

Pollution Prevention Programs at EPA
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
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www.epa.gov/p2

POLLUTION PREVENTION, or P2, was established as the national environmental policy of the United States in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990. At EPA, pollution prevention means source reduction -- preventing or reducing waste where it originates, at the source. By practicing P2, the amount of end-of-pipe control, treatment, and disposal can be greatly reduced.

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) works to promote pollution prevention both inside and outside the Agency. This is done in several ways, such as using voluntary pollution reduction programs, engaging in partnerships, providing technical assistance, funding demonstration projects, and incorporating cost-effective pollution prevention alternatives into regulations and other initiatives.

PARTNERSHIPS

- ➡ The **Design for the Environment Program** partners with industry to compare health and environmental risks, cost, and performance of current and alternative technologies. DfE partnerships have promoted the design and adoption of safer products, processes, and management systems in areas such as auto-refinishing, cleaning products, foam manufacture, dry cleaning, printing, and electronics. <http://www.epa.gov/dfe>
- ➡ **Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E)** is an effort led by the American Hospital Association and the US EPA to advance pollution prevention efforts in our nation's hospitals. Through activities, such as the development of best practices, model plans for total waste management, resource directories, and case studies, the project hopes to provide hospitals and healthcare systems with enhanced tools for minimizing the volumes of waste generated and the production of persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic pollutants. <http://www.h2e-online.org>

GREEN CHEMISTRY AND ENGINEERING

- ➡ **Green Chemistry** is the design, manufacture, and use of environmentally benign chemical products and processes that prevent pollution and reduce environmental and human health risks. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenchemistry>
- ➡ The goal of the **Green Engineering Program** is to incorporate environmental and health risk related concepts into chemical engineering processes and products. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenengineering>

"GREEN" PRODUCTS AND LABELING

- ➡ EPA's **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)** Program has developed tools and resources to help you "do" EPP, including: a database of environmental information on products, stories of successful EPP pilots, and discussion areas for sharing ideas and experiences. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp>
- ➡ The **Consumer Labeling Initiative (CLI)** is a government, industry and public partnership working to provide consumers with better and clearer information on household product labels. CLI is currently leading a nationwide education campaign encouraging consumers to "Read the Label First!" <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/labeling>

- ➡ The **Environmental Labeling** area of the EPP site offers information about environmental labeling issues, policies and practices worldwide. It provides access to reports as well as links to other environmental labeling resources. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/documents/labeling.htm>

PERSISTENT, BIOACCUMULATIVE, AND TOXIC POLLUTANTS

- ➡ EPA's cross-program **Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic (PBT) Pollutants Program** is working to further reduce risks to human health and the environment from existing and future exposure to priority PBT pollutants. While the Program emphasizes prevention as a means to stop the transfer of PBT pollutants across environmental media, it is designed to utilize all of the Agency's tools. <http://www.epa.gov/pbt>

P2 INFORMATION RESOURCES

- ➡ The **Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx)** is a national collaborative effort to reduce redundant efforts, establish information standards, and develop a larger vision for a national network that serves all regional programs. Its web site maintains info on P2 topics ranging from household waste to autobody and aerospace industries. <http://www.p2rx.org>
- ➡ The **Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC)** is a free, nonregulatory service of the US EPA dedicated to reducing or eliminating industrial pollutants through technology transfer, education, and public awareness. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/library/ppicindex.htm>
- ➡ The **Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention (EJP2)** grant program was initiated in FY 1995. Through 2001, OPPT, in cooperation with EPA's regional offices, has awarded more than 85 grants to economically-disadvantaged and minority communities for training, research surveys, demonstration projects, and development of non-regulatory pollution prevention strategies. Due to budgetary constraints, grant awards will not be available for FY '02; however, visit the website for many valuable success stories and resources. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/ejp2>

STATE AND LOCAL GRANTS

While it is the policy of the Agency to encourage pollution prevention in all of the grant programs sponsored by EPA offices, the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances is responsible for the following grant program:

- ➡ The **Pollution Prevention Grants (PPG)**, formerly known as Pollution Prevention Incentives for States grants, are announced each year in the Federal Register. EPA provides about \$5 million annually through this program to help develop and sustain state P2 activities and pioneer new P2 approaches in the states. <http://www.epa.gov/p2/grants/ppis/ppis.htm>

EPA REGIONAL AND STATE P2 ACTIVITIES

- ➡ Pollution Prevention Regional Contacts – <http://www.epa.gov/p2/resources/regions.htm>
- ➡ State Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance – <http://www.epa.gov/p2/assist/state.htm>

