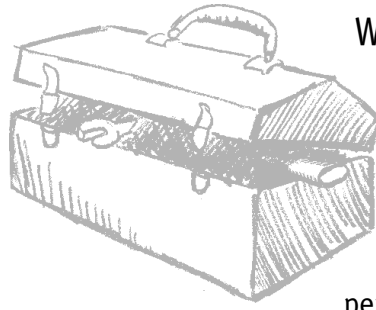


Ten tools

to get below the regulatory radar



Waste costs money and causes pollution. Preventing pollution is a smart strategy for an organization's bottom line and for a better environment. Better yet, reducing waste can reduce or eliminate your need to apply for environmental permits and licenses.

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) and its Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) offer an array of non-regulatory services to help Minnesota manufacturers and businesses prevent pollution and waste. The following tools are available to you at no cost.

1. Telephone Assistance and Referrals

In many situations, your questions can be answered over the telephone, such as who provides aqueous cleaning equipment or low-VOC coatings, or you may be referred to other resources, such as for regulatory information or energy conservation programs.



For general waste prevention and financial assistance, or for referrals to other assistance groups, contact the OEA at 651-296-3417 or 800-657-3843. A wide array of online resources is available online: www.moea.state.mn.us/p2/.

MnTAP has specialists for specific industry areas who understand technical challenges Minnesota manufacturing facilities face. Process specific pollution prevention assistance for the manufacturing and service industries is available by calling MnTAP at 612-624-1300 or 800-247-0015, or visit their web site: www.mntap.umn.edu.

2. Site Visits

If your question cannot be resolved by telephone, a site visit may be needed. Technical staff come to your facility to assess your operations and identify opportunities for improving efficiency and preventing waste. The OEA provides support to three organizations that offer site visits.

MnTAP focuses on manufacturers and industrial service firms. Technical staff will conduct on-site pollution prevention assessments, facilitate in-plant waste reduction teams, and



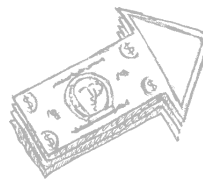
develop technology trials to pilot new technologies. Staff have access to the resources of the University of Minnesota, as well as connections to industry experts across the country.

► **The Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program** focuses on non-manufacturers and commercial businesses to provide solid waste reduction and energy conservation assessments. For further information, call 612-278-7123.

► **Wastewise**, a partnership between the OEA and the Minnesota Chamber provides on-site solid waste recycling and reduction assistance to its member companies. For further information, call 651-292-4650.

3. Student Interns

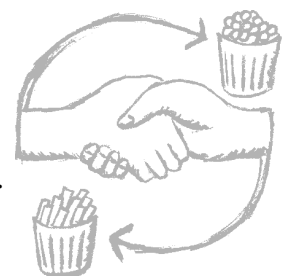
Companies not able to research pollution prevention projects due to lack of time or money may want to apply for a MnTAP summer student intern for help. By developing effective and specific waste reducing solutions, interns help you save operating costs, reduce regulatory compliance burden and decrease your company's environmental impact.



4. Materials Exchange

One company's waste is another's raw material. The Minnesota Materials Exchange Alliance uses computerized listings to match organizations that have waste materials with other organizations that want to use those materials.

The Materials Exchange can help your business find low or no cost materials,



save money on raw materials and disposal costs, find new markets for surplus materials, and demonstrate community and environmental responsibility. The Exchange's printed and on-line catalogs are continually updated. Contact MnTAP at 612-624-1300 or 800-247-0015 or go online: www.mnexchange.org.

5. Web-based Resources

The OEA and MnTAP web sites offer a wide variety of resources for businesses.

- ▶ OEA's Pollution Prevention pages include information on best P2 practices for more than 35 industry groups. Other sources of information for each sector are included.
- ▶ A Reusable Transport Packaging Directory identifies suppliers of reusable cartons, pallets, bags, buckets, and other distribution packaging.
- ▶ Detailed P2 information for several industry groups as well as for wastes common to Minnesota manufacturers.
- ▶ MnTAP's newsletter, *Source*, contains case studies and information on waste prevention techniques and services.
- ▶ Fact sheets offer information about pollution prevention and P2 technologies by industry group.
- ▶ Links to catalogs and other publications.



6. Financial Assistance

OEA financial assistance programs help advance the development and use of pollution-free practices and technologies. Both grants and loans, matched dollar for dollar by the recipient, are available. Pollution prevention grants pilot use of innovative, or leading edge, P2 practices and technologies. For loans, the OEA partners with area banks to provide funds at half of the prevailing rate so that facilities can accelerate acquisition of market-ready P2 technologies.

7. Pollution Prevention Planning

Pollution prevention increases efficiency, since it reduces waste before it is created. The pollution prevention planning process is one way a company can identify how raw materials can be used more efficiently, or how a process can be changed to decrease risk, waste, and make a process more efficient and productive. The *Minnesota Guide to Pollution Prevention Planning*, found on MnTAP's web site, includes background on the concepts and benefits of pollution prevention, as well as step-by-step guidance for developing a pollution prevention plan.

8. Governor's Awards for Excellence

The Governor's Awards for Excellence in Waste and Pollution Prevention, sponsored by the OEA, recognize public and private organizations that demonstrate a superior commitment to waste and pollution prevention, source reduction, and resource conservation. All leaders are encouraged to apply for this prestigious award.



9. Design for the Environment (DfE)

By asking the right questions up-front during product design, businesses can eliminate the unnecessary use of hazardous materials along with associated regulatory requirements and costs. When DfE is integrated into product design systems, design teams use key questions to consider an array of efficiency, cost saving, and innovative design attributes. The OEA has developed a guide to assist manufacturers with DfE.

10. ISO/EMS Assistance

An Environmental Management System (EMS) makes good business sense. It builds accountability, consistency, ready access to documentation, and continual improvement into facility operations. As part of effective management, an EMS offers significant opportunities to drive resource efficiency, cost savings, improve product quality, reduce future liability, and enhance public image. Manufacturers may also become certified through an international ISO14001 EMS standard. For more information, contact the OEA.



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