

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
Thursday, January 27, 2005
Meeting Summary

Announcements and Updates

A document produced by INFORM, titled Pollution Prevention: Specifying and sourcing Mercury-Free HVAC and Building Equipment, gives a lot of good information about purchasing and reminds us not to overlook sources of mercury as we remodel and relocate our offices. Metro Transit is making all kinds of strides toward pollution prevention with light rail, and the Met Council Environmental Services made a huge investment in fluidized bed technology for burning sludge for the purpose of eliminating mercury from the incinerator and keeping it out of the air. MCES is moving to a new building and the staff are discovering all kinds of obscure mercury-containing air-monitoring devices as they prepare to move.

The Mississippi Headwaters Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council has been granted Provisional Chapter status. The first Chapter events will take place on February 15th. A Chapter quarterly event begins at 7:30 a.m., followed by a LEED® Workshop. Check the website <http://www.usgbcnmn.org/> for more information.

Northern Sparks Fire Starters (2004 MnGREAT! Award winners) make a fire starter that is available in bulk or in a couple of different sizes. They are made from 100 percent recycled material and are the environmentally safe alternative to conventional starter fluid. One starter burns for 20 minutes, giving any fire a good start. Individuals with disabilities, working through the MSOCS – Northern region, make them. Contact Linda “Lena” Schaumburg at 1-866-336-3183 for more information or to place an order.

MnGREAT! Awards –

Colleen Hetzel, MnGREAT! Coordinator and Fran Kurk, OEA

Fran Kurk is the coordinator for the Governor’s Awards this year and Colleen Hetzel is the coordinator for the MnGREAT! Awards. Colleen described some potential changes for this year’s Governor’s Awards and MnGREAT! Awards. They solicited feedback from the group.

The MnGREAT! Awards started as a state employee recognition program in 1994. The awards were given every two years. Then in 1999 the MnGREAT! Awards were combined with the Governor’s awards for Excellence in Pollution Prevention. The same applications were used in many instances, with both sets of judges reviewing an application. Both awards recognize outstanding work on pollution prevention. Governor’s Awards and MnGREAT! awards are different in several ways. The two awards have always had a different set of judges and different criteria for the awards. Competition has always been part of the Governor’s Award selection process, whereas the MnGREAT! Awards are competency based. The philosophy has been that if the nominee meets the criteria, the award is given. MnGREAT! Awards are given only to public organizations, whereas Governor’s Awards have been open to businesses, non-profits, and government groups. MnGREAT! Awards have been given to individuals and programs within agencies and counties, whereas the Governor’s Awards have been given to whole companies and agencies. Judges for MnGREAT! Awards consist of IPPAT representatives from various state agencies. External reviewers are encouraged but haven’t always been on the judging panels. The committee of judges is appointed by IPPAT. Criteria for MnGREAT! Awards are

- Pollution prevention
- Toxicity reduction
- Waste reduction
- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Recycling
- Composting

This year’s awards program will attempt to distinguish between the two types of award. Colleen described two possible options for the awards. Discussion afterwards brought forth many other blends and proposals for increasing

the profile of the MnGREAT! Awards. Colleen will be sending a survey out to all the members to refine the ideas we discussed at the meeting. Here are the original options she presented:

Program Option #1- The Governor's Award for Excellence in Pollution Prevention and Governor's MnGREAT Award. They would be separate awards- public vs. private with two separate judging panels and separate award criteria. There would be a joint ceremony and the number of awards would not be limited for MnGREAT.

Program Option #2- the Governor's Award for Excellence in Pollution Prevention combines public and private sectors under one award with separate judging panels. This would use either the more traditional, competitive criteria or two sets of criteria. There would be one ceremony, and the number of awards would be kept open.

IPPAT members had a number of different visions of the program. Comments about the options were:

- Calling the award the Governor's MnGREAT! Awards blurs the distinction between the two awards.
- Two of the most important standards in the criteria for judging the awards are that the work needs to be well above the daily mandate for people's jobs and that the actions being nominated should not be the result of some sort of penalty levied against the government agency.
- The awards should be given to as many people as possible that meet the criteria. It started as peer recognition, and that recognition filters through the agency and fosters better appreciation of the recipients. It's a grass roots recognition program.
- Public and private sectors are different and need to have different judging philosophies.
- Who were these recommendations from? Were the MnGREAT! Committee involved in crafting them? Attaching "Governor's" to the MnGREAT! Awards makes some sense, since it was the Governor's executive order that established the IPPAT.
- Excellence is excellence. Having two sets of awards invites comparison between the business and government sectors. Why encourage that?
- Raising the profile of the MnGREAT! Awards is a communication issue with the groups that are planning the ceremony.
- If you have the same title, you need to put a lot of emphasis on why there are two separate awards.
- The private sector doesn't have an advantage on measuring success. Government can measure success as well as businesses.
- Getting an award was really important in how it gave a boost to the winners and raised the awareness of management and the public.
- Could we come up with another acronym for other sectors and have the Governor's Awards with the categories identified by MnGREAT! and the other acronym?
- There should be just one award with competition applying to business and government.
- You could have a bunch of different sector awards, each maintaining a set of standards with competition being a factor in each set of awards. They'd be the Governor's awards with categories for business, non-profit, institution (public and private), and government. It's important that government be recognized as just as important as business.

Colleen will send out a survey to further clarify the IPPAT membership's wishes. Send any ideas generated by reading these comments to Colleen at colleen.hetzel@state.mn.us or call 651-215-0203.

Governor's Executive Order 04-08 Update – Ned Brooks, PCA

The departments identified in the Governor's Executive Order 04-08 have achieved 100 percent compliance with the first part of the order. Ned handed out a list of department contacts and commitments. That list is attached. There has been one air alert since the compliance date for the order, and the distribution of the alert to all departments seemed to have run smoothly.

Conservation Tips for Equipment Use – Bruce Nelson, Commerce

When looking for ways to reduce your contribution to air pollution, don't overlook energy conservation. Establishing a tracking system for a building's energy use and recommissioning can save an enormous amount of energy. Paybacks of one month are not uncommon, and paybacks of six months are very common. Unbelievably fast savings can be achieved rather easily.

The quickest and most effective thing you can do right away is to make sure all computers in your agency are using Energy Star settings. An estimated 50 to 60 percent of computers stay on all the time. The staff may think their screen savers are on sleep mode when they aren't. IT departments need to be aware of the Energy Star initiative and should be implementing it throughout their agencies.

Some good training opportunities are coming up for ENERGY STAR purchasing and procurement. The next online training for Power Management is scheduled for February 16, 2005, at 1:30 PM Eastern time (12:30 Central). Go to the website <http://www.energystar.gov/powermanagement> and click on "Sign up for Power Management training".

EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing website is another good source for information. The address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/>

Minnesota Environmentally Responsible Purchasing website is <http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/envir.htm>

If you're interested in receiving the Commissioning and Recommissioning Fact Sheet from the Department of Commerce, contact Bruce Nelson at 651-297-2313 or bruce.nelson@state.mn.us.

Another tool is: ENERGY STAR purchasing and procurement: <http://www.energystar.gov/purchasing>. Click on "online training". The next online training for ENERGY STAR purchasing and procurement is scheduled for February 22, 2005, at 1:00 PM Eastern time (noon Central). Sign yourself up for the online training, and if you can talk an IT person in your department to also sign up, that will be even better.

P2 Summary Report Forms for Exec Order 04-08 - discussion

Gene Christenson, U of M and Nick Salkowski, Pollution Control Agency

Those of the group that prepared the 2004 Pollution Prevention Summary Report have experience with adding metrics to the report. We measured the environmental effects of the paper we used, using a calculator to compare virgin paper with 30 percent recycled content and 100 percent recycled content paper. The governor's executive order allows us to focus on quantification even further. The IPPAT Metrics committee has been working on a set of forms to use for quantifying progress with the executive order. Gene Christenson Nick Salkowski shared some sample approaches and got feedback from the group. The committee will meet one more time and then post the draft reporting forms on the IPPAT web page and solicit further comment. The final version of the forms is what we will use for the 2005 Pollution Prevention Summary Report. Discussion and comment consisted of the following:

- Vehicle replacement calculations allow you to put in the year and model of the old vehicle and the replacement vehicle, and the calculator will tell you the type and amount of emissions avoided.
- Will we use standard comparisons? Ford Taurus vs. something else? Flexible fuel Taurus is a popular choice for state fleets. For a given car the calculator calculates carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and non-methane related gas.
- Will you have calculators for diesel engines? Most of the Metro Transit fleet is diesel engines. Yes, there are separate categories for diesel emissions.
- Is there a category for utility vehicles? We discontinued pickup trucks and use golf carts and similar non-road vehicles, going from 30 gallons of gas to 5 gallons of gas, etc. Non-road models do generate emissions but getting anything specific will be difficult. The database lumps together all types of non-road vehicles (lawn mowers, golf carts, tractors, etc) and getting accurate estimates for each mile driven is difficult. There is definitely a benefit through reducing the amount of gasoline used.
- Is using low-sulfur diesel a benefit? Emission reductions from just using low sulfur diesel are not that great. However, the engines Metro Transit uses have the lowest emissions on the market.
- To quantify benefits from encouraging alternative commuting, agencies will have to do annual or biennial surveys to find out how many miles are actually involved and the emissions saved will follow. Anytime a commuter uses bus or bike (or walks) to get to work, they incur negligible increase in emission. To calculate a car pool, each time the employee car pools to work, the vehicle miles not driven are applicable to the

calculation. Transportation Management Offices (TMOs) and Metro Commuter Services can help hook employees up with alternate commuting opportunities.

- Office equipment calculations will be specific to the equipment replaced and the energy ratings for the old and the replacement equipment.
- The Minnesota Sustainable Building Guide lists suggested energy strategies to create greater efficiency. All new state buildings have Xcel Energy design help and will be able to record their energy savings. Older buildings will need to devise a strategy to show the energy savings over time. The University of Minnesota tracked energy savings from strategies implemented in Coffey Hall by normalizing temperatures over time, and their records showed significant energy savings in every season of the year.
- Was there any tracking of maintenance costs? The Army Reserves made changes to their equipment controls to shut down operations at different times, and they found the equipment broke down more often. They spent their savings on maintenance costs, but that didn't show up on the balance sheet. It's important to be able to measure so that you can monitor what's happening.
- For quantifying the benefits of changing the products we use, we will need to compare the volatile organic compound (VOC) content of each product and the quantities used, recognizing that it's an approximation.
- The committee has not deliberated the quantification for landscaping, but the goal is to reduce air pollution by reducing the amount of lawn mowing we do. If replacing turf, we will need to know how much turf we replaced. Each acre of mowed turf is equivalent to the annual emissions of two cars. Or we could measure the number of hours spent mowing. Reducing the mowing time will reduce air emissions. Each hour of mowing is equivalent to a car traveling twenty miles.

2004 P2 Summary Report

The 2004 P2 Summary Report is completed and is being sent for review to the report authors. After everyone approves it, it will be posted to the IPPAT web page at <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/>

Attendees

John Bryan, Metro Transit 612-349-7680

Mike Taylor, Department of Commerce 651-296-

Al Tupy, Department of Health 612-676-5680

Mark Snyder, Office of Environmental Assistance

Mike Nevala, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services 651-602-1065

Rich Rovang, Metro Transit 612-349-7684

DeEon Phillippi, Century College 651-747-4079

Steven Bragg, U.S. Army Reserve 612-290-0940

Tina Patton, Office of Environmental Assistance, 651-215-0214

Caleb Werth, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0225

Joe LaForce, Department of Military Affairs 320-616-2621

Gayle Cahill, Department of Public Safety 651-296-9485

Marlene White, Higher Education Services Office 651-642-0567

John Thompson, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District 612-645-9149

Roger Wirkkunen, Department of Revenue 651-556-4002

Ed Chromey, Department of Agriculture 651-297-

Sara Bertelsen, Environmental Quality Board 651-296-7939

Jeff Buss, Pollution Control Agency 651-297-8659

Ned and Simon Brooks, Pollution Control Agency 651-296-7242

Jeff Ledermann, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0236

Laura Millberg, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0219

Gene Christenson, University of Minnesota 612-626-1590

Linda Schaumburg, Minnesota State OCS 866-336-3183

Gordy Dormanen, Iron Range Resources 218-254-7967
Bill Droessler, Minnesota Environmental Initiative 651-334-3388
Jim Kubisiak, Department of Employee Relations 651-297-8006
Bruce Nelson, Department of Commerce, 651-297-2313
Rick Kantorwicz, Department of Health 651-296-3875
Cindy McComas, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program 612-624-4678
Glenn Olson, Department of Human Services 651-297-8742
Nick Salkowski, Pollution Control Agency, 651-296-8709