

Changing Energy Dollars into Health Care Dollars in Canada

A program in Canada is helping health care facilities cut energy costs. The Canadian College of Health Services Executives (CCHSE) has formed a partnership with Canada's Natural Resources Office of Energy Efficiency (NRC) to recruit health care facilities into the Energy Innovators Initiative. The CCHSE serves approximately 3,000 Canadian health service managers and executives. The Energy Innovators Initiative is a voluntary Canadian federal program designed to encourage health care facilities to consciously look at lowering their energy consumption and to assist them in changing usage patterns to reduce hazardous greenhouse gas emissions. Lower operating costs from reduced consumption translates into more money for clinical programs, lab equipment and patient care. In short, CCHSE and OEE are "helping turn energy dollars into health care dollars ... for a healthier planet." Registered Energy Innovators have access to a variety of tools and services including:

- financial incentives of up to \$250,000
- help in developing a corporate Energy Management Action Plan
- customized technical expertise and audits
- assistance in implementing and monitoring energy savings
- advice on alternative financing options for retrofit projects
- customized energy efficiency workshops
- information on developments in energy efficient technologies
- opportunities to promote an organization's achievements

In the first eighteen months of the Pilot Retrofit Incentive Programme, NRC estimates 65 kilotonnes of emissions savings per year as a result of 52 funded projects.

Several health care organizations including London and Hamilton's Health Sciences Centres, Southwestman Regional Health Authority (Manitoba), and Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children have taken advantage of this incentive and have received more than \$1.2 million in financial inducements. As a result of this initiative, these organizations will collectively realize more than \$3.4 million in annual energy savings and over 20,000 tonnes in annual CO2 emissions reductions. To learn more about the program, contact CCHSE's Energy Efficiency Coordinator at 1-613-756-0435 or 1-800-363-9056 (ext 36).

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The Newsletter of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable

GLRPPR Winter Conference

The GLRPPR Winter Conference will be held February 26-28, 2002 in Chicago, IL. The GLRPPR steering committee will meet Tuesday, February 26. The GLRPPR Winter Conference will kick off Wednesday morning, February 27 and wrap up on Thursday, February 28.

One of the featured plenary speakers is Natalie Roy, Director of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. Ms. Roy will address "P2 and Environmental Security." Another plenary speaker is Robert Safe, a nationally recognized expert on mold. Mr. Safe will give a background and overview on mold issues. Workgroup breakout sessions include:

- P2 Tools & Techniques / EMS (ISO 14000)
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Local Government
- Technology & Technical Assistance
- Regulatory Integration
- Mercury
- Information/Outreach (P2Rx Regional Project)

For more information on the conference and to register on-line, visit www.glrppr.org/chicago2002/.

EPA P2 Pocketbook

EPA's P2 Pocketbook answers "Why Should You Care About Preventing Waste?" This easy-to-use reference guide was written to help businesses learn how they can prevent waste and save money at the same time. Small businesses will find this publication useful as they continue to find new ways to maximize material efficiency. The content of the Pollution Prevention Pocketbook, with direct links to resources, is also available on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/p2>.

If you would like to distribute the publication directly, either through the mail or at meetings and seminars contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 202-260-1023 or ppic@epa.gov.

What's New at www.glrppr.org:

- Trainings, events and conferences
- Regional and national P2 sector resources
- Regional and national P2 contacts and programs
- Funding Opportunities
- and much more!

If you have news, funding announcements, regional documents or programs to contribute, contact Deb Jacobson at djacobso@wmrc.uiuc.edu.

Volume 8, Number 2
Winter 2002

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



Minnesota Moves to Drive Mercury Out of the Environment

In a continuing effort to reduce mercury in the environment, the State of Minnesota has recently taken steps to purchase, use, and sell vehicles that are free of mercury. When the State of Minnesota went out to bid for 2002 vehicles this past fall, automotive manufacturers and dealers were informed that the State intends to require all vehicles to be free of mercury within the next three years. As a first step to that goal, the bid requires disclosure of mercury components in vehicles. Furthermore, the State's central motor pool is replacing mercury-containing light switches with mercury-free alternatives in its vehicles and those that it puts up for auction.

The primary uses of mercury in vehicles are in switches contained in hood and trunk lighting and in antilock braking systems. While US automakers agreed in the early 1990s to voluntarily phase out mercury switches, the use of mercury has yet to be completely eliminated even though mercury-free components are available and at comparable cost. In addition, mercury is used in high intensity discharge (HID) headlamps, ride control switches, and navigational displays. Relatively small amounts of mercury are used in these other applications, but they are a concern as the use of these new applications are on the rise in motor vehicles.

An estimated 215 million mercury switches are currently in vehicles on the road, each with about a gram of mercury, according to the report *Toxics in Vehicles*. This mercury will be released to the environment when the vehicles are scrapped and sent to steel smelters for recycling, unless the mercury is recovered.

This project was initiated by INFORM and the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance in cooperation with the Clean Car Campaign as part of a continuing effort to hold automakers accountable for designing vehicles without mercury and to establish a national program to replace mercury-containing devices in existing vehicles.

Industrial Users of Wastewater Treatment Plants

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) has helped wastewater treatment plants or publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) meet discharge limits by working with their industrial users to reduce phosphorus, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and water use. Partially supported with a two-year grant from The McKnight Foundation, MnTAP has conducted outreach and technical assistance to 600 wastewater treatment plants in Minnesota making them more aware of the benefits of pollution prevention and helping their industrial users implement pollution prevention practices.

The following results were achieved working closely with 128 industrial users in 2000:

- reduction of phosphorus by 11,640 lbs and BOD/TSS by 527,600 lbs
- reduction of water by 12.5 million gal
- achieved cost savings of \$2.2 million

Reduction practices were implemented using a variety of strategies including:

- partner meetings between the industry, city and MnTAP
- industrial team meetings
- site visits from MnTAP staff
- MnTAP student interns
- outreach efforts including new resources, "POTW mini-newsletter", booths at trade shows, and conference presentations

As a result of this project, many POTWs were able to reduce phosphorus or other pollutants by partnering with their industries and avoiding installation of additional treatment capacity. POTWs were able to see the benefits of pollution prevention, and industries realized cost savings by implementing pollution prevention practices.

Michigan's Small Chemical Manufacturers P2 Initiative

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is working with the state's chemical manufacturers to encourage greater adoption of pollution prevention (P2) practices. The Small Chemical Manufacturers Pollution Prevention Initiative is a cooperative program receiving guidance from representative companies and the chemical industry's traditional technical assistance providers, association representatives, and others. Input from all these partners will result in a better understanding of the P2 technical needs of small chemical companies.

The initiatives' goal is to enhance P2 technical assistance using a multi-tiered approach involving P2 resource awareness, waste and energy reduction assessments, and technology transfer through demonstration projects and case study development. Under the initiative's Pollution Prevention Technology Demonstration Project, the MDEQ will award a \$50,000 matching grant to a Michigan small chemical manufacturer that agrees to use the funds to adopt innovative pollution prevention technologies. A demonstration project is required to show the technology can achieve measurable reductions in waste generation, improve overall business profitability, and be transferable within the chemical manufacturing industry. Grant applications are being accepted through February 4, 2002. For more information, visit www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/p2sect/scmp2i/index.html. Questions regarding the initiative can be directed to David Herb, 517/241-8176, or email herbdw@michigan.gov.

Wisconsin DNR and Manufacturer Pursue Environmental Innovations

Cook Composites and Polymers Co. (CCP), a polyester and alkyd resins manufacturer, recently signed a cooperative environmental agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) enabling the company to reduce pollution and pursue other environmental improvements. CCP's five-year agreement with WDNR covers the company's manufacturing facility in Saukville, WI. The facility is capable of producing 52 million pounds of resin a year used by a variety of industries.

WDNR is providing coordinated review of multiple environmental approvals for CCP projects under the agreement that involve wastewater pretreatment, waste management and air quality. Wisconsin law permits the DNR to sign cooperative environmental agreements with up to 10 companies that pledge to pursue a higher level of environmental performance than current regulatory programs require. CCP is the second company to sign such an agreement with the state. For more information about the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program contact Mark McDermid, Director, DNR Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance, (608) 267-3125.

Illinois Salutes 17 Businesses for P2 Achievements

The Illinois Waste Management and Research Center recently presented awards to 17 Illinois businesses that incorporated innovative strategies and technology to prevent or reduce waste. The companies winning the Governor's Pollution Prevention Award had a combined annual savings of \$11 million in material and disposal costs, prevented 70,000 tons of waste materials from being released, and saved more than 34 million gallons of water from being sent to treatment facilities.

WMRC also awarded the first Innovate Illinois award to a company that developed and implemented a new technological innovation. The winner, Caterpillar Inc.'s Technical Services Division received a \$1000 scholarship to be donated directly to an accredited college or university in the company's name.

The Fine Print

LINK is a free quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable. For information about subscribing please contact the editor or see our web site at: www.glrppr.org

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