

John C. Warner

A founder of Green Chemistry | CEO & CTO, Technology Greenhouse

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John C. Warner is one of the founders of the field of green chemistry and co-author, with Paul Anastas, of the seminal 1998 book that established the definition and Twelve Principles of Green Chemistry. He earned a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts Boston (1984) and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Princeton University (1988).

As an industrial scientist at Polaroid Corporation (1988–1996), John led exploratory research programs that produced pioneering technologies in biomimetic thymine-based photoresists, mechanochemical color imaging, and noncovalent derivatization (which was recognized with the 2014 Perkin Medal).

As an academic at the University of Massachusetts (1996–2007), John served as a tenured full professor of plastics engineering (Lowell) and tenured full professor of chemistry (Boston) where he founded the world's first Ph.D. program in Green Chemistry in 2001. His publications span sustainable innovation, synthetic methodology, noncovalent derivatization, polymer photochemistry, and metal oxide semiconductors. He received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) from the National Science Foundation in 2004 and the August Wilhelm von Hofmann Medal from the German Chemical Society in 2022. John currently holds academic appointments at Monash University in Australia, Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, Somaiya University in India, University of Birmingham in the UK, Rochester Institute of Technology in the US, and Technical University of Berlin in Germany. In 2007, John co-founded Beyond Benign with Dr. Amy Cannon to accelerate the global adoption of green chemistry education. Today the organization supports educators at hundreds of universities worldwide.

As an entrepreneur, John is the CEO and CTO of Technology Greenhouse, where he is inventor of over 370 patents, has worked with over a hundred companies worldwide, and has served on innovation and sustainability advisory boards for several multinational organizations. John's inventions have led to new ventures in neurochemistry, cosmetics, construction materials, biodegradable polymers, photovoltaics, water harvesting, flow chemistry, and AI-assisted drug discovery. Additional technologies under development include innovations in Alzheimer's disease, oncology, engineered wood composites, battery/e-waste recycling, controlled-release systems, and metal oxide semiconductors. In 2016 he was named a "Lemelson Invention Ambassador" by the Lemelson Foundation and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Some of John's honors include being named one of "25 Visionaries Changing the World" by Utne Reader, and "One of the Most Influential People in the Chemical Industries" by ICI – Sciences. John is a member of the Club of Rome, a fellow of the American Chemical Society and a member of many international chemistry and science organizations. The "John Warner Center for Start Ups in Green Chemistry" has been named in his honor recently in Berlin, Germany.