

P2REVUE
The Newsletter for DEQ Regulatory Staff
February 2004

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AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOPS GETTING GREENER IN FLINT, MICHIGAN
Flint River Watershed CMI Grant

In August, 2002, the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) received approximately \$78,000 to replace volatile, toxic solvent cleaners with 'green' water based solutions used to wash parts during repairs at auto repair and other industrial facilities. The project ends July 2004.



This was one of several pollution prevention (P2) projects supported by the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) funds and the DEQ. P2 is the practice of reducing or eliminating pollution at the front end of a process, instead of, in this case, adding vapor controls. This leads to sustainability of resources and less pollution in the environment.

The FRWC partnered with the Genesee County Health Department and U of M Flint, to complete the project with 18 participating facilities within Genesee County. Most operators prefer using the 'green' solutions as they do not dry out the employee's skin and they are not toxic to breathe. However, several of the solutions must be heated for optimal cleaning, unlike solvents which can work at room temperature. It is projected that this effort will result in an environmental benefit of replacing over 4000 gallons of solvent (and related vapors) that would otherwise have been used. Just like the solvents, the aqueous solutions become contaminated with oil and heavy metals. They would cause environmental problems if discharged to the sewer or septic systems. All the project solutions are being picked up by the suppliers, treated and disposed of properly.

The participating facilities have been supplied the necessary equipment free of charge, during the project. A true evaluation of success will be whether they continue the service at their expense, once the project has been completed.

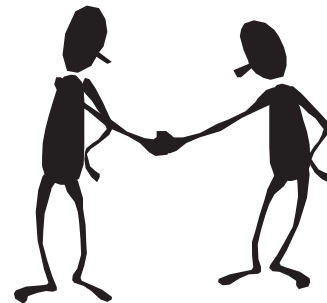
Several units of local government are participating, as well as industry and auto service centers. Flint area facilities that the public may wish to patronize are:

- * Flint Alternator
- * Tuffy Auto Centers, in Flint and Clio
- * Tri-County Diesel
- * Grand Blanc Muffler Man
- * Discount Muffler And Brake
- * Mike's Muffler
- * M-15 Radiator
- * Your Town Service Center
- * Church & Sons Auto

If you have questions regarding this project or pollution prevention, please call the DEQ Grant Administrator, Maggie Fields at (517) 335-6250, Environmental Science & Services Division, Lansing District Office.

“NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS” PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) values the importance of interaction and communication between businesses and their local communities. To encourage this interaction the MDEQ is introducing a new outreach program to Clean Corporate Citizens (C3's) called the “Neighborhood Environmental Partners” (NEP) program.



The goal of the NEP program is to encourage businesses and industries to talk to their neighbors about local environmental issues. The NEP program will recognize individual businesses, local government and neighborhood organizations for conducting activities that improve the environment and the quality of life in the community. The NEP program offers Corporate Clean Citizens an opportunity to receive special recognition highlighting efforts to provide a cleaner, safer environment in their respective communities.



NEP program is designed to have different levels of recognition. Each recognition level would require an increasing commitment to dialogue and interaction between businesses and the neighborhood or community. All participants would self-certify through an application process with the MDEQ. A local business and/or neighborhood organization would conduct an activity chosen from a list of provided examples - or from their own creative ideas - and submit that activity for consideration to the MDEQ. The MDEQ will annually evaluate all submitted applications for activities completed or implemented over a 24 month period and announce the award winners. A recognition letter and award sticker, poster, or certificate would be given to the business and/or neighborhood group that meets the program objectives of any level of recognition.

The DEQ will start accepting applications from C3s in June of 2004, through January 31, 2005. Recognition letters, posters, or certificates and yearly award stickers will be mailed to C3 "Neighborhood Partner" award winners in March 2005.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Mike Young at 989-686-8025 Ext.8390, Environmental Science and Services Division, Saginaw Bay District Office.

WINTER CHECKUPS



Here we are with spring not far away, and Michigan really did have winter this year. Most of the State is covered with snow pack and we're all wrestling with what to do with all that snow. Punxatawny Phil has seen his shadow, so we are likely to have that snow with us for another several weeks. Some practical applications of pollution prevention (P2) for the second half of winter are below.

Inside your home, a survey of your power consuming appliances is in order. First and foremost are your heating appliances. We can prevent a lot of air pollution, if we can secure your wood burners to insure that they do not malfunction and burn down your house. Is the flue in good working order? Do you have a fire suppression device or extinguishing device in the event of a chimney fire? How about checking fire safety around the hearth? Is everything kept where it should be? A phone call to a chimney sweep is much more energy efficient than a 911 call to the fire department. Your furnace and water heater may also benefit from a mid season check. Furnace filters changed out on a regular basis? Is the water heater thermostat set at it's most efficient heat range setting? Have you flushed the sediments out of the heater tank this year? If you're using auxiliary space heaters to augment cold spots, do they have safety shut off systems in case they fall over or something falls on them? Are you heating portions of your home that really do not require heat? Consider an energy audit from your power company to provide you up to date information on how to best manage your fuel consumption in the home.

Outside for a bit, you may have a significant amount of snow on your roof. This actually provides an additional insulation blanket, but there is a lot of weight that comes along with a little bit of insulation. A roof rake will allow you to remove snow from the roof without climbing up there and risking a fall. If you should need to climb up on the roof to remove snow, there is a device known as a "Youper Scooper" for hands on snow removal. Always inspect your roof and eaves for those telltale icicles, or even worse, ice dams. They will tell you where you are losing heat through the roof. Make a photo record or mark those areas to check for water damage and insulation adjustments when spring finally comes.



On the ground level, if you keep snow moved out away from the house, you won't suffer later damage against your foundation or siding when the melt comes. Garage doors and pedestrian doors always work better and seal tighter, if there is no ice buildup along the thresholds. Below grade, you should anticipate that when the snow does melt, your crawl space or basement is going to be subject to a lot of water influence. Establishing drainage ways and checking your sump pump and backup system now, will prevent a mad scramble when the melt does come and the power goes out.....

