

Terra Guard Analytics

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Daria Gramotieieva	Junior	Actuarial Science; Bus. Analytics
Joe Parker	Junior	Business; Public Administration
Mevlon Pozhari	Senior	Org. Leadership; Geography
Cannon Wiens	Sophomore	Accounting; Business Economics

Advisor(s): Nicholas Sars

Topic Title: The Legacy of Forever Chemicals

Audience: 3M Board of Directors

Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Executive Summary

For nearly a century, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or "forever chemicals" were the backbone of 3M's success. Prized for their near-indestructible qualities in everything from non-stick pans to high-tech electronics, that very durability has now become a major liability. In 2022, 3M resolved to cease production of PFAS by the end of 2025 as a result of multiple lawsuits, settlements, and environmental contamination events. The environmental persistence of PFAS along with their serious health risks continue to prompt public backlash, regulatory changes, and escalating litigation. As a historical manufacturer of PFAS, 3M now faces significant liability, increasing global regulation, and mounting societal pressure from investors and communities, which offers a strategic avenue toward change.

While we recognize the corporation's steps toward sustainable production, we see many shortcomings in the execution. Committing to the clean-up of contaminated water and reducing virgin fossil-based plastic mark first steps towards sustainability. To prevent future incidents and to position itself ahead of competitors 3M must put transparent business practices at the heart of its business model. Through a comprehensive strategy of total elimination, 3M not only will comply with the law but also will become an industry leader. Comprehensive elimination will provide opportunities to gain trust through institutionalization of sustainable manufacturing practices. The corporation continues to deal with the ramifications of past litigation, and these ramifications must be tied to sustainable change that points toward a safer world.