

P2 E-NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2006

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The purpose of the P2 Newsletter is to present relevant information on pollution prevention. The information in this newsletter includes significant developments in pollution prevention initiatives, new ideas to improve P2, pollution prevention activities in other states, P2 information of interest on the Internet, recent P2 legislation and other P2 topics of interest. In addition, coverage of enforcement issues is also updated. I have also included detailed information regarding the location of the materials contained in the Newsletter.

DSHW P2 Fact Sheets

One new Division fact sheet has been produced since the last newsletter; the title of the fact sheet is "Dealing with empty drums and containers". This fact sheet was primarily for used oil collection centers that have continuous problems with the accumulation of drums and plastic container in which people deliver the oil. Most of the drums originate from farms and we have encouraged the centers to have the farmers reuse them after they have been emptied into the collection tank. However, some collection centers have ended up accumulating a large number of drums and are unaware of how to dispose of them. Hopefully, this fact sheet will provide information to manage the drums in a more efficient manner.

To follow shortly are other fact sheets in Spanish addressing additional topics related to the automobile industry such as best practices in handling automobile refrigerants, paint application using HVLP paint guns, responding to environmental emergencies and understanding automobile emissions.

Other New P2 Fact Sheet and Information Resources

Sector Notebooks

The Sector Notebook series is a unique set of profiles containing a wealth of sector-specific environmental information. Unlike many resource materials, which are organized by air, water and land pollutants, the Notebooks provide a holistic, "whole facility" approach by integrating manufacturing processes, applicable regulations and other relevant environment information. Two new sector notebooks were completed in 2005, titled "**Profile of the Healthcare Industry**" - Including Hospitals, Physicians Offices, Dental Offices, Nursing Homes, etc.", and "**Profile of the Rubber and Plastic Industry, 2nd Edition**". No others are planned for the near future. These notebooks can be found at the website:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/assistance/sectors/notebooks/index.html>

Military Joint Service P2 Technical Library

<http://p2library.nfesc.navy.mil/>

The Joint Service P2 Technical Library is a comprehensive clearinghouse for pertinent and timely environmental information to help military installations and facilities proactively plan for the future of their missions and operations. It is a source for proven approaches to problem solving and solutions to common environmental challenges. Many of these P2 programs are applicable to the private sector.

There are now links to more than 700 P2 documents and more than 500 Web links related to P2 Opportunity Topics, Green Procurement, and Sustainability available to P2 Technical Library users. New, updated, and revised resources for P2 documents and Web links are now available. To help P2 Technical Library users find the information they need more quickly, a number of new categories or subsections have been added to the P2 Opportunity Topics. To provide more usable resource areas, some of the new categories include:

- ***Priority Chemicals*** under Green Procurement
- ***Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Reduction and Recycling*** under Solid Waste Management
- ***Electronic Product Recycling (E-Waste)*** under Solid Waste Management
- ***Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*** under Sustainable Development
- ***Sustainable Building Design and Construction*** under Sustainable Development
- ***Renewed Interest in Reducing Diesel Engine Emissions***

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable

<http://www.p2.org/>

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) is the largest membership organization in the United States devoted solely to [Pollution Prevention](#) (P2). NPPR acts as a window on the P2 community. The [mission](#) of the Roundtable is to provide a national forum for promoting the development, implementation, and evaluation of efforts to avoid, eliminate, or reduce pollution at the source (i.e. source reduction instead of traditional end-of pipe methods). NPPR's members are comprised of the country's leading P2 experts from regional resource centers, state and local government programs, small business assistance networks, non-profit groups, industry associations and federal agencies. This site provides many up to date information resources such as pending legislation, new research on P2 issues, and best practices to achieve P2 goals. The following information of interest was found at this site:

- **Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans, “A Guide to the SPCC Regulation for Transportation Industries”**

This is a web-based training module that provides an overview of the requirements for developing a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan, as specified in regulations promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under 40 CFR 112. The training module also highlights some special SPCC considerations for facility owners and operators in transportation industries.

- **Notice to Users of this Module Regarding Current and Future Potential Changes to the SPCC Regulations**

Note that the U.S. EPA has issued a Notice in the Federal Register (Vol. 70, No. 209, p.64205, and 64249, Monday, October 31, 2005) (Unified Agenda). EPA is proposing additional amendments to 40 CFR Part 112, which includes the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule promulgated under the authority of the Clean Water Act. The proposed rule may include a variety of issues associated with the July 2002 SPCC final rule. Specific decisions on the scope of the rulemaking will be determined after the final rule associated with the Notices of Data Availability has been completed and in relation to EPA guidance. The proposed rule is necessary to clarify the regulatory obligations of SPCC facility owners and operators and to reduce the regulatory burden where appropriate.

News and Notes

Environmental Results Program (ERP)

<http://www.ccar-greenlink.org/erp/erp.html>

The Environmental Results Program or "ERP" is an innovative program, readily adoptable by regulatory agencies that can improve the environmental performance of large numbers of smaller sources and address environmental problems. Several states are applying the program to the automotive sector.

In ERP, regulating agencies educate facilities about their environmental impacts and obligations, require them to certify as to their compliance with environmental requirements, and track them to evaluate their environmental performance. After several years of implementation in Massachusetts, ERP has a record of improving environmental performance and could produce similar results for other state programs. The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations are working with other EPA offices, states, and associations to further develop the Massachusetts program and transfer it to other states and sectors.

The following state programs can be found on the website listed above:

State Plans:

[Delaware Auto Body Self-Certification Program](#)

District of Columbia (coming soon)

[Florida's Compliance Certification Program \(CCP\)](#)

[Maine Environmental Leader Program for Gas Stations](#)

[Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection \(MADEP\)](#)

Maryland (coming soon)

[Michigan Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\) Auto Body Environmental Compliance Guidebook and Checklist](#)

[Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management \(DEM\) Auto body Certification Program](#)

[Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management \(DEM\) Underground Storage Tank Environmental Results Program](#)

Discarded Equipment Containing Mercury Now Managed as Universal Waste

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/electron/crt.htm>

A final rule promulgated by EPA (70 FR 44507, August 5, 2005) classifies mercury-containing equipment as universal waste and will help to eliminate mercury in the environment and encourage mercury recovery and improved, safe management of mercury waste. Under this rule, used mercury-containing equipment will be readily collected for recycling. Mercury-containing equipment includes various types of instruments that are commonly used in industry, hospitals and households, such as thermometers, barometers and mercury switches. Other items already managed as universal waste include batteries, thermostats and fluorescent lamps.

This final rule imposes management standards similar to those for universal waste thermostats because of similarities in the waste streams. Under the system, recordkeeping, storage and transportation requirements for generators of waste, collectors, and transporters are reduced to encourage the set up of collection programs that will pull these wastes out of waste disposal systems and make them available for recycling. Stringent federal hazardous waste management requirements for final disposal or recycling remain unchanged. EPA estimates that about 1,900 generators handling approximately 550 tons of mercury-containing equipment annually will be affected by this rule nationwide.

Hazardous Waste Tracking System Improved

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/gener/manifest/mods.htm>

EPA is improving the tracking of hazardous waste shipments by establishing a nationally standardized manifest form. This new form makes the nation's hazardous waste tracking system more efficient by replacing various state formats with one national form. This streamlined approach will benefit waste handlers and regulators by reducing the costs and time associated with managing multiple forms, while maintaining the safety of EPA's well established cradle-to-grave hazardous waste tracking system.

By employing a streamlined and consistent national standard, hazardous waste handlers can better track complicated shipments, such as container residues, rejected wastes and international shipments. The new form also makes it easier to collect data for hazardous waste reporting. The Manifest will be printed to precise EPA specifications that ensure uniformity, and each form will carry a unique preprinted manifest tracking number. EPA will oversee the registration process. Waste handlers can generate their own manifest forms once they have registered with the Agency. Record keeping, reporting requirements, and other changes also vastly improve and modernize hazardous waste tracking. The new form will be phased in over an 18-month transition period. Beginning September 2006, the new form will be in place. Handlers will be able to obtain new forms from any source that has registered with EPA to print and distribute them.

Nationally, more than 139,000 businesses, in approximately 45 industries, are expected to achieve time and cost efficiencies through use of the new tracking system. These businesses ship approximately 12 million tons of hazardous wastes annually, and use between 2 and 5 million hazardous waste manifests.

New Innovative Projects Focus on Electronics Recycling, Pharmaceutical Waste and Emergency Preparedness

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/iwg/>

EPA announced six new innovative projects that test approaches to make EPA's waste programs more effective. Examples of projects include: measuring the environmental and economic benefits of purchasing, operating, and recycling electronics; identifying and implementing best management practices of pharmaceutical waste in hospitals; and developing tools for smaller communities to assess risks and improve chemical emergency preparedness at chemical handling facilities.

1. Expanding Web Portal on Hazardous Materials Inventory. EPA, in partnership with California's Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health and Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association, will demonstrate the value of online reporting and data management of required hazardous material inventories using an existing online hazardous materials reporting system. This pilot expands an existing web portal that manages the electronic reporting of facility records for storage of hazardous materials, eliminating the duplication of data entry by local agencies and providing first responders with real-time access to facility information.

2. Using Composts to Reduce Lead and Arsenic Soil Contamination. EPA, in partnership with the University of Washington, Washington Department of Ecology, Wenatchee School District, Chelan-Douglas Health District, and Community, Trade and Economic Development, will test the effect of different compost mixtures to reduce lead and arsenic concentrations in contaminated soils. This pilot examines a potential cost-effective remedial option that would reduce real and perceived risks associated with the presence of lead and arsenic in soils.

3. Expanding the Availability of Renewable Energy from Waste Oil. EPA, in partnership with the Costilla County Economic Development Council, Colorado, will test small-scale bio-diesel production using locally grown crops (e.g., canola seed) and used restaurant cooking oil to demonstrate the viability of producing renewable energy. Additionally, once in full production, this pilot will be able to recover methanol from the pre-treatment process, which can be reused in the production of bio-diesel. This pilot is expected to demonstrate a community's ability to find and use local feed-stocks for renewable energy production. This pilot will expand the availability of renewable energy from waste oil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, toxicity and associated health risks.

4. Measuring the Environmental Benefits of Federal Electronic Equipment Management Practices. EPA, in partnership with the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the Department of Defense, and the General Services Administration, will develop tools to measure the environmental and economic impact from environmentally sound management of electronic equipment. Currently, no assessment tool exists to determine the environmental benefits of purchasing, operating, and recycling electronics. This pilot will allow the Federal government to quantify and promote environmental benefits of proactive electronics management.

5. Expanding Pharmaceutical Waste Management in Hospitals. EPA, in partnership with Health Care without Harm, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, H2E Champions PharmEcology Associates, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Hospital Association, will test innovative pharmaceutical waste minimization and management practices in a hospital. Creative and effective procedures are needed to manage non-hazardous pharmaceuticals and hazardous pharmaceuticals that are not yet regulated to ensure environmentally safe treatment and disposal. This approach is expected to be readily transferable to the entire healthcare sector.

6. Improving Emergency Preparedness and Response in Smaller Communities. EPA, in partnership with Colorado's Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee, will develop tools for smaller communities to assess risks and improve chemical emergency preparedness at chemical handling facilities. Many smaller communities are unaware of existing information sources on conducting risk assessments and lack the resources and training necessary to use available information. This pilot will improve preparedness in small communities through enhanced assessment of risks and needs.

EPA Launches New Hispanic Environmental Health Webpage

<http://www.epa.gov/espanol>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new Webpage in Spanish dedicated to providing information on different environmental issues and their effects among Hispanics residing in the United States. The new page, "El medio ambiente y su

salud", The Environment and Your Health, will focus on a different issue every month. For the first month in this series the key issue is asthma. In this new page, EPA offers general information about the disease, its environmental triggers, asthma FAQs, and environmental health studies of Hispanics and asthma.

In future months EPA will have similar pages on other environmental health issues of special concern to Hispanics such as lead poisoning prevention, radon, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and mold, among others. This new Webpage presents information both in Spanish and English. It is part of the agency's overall efforts to educate Hispanics, researchers and health care providers on how environmental health issues affect the different Hispanic communities throughout the nation.

Bio-diesel Technical Reference Guide

<http://www.federalsustainability.org/initiatives/biodiesel.htm>

The Federal Network for Sustainability recently released its Bio-diesel Technical Reference Guide. Although the Guide is specifically written for federal agencies, much of the information is relevant to anyone interested in the topic. The Guide discusses advantages of bio-diesel, technical challenges that a user might experience, and how to deal with those, as well as case studies of federal agencies currently using the fuel. The "Bio-diesel Wizard" is a user-friendly interface to the Guide that allows readers to get a quick overview of the subject.

Compliance and Enforcement News

Environmental Justice and Pollution Prevention

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/nejac/p2-recommend-report-0703.pdf>

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across the country.

Pollution prevention incorporates protection of public health and the environment, including protecting environmental resources for subsequent generations, as key values. These are also key values of the environmental justice movement. Pollution prevention provides a unique opportunity for communities, business and government to work together in a collaborative way to achieve some joint aims. Communities are in support of providing resources for the development and implementation of clean technologies to business. Businesses support the concept of reducing the impact of their activities on surrounding communities. Government supports the reduction of pollution impacts on public health and the environment. These shared values offer the potential for the stakeholders to work in a way that helps to develop innovative strategies that meet their interests, to build trust and improve communications in their relationships, and to work together towards the goal of achieving environmental justice.

For a detailed discussion of Environmental Justice and P2 see “Advancing Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention” at the Web page listed above.

Enforcement Alerts

”Enforcement Alerts” inform the public and those regulated by environmental laws about important environmental enforcement issues, recent trends, and significant enforcement actions. The information the alerts contain should help the regulated community comply with environmental laws and applicable regulations. These alerts can be found at the following web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/newsletters/civil/enfalert/index.html>.

No new alerts have been issued since the last newsletter.

Other Useful P2 Information

Stay Warm, Save Money, Reduce Pollution!

www.energystar.gov.

There are a lot of ways to stay warm, save energy, lower costs and reduce pollution this winter, according to the EPA. Replacing old cooling and heating equipment with more efficient, ENERGY STAR qualified systems can save the average homeowners up to 20% on annual energy bills. The average family spends more than \$1,500 dollars a year on energy bills, half of which goes for heating and cooling. Other ways to save include: maintaining your existing equipment; using a programmable thermostat; finding and sealing air leaks, and tightening up your ducts.

An ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat allows you to automatically adjust the temperature of your home to save money and increase comfort levels when you are home, sleeping or away. A programmable thermostat with four settings can save you about \$100 a year in energy costs.

If you are not ready to replace your cooling and heating systems, remember that you can still save money and energy by properly maintaining your existing equipment. Have a professional licensed heating contractor clean and check your system. A checkup should include:

- Tighten all electrical connections** and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation of your system and reduce the life of major components.
- Lubricate all moving parts.** Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and increase the amount of electricity you use.
- Check and inspect the condensate drain** in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.

-Check controls of the system to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system starts, operates, and shuts off properly.

You don't have to be a professional to help. Change your heater filters every month. Dirty filters make your system work harder and use more energy. If you have hot water heat, "bleed" radiators of trapped air. Less air means warmer rooms and saves energy. Air leaks in your home and a poorly insulated attic can lead to chilly rooms and higher energy costs. By properly sealing leaks and adding insulation your home can be more comfortable and cost you less. Saving energy helps protect the environment. If just one in 10 homes switched to ENERGY STAR heating and cooling products, the change would keep over 17 billion pounds of pollution out of the air.