

GLRPPR Summer 2003 Conference Recap

The Summer 2003 Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR) conference was held August 6-8 in Erie, Pennsylvania. The event was hosted at the Clarion Conference Center Hotel near the Presque Isle State Park in Erie.

A two-part energy training program was hosted prior to the primary conference. The first part of the training consisted of a presentation by Rob Campbell from Vestar on the basics of energy audits. Part two consisted of a presentation from Hank Van Ormer from Air Power USA. Mr. Van Ormer's session focused on energy efficiency opportunities in compressed air systems. Approximately 30 people attended the training, including several individuals from companies in the Erie, PA area.

The GLRPPR Steering Committee met immediately following the energy training program. The Committee meets face to face twice a year, in conjunction with the Roundtable member events.

The conference drew approximately 65 people from the Great Lakes region. The majority of participants were from private businesses, state and local government agencies within the immediate area. The balance of attendees represented federal and local government agencies.

The format for this conference was modified so that all of the presentations were hosted in a single session. This gave participants an opportunity to hear all of the presentations, and the ability to benefit from the synergy of the topics and presentations.

Mayor Richard Filippi welcomed guests to Erie and the Roundtable meeting. Other distinguished speakers included Dan Desmond, the Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Pollution Prevention, and Lori Boughton of the DEP Office of Great Lakes. Ms. Boughton gave a feature presentation about the redesignation of the Presque Isle Bay from an Area of Concern to Area of Recovery, which demonstrated a shift in focus from remediation efforts to pollution prevention (P2) in the watershed.

Other presentations featured industrial energy efficiency as part of a P2 strategy and water pollution coupled with P2 strategies. Case studies were presented on facility-wide P2 programs at major manufacturing plants within the area (LORD Corporation, Merck & Company, and PPG Industries).

Additional highlights of the program were presentations about energy efficient green building design and innovative stormwater strategies. Mr. Paul Ziegler from Pennsylvania Governor's Green Government Council presented an innovative and exciting approach to building design that addresses pollution prevention and efficiency from the design phase through final occupancy and beyond.

Tom Cahill from Cahill and Associates offered information on the dynamics of stormwater management, including the management of volume as well as pollution. He also provided information about alternative asphalt and concrete paving systems that help alleviate the issue of stormwater as it relates to runoff volume. The system he discussed prevents the need for retention basins and water diversion by creating systems that permit the stormwater to percolate into the ground.

The next GLRPPR conference is in the process of being planned by the Steering Committee. GLRPPR anticipates that the next event will be hosted some time in Fall 2004. Check www.glrppr.org or watch your e-mail for announcements.