



PREVENTION quarterly

FALL 1995



Director's Welcome

Director Donald R. Schregardus welcomes readers and recognizes success of pollution prevention activities in Ohio.



I'd like to welcome you to the first edition of *Prevention Quarterly* prepared by Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention. Ohio has made considerable progress since Governor George V. Voinovich first funded the Office of Pollution Prevention two years ago. We finalized a State of Ohio Pollution Prevention Strategy, and in partnership with the Ohio Department of Development initiated a \$10 million low interest loan program for small businesses. We began *Ohio Prevention First*, a voluntary pollution prevention planning program, and became a partner in the Green Lights energy-efficiency program.

Pollution prevention occurs when individuals and businesses reduce pollution at the source or recycle. Numerous companies throughout Ohio have been making tremendous strides in reducing pollution while realizing substantial economic benefits for their efforts. Ohio's Toxic Release Inventory totals have dropped every year since 1987 because of these efforts. Clearly, pollution prevention is an area where Ohio EPA and businesses can work together to achieve joint objectives.

Voluntary programs, such as U.S. EPA's 33/50 Program, have provided a forum for companies to make reduction commitments and communicate their success. Ohio's own voluntary pollution prevention planning program, *Ohio Prevention First*, got its start when Governor Voinovich challenged the top 100 companies on Ohio's toxic release inventory to commit to comprehensive pollution prevention planning. Eighty-one of those 100 companies agreed to participate. We are excited that other companies wanted to be part of the program, too. Today, more than 150 companies are participating in *Ohio Prevention First*. If you'd like to get involved, please call us. We
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What is Pollution Prevention?

P2. Source Reduction. Waste Minimization. While the "buzzwords" abound for pollution prevention, many people are still unclear on what pollution prevention is all about.

Simply stated, pollution prevention (P2) is putting into practice the common sense idea that the best way to protect the environment is to prevent pollution from being generated in the first place. Some examples of this include switching to the use of less toxic ingredients in a production process, using reusable and recyclable containers, using less packaging materials, and switching to energy-efficient lighting.

Tremendous progress has been made since the 1970's in improving environmental quality by properly treating and disposing of wastes. However, this "end-of-pipe" approach is expensive and sometimes transfers pollution from one medium (air, water or land) to another. P2 avoids transferring pollution because the pollution is not generated in the first place.

While waste treatment and disposal can be costly, companies using P2 can experience a variety of benefits. Benefits may include reduced disposal costs, reduced
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Pollution Prevention Information Available from Ohio EPA

Looking for ideas on finding substitutes for solvents in your operations? Or how other Ohio companies have reduced waste generation, improved product quality, and saved money at the same time?

Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention can provide you with information sources including fact sheets, guidance manuals, case studies and bibliographies.

To obtain publications and a list of publications available, contact the Office of Pollution Prevention at **(614) 644-3469** and **request a copy of *Pollution Prevention Information Available from Ohio EPA***.

Electric P2...It's Free!

Reduce paper waste by accessing information electronically.

Now you have electronic access to materials such as pollution prevention financial and technical assistance, facility planning, energy efficiency, Governor's Awards, case studies, a list of more than 200 P2 documents, and this newsletter. This information is available on the Internet and through the Division of Air Pollution Control's (DAPC) electronic bulletin board system.

To access this information through the Internet, point your World Wide Web reader to:

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/opp/oppmain.html>. For information about Internet access to Ohio EPA, contact Hao Dong at (614) 644-2130 or hdong@central.epa.ohio.gov.

To reach the P2 conference on the DAPC electronic bulletin board system, call **(614) 644-3901**. To find P2 information: **(1) log in; (2) join the pollution prevention conference; and (3) choose the files menu**. For more information on the bulletin board system, contact George Miller of DAPC at (614) 644-2270.

Please contact Hao Dong at (614) 644-2130 or hdong@central.epa.ohio.gov if you have any suggestions for improving information services through the Internet or the bulletin board system.

Director's Welcome

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welcome the opportunity to talk to you about the benefits you will gain from participation.

As another service, the Office of Pollution Prevention provides technical assistance and information to hundreds of Ohio companies each year to encourage pollution prevention efforts. Smaller companies may need more than just technical assistance and information on pollution prevention opportunities. To fill this need, Ohio EPA teamed up with the Department of Development to establish a \$10 million low interest loan program for businesses with 500 or fewer employees. This program provides \$25,000 to \$350,000 loans at two-thirds of the prime rate to help

companies purchase equipment for pollution prevention activities. This type of assistance will enable many smaller companies to realize the economic and environmental benefits of pollution prevention.

Pollution prevention is more than just a good way to do business. There are numerous opportunities for individuals to prevent pollution and protect the environment. Avoid buying products that are double wrapped. Use less toxic or biodegradable products whenever possible. Buy only the quantity that you need. Buy beverages in containers that can be recycled. Use a mulching lawnmower -- and only mow your grass in the mornings or evenings to minimize ozone air pollution.

Use cloth rags instead of paper towels.

It is everyone's responsibility to prevent pollution. By working together, we can improve Ohio's environment by ensuring that our resources are utilized in the most effective manner possible. As pollution prevention activities continue to increase throughout Ohio, it is important that we keep people informed and involved. Please let the Office of Pollution Prevention know what you think about this newsletter. Your comments will help us produce a publication that best meets your needs.

Donald R. Schregardus,

Director

CURRENT ISSUES

The Rise of Voluntary Programs

Across the country, the success and popularity of voluntary pollution prevention (P2) programs are growing rapidly. Federal and state environmental agencies are developing voluntary initiatives that are often designed to stimulate the economy while decreasing industrial pollution. These programs illustrate that economic growth and environmental protection need not be mutually exclusive concepts. The potential for simultaneous economic and environmental gain is prompting an increasing number of businesses and organizations to explore the benefits of these innovative voluntary programs.

Voluntary P2 programs present opportunities for organizations to make significant contributions to the environment while improving process efficiency, enhancing the lines of communication between business and government, saving money, and bolstering relations with the public. These programs typically are designed to provide participants

with flexibility in program implementation. They also provide a full range of technical and financial services to help participants meet program goals.

In Ohio, voluntary programs play an important role in helping businesses and government agencies operate more efficiently and clean up the environment. In addition to joining P2 programs that focus on



energy efficiency such as **Green Lights** and **Energy Star Computers**, the State of Ohio has taken an active role in promoting voluntary P2 programs to Ohio businesses and industries. To supplement the services



EPA POLLUTION PREVENTER

offered by federal programs, Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention has developed marketing strategies and offers a variety of technical and financial services to provide local assistance to Ohio organizations. Through these activities, the agency has stimulated widespread participation in voluntary programs in Ohio, and remains committed to continued support and development of voluntary initiatives.

Future editions of this column will highlight existing voluntary energy-efficiency programs and will identify new programs as they are announced. To obtain information about voluntary energy-efficiency programs and how they can benefit your company, please contact **Craig Butler** at **(614) 728-1261**.

The Loan Zone

Low-interest loans are available for pollution prevention projects.

Small- and medium-sized facilities in Ohio are encouraged to apply for a low-interest loan to help them purchase and install pollution prevention equipment.

The pollution prevention loan program provides low-interest capital improvement loans for the construction and/or purchase of

equipment to complete pollution prevention activities at Ohio facilities with 500 or fewer employees. The program is jointly administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Development.

"Many small- and medium-sized facilities have taken advantage of this loan program since it was introduced last fall, but I would like to see more Ohio businesses using the funds that are available to them," said Ohio EPA Director Donald R. Schregardus. "This loan program

allows smaller facilities to reduce the amount of pollution they generate at a lower cost than a conventional loan."

Loans are available from \$25,000 to \$350,000, at a fixed interest rate currently set at two-thirds of the prime rate. The loans also carry a 0.25 percent annual servicing fee that reduces with the principle. Preferential interest rates are available on a case-by-case basis in distressed areas of the state.

For more information, please contact **Bill Narotski** at **(614) 728-1264**.



What is P2?

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worker safety liability, reduced future environmental damage liability, and an environmentally friendly public image.

While many companies have been practicing pollution prevention for years, most Ohioans don't know what P2 means or how they can practice P2 themselves. So how can you incorporate P2 into your daily activities?

- Leave your car at home whenever possible. Carpool, bike, walk or use mass transit whenever feasible.
- Conserve energy by setting back your thermostat in the winter, installing energy-efficient light bulbs, insulating your water heater, and buying energy-efficient appliances.
- Conserve water by repairing leaky faucets, turning off the faucet when it's not in use, and buying water-saving appliances.

Remember, people start pollution, people can prevent it. The success of pollution prevention depends on individuals committed to using P2 concepts in their daily activities.

Reduced waste. Increased profits. No risk.

What's the catch?



Nothing, unless you consider adding to your organization's bottom line a catch.

After all, that's what you'll be doing when you take advantage of Ohio EPA's **FREE, NON-REGULATORY Pollution Prevention Assessment Program.**

Specialists from the Office of Pollution Prevention perform these assessments absolutely free-of-charge, and the program is completely voluntary -- you are under no obligation to follow their recommendations.

OPP is particularly interested in helping small- to medium-sized businesses and government organizations, but the program is open to anyone. Space is limited! There are only 10 openings this year--October 1, 1995 to October 1, 1996 -- so please respond soon!

Contact Tom Maves at (614) 644-2807



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