



# COMPLIANCE & PREVENTION

## quarterly

Autumn 2005

A Publication of Ohio EPA, Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

### OCAPP Provides On-site Assessments to Help You With Compliance and Pollution Prevention

The Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) offers free on-site assessments to help address your compliance needs and identify pollution prevention options that can help you improve operations and save money. Depending on your needs, our staff can help with compliance, pollution prevention or both!

**Pollution Prevention (P2) Assessments.** A P2 assessment involves a survey of a company's operations to identify ways to reduce costs associated with waste generation and disposal. A P2 assessment helps companies optimize their resources, minimize non-product related losses and increase productivity.

After the assessment, you get a report that includes recommendations related to improving operating practices, material substitutions, process modifications and recycling. We'll also provide you with case studies for similar business operations that have been successful in implementing P2. When practical, estimated economic and environmental benefits are also provided to illustrate potential waste reduction savings for your company. Recommendations and resources are offered for educational and informational purposes only. Companies are under no obligation to implement the findings.

**Compliance Assessments.** OCAPP also conducts on-site visits to help small businesses understand applicable operating, permitting and paperwork requirements. Recommendations provided by OCAPP staff can help you stay on top of compliance.



Businesses that receive on-site compliance visits often have little or no experience with Ohio EPA and may be unsure about which regulations apply. OCAPP can help. For example, if you are dealing with complex regulations, such as air pollution control requirements, OCAPP can help you identify emission sources and complete the proper paperwork to obtain a permit.

Compliance assessments are available to businesses with fewer than 100 employees. P2 assessments are available to businesses of any size as well as educational institutions, local governments, etc. Those who have participated in the program say they were glad they contacted OCAPP and received assistance. For more information, visit OCAPP's Web page at [www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/businessasst.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/businessasst.html).

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## Legislative Proposal on Mercury Reduction

Ohio EPA is interested in pursuing legislation aimed at reducing the amount of mercury released to the environment from consumer products, some industrial sources, and mercury-containing devices in schools. Mercury is a significant threat to human health, fish and wildlife, so many states have passed similar legislation. Before moving to legislation, the Ohio EPA is willing to meet with interested parties to discuss the proposal.

The proposal focuses on four areas: schools, novelty items, thermometers and thermostats. Each focal area has different phase-in periods.

The school ban would prohibit schools K-12 from purchasing elemental mercury, chemical mercury compounds and mercury-added measuring devices for classroom use. The proposal would not ban fluorescent lights from schools because there are no viable alternatives.

A novelty item ban would prohibit the sale or distribution for promotional purposes of mercury-added novelties, unless the mercury is solely within a fluorescent lightbulb. Novelties would be defined as products intended for personal or household enjoyment or adornment. Examples include games, figurines, toys, cards, ornaments, yard statues, candles, jewelry, decorations, footwear and other apparel items. Novelty items that use button cell batteries also are targeted for phase-out two years after the legislation passes.



The sale and promotional distribution of all mercury-containing thermometers would be prohibited unless it is a federal requirement, the component is a removable button cell battery or if a fever thermometer was authorized by a doctor's prescription. Mercury fever thermometer manufacturers also would provide notice of mercury content, instructions on proper disposal and supply clear instructions on carefully handling thermometers to avoid breakage and proper cleanup should breakage occur.

The sale, installation or re-installation of commercial or residential thermostats would be prohibited. Exemptions would be made for thermostats used by the blind or visually impaired and those used to sense and control temperatures as part of a manufacturing process.

Several other states have adopted similar measures, and Ohio EPA wants to develop a legislative proposal that will be supported by a variety of interested parties and move us toward removing sources of mercury exposure. In order to gather feedback, Ohio EPA has met with interested parties and is willing to meet with groups or individuals who have an interest in the proposal. Please contact Jennifer Klein, legislative liaison at Ohio EPA, at (614) 644-2782 to arrange a meeting or to discuss these proposals.

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### Ohio EPA and the Multi-State Working Group Present: *Sustainable Growth: We're all a piece of the puzzle*

Multi-State Working Group's (MSWG) regional meeting will be held on January 23 & 24, 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. To add your name to the mailing list, please e-mail [mary.mccarron@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:mary.mccarron@epa.state.oh.us). For more information, visit [www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/mswg\\_meeting.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/mswg_meeting.html).

## Incentive Program will Increase Retail Availability of Renewable Fuels

As ever-rising petroleum prices increase the demand for alternative fuels, a new incentive program will help make them available. The Central Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition (COCFC) is spearheading the pilot project. It will initially make \$135,000 available to increase the availability of ethanol and biodiesel at retail fuel stations throughout Ohio. COCFC has been tapped to operate the program on behalf of the State of Ohio in partnership with Ohio Soybean Council and Ohio Corn Marketing Program.

The Ohio Biofuels Capital Incentive Program (OBCIP) will provide up to \$15,000 per location to fuel marketers. This will cover costs for E85 retailers to convert existing fuel dispensing equipment and conduct marketing efforts. Funds for B20 will defray costs to install new equipment for B20, support marketing efforts and cover a portion of the small additional cost for B20 fuel. OBCIP was created by the Ohio General Assembly and Governor Bob Taft as part of the state budget approved in June 2005.



B20 is a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel. It may be used in any on or off-road diesel vehicle today. E85 is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline. Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) can use E85 or regular unleaded gasoline. According to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and other data, there are about 140,000 FFVs in Ohio, with many more expected in the future.

To qualify for the incentives, retailers must commit to sell E85 and/or B20 at the retail facility for at least two years; post the fuel price prominently and visibly from the street and/or highway; and provide equipment designed to store and dispense the chosen fuel.

A review committee is charged to further evaluate applications based on location of the stations, marketing plans and other factors. Application forms for E85 and B20 facilities, with instructions and contact information, are available at [www.cocfc.org](http://www.cocfc.org) or by calling (614) 292-5435.

## Low-Cost Recycling Center Opens in Akron

In November 2005, the Ohio Organization for Recycling and Reuse (OORR) announced the opening of BIZMAT, a low-cost hazardous waste recycling and collection center for small businesses. The center serves businesses in Cuyahoga and Summit counties and is being run by OORR as a two-year pilot project. If the project proves successful, it is anticipated that similar small business recycling centers will open elsewhere in Ohio.

Businesses that are classified as conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQGs) can take hazardous wastes to BIZMAT. CESQGs are those that generate less than 220 lbs. of hazardous waste per month. CESQGs can take a variety of hazardous wastes to BIZMAT, including spent chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, used batteries, pesticides, mercury-contaminated materials, etc.



There is a small fee associated with using BIZMAT, however, the goal is to help make it cost-effective for small businesses to get rid of their hazardous wastes. Other benefits to using BIZMAT include:

- ensuring hazardous wastes are properly managed;
- avoiding potential for violations or penalties; and
- helping reduce risks to employees and the environment.

For more information, visit the BIZMAT Web site [www.bizmatcenter.org/](http://www.bizmatcenter.org/).

### Need Help?

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention is a non-regulatory program and one-stop location for information about environmental requirements, compliance concerns and pollution prevention. Services are free. Contact us at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469.

#### How You Can Make a Difference

You can make the publication of *Compliance and Prevention Quarterly* more environmentally friendly. E-mail the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention at [p2mail@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:p2mail@epa.state.oh.us) to request that we send you an electronic copy, an Adobe Acrobat PDF file or a message that indicates the newest version is now available on the Web. It's that easy to make a difference.

#### Compliance and Prevention Quarterly

Published by Ohio EPA's  
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