

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
July 26, 2007
Meeting Summary

Member Updates

One-minute updates surfaced interesting notes and progress toward pollution prevention and emission reductions. Some highlights include: A MnDOT retrofit project has been funded and up to 280 vehicles have been retrofitted; many agencies report purchasing more E-85 vehicles, increasing E-85 purchase over petroleum and the DNR is switching over to all electric vehicles for state parks. The Iron Range Rehabilitation area will have 300,000 spruce, red pine and jack pine trees planted in restoration areas by October. St. Cloud State is looking at converting diesel vehicles to using recycled grease. Effluent at the Minnesota River is being treated by "cryogenic oxygenation." Property and income tax records have been reduced to electronic form to reduce paper consumption.

MnGREAT! Award - Customer Research Report – Colleen Hetzel, MPCA

Colleen Hetzel gave a presentation on the review committee's findings to date. (Power point presentation will be emailed to all members). They developed a survey and interviewed internal staff. IPPAT members are invited to stay for a focus group meeting after the October 25 meeting in order to get its input as well.

Thus far, the committee decided that changes to the program, if any, will be made for the next year. The few changes the committee felt were to be made immediately for 2007 were:

- add a partnership category
- applications must be submitted electronically
- consolidate the Governors Awards on one web page
- solicitations for applications went out electronically

Group Discussion

Those present participated in a discussion centered on how to limit the number of videos that are filmed to feature at the awards ceremony. A list of ideas to consider was provided. The consensus for 2007 was: Establish a two-tiered approach; leave it as broad as possible; judges should select the top five to receive video broadcast; others will get recognition in the printed booklet (with a possible poster session opportunity).

Colleen noted that they need additional members to take part in the focus group in October, and to be part of the Judging Committee. Contact her if interested.

State Climate Change Project Update Bill Sierks, MPCA (Power-point presentation will be emailed to all members) (See handout)

Bill Sierks, representing the MPCA on the Climate Change Advisory Group, reported that the purpose, goals and targets had been restructured. They will complete a report to the Governor by 2-1-08. The 51 advisory group members were appointed by the Governor. They are stakeholders and not agency staff.

The Center for Climate Change Strategy is a facilitated group with five technical groups that have scheduled meetings on a timeline from 4/20/07 to 2/1/08. Each group has prioritized issues to be considered that together total 50. Governor Pawlenty attended the first two meetings and promised to take action on their recommendations.

So far in the process they have identified initial priorities for analysis and then will develop straw proposals of about 50. These will be scored; they will create a list of implementation methods; and complete a portfolio of policy options.

Other states such as AZ, NM and NC are done with this process. MN is cutting edge in renewable energy and climate change because of its advanced emissions inventory, expertise, well-developed programs on sustainability and the support of our Governor.

For further information such as schedules, minutes, handouts, membership, etc., go to the web site www.climatechange.us or contact Bill Sierks at the MPCA, 651-296-6300.

Saving Energy Update (Executive Order #05-16) – Jim Schwartz, Dept. of Admin.

This executive order was issued in November, 2005. In response to this duty, the Dept. of Administration issues a letter to all employees about energy reduction. In addition, building setback guidelines are sent to all agencies. Progress for 2006 includes 4.8% energy reduction; \$1.25 million cost was avoided; and six agencies surpassed the 10% energy reduction goal. This was all accomplished with existing resources. The savings here amounts to enough to heat 1300 homes in a year.

For more information, see their “Saving Energy” newsletter that includes a summary of “The 2006 Saving Energy Report.” This is also available at www.savingenergy.state.mn.us

Following discussion, a question was raised and Jim promised to send out a definition that explains what “energy forward pricing” is about. Also, he noted that the state building energy re-commissioning bill was not funded last session, but they are hopeful to get this in 2008. Finally, members are asked to let Jim know if their agency is interested in having an energy fair.

2006 IPPAT P2 Report – Emily Moore, MPCA

Emily began by stating that the various executive orders covering Clean Air Minnesota (CAM), more use of E85, building energy efficiency and the Climate Change Initiative are all the same as an overall effort to reduce our carbon footprint, ozone precursors and pollution. She’s been focused on measuring and compiling energy reduction. She and Mark Sulzbach, the PCA connection to CAM, are working together on messages about what IPPAT is doing and the best way to communicate it to CAM.

She covered in detail the challenges of gathering measurements altogether on fleet purchases, gas and E-85 usage, and trying to total electronics purchases and change-outs for their impacts on emissions reductions. She recommends that the tool to use for electronics calculations is the new EPEAT environmental assessment tool – www.epeat.net/benefits.aspx

Challenges in gathering overall state agency totals is that at this time there is too much variance in the ways agencies track purchases and recycling (surplusing) of electronics so we can’t use just one calculator form.

Next was a discussion about challenges among PCA, Travel Management, and Metro Transit on the various numbers found and methods used to calculate emission reductions from all agencies. Metro Transit expects to have amazing reductions from increased use of B-20 and hybrid buses. Emily will have this all compiled in the 2006 executive summary.

She also asked the group to think about the best ways to promote these third annual savings in a press release. What analogies could be used to get this understood, like compare to a number of homes or cities [similar to how Dept. of Admin. explained the 2006 energy savings was equal to heating 1300 homes in a year].

Other Items

Angie Bourdaghs announced that agencies can now procure 100% post-consumer recycled content paper from Badger Paper for the same price as 30% (now \$3.41/ream). She'll send out more on this to IPPAT.

Next Steps

We discussed possible locations for future meetings and tours, including:

- A tour of the mines at Chisholm (open May-Labor Day). Possible July meeting but would include overnight.
- Camp Ripley – Environmental Center is very nice. Day trip
- MnGREAT! Winners

Future topics of discussion:

- Stormwater – retention ponds; pervious pavements
- Governor's office – cabinet speaker on how to better enforce Exec. Orders to get to goals. (E.g, get more E-85 stations about every 5 miles)
- Dept. of Admin. on the 10% reduction – who're the enforcers? (For ex., must have an employee contact each year for the monthly emails, reminders, etc.)
- How to influence E85 change?
- Meet with legislators to talk about new environmental mandates, check on policy we could seek, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

Attendees:

Auer, Ken	Moore, Emily
Bourdaghs, Angie	Morse, Tim
Bryan, John	Moss, Paul
Cavadini, Wayne	Mujumdar, Anita
Christenson, Gene	Schreifels, Susan
Cioci, Madalyn	Sierks, Bill
Countryman, Linda	Specht, Gordon
Dormanen, Gordy	Strong, Phyllis
Gilchrist, Chris	Schwartz, Jim
Hetzel, Colleen	Teff, Joe
Jordahl-Larson, Marilyn	Thompson, John
Kurk, Fran	Treichel, Tyler
Jensen, Cathy	Vennewitz, Mike
Lundell, Maggie	Williams, Jim
Matthys, Don	Werkenin, Roger