

Michigan's "Fish and Chips" Project

Michigan commercially harvests about 15 million pounds of fish from the Great Lakes annually, generating more than 7 million pounds of fish processing waste. Not only do fish processors have few waste disposal alternatives, Michigan's wood mill owners also have limited markets for their wood processing waste. To address this problem, a pilot program using commercial fish and lumber mill wastes to produce a high-grade marketable compost product has begun in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula (UP).

Through a \$50,000 Regional Pollution Prevention grant from the Clean Michigan Initiative Bond Fund, Northern Initiatives, an economic development company located in Marquette, MI, recently began a pilot composting project known as "Fish and Chips." The project has incorporated 15,000 pounds of fish waste and 25 cubic yards of sawmill waste in the construction of a pilot compost pile. Northern Initiatives will also provide information on compost markets to the commercial fishing industry, develop materials and conduct workshops on how best to manage composting operations, and share information on possible contamination levels that might result from the pilot composting operation.

If the "Fish and Chips" pilot project is successful, a large portion of Michigan's wood and fish waste streams currently being land filled or land-applied could be recycled into various compost and planting mix products.

GLRPPR
One E. Hazelwood Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
www.glrppr.org

MBP3 2001 Annual Report

The Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP3) has completed another successful year with the publication of the partnership's annual report. The 137 members who had goals during 2001 made 45 distinct material/process substitutions, incorporated extensive changes in behavior regarding environmentally preferable products, made considerable progress within water and energy conservation programs, and reported recycling over 8,822 tons of cardboard. Of those reporting, 90 percent used waste reduction techniques, 35 percent made material substitutions, 45 percent made energy and water conservation changes, 75 percent recycled, 30 percent are reusing materials, and nearly 95 percent reached the goals they had set. Several highlights within the report include a summary of the latest MBP3 workshop, successful waste reduction programs by partners, recycling and reuse options, and other innovative pollution prevention ideas. This year's report can be viewed at the MBP3 web site: www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ead-p2-mbp3-mbp3ar2001.pdf

To learn more about the advantages of pollution prevention and the benefits of joining the partnership, please visit the MBP3 web site at www.michigan.gov/deq, (under "Pollution Prevention"), or call 517-241-5719.

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The Newsletter of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable

GLRPPR Summer Conference 2002 Recap

The Summer 2002 Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable Conference was held August 26-28 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The conference proceedings included a GLRPPR Steering Committee meeting and a Local Government/Environmentally Preferable Purchasing training session, organized by J. Bruce Suits of the City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Management. Two new Steering Committee members, Geoff Bristow of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Tim McDaniel of International Truck & Engine Corporation, were in attendance. Bristow is GLRPPR's first Steering Committee representative from Pennsylvania, and McDaniel joins the Committee as an industry representative.

Brad Cumming of Environment Canada provided opening remarks for the conference. Each state and province provided an update on pollution prevention activities. Phil Kaplan presented an overview of recent activities taking place within U.S. EPA Region 5, Hugh McAlear gave a regional DOD update, and Paul Matthai of the U.S. EPA provided an update on national P2 activities. Bryan Young, General Manager of the Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative, provided a well-received plenary presentation on WindShare and the Waterfront Windmill Project as a vehicle for direct community investment in renewable energy.

Breakout sessions covered topics of concern to the Great Lakes Region. Topics included:

- P2 and Mercury
- P2 Tools and Techniques
- Outreach and Information
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Regulatory Integration
- P2 and Local Government
- P2 Technologies and Techniques

Tours of the Royal York Hotel and the Daimler Chrysler Bramalea Plant gave conference participants opportunities to see "real-world" examples of pollution prevention programs first-hand. A dinner cruise of the Toronto Harbor provided an opportunity for networking and a relaxing chance to enjoy Toronto's skyline. Thanks to Lori Fryzuk, Brad Cumming, and Al Ermacora of Environment Canada, as well as Sue McKinley, Chris Wolnik, Linda Varangu, and Tania Del Matto of the Canadian Center for Pollution Prevention for all of their work in planning and coordination for the conference. Presentations from the conference are posted at <http://www.glrppr.org/toronto2002>.

LINK Distributed in Electronic Format Only

This edition of LINK will be the final edition distributed in both paper and electronic formats; subsequent editions will be provided in electronic format only and available for downloading and printing from the GLRPPR web site at

<http://www.glrppr.org/newsletter>. When LINK is released, an email message will be sent to the GLRPPR membership listserv announcing its availability and providing a link to the current edition. This change was approved by the GLRPPR Steering Committee, and is seen as an important effort to save natural resources. If you are not a GLRPPR member but have been receiving print copies of LINK for your library or other organization, contact Joy Scrogum at 217-333-8948 or jscrogum@wmrc.uiuc.edu to ensure your email notification when subsequent editions are released. GLRPPR staff members will prepare an analysis of the paper and funds saved by this effort.

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LINK is designed and published at the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center.



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This edition of LINK features updates and case studies of mercury thermometer take back and exchange programs conducted within the Great Lakes region. These programs can help educate the public about the risks associated with mercury exposure while removing substantial quantities of this persistent, bioaccumulative toxin from the homes in your community. For more information on conducting an exchange program, consult the Health Care Without Harm *Going Green* resource kit for pollution prevention in hospitals (http://www.noharm.org/index.cfm?page_ID=29). Section 2-5 of this kit (*How to Plan and Hold a Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange*) serves as a guide to planning, funding and publicizing thermometer exchange events. Specific information on how to dispose of the mercury you collect should be obtained from your state or provincial environmental protection agency. For further information on the health effects of mercury and thermometer exchange and take back programs, see the following web sites:

- Hospitals for a Healthy Environment: Mercury, <http://www.h2e-online.org/tools/mercury.htm>
- GLRPPR Mercury—Health Care Topic Hub, <http://www.glrppr.org/hubs/toc.cfm?hub=502&subsec=7&nav=7>
- NEWMOA Mercury—Thermometers Topic Hub, <http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/topichubtoc.cfm?hub=36&subsec=7&nav=7>

Green Illinois & IEPA Host Hg Thermometer Exchanges

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of mercury (Hg) in a typical Hg thermometer (0.7 grams) is enough to contaminate all the fish in a lake with a 20-acre surface area. If a Hg thermometer breaks and is not cleaned up properly, the spill can create a potential risk of dangerous exposure to mercury vapor. Mercury affects the brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver, and impairs the ability to feel, see, taste and move. Symptoms of severe short-term exposure are numbness around the mouth, tunnel vision, tingling fingers and toes. Long-term, high-level exposure to mercury can cause neurological and kidney damage, vision problems, behavior abnormalities and coma. The most likely form of Hg exposure is from eating fish contaminated with methyl mercury. Mercury stays in the environment for a long time. Small organisms absorb it from water and sediment; smaller fish then eat these organisms. Larger fish eat the smaller fish and methyl mercury is thus accumulated up the food chain.

In an effort to reduce the amount of mercury found commonly in Illinois households, Governor Ryan's Green Government Coordinating Council (part of the Green Illinois program), is supporting a series of Hg thermometer exchanges at executive state agencies throughout the state. Employees are invited to bring in their Hg thermometers in exchange for a non-mercury replacement thermometer. The replacement thermometers contain a substance called Galinstan, a special blend of Gallium, Indium and Tin. Galinstan is non-toxic and safe for the user and the environment.

The first exchange was held at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) headquarters in Springfield on Earth Day, April 22, 2002. IEPA Director Renee Cipriano, along with over 100 employees of the agency, traded in their thermometers while Director Cipriano held a press conference on the dangers of mercury and the exchanges planned. Other exchanges have also been held at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago, the Des Plaines CMS Regional Office, the Collinsville Regional Office, and the Departments of Public Aid and Lottery in Springfield. To date over 250 Hg thermometers have been collected. Future exchanges are planned to be held at the Marion CMS Regional Office building and the Department of Agriculture in Springfield.

IEPA also partnered with St. John's Hospital to sponsor a citywide exchange in Springfield, IL. St. John's supplied the replacement thermometers and IEPA will dispose of the mercury collected. Over 1300 thermometers were collected during this exchange. In total, IEPA and Green Illinois have collected over 108.5 grams of mercury. For more information on Hg thermometer collections or the hazards of mercury, contact the IEPA Office of Pollution Prevention at 217-782-8700. For more information on Green Illinois, see <http://www.epa.state.il.us/green-illinois/>.



Display from a mercury thermometer exchange event held in Erie County, New York. Photo courtesy of Mary Rossi, Erie County Department of Environment & Planning.

Exchanges in Erie County, New York

The Erie County Department of Environment & Planning, Division of Environmental Compliance Services, implemented its Mercury Pollution Prevention Education Program in 1997. A Community Thermometer Exchange component was added to the program to enhance the collection opportunities available to the community. A regulatory investigation was the first order of business. For each thermometer exchange, a workplan was filed with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The requirements for holding a thermometer exchange fall under the household hazardous waste regulations for New York State. To comply with transportation and storage guidelines, the majority of thermometer exchanges were scheduled one day prior to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. All participants were required to certify the thermometers exchanged were household generated.

Venues for the thermometer exchanges included: community events, environmental recognition happenings such as Earth Day and Pollution Prevention Week, the County office building, the NYSDEC Region 9 office, scout troop meetings and hospitals. Participants surrendering a mercury thermometer received a mercury-free replacement thermometer. A total of 1,873 mercury thermometers were collected.

The thermometer exchanges provide a valuable service to the community and are also an opportunity to increase public awareness of mercury pollution. A mercury household product display and poster presentation are used at all exchanges and present the *Bigger picture* with regards to mercury pollution, the presence of mercury in the home, and how to properly dispose of mercury.

The thermometer exchanges are also used to promote the mercury component of Erie County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. All types of mercury thermometers are accepted along with elemental mercury, mercury-containing devices and mercury-based compounds. The Household Hazardous Waste collections offer a permanent mechanism for not only collecting mercury thermometers, but also exchanging them. To simplify the process at events that often attract over 1,000 participants and a variety of hazardous waste, residents receive a mercury-free thermometer for any type of mercury product surrendered. Mercury thermometers collected at Household Hazardous Waste events total 544.

For more information, contact Mary Rossi at (716) 858-7583 or rossim@erie.gov.

Successful Exchanges in Genesee Co., Michigan

In October 2001, the Genesee County Household Hazardous Waste Consortium conducted a mercury thermometer exchange in conjunction with a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. One thousand digital thermometers were purchased from a partnership between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Hospital Association Health Care Without Harm program. The Genesee County Health Department Environmental Health Services Division, General Motors UAW Local 599 and a local Rotary Club provided funding for these thermometers. Event organizers actually ran out of digital thermometers to exchange, having collected 1003 mercury-containing thermometers from the public.

This event was so successful that the Consortium has applied for and been approved for funding to host another exchange in conjunction with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day scheduled to take place in October 2002. Another 1000 digital thermometers will be purchased, with funds provided by the county health department Environmental Health Services Division, UAW Local 599 and UAW Local Region 1C. For more information on these exchanges, contact the Genesee County Health Department Environmental Health Division at 810-257-3603.

The Fine Print

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GLRPPR Executive Director
 Deb Jacobson
 1010 Jorie Blvd., Suite 12
 Oakbrook, IL 60523
 630-472-5019 (phone)
 630-472-5023 (fax)
 djacobso@wmrc.uiuc.edu

LINK Editor
 Joy Scrogum
 One E. Hazelwood Dr.
 Champaign, IL 61820
 217-333-8948 (phone)
 217-333-8944 (fax)
 jscrogum@wmrc.uiuc.edu

“Mercury Fever” Spreads Across Michigan

Thousands of Michigan citizens are seizing the opportunity to exchange old mercury fever thermometers for new mercury-free digital devices. This highly popular and successful program is called “Catch the Fever” Michigan Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program (MMTEP). To date, over 29,000 Hg thermometers have been collected at 44 separate “Catch the Fever” events. In addition to thermometers, citizens have also dropped off jars of liquid elemental Hg, Hg switches, thermostats, relays, manometers, barometers, and other mercury-containing devices.

The Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH), www.malph.org, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), administers “Catch the Fever.” It is funded by a grant from the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) with additional funding from the MDEQ. Anyone is eligible to participate in the program and become a sponsor of a local exchange event after filling out a two-page application and filing it with the MALPH.

Event sponsors purchase – often with business or corporate donations - digital thermometers at a large quantity discounted price. For each thermometer purchased, they receive a second digital thermometer free. Sponsors then host collection/distribution sites where the public, schools, small businesses, and institutions can drop off Hg thermometers and exchange them for mercury-free digital devices at no cost. The program also encourages sponsors to distribute educational materials to the public on the dangers of mercury. Sponsors are responsible for the proper handling, storage, and disposal of all Hg thermometers and devices turned in at their host site. Usually the mercury-containing items are taken to one of Michigan’s 16 Groundwater Stewardship Clean Sweep sites. There the mercury is consolidated and sent for recovery/recycling.

To date, 15 local/city governments, 14 hospitals, seven county health departments, five corporations, and three environmental groups have become local sponsors. For more information about “Catch the Fever,” contact Steve Kratzer, MDEQ, at 517-373-0939 or kratzers@michigan.gov.

Hg Thermometer Take Back Pilot Launched in Ontario

Environment Canada has initiated steps towards safely removing an estimated three tons of mercury currently in the nation’s medicine cabinets. Launched by Canada’s Minister of the Environment, David Anderson in February 2002, the month long pilot project collected 1500 mercury fever thermometers. With the help of the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores (CACDS), over 100 pharmacies including Shopper’s Drug Mart, Pharma-Plus, Rexall, Medicine Shoppe, Medi-Plus, Wal-Mart and 15 independent pharmacies participated in the Take Back pilot project. Chosen for their progressive environmental policies, the pilot cities of London, Ottawa and Thunder Bay all benefited from the reduction of each city’s toxic metal burden as well as its citizens’ increased awareness of the hazards to human health and the environment associated with mercury.

The success of the project was largely attributed to establishing partnerships with the pharmaceutical retailing industry. Environment Canada provided a mercury spill kit, with instructional and promotional materials to each participating pharmacy in addition to coordinating the convenient pickup and recycling of the mercury thermometers as hazardous waste. Media coverage included several local newspapers and radio stations. In London, as a result of local TV news coverage mentioning Shoppers Drug Mart as one of the participating pharmacies, 75% of all the mercury thermometers collected were collected by Shoppers Drug Mart stores.

Environment Canada sponsored a post-event survey that showed that 82% to 93% of the pharmacies in the three pilot cities were enthusiastic about a full-scale national mercury fever thermometer take back program. In addition, a national survey of 2014 Canadians, on their attitudes toward mercury fever thermometers, found that there are about 2.8 million mercury fever thermometers in Canadian households and about 11% of these (or 300,000 thermometers) are broken every five years. When asked how individuals dealt with broken mercury thermometers, 57% said that they disposed of the broken thermometers by either placing the contents down the drain or in the garbage can. Only 12% of the respondents disposed of broken thermometers as hazardous waste. With lessons learned in this pilot, Environment Canada is now exploring the feasibility of developing a nation-wide take back program.

Indiana: Mercury Reduction Efforts & New Mercury Law

For the third year, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has continued to partner with corporations such as Cinergy and Eli Lilly, and with the local solid waste management districts to hold mercury fever thermometer exchanges throughout the state. New ideas for collecting mercury are being tried, including holding exchanges at childcare facilities to catch parents as they drop children off, utility offices for citizens as they pay their bills, county fairs, health fairs, hospitals, and more. So far this year, more than 1,700 mercury fever thermometers have been collected totaling over 8,500 thermometers and more than 170 pounds of elemental mercury collected since 2000.

Besides Hg thermometer exchanges, IDEM has also created an agency-wide mercury website to provide all the mercury information for Indiana in one location. The website, www.in.gov/idem/mercury, includes mercury data on air, water, waste disposal, and more. It pulls together IDEM mercury exposure reduction initiatives including the Mercury Awareness Program, the Mercury Thermostat Reduction and Recycling Pledge Program, the Mercury Reduction and Recycling for Schools Pledge Program, the Mercury in Hospitals Program, and IDEM’s newest initiative, the Dental Mercury Pledge Program.

IDEM coordinated with the Indiana State Department of Health and the Poison Control Center to determine the distinct roles of each agency when mercury spills occur. A guidance document was also created to assist with the cleanup of small household mercury spills. This document is available on the web at www.in.gov/idem/mercury. Small mercury spills are a common occurrence, and this document has generated calls from citizens who have broken thermometers from states as far away as California. IDEM’s Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance has received more than 200 calls on mercury-related issues alone.

Also, one of Indiana’s first laws to limit the sale of mercury was recently adopted. This law, *HEA 1901 Mercury and Mercury Products Law*, restricts the sale of mercury-added novelties, thermometers, mercury compounds, and equipment for use in school laboratories, and the general sale of mercury-containing commodities. This law requires that Hg thermometers be sold by a licensed practitioner of medicine. Mercury fever thermometers must also be kept behind the pharmacist’s counter and cannot be displayed in the aisles with digital thermometers. This law goes into effect July 2003. For more information on this law, see www.in.gov/idem/mercury.

Waukesha Co., WI Works to Collect, Recycle Hg

Waukesha County, Wisconsin has begun a Mercury Collection Program with the help of a grant received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The program offers the community a way to safely recycle mercury-containing products at several hazardous waste collection sites and through numerous pharmacies acting as mercury thermometer collection sites. Residents can take their products to one of the three household hazardous waste collection sites listed below or to any of the special one-day collection events in the county.

- **In Waukesha:** City Incinerator Building, 900 Sentry Drive, 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month, 8am - 4pm and every 3rd Wednesday from 11am – 7pm (May through October, except holidays).
- **In Muskego:** Jensen Environmental Management, W144 S6347 College Court, every Saturday (except holiday weekends) from 8am to 12 noon.
- **In Menomonee Falls:** Onyx Environmental Services, W124 N9451 Boundary Road, every Monday & Wednesday, 11 am – 6 pm, every Saturday, 8 am – 2 pm (except holidays)

The public may also drop off their mercury thermometers at any Wal-Mart pharmacy in the county and receive a discount on a digital replacement. The collection at Wal-Mart runs through September 30, 2002. Lake County pharmacy in Oconomowoc is holding a thermometer collection until December 31, 2002. A previous collection was held at all Walgreen’s pharmacies in Waukesha County, and Drug Emporium on Blue Mound Rd. in Brookfield. Walgreen’s and Drug Emporium collected 315 thermometers, 4 thermostats and 4 oz of elemental mercury.

The county is also working to eliminate mercury from schools and businesses. With the help of Jane Schnieder and the science faculty, Waukesha South High School has recently disposed of all its mercury science equipment. About 120 Hg lab thermometers (most broken), two Hg barometers, and approximately five pounds of elemental Hg were safely removed from South and recycled at no charge to the school. Additional programs are in place to help HVAC contractors recycle mercury thermostats and provide amalgam recycling for dentists. Disposal is free to residents and schools. Businesses pay a small disposal fee. Pre-registration is required for schools, dentists, medical clinics, and businesses. To pre-register, call 262-896-8327, or register online at www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling. Households need not pre-register. To date, the county has collected a total of 84 lbs. of mercury.

For more information on these programs and updated collection statistics, call 262-896-8327.

Superior (WI) Swaps Mercury

Over the past two years, the City of Superior has conducted mercury (Hg) thermometer exchanges throughout northern Wisconsin. A grant from the Wisconsin DNR has provided funding for purchasing replacement digital thermometers. The city began its efforts by advertising an on-going Hg thermometer exchange at its Wastewater Treatment Plant. Along with thermometers, any other mercury-containing item (excluding fluorescent bulbs) is accepted. Participants are rewarded with a new digital thermometer. Other on-going exchange programs occur at the Douglas County Courthouse and the Superior City Hall. Advertisements for these events ranged from ads in the local newspaper, to posters hung on bulletin boards, and flyers sent home in Douglas County employee paychecks.

Superior also incorporates thermometer exchanges into its Mercury-Free schools program by encouraging the classrooms to host their own community thermometer exchanges. One exchange at a school in Phillips, WI collected a small jar of mercury from a student's basement! Exchanges have been held at the East Junior High School parent-teacher conferences and during a Science Fair at Cooper Elementary. When a fifth-grade class from Pattison Elementary School hosted an exchange at a local K-mart, 445 Hg thermometers were collected in one day.

Another very successful exchange was held during the Superior Health Fair at the local mall. In just five hours, staff collected 411 Hg thermometers, a jar of bulk Hg, an old Hg maze toy, 11 thermostats, a few Hg switches, and one blood pressure monitor. The success of this health fair was probably due to advertising; in addition to a blurb included on all Health Fair advertisements, a short interview on the exchange was featured on a local radio station. This piece was replayed many times on three local radio stations the day of the exchange.

A partnership with the Superior Housing Authority resulted in a thermometer exchange at the local bank where most residents go to pay their monthly rent. By advertising the exchange in the SHA newsletter and timing the event close to rent due dates, success was ensured. Also, a call to a local HeadStart Center led to successful thermometer exchanges at 10 Douglas County Family Forum centers. Advertising for these exchanges was posted at each center, and notes were sent home with the kids themselves.

Overall, the City of Superior Wastewater Treatment Plant has collected 3,543 Hg thermometers, and hundreds of other assorted mercury-containing items.



Mercury-containing thermostats and thermometers collected by the City of Superior, Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of Melinda Granley, City of Superior Wastewater Treatment Plant.

By-Product Beneficial Use Summit Held

In partnership with the National Council for Air & Stream Improvement, Inc., U.S. EPA Region 5 hosted the first ever Midwest Industrial By-Products Beneficial Use Summit in Chicago in August 2002. The purpose of the summit was to support discussions between industry and regulators to increase the understanding of industrial by-products and regulatory programs. The agenda included presentations from representatives of the paper, foundry and utility industries, as well as the states of Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. In addition, facilitated discussions were held addressing challenges, barriers and opportunities to increase the diversion of industrial by-products from disposal and incineration into value added applications. Approximately 120 industry and agency representatives attended, and surveys revealed that the program was well received. Dedicated industry and agency breakout sessions were held on the second day of the Summit to discuss beneficial use programs and initiatives separately. For more information on the Summit, contact Paul Ruesch at 312-886-7598 or Susan Mooney at 312-353-4788.

CMTI Becomes EMS Local Resource Center

The EPA Office of Water has selected the Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute (CMTI) at Purdue University and seven other organizations around the country to become Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Local Resource Centers. These centers will assist local governments with improving their overall environmental performance. EMS, used extensively in private industry, are now being adopted by a growing number of government organizations. EMS provide organizations with a structured process for identifying and then reducing a broad range of environmental impacts from their operations and in meeting key environmental goals.

In Indiana, CMTI will start by working with municipal wastewater treatment facilities, seeking participants of different sizes in various locations of the state. CMTI will help them systematically assess and reduce the impact of their activities, and, by doing so hopes to move them beyond compliance to the next level. It is also hoped that this will generate interest in the benefits of EMS in other departments as well as communities. To help with this effort CMTI is seeking partnerships with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, The Indiana Water Pollution Control Association, the northern Indiana Operators Association and other entities.

CMTI also intends to post success stories from municipalities that have implemented an EMS for their wastewater treatment plants on its website at www.ecn.purdue.edu/CMTI. Any technical assistance organization having success stories or resources it is willing to share can contact Ann Piechota at (765) 463-4749 or apiechot@ecn.purdue.edu.

Michigan Recognizes Schools During P2 Week

In celebration of the National Pollution Prevention (P2) Week (September 16-22, 2002), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is recognizing schools for undertaking two environmentally friendly activities that were initiated in April and May 2002 and are continuing through P2 Week.

The Bright Idea: Starting during Earth Week, the MDEQ began a small pilot project in one Michigan county encouraging students and parents to replace energy-intensive incandescent light bulbs with more energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs in their households and schools. Through cooperation with manufacturers of compact fluorescents, a coupon was made available at the MDEQ "P2 Week - Bright Idea" website to offset the initial cost for future savings. The results of the one-month pilot project were stunning - by substituting over 150 compact fluorescent bulbs, students and their families effectively reduced Michigan coal consumption over the life of the bulbs by more than 38 tons! The project continues to be promoted on Michigan's P2 Week website.

Mercury Phase Out: The news media in Michigan continues to report on costly mercury spills at Michigan schools, despite passage in 2000 of Public Act 376, which requires the state's public and private K-12 schools to phase out mercury use in classrooms and health (nurse's) offices by December 31, 2004. To encourage the removal of mercury before the 2004 deadline, the MDEQ launched a Mercury Phase-out Project during Michigan week in May 2002. An introductory letter, a Mercury Phase-Out form, and a Mercury CD were mailed to over 500 school superintendents and over 1,100 school libraries. Schools returning the Mercury Phase-Out form indicating that items containing mercury have been properly eliminated are being recognized on the MDEQ website during P2 Week. Over 90 schools and school districts have responded to date, far exceeding response estimates. An unexpected outcome of the project has been the number of schools requesting additional assistance with removal of other hazardous materials from their laboratories and maintenance facilities.

More on these two projects, as well as a downloadable "P2 Week Planner" are available at Michigan's P2 Week Website, www.michigan.gov/deq, select "Pollution Prevention, then "Initiatives for Government," and finally "P2 Week," or call Sharon Goble at 517-241-8280.

Remember, Pollution Prevention (P2) Week is September 16 – 22, 2002. For more information on P2 Week, see the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) website at <http://www.p2.org/p2week/index.cfm>.