

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
Thursday, July 24, 2003
Meeting Summary

Agenda

The Alliance for Reduction and Recycling of Waste (ARROW) – an effective agency tool

Natural Landscaping

IPPAT Business and Updates

MnGREAT! 2003

Baseline setting (metrics) discussion

P2 Summary Report

P2 Week 2003

Highlights of Pollution Prevention Summary Reports

Announcements

Glenn Olson - The Department of Human Services is beginning planning for new space in the Capitol Square space. Plans have no space for paper document storage, and a lot of parking will also be eliminated. This is causing consternation for the staff that manage all the stored paper documents currently taking up 40 percent of the building at the Lafayette site. They will have to develop electronic filing systems and retrieval practices to be able to serve the Minnesota citizens who need access to medical and adoption records. In addition, the department is required to keep records on people who have in the past been denied coverage, and that adds to the burden of document storage.

Al Tupy – the Department of Health started building recently at the old Tastee Bakery property. They are designing and building as they go, considering the environmental benefits from the first. The new building construction team is using energy conservation features such as a heat wheel for the laboratory buildings. Currently labs exhaust air through hoods, and the heated air is lost to the outside. There will be heat and humidity exchangers, which work best in buildings with 100 percent exhaust as in the laboratories. Two-thirds of the cost of the improvements will be paid off in the first year of operation.

IPPAT Business and Updates

MnGREAT! 2003 – Nine applications for the Governor’s Award qualify to be evaluated for a MnGREAT! Award, in addition to the peer nominations put forth by IPPAT members. Ten judges will select winners of the MnGREAT! Awards at a meeting later in August. The MnGREAT! Awards ceremony may be held separately from the Governor’s Awards this year at a time to be announced when it’s finalized.

Metrics discussion – At the April IPPAT meeting Mike Taylor proposed a strategy for measuring the progress of individual agencies and the state as a whole toward sustainability. A subcommittee considered the idea further, and Mike gave an update of their work. The IPPAT members that volunteered for the Metrics Subcommittee are Mike Taylor, Department of Commerce, Mark Koetke, Department of Corrections, Gene Christenson, University of Minnesota, and Mike Liles, Emily Moore, and Tom Miller from OEA. The purpose was to develop 2 to 3 baseline indicator statistics for 2004 IPPAT reports that can be standardized across agencies and the progress measured within and across agencies from year to year.

The criteria the subcommittee feels are appropriate for indicators are the following:

- Indicators should be applicable to all agencies
- A central data source should be available
- We should be able to assign a monetary value to the indicator
- A sample of the whole should be acceptable
- A “Top-of-Pyramid” indicator is preferred

The subcommittee proposes the following indicators:

- Gasoline use per leased vehicle in travel management (data from travel management)

- Office paper use per FTE (% recycled content) (data from central services purchasing)
- E85 use per leased E85 vehicle (data from travel management)
- Energy use per FTE (btu)

Scott Albers suggested that we put a qualifier in the measurements of hazardous waste management services to indicate when the agency was managing hazardous waste that they produced and when it was managing other hazardous waste that they did not produce but that they came upon through reclamation projects, etc. The measurement should be able to reflect the benefit of managing waste that they did not produce. Mark Vogel agreed, stating that MnDOT has around 200 construction projects where they are demolishing buildings. They have sludge from gas stations and hazardous waste from the demolition sites, along with abandoned waste from all kinds of operations. We need a metric that will distinguish internal generation from waste they're managing from external sources.

Donna Peterson said that in MnTAP's work, they generate a lot of data, but they haven't been able to quantify the top of the pyramid yet. If we could figure out what data are crucial to serve as indicators for sustainability, we would be getting somewhere. Perhaps decreases in the amount of pesticide purchased or of certain kinds of fertilizer purchased would be a true measure of pollution prevention progress. Donna suggested that we write case studies of successful prevention projects and put materials exchange information on the IPPAT web page and MnTAP's page. Dan Metcalf said that Resource Recovery's reuse program should also be publicized through the IPPAT. Glenn Olson gave the example of cases of VCR tapes that were never distributed by the Department of Human Services being given to the Minneapolis Public Schools and finding a valuable opportunity for reuse.

Summary Report – a subcommittee will revise the instructions for next year's Pollution Prevention Summary Report that will incorporate the metrics developed by the committee working on that topic. The volunteers for that subcommittee are Donna Peterson, Mike Taylor, Gene Christenson, Mike Liles, and Ken Auer. We discussed whether to streamline the report so that it was only about changes each year, but Andy Phelan suggested that there is value in the archived report. We should somehow be able to access the core current report so that agencies have recorded their on-going practices that benefit the environment and the bottom line, with a separate section that documents each year's progress toward a goal.

P2 Week 2003 – Pollution Prevention Week 2003 is going to be during the week of September 16. We decided that we should reinstitute the daily pollution prevention tips to share with our agencies. One thing we can do is to announce the MnGREAT! Award winners during P2 Week, sharing information about the best practices they use. We could announce one winner each day and write it so that the other agencies can translate the successes to their operations.

Natural Landscaping

Angela Anderson, Department of Natural Resources 651-296-6768

Angela Anderson, Natural Communities Management Coordinator for Trails and Waterways at the Department of Natural Resources, gave a slide show introduction to the DNR natural landscaping project before leading us on a tour of the plantings in front of the DNR building. She and others initiated the project in 1990 as a model to promote landscaping with native plants, help educate visitors and employees about Minnesota's native plants as an appropriate entrance to the DNR building, and conserving water.

Each year these plantings change, depending on the influence of aggressive native and exotic plants and the density of the local rabbit population. Volunteer gardeners from the DNR devote lunch hours to managing the areas and keeping certain plants from dominating.

Over the years rabbits have eliminated certain species altogether, weedy native and exotic plants have found their way into the plantings. But trees are growing well, flowers and grasses bloom throughout the seasons, and even in the winter, rosehips and remaining seedheads of grasses and flowers add interest to the otherwise drab and monotonous urban landscape.

The internet access to gardening with native plants is: www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html. People will find a lot of good information at this site.

The Alliance for Reduction and Recycling of Waste (ARROW) – an effective agency tool

Colleen Hetzel, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0203

ARROW was established in 1989 in the building that the Office of Environmental Assistance and the Pollution Control Agency share. ARROW consists of 1 to 3 representatives from each floor, who serve on a volunteer basis, and a management champion. The chairperson rotates periodically. ARROW meets monthly, and subcommittees are established as needed. Meeting summaries are distributed to members and to the management champion and are posted on the PCA's web page on the intranet "Recycling Opportunities at the MPCA."

The main responsibilities for ARROW are to encourage and educate staff to reduce, reuse and recycle, to maintain the current recycling and composting systems in the building, to partner with Lafayette Park tenants, Meritex, Signature Dining and the Department of Administration. ARROW members conduct research and follow up on suggestions for waste reduction, coordinate Earth Week activities, and serve as a resource for lease negotiations and purchasing and for the organic composting program in the building.

The major accomplishments of ARROW are listed below:

1989 - The recycling program started (paper, cans, glass, bottles)

1992 - Earth Week activities began; they were expanded to partner with others in 1998

1994 - ARROW participated on MN Waste Wise to develop waste reduction policies

1995 - An informal composting program began. ARROW was actively involved in renegotiating the building lease and were sponsors of an internal waste sort at MPCA

1997 - Waste Buster Recognition Program began and MPCA/OEA volunteers began making tablets from recycled paper

1998 - A Treasures Table was established during certain times of the year and ARROW became involved in lawn care and landscaping.

2000 - Composting became permanent. All cafeteria food waste, including cafeteria food waste, napkins, biodegradable utensils, and paper towels from restrooms are collected separately and transported to an organic composting facility. ARROW received a MnGREAT! Award for the composting program.

2001 - A reusable envelope pilot project began, which went agency-wide in 2002. ARROW trained support staff on environmentally-friendly purchases and toured the Resource Recovery Office. Compostable flatware was purchased for work-related events.

Currently ARROW members are working with Signature Dining and Meritex to stock compostable flatware in the cafeteria. ARROW members are also working with the DNR to lay out a framework for implementing a waste reduction program at DNR. ARROW members continue to promote and encourage productive ways for PCA and OEA staff to reduce energy consumption and increase energy and environmental awareness.

Next Meeting – the next IPPAT meeting will be held at the Arden Hills facility of the Army Reserve. A car pool will leave the OEA at 8:30 a.m. on October 23rd. Suggested topics are

Forest stewardship and certification of wood

Features of the resource recovery office offerings

Tour of maintenance shops at the Army Reserves

Composting animals from road kill and other sources of fuel

Demolition projects and hazardous waste management

Attendees (Continued on page 4)

Maggie Lundell, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) 651-602-4769

Ken Auer, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) 320-632-7565

Scott Albers, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) 320-632-7566

Gordy Dormanen, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Agency (IRRA) 218-254-7967

Gloria Sonnen, Department of Administration (Admin)

Gene Christenson, University of Minnesota 612-626-1590

Andy Phelan, University of Minnesota 612-626-7744

Dan Metcalf, Department of Administration 651-296-2503

Mark Vogel, Department of Transportation (MnDOT) 651-284-3790
Al Tupy, Department of Health (MDH) 612-676-5680
John Bryan, Metro Transit 612-349-7680
Glenn Olson, Department of Human Services (DHS) 651-297-8742
Donna Peterson, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) 612-624-4653
Mike Taylor, Department of Commerce 651-
Steve Bragg, U.S. Army Reserves 612-713-3802
Angela Anderson, Department of Natural Resources 651-296-6768
Colleen Hetzel, Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) 651-215-0207
Emily Moore, of Environmental Assistance (OEA) 651-215-0201