

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
Thursday, July 25, 2002

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Announcements

The Department of Commerce is offering rebates for solar electric systems, with funding through the Xcel Energy sustainable electric program. For example, if you have a 1 kW system that cost \$8 – 9,000, the Department rebates \$2,000 back to you. They have statistics on the website showing the environmental benefits. Although the rebate is not enough to help individuals with financial feasibility, it is a method of employing the values associated with renewable resource use and decreased dependence on fossil fuel. The solar electric systems generate electricity on days that require the most electricity for cooling, so it helps reduce the peak loads at power plants. Minnesota is about in the middle of the states with respect to the reliability of sunshine. The rebate is for households, small businesses, and local governments this year and will be extended to all the community, including state government, next year.

The Department of Commerce has received funding from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources to do a community wind program. They plan to provide rebates to two or three communities to install wind generators. They hope to start monitoring programs in the summer of 2003 to identify the winners. Cities that have the generators don't have to own them. Andy Phelan asked if the University of Minnesota would qualify, and Mike responded that the university should engage community leaders and citizens and approach the department with a proposal.

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance is making matching grants available to stem the flow of wasteful office paper practices. OEA is making funds available to help Minnesota businesses and organizations evaluate and improve office equipment, promote the use of e-mail and electronic filing, educate and equip employees to duplex (print on both sides of paper), and provide incentives to encourage employees to reduce paper waste. Matching grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded ongoing through April 4, 2003. In addition to grant funds, the OEA will provide technical assistance and communications pieces to support office paper reduction projects. Applying for a matching grant for office paper reduction is

easy. For further details , visit <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/grants> or contact Jennifer Havens at jennifer.havens@moea.state.mn.us or 651-215-0294.

Updates

E85 Fuels – *Mike Taylor, Department of Commerce 651/296-6830*

Although Minnesota has many flexible fuel vehicles in its fleet, it's difficult to get the drivers of those vehicles to buy E85 at gas stations, even when it's convenient. There is a great need for education and promotion, and that is what the Department of Commerce is doing. They are going to do targeted education at the agencies that have a lot of vehicles and promote the switch to E85. They are up to a level of 80,000 gallons per month E85 purchased, but that's only a small percentage of the 2 and a half billion gallons that are used per year. The federal government is tracking individual drivers through the credit cards they use for gasoline to see which are failing to buy E85, and they will use the data in their education efforts.

Sustainable Government – *Massachusetts has one!* Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift signed Executive Order 438 creating a state sustainability program on July 23, 2002. If you are interested in seeing the details of that executive order, contact Emily Moore at 651/215-0201. Gene Christenson asked if it is possible for us to get a copy of the Smart Growth Executive Order being prepared in Minnesota. Ray Bissonnette will check on that.

MnGREAT! Awards - *Mike Liles Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0220*

Mike reported on the deliberations of the MnGREAT! award selection committee. Judging occurred on July 16, 2002. The judges included Steve Bragg, an IPPAT member who also served as a judge in 2001; Paul Gelbmann, Ramsey County, another 2001 judge; Linda Countryman, Office of Environmental Assistance; Peg Grogan, Tennant Company; Jane Schmidley, Department of Administration; Wayne Rivard, Andersen Corporation; and Steve Lawrence, Pope County.

At the IPPAT meeting, we voted to approve the judges' selections and also voted to bestow a MnGREAT! special recognition award on MPCA staff member Ned Brooks and the steering committee that planned the Living Green Expo, an urban sustainability fair held on April 27 that provided information, resources, products and technologies to the general public to help people reduce their environmental impact. Public, private, and non-profit groups donated time, resources, and funding over a 7-month time period, resulting in a fair that exceeded most expectations. Over 150 vendors exhibited products and distributed information to an estimated 5,000 people who attended.

Other MnGREAT! award winners include:

- The University of Minnesota Facilities Management for their continuous improvement approach to all departments and operations, including energy conservation, environmentally preferable purchasing, mercury reduction, and adoption of green architectural principles;
- The Department of Administration's Resource Recovery Office for its education programs about waste reduction and for promoting the reuse of office supplies from the state recycling center, which resulted in 13 agencies obtaining free supplies 91 times from the facility;
- The Department of Administration and its contracts committee for putting in place an electronics disposal contract that specifies that no component materials from used electronics are exported overseas for management;
- The City of Oakdale Public Works department for its commitment to green building and for promoting voluntary conservation programs in the community;
- The Department of Agriculture's Dairy and Food Inspection Division for implementing a project to remove and replace all the mercury manometers in Minnesota dairy barns, removing more than a half-ton of mercury from the environment;

- The City of Hutchinson for extending their composting program to include source separated food waste along with the yard waste that they collect from residents, further reducing the amount of refuse going to the landfill and conserving a valuable resource;
- The Department of Natural Resources Facilities and Operation Support Bureau for employing the principles of sustainable architecture in the DNR regional buildings in Tower and Windom; and
- The Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization, in partnership with the St. Paul Transportation Management Organization, Metro Commuter Services, Metro Transit, and Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy, for increasing bus ridership by 30 percent at participating employers with the Metropass project.

Focus on Electronics

National product stewardship efforts

Maureen Hickman, Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0271

Maureen told the group about the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI), which has been meeting over the last year to try to involve manufacturers in dealing with the management of used electronics. The upstream benefits of this effort is that if the manufacturers have to take care of old products, they will understand more about them and proceed with designing for disassembly and recycling. The group includes representatives from ten states, two local governments, the U.S. EPA, and 12 manufacturers, including Sony, Panasonic, Sharp, Philips, Epson, Nokia, Hewlett Packard, and IBM. The purpose of the initiative is to create an agreement between government and industry and environmental organizations to establish a national recycling and recovery program and to agree on who will do what part of the operation, develop an implementation schedule, and establish funding for the process. Possible funding could be either from up-front fees that would be used to establish a fund to be shared with recyclers or from the manufacturers internalizing the fee. The NEPSI participants are looking at different ways to break out the funding and at practical collection mechanisms.

At the March NEPSI meeting, all stakeholders agreed to develop a national system in which the costs of managing old electronics are included in the purchase price of new electronic products. Since March the industry has moved away from that initial agreement. There was no further progress at the June NEPSI meeting. Minnesota, along with other government and NGO stakeholders raised the question of whether it is worth continuing with NEPSI when the stakeholders do not seem able to reach any agreement. A small group of NEPSI participants is working over the summer to evaluate whether to continue the NEPSI process. The September meeting may or may not happen. Maureen said that many Minnesota counties are facing a crisis with electronic waste. Many counties are facing increased demand for electronics recycling service, but they have no funds to provide the collection and recycling, and no storage capacity.

Mike Taylor asked to what extent companies elsewhere are required to manage old electronics. Maureen replied that the European Union is about to impose requirements, and a dozen countries, including Japan, Taiwan, and Canada – everybody but the U.S. - already have take-back laws.

Pollution prevention through purchasing - Donna Peterson, MnTAP 612/624-4653

Donna Peterson stressed the importance of thinking at the beginning of a purchasing process for a piece of electronic equipment all the way through to the end of its life, so that you can provide the service and proper disposal for the product. You could enter into a lease arrangement with a company, where you would lease the equipment and the company would maintain and service it. Some larger agencies could profit from employing a service that buys, services, and monitors equipment.

Those buying equipment should always consider the environmental attributes of the product, or in other words, buy green. Things to consider are:

- Is it rebuilt?

- Does it contain recycled materials?
- Has the company followed good practices, such as water conservation, in production of your equipment?
- Is it mercury-free?
- What kind of energy rating does it have?
- Does the company charge a recycling fee to dispose of the old items properly?

Minnesota has an interagency Information Technology team that meets monthly to think ahead, identify options for the state, and progressively keep the state on top of acquisition.

Minnesota state contract for electronics/computer recycling –

Gloria Sonnen, Department of Administration, 651/297-2954

Gloria passed around the “Exporting Harm” report, the EPA proposed revised CRT management rule, and made several comments about obtaining information from the Internet.

To read an interesting report about the problems computer and electronic waste can cause, specifically with shipping computer and electronic waste overseas, see “Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia” at www.ban.org. A video with the same title is available from the Waste Education Clearinghouse 651/215-0232.

The contractor for the State contract, Asset Recovery Corporation’s website has a specific link for the State of Minnesota contract for electronics recycling with links to prices, the forms that you need, etc. The Asset Recovery Corporation web site specifically for the State of Minnesota, Hazardous Materials: Computers/electronics; Recycling and Waste Management Contract is <http://www.assetrecoverycorp.com/StateContract426359>.

The Pollution Control Agency has a new fact sheet on handling electronic waste. It is available at the PCA website <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-15.pdf>.

EPA has proposed rule revisions on cathode ray tubes. They treat CRTs as universal waste, with reduced requirements for paperwork but equal requirements for ultimate disposal. The document is open for comment.

Gloria reminded us about the state contract for managing used electronic equipment. The wastes included in the contract are

- cathode ray tubes,
- central processing units (CPUs),
- television monitors,
- peripherals (keyboards, mice, printers, etc),
- communications equipment (telephones, switchboards, etc),
- office equipment (typewriters, adding machines, calculators, etc.),
- miscellaneous computer components (main frames, disk drives, modems, etc),
- electronic laboratory equipment,
- fax machines,
- copiers, and
- lap top computers.

The reason the contract is important is that electronic equipment contains hazardous components. Monitors contain more than 5 pounds of lead, and there are many other types of hazardous materials that are subject to Superfund laws. A number of other agencies worked on the contract, including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Departments of Transportation, Administration, Human Services,

the Office of Environmental Assistance, University of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the Computers for Schools program. Staff experienced with hazardous waste management worked on this contract.

To protect against future liability, the contract initially allows no overseas recycling or waste management. The contract specifies a contractor who has been audited with respect to financial records, on-site compliance, and destination of the materials to secondary facilities. The services provided include reuse, with payments going to contract users, recycling and disposal, pick-up and transportation services, event collection services, and a drop-off site. The contract is available to State agencies and to participants of the Cooperative Purchasing Venture.

The contractor is:

Asset Recovery Corporation
150 State Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
651/602-0789 or 800/472-2081
Contract Release: H-90 (5)

Mark Wacek commented that the Metropolitan Airports Commission uses Asset Recovery for their used electronics, and he has been very well pleased with their service. He cautioned agencies to make sure that they tell Asset Recovery that they want to follow the State contract.

Highlights of Pollution Prevention Summary Reports

Mark Koetke, Department of Corrections 651/642-0277

The Department of Corrections (DOC) consists of 3,683 employees spread among the central office in St. Paul and 10 correctional facilities, 8 of which are adult facilities and 2 of which house juvenile offenders. Low-flow toilets and showers have been installed at many facilities, resulting in 30-40% decrease in water usage. At Oak Park Heights staff have installed low flow shower heads in one complex. Upcoming conversions include electronically timed showers, water savings aerators on sinks and electronic flush controls on the individual room toilets.

The Stillwater facility successfully downgraded from a large quantity generator to a small quantity generator. The Red Wing facility transferred to an all-electronic MSDS system. Many facilities have trained and EPA-certified employees to reclaim Freon containing refrigerants and plans are in place to phase out all CFC's. HEPA filters in ventilation systems, routine ductwork maintenance, and anti-bacterial pads in condensate drip pans are in use at many facilities.

DOC fleet vehicles are equipped to receive E85 fuels. The department is increasing its use of video conferencing for regular meetings. The Information Technology staff have supported shared drives for e-storage of material that is accessible to all.

There has been a DOC-wide switch to "Portion Pac" chemicals for cleaning. Cleaners are individually packaged in a portion-controlled envelope and are non-toxic. Many facilities are using or converting to electronic ballast lighting to replace less-efficient fluorescent lamps with more efficient ones. Stillwater replaced the entire facility lighting system, realizing savings of \$2000/ month. Many facilities utilize power sharing/shedding and variable speed HVACs to adjust to demand.

Rush City and St. Cloud have planted over 100 trees and 5 acres of native grasses and wild flowers. The payback for the project, based on water conservation, is 3 to 4 years. Oak Park Heights recycled 110 tons of food waste in fiscal year 2001 by partnering with local farmers. All sites recycle office products. Stillwater alone realized a benefit equivalent to saving 480 trees. Oil and oil filters are recycled at all facilities. TV's, fluorescent bulbs/lights, computers and monitors are recycled at many facilities. Corrugated paper, batteries, wooden pallets and scrap metal are being exchanged or recycled at many facilities.

IPPAT Business and Updates

Baseline setting Update – because of staffing shortages among the agencies that belong to the baseline setting committee, no further work has been done. Members are encouraged to work with this committee to create a tool for us to measure the progress of our pollution prevention initiatives over time.

New executive order preparation Update – We now know that we will need a new executive order for the new governor who takes office in January. The executive order committee is reviewing the present rendition to identify any more elements that should be included.

Creating a college and university sub-team Update – Emily Moore and Laura Millberg met with a number of people from MnSCU and colleges and universities in May to discuss the idea of creating a subteam of IPPAT. Because college and university facility personnel are already implementing many P2 initiatives and are very busy, we decided to keep the same structure that we have currently, with representatives attending IPPAT meetings on occasion and keeping in touch through e-mail messages.

P2 Summary Report – we decided at the meeting not to change anything but to keep the same instructions this year. We will evaluate whether to make changes for next year's report.

P2 Week 2002 – we decided that for this year's P2 Week, IPPAT members will select one of their agency's pollution prevention initiatives to share with everyone and submit a description of it to Emily to send out to the distribution list. Those descriptions will constitute our P2 tips of the day.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the IPPAT will be on Thursday, October 24, 2002 from 9 to 11:45 a.m.

Attendees

Jon Kolstad, Minnesota Army National Guard 320/632-7524
Andrew Phelan, University of Minnesota 612/626-7744
Mark Koetke, Department of Corrections 651/642-0277
Gene Christenson, University of Minnesota 612/626-1590
Laura Millberg, Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0219
Ray Bissonnette, Pollution Control Agency 651/297-8588
Donna Peterson, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program, 612/624-4653
Mike Taylor, Department of Commerce 651/296-6830
Glenn Olson, Department of Human Services 651/297-8742
Gordon Specht, Department of Administration 651/215-0418
Mark Wacek, Metropolitan Airports Commission 612/725-6428
Mike Liles, Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0220
Linda Countryman, Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0269
Emily Moore, Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0201
Gloria Sonnen, Department of Administration 651/297-2954
Maureen Hickman, Office of Environmental Assistance 651/215-0271