

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
Army Reserves Center
Thursday, October 23, 2003
Meeting Summary

Announcements

Sustainable Products Training, a national program that affects us all, was held Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 27 and 28, at the Science Museum of Minnesota. For more information about the training, see www.sustainableproducts.com.

The conference sponsored by the Recycling Association of Minnesota and the Solid Waste Association of North America (RAM/SWANA conference) was held November 4 –6. Check their website for details at <http://www.recycleminnesota.org>.

The Pollution Control Agency's Air Water and Waste conference will be held February 25-26, 2004.

Robustion Products makes a Java Log, made from molasses, wax, and coffee grounds. If you like the aroma of coffee, you should check out the Java Log.

State agency time-sensitive grants - a funding opportunity

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

The Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) competitive grant round deadline is October 31, 2003. OEA has another kind of grant, however, called Time-sensitive grants, and they don't have to meet the October deadline. The OEA will consider proposals until all the money is awarded. One priority category for these time-sensitive grants is state agency pollution and waste prevention. State agencies that want to implement new prevention ideas into their agency such as, duplex printing, copiers that easily do double-sided printing or implement a food waste composting program can apply for one of these grants. The maximum amount an agency can ask for is \$9,999. This is a great opportunity for state and local government agencies that will really provide a chance to reduce waste. Don't waste the opportunity.

Organic Waste Composting

Ginny Black, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0284

Composting dead animals is a low cost, environmentally sound, biosecure, and, if properly managed, odor-free alternative to burial, incineration and rendering. The way it works is that carcasses high in nitrogen and a bulking agent high in carbon are layered in a compost bin. Microorganisms degrade the material, producing heat, water, carbon dioxide, and fertilizer. The carbon to nitrogen ratio needs to be between 15:1 and 25:1. Good airflow requires a bulking agent with the right particle size for enough oxygen to get throughout the material. A bulking agent absorbs water and filters odors, also, when managed properly. Sawdust and straw are good choices.

The moisture content needs to stay even so that it's not too wet or too dry. The temperature needs to achieve levels of 130 to 150°F to destroy weed seeds and pathogens and to make for quick composting.

In the first heat cycle you layer the carcasses in a primary bin and maintain the temperature of 130-150°F for one week. Flesh and small bones break down. Then the temperature subsides. For the second heat cycle, you turn the material into a secondary bin and maintain a temperature of 130°F for one week. During this cycle the long bones and skulls break down. At this point, you inspect the pile for flesh and if it is completely matured, you can spread it as fertilizer.

The benefits of composting are that it

- | | |
|--|--|
| ? Controls odor; | ? Is low cost – you can modify existing buildings; |
| ? Kills pathogenic bacteria and viruses; | ? Requires minimal labor; |
| ? Works with all animal species; | ? Works for any size operation; and |

? Protects ground and surface water

Ginny cited a study conducted at Iowa State University that measured runoff from soil that had been amended with a 3-inch compost and mulch mix. They had to set the rain simulator at 4 1/2 inches before any water ran off the soil. The water that did run off met drinking water standards.

Ginny and Colleen Hetzel talked also about commercial and institutional use of vermiculture. Vermiculture programs have been successfully employed in schools, prisons, and elsewhere - anywhere food waste can be easily separated, stored and disbursed into bins. There are a few large-scale vermiculture programs in Minnesota and if people need any information on these facilities they can contact Colleen Hetzel.

MnGREAT! Winners

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

Mike Nevala announced the 2003 MnGREAT! winners. They are:

Ramsey County Property Management,
Dakota County Independent School District 196,
Minnesota Technical Assistance Program,
Victoria Reinhardt,
Lynne Markus, and
Donna Peterson.

The attached description of the winners gives the details. An IPPAT subcommittee will consider the future of the MnGREAT! Awards. Those who have volunteered for the committee so far are Mike Nevala, Steve Bragg, Mike Taylor, Glenn Olson, Ken Auer, DeEon Phillippi.

We currently have three ways to nominate for the awards:

- All government applicants for a Governor's Award get automatically forwarded to the MnGREAT! Judging committee
- IPPAT members can nominate their own agency or any other agency, using documentation from the pollution prevention summary report to support their nomination.
- IPPAT members can nominate their peers, writing a few paragraphs about the program or persons that support their nomination.

The committee will review the nomination process and the award criteria and evaluate the different venues for a ceremony recognizing MnGREAT! Award winners. Anyone interested in helping with this should contact Emily Moore.

P2 Summary Report for 2004

We had a discussion about next year's instructions for the P2 Summary Report. The discussion brought out the following points:

- The pollution prevention summary report that each agency submits needs to be more useful to the agency writing the report and to the reader in terms of using it as a means to identify pollution prevention opportunities and plan for implementing them each year. A couple of sentences should be added to express the agency's intentions for the following year on its most important need.
- Information that is ongoing but reported each year is perhaps not useful to put in the report.
- There should be a couple of sentences that highlight what the agency considers to be its outstanding projects for the year. These sections could be used by peers for MnGREAT! nominations.
- We need to devise a system for measuring our progress to describe in next year's instructions.

- We need a standard presentation on pollution prevention that we can give to agency commissioners to get their buy-in on pollution prevention, so that they will drive policy to adopt pollution prevention practices and procedures. Perhaps a presentation to the Governor's cabinet is the best way to introduce the concept of P2, stressing that P2 saves money.

Mike Taylor and a committee will continue to develop the ideas and concepts for the new report. Other members are Mike Liles, Mike Nevala, Gene Christenson, Mark Koetke, and Ken Auer. Anyone else interested in helping with this should contact Emily Moore.

Tour of the Area Maintenance Support Activity Shop

Steve Bragg took us on a tour of the Support Activity Shop that serves a multi-state area. Innovative equipment is being used to save time and money and reduce pollution. Contact Steve at 612-713-3802 for more information.

Attendees

Gordon Specht, Dep't of Admin 651-215-0418
 Mike Taylor, Dep't of Commerce 651-
 Glenn Olson, Dep't of Human Services 651-297-8742
 Steve Bragg, U.S. Army Reserves 612-713-3802
 Mark Koetke, Dep't of Corrections 651-642-0277
 Al Tupy, Dep't of Health 612-676-5680
 Jesse Pearson, Fort Snelling
 Mark Wacek, Metropolitan Airports Commission 612-725-6428
 Donna Peterson, Mn Technical assistance Program 612-624-4653
 Mike Nevala, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services 651-602-1065
 DeEon Phillippi, Century College, Dep't of Corrections 651-779-2700 ex 2664
 Theresa Gaffey, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0251
 Colleen Hetzel, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0203
 Mick Jost, Mn Technical assistance Program 612-624-4694
 Ken Auer, Dep't of Military Affairs 320-632-7565
 Mark Vogel, Dep't of Transportation 651-284-3790
 Sara Barsel, Saint Paul College 651-647-9506
 Mike Liles, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0220
 Mark Schwarze, 88th RRC US Army Reserve 612-713-3382
 Ginny Black, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0284
 David Cera, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0240
 Mark Rust, Office of Environmental Assistance 651-215-0198
 Stan Linnell, Dep't of Natural Resources 651-297-4901