



Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership

Program Overview

FOSTERING VOLUNTARY POLLUTION PREVENTION IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Introduction

The **Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP3)** is a *voluntary* program, open to the entire business community. It was established to encourage businesses to initiate and/or expand pollution prevention (P2) practices and provide recognition for these efforts. The MBP3 encourages businesses to apply innovative and cost effective techniques to prevent releases of hazardous substances and to reduce waste. This voluntary program was developed through a joint effort by business, industry, professional associations, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

Michigan businesses now have the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts to reduce pollution through the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership program. This voluntary program emphasizes the simple but powerful idea that it makes far more sense to eliminate or reduce the generation of waste than to treat or dispose of it once it has been generated.

What is pollution prevention?

Under the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership, pollution prevention is defined as any type of activity that reduces the amount of waste generated and/or pollution released in order to reduce risk to public health and the environment. Pollution prevention has as a first preference the use of source reduction. Pollution prevention also includes as a second preference reuse and environmentally sound recycling techniques. Pollution prevention avoids cross-media transfer of waste and/or pollutants and is multi-media in scope. It addresses all types of waste and environmental releases to the air, water, and land.

Why practice pollution prevention?

Pollution prevention offers important economic benefits and at the same time allows continued protection of the environment. While most pollution control strategies cost money, pollution prevention has saved many firms thousands of dollars in raw materials, waste treatment, and disposal costs.

Many companies, both small and large, have already discovered the tremendous benefits of pollution prevention. For example, a Saline, Michigan book printer instituted a pollution prevention program and reduced the company's solid wastes by 50%. In 1995 the program recovered \$280,000 by recycling film plates and paper.

Another Michigan firm increased its adhesive usage efficiency, thus reducing the gallons of adhesive purchased, saving approximately \$500,000 annually in raw material costs.

A business that commits to a voluntary pollution prevention program which eliminates, reduces, or reuses wastes, can:

- Reduce waste disposal costs,
- Save on costs for energy, water, and raw materials,
- Reduce operating costs,
- Reduce potential liability and enhance community relations,
- Conserve our natural resources and minimize environmental impact,
- Minimize compliance issues by eliminating regulated wastes, and
- Assist others in achieving environmental goals.

Program Elements

To participate in this voluntary Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership, businesses will submit a statement of commitment signed by a responsible company official.


Participating businesses are asked to adopt a pollution prevention policy, identify and commit to prevention and reduction goals, report on goal achievement and other pollution prevention accomplishments, and share technological success stories that can be transferred to other business operations. Individual business facilities that participate in the MBP3 will satisfy the pollution prevention criterion established for the Clean Corporate Citizen program.

The program will be managed by the Environmental Assistance Division in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in cooperation with Michigan business and major trade associations in the state including the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, Michigan Chemical Council, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, and the Small Business Association of Michigan. Program commitments and reports will be submitted to the MDEQ. The Department will be responsible for summarizing the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership efforts in an annual report.

The following Michigan businesses and professional associations participated in the development of the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership:

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| • American Electric Power | • Amway Corporation | • BASF Corporation | • Cliffs Mining Service Co. |
| • Chrysler Corporation | • Dell Engineering | • Detroit Edison | • Dow Chemical Company |
| • Dow Corning Corporation | • Ford Motor Company | • General Motors Corporation | • Mead Corporation |
| • Pharmacia & Upjohn Co. | • Wacker Silicones | • WES Corporation | |
| • American Automobile Manufacturers Association | • Michigan Grocers Association | | |
| • Associated Petroleum Industries of Michigan | • Michigan Institute of Laundering and Drycleaning | | |
| • Foundry Association of Michigan | • Michigan Manufacturers Association | | |
| • Michigan Agri-business Association | • Michigan Oil and Gas Association | | |
| • Michigan Association of Home Builders | • Michigan Pulp and Paper Environmental Council | | |
| • Michigan Association of Realtors | • Michigan Retailers Association | | |
| • Michigan Chamber of Commerce | • National Federation of Independent Business of Michigan | | |
| • Michigan Chemical Council | • Small Business Association of Michigan | | |

Associations are encouraging their members to participate. For further information, contact any of the above listed professional associations or the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278.

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