wonder why I keep shopping at REI. Please commit now to stopping the use of these toxic forever chemicals. Thank you!



erikdavidolson CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



1

Reply



Why hasn't REI removed PFAs from it's products? For a company that prides itself on empowering people to be outside, it's shameful that you continue to use chemicals that have been proven to be toxic and are impossible to clean up.

It's past time for REI to be a leader in eliminating PFAS from all products manufactured and/or sold.

I have been a member since 1986, and this is the first time I've been embarrassed to be a member. I cannot in good conscience continue to be a member as long as you continue to sell products with these toxic "forever chemicals". The hypocrisy for me to do so, when I am actively working to pass legislation that eliminates PFAS from products produced and sold in my state (MN) is too much for me to bear.



clarkbe CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply

▼

I'd like to know how your company plans to respond to the PFAS pollution crisis? Do you have a plan in place to ban these dangerous chemicals from the products you sell?

I am a resident of North Carolina and have been a member for several years. As a North Carolinian, particularly one who has lived in the Wilmington area, I am concerned about exposure to PFAS through the products you sell and promote at REI. With already high levels of exposure in the state--like in drinking water--North Carolinians are particularly susceptible to the negative health affects of PFAS and cannot afford anymore exposure through clothing or outdoor gear.

The health and safety of myself, as a member, and the countless others who buy products from your stores should be the utmost priority of REI. PFAS have no place in our products, no place in our water, no place in our bodies.



**concernedcitizen2** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



Reply

▼

When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting.



**burkecz** CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



Reply

▼

It's beyond time to step up and ban the use of PFAS chemicals in anything we use here on our dear planet. Do the right thing and find alternative products to what you sell that contains PFAS's, and then keep shopping for better alternatives as they develop. This is urgent. Do it for our children and their children so they can even have children! We can all do better, so LET'S CO-OPERate on this!!



**SBerg** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



Reply

▼

When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? We want to hear at the member meeting.



**bainsley** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

a week ago



Reply

▼

I am excited to have our first REI store in Maine and to become a member of REI. Mainers love to spend time outdoors. Physical activity and being in nature is so important to our physical and mental health.

I am writing to ask REI to get PFAS chemicals out of your products to protect people and the environment.

Working with people with learning, attention and developmental disabilities, I know first-hand the harm toxic chemicals can have on children's brain health. One class of chemicals I am concerned about is PFAS chemicals. Studies now show that PFAS chemicals may affect learning and behavior in infants and children, in addition to links to certain cancers, immune issues, high cholesterol and other health concerns. PFAS are nicknamed "forever chemicals" because they don't break down. Nearly every person in the US, including newborns, have PFAS in their bodies.

These chemicals should not be in people or in our environment, but they are commonly used to make outdoor gear and other products water-resistant. In Maine, we have found PFAS in our water, our soil, in cow's milk, and even in our deer (which resulted in a deer advisory to not eat deer in the Fairfield area). Please take action on PFAS now to protect all families, farmers, wildlife, and the environment. Thank you.



tgregoire CO-OP MEMBER  
Frequent Visitor

a week ago



0

Reply



johnrosenblum CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Saturday



0

Reply

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**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

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## 84 Replies

Sort: Threaded

I want to know when REI will respond to the PFAs pollution crisis. When does REI plan to ban these chemicals from products? This is something I'm passionate about as an NC college student, as are others on my campus. As a concerned member of REI, I don't think PFAs have a place in products or our bodies.



**KeyaP**  
CO-OP MEMBER

Monday





Casual Visitor



0

Reply



I have bought rain jackets, tents, kayaks and water resistant clothing and gear from REI. I want to know, did I buy items with PFAS in them? I regularly go deep into the back country and believe in leaving no trace. I cannot do that if I am leaching the forever chemicals into the pristine wilderness I enjoy being in. Please consider banning the sale of all products with PFAS.



Ben24464 CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Monday



0

Reply



When will you ban the use of PFAS in your products? I know that these chemicals are creating a pollution crisis, and it's surprising to me that REI uses them.



eandrews80 CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Monday



0

Reply



I too am interested in hearing about REI's plans to phase out PFAS. I worry about how PFAS will affect my family everyday and I would LOVE to not have to worry about it in our outdoor gear. Not only that I don't want to feel guilty for buying a waterproof product coated in PFAS that was made in facility of people working directly with this toxic chemical. Please address this issue.



mtbeaudin CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Monday



0

Reply



When will REI ban PFAs from products? I'm a college student from NC, and as a member of REI I want to know how you will respond to this chemical crisis. PFAs are dangerous to humans as well as the environment and have no place in our bodies, waters, or our products.



Hubertoutdoors CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Monday



0

Reply



Why has REI not taken PFAs out of their products? This is an issue that effects me as a resident of NC, college student, and lifelong member of REI. I hope REI will release a statement of their plans with PFAs soon.



mmorgan CO-OP MEMBER

Casual Visitor

Monday



Reply



hello - I've been a member of REI for many years. I also live in Ann Arbor Michigan where there is a REI store, and where PFAS have contaminated the river that runs through town. The state has issued a Do Not Eat the Fish advisory, so we cannot even eat the local fish. I know REI is not directly responsible for my river being contaminated with PFAS, but it would be amazing if REI took a stand and showed support for doing something about PFAS that contaminates rivers all over the country. Like not using PFAS in the first place to make the clothes and shoes it sells. It makes sense because REI customers care so much about the environment, and REI is active in my community. Please consider banning PFAS in all your products!



Erica1 CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Tuesday



Reply



As a long time avid outdoorsperson I was shocked to recently learn how many dangerous and harmful chemicals are in outdoor gear, specifically PFAS. PFAS is used widely in many outdoor products. It is known to have many long term serious health effects especially in infants and children not to mention the environment. My question to the REI membership is what is REI's plan and timeline to phase these chemicals out of their products. This is an opportunity for REI to lead on this issue. And REI has enough buying power to persuade manufacturers to make their products healthier and on a faster timeline. It's time for REI to step up and do the right thing for their members and the environment.



Demaris CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Tuesday



Reply



Part of the reason I became an REI member is due to REI's commitment to sustainability. I'd like to know how REI plans to use it's power as one of the biggest retailers in the industry to move producers away from using PFAS chemicals in their products. PFAS are a serious and growing threat nationally and globally. You have options, and the power to be part of the solution. Make it happen!



jedthorp CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Tuesday



Reply

I will be watching the member meeting and I also want to hear when the co-op will ban PFAS in the products you sell.

[A study](#) of a textile mill in China estimated that workers at the mill were exposed to volatile PFAS at about 100,000 times the rate of the general Western population. That's just awful. I don't want anyone to be polluted or exploited to make my gear waterproof.

When companies like Patagonia and Keen have made announcements that they are addressing this issue, it makes me excited to buy their PFAS-free products and makes me feel like they are companies that care about people and the planet. I want to see REI follow suit!



**b-rod** CO-OP MEMBER  
Steady Visitor

Tuesday



0

Reply

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**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

Reply

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## 84 Replies

Sort: **Threaded**

"I want to know how you're responding to the PFAS pollution crisis. When are you going to ban these chemicals in the products you sell?"



**mitchb** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Tuesday



0

[Reply](#)

I am an REI member because I enjoy the outdoors. As a mom and grandmother. I am concerned about chemicals that harm people's health. It is distressing that even in nature, we cannot easily get away from toxic pollutants that harm our health. That I take harmful PFAS chemicals into the nature in the gear I bring along, adds to the distress.

It's time for REI to get harmful PFAS chemicals out of the products you sell. When will REI take action on PFAS chemicals?



MMS1221 CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Wednesday



1

[Reply](#)

I enjoy being an REI member for the ability it gives me to spend time outdoors with my loved ones. However, I am concerned about chemicals that harm people's health.

It's time for REI to get harmful PFAS chemicals out of the products you sell. When will REI take action on PFAS chemicals?



samantharose CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Wednesday



3

[Reply](#)

In response to [samantharose](#)



I agree [@samantharose](#)! I love being an REI member, but these chemicals pollute the beautiful waterways and outdoor spaces I love. When will you ban toxic PFAS in the products you sell?



EmilyK CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



1

[Reply](#)

Like a lot of other members have mentioned in their comments, I want to hear a response to questions about REI's PFAS phase-out commitments. What is REI doing to address PFAS pollution? When is REI going to ban ALL of these toxic, harmful 'forever chemicals' from its stores? Will REI commit to banning PFAS in its own brand and the brands REI sells by 2025?



e\_r CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



2

Reply



We have been REI members for over 2 decades and I'm shocked that REI hasn't been a leader on PFAS forever chemicals given its commitment to the environment and its members. These incredibly toxic and persistent chemicals have no place in REI stores. Will REI be announcing a new time bound, measurable policy to restrict PFAS chemicals at its annual meeting and how does the company plan to ensure that there aren't regrettable substitutes or other problematic chemicals used in its products in future? Thanks and please be the leader members believe REI is.



Larcher CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



3

Reply



I sensing that there may be an issue with PFAS.  
REI Member Since 1979 YouTube.com/philreedshikes



Philreedshikes CO-OP MEMBER  
Discoverer

yesterday



1

Reply



We are at a critical moment with PFAS.  
When will you ban PFAS in products you sell?  
These chemicals last forever... which is why we need to stop their production NOW.



khughes CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



0

Reply



@REI will you address the #PFAS chemicals used in many products you sell at your 5/16 member meeting?

These toxic chemicals are polluting people & the planet.

@patagonia has announced a ban. So can you!

As a values-driven co-op, I expect you to #banPFAS from your stores!



**chrislauth** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



0

Reply



**mattkbh** CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



0

Reply

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## Membership now as great as the outdoors!

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Topic options

Start a Conversation

## Submit your questions for REI's Annual Member Meeting on May 16, 2022

We hope you can join us for REI's Annual Member Meeting, held on Monday, May 16th, 2022 at 6pm PT. All co-op members are invited to [attend virtually](#). You'll hear the co-op's senior leaders and board members reflect on our 2021 financial results, Board of Directors election results, the recent Co-op Membership relaunch, and more.

Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, we will only be answering pre-submitted questions\*. This thread will be accepting questions until Friday, May 6th.

**Submit your questions below for REI's annual member meeting.**



\*Please note that we may not have the opportunity to answer all submitted questions.

*At REI, we believe time outside is fundamental to a life well lived.*



**REI Co-op**  
REI Employee

4 weeks ago



1

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## 84 Replies

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I've been a member since the 1980's. I've always appreciated the care REI takes in conservation, preservation, and advocacy for the environment. This is one of the major reasons I am a member.

I am concerned about PFAS chemicals. I understand that used in many products - everything from Teflon pans, insulation, to clothing. I also know that they do not break down in the environment, they don't decompose, and therefore have earned the name forever chemicals. Of course, they are very

harmful to the environment and to health - human and otherwise.

I trust that, as advocates for the good ecological stewardship, REI will do everything in your power to discontinue the use of PFAS chemicals in REI products. Beyond that, I expect you will pressure the companies whose products you sell to cease using PFAS in their products and will advocate with government agencies to regulate against the further use of PFAS.

Of course, I also realize that REI is a coop; as such I am part of the REI community and not simply a customer. So when I ask you to act, I am asking you to act on my part, on my behalf.

I realize that there will likely be cost and even performance implications with discontinuing the use of PFAS, but quiet honestly, the cost of continuing to use them is too high; any diminishment of performance is little consequence compared to the long-term health of the planet and its inhabitants. In the end, this is an ethical issue. I trust you, working on members' behalf, will do the right thing and eliminate PFAS from the products you sell.



GregoryWilliamPeters CO-OP MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

yesterday



1

Reply



When will REI stop selling products with PFAS? I am a long-time member who has stopped buying rain gear from REI and will continue to limit my purchases until REI stops selling products which poison my home and the planet. Thanks for answering these questions.  
-Miriam



Miriamre CO-OP MEMBER  
Newcomer

yesterday



0

Reply



When will REI stop selling products with PFAS? I am a longtime member who has stopped purchasing rain gear from REI and will continue to limit my purchases because I I don't want products that poison my home and the planet. REI members and the public deserve answers and a strong commitment and timeline. Thank you for answering these questions.  
-Miriam



Miriamre CO-OP MEMBER  
Newcomer

yesterday



0

Reply



As you know PFAS "forever chemicals" are polluting communities across the United States. **When will REI join other industry leaders in phasing out the use of PFAS chemicals in your products?** Taking this step would help set a market signal that the health and safety of our communities is a priority to REI and its customers.

As as a long-time customer and parent who cares deeply about the future well-being of my community, I urge you to take this step in 2022. Thank you!



O2wmr CO-OP MEMBER  
Newcomer

yesterday

[Reply](#)

What is the reason PFAS chemicals are still in your products knowing that they cause health and ecological problems to your customers and the outdoors?



**veganparents** CO-OP MEMBER  
Newcomer

7 hours ago

[Reply](#)

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In response to [schadeyacres](#)



Yes would love to know. It's time for REI to get harmful PFAS chemicals out of the products you sell. When will REI take action on PFAS chemicals? What is REI's plan? There are proven sustainable products that create plastic like materials that can be used both functionally and affordably. Bamboo, hemp, etc. are great alternates. Whats your plan REI?



[kevsmall](#) 2024 MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Friday

♡	0
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Reply



I'd like to know what REI is doing to end the use of PFAS in its products. Continued use of these chemicals is at odds with REI's ethos of environmental stewardship, and is putting our health at risk via their manufacture, use and ultimate disposal. It's time for REI to pivot away from PFAS, and I'd like to hear about your plans during the Member Meeting. Thank you.



[MeagenB](#) 2024 MEMBER  
Casual Visitor

Friday

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Reply

<As of May 6th we are no longer accepting submissions on this thread.>

At REI, we believe time outside is fundamental to a life well lived.



**REI-JohnJ** ALUMNI

REI Community Manager

Friday



Reply

In response to **Jhoudek**

Haven't had a bank account in years. I do all my financial dealing through the two credit unions I belong to.



**jjones** CO-OP MEMBER

Happy Camper

Friday



Reply

I do not have an REI credit card. I only use credit unions. Could REI consider switching from a band to a credit union based credit card? I am not sure that is possible considering the legal limits of credit unions but at least there are some financial institutions which are more responsible than US Bank.



**jjones** CO-OP MEMBER

Happy Camper

Friday



Reply

REI must make addressing the use of PFAS a priority. I see the message (listed above), that not submitted questions will be answered but really, REI **MUST** make PFAS a top priority. To not answer the question because of running out of time to respond will be seen as a cop-out.

Chris L



**rgs** CO-OP MEMBER

Happy Camper

Sunday



Reply

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