



# PREVENTION

## quarterly

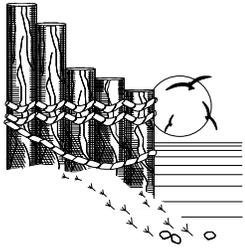


Office of  
Pollution Prevention

Spring 2002

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### Ohio EPA Pollution Prevention Activities in the Lake Erie Basin of Ohio



Ohio EPA is committed to reducing mercury and other persistent toxics in the Lake Erie basin. Over the past two years, the Agency's Office of Pollution Prevention has received federal funding to promote pollution prevention in the Lake Erie basin.

The office is coordinating activities that help reduce persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic pollutants, known as PBTs.

Much of this emphasis has been on mercury reduction. Mercury has many beneficial uses, but when spilled or released to the environment, results in costly cleanups and enduring impacts. A focus on mercury is particularly important since there is a statewide fish consumption advisory in Ohio for sensitive populations, women of childbearing age and children six years old or younger.

Among its efforts, the Pollution Prevention Office analyzed nonregulatory ways to promote mercury reduction in Ohio. After being contacted by Ohio EPA, 20 of 25 solid waste management districts near the Lake Erie Basin agreed to distribute mercury reduction information as a part of their household hazardous waste collection days.

Staff regularly coordinates with other state departments, as well as other Great Lakes states, to make sure that national and regional mercury reduction information is available to all Ohioans. For example:

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★ There is now a Web page containing information on reducing mercury and other PBTs, at [www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/mercury\\_pbt.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/mercury_pbt.html). It describes the environmental impacts of PBTs and provides links to more detailed information on the reduction of PBT chemicals.



★ The Ohio Mercury Reduction Group provided mercury reduction information to school teachers, developed mercury reduction fact sheets and worked to promote Bowling Green State University's mercury collection program.

★ Many thermostats contain mercury and the Office of Pollution Prevention has worked with both Bowling Green State University and the Thermostat Recycling Corporation to help promote thermostat recycling efforts. Information on these programs was developed in 2001 and will be provided to contractors and consumers in the Lake Erie Basin portion of Ohio during 2002.

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Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

★ Several fact sheets were completed, including “Raising Awareness About Mercury: Mercury Manometers” and “Mercury Awareness for School Teachers.” Six other fact sheets were developed to help companies in the Lake Erie Basin complete pollution prevention activities. Eight to 15 additional fact sheets will be completed this year focusing on the reduction of PBTs. The topics of these fact sheets will be based on an analysis of the relative ranking of PBT chemicals.



In addition to their educational efforts, staff offered technical assistance expertise to more than 800 Ohio companies in the Lake Erie Basin area. These companies were selected because they generate both PBT chemicals and hazardous waste. The office will use their responses to focus technical assistance efforts on PBT generators in the Lake Erie Basin during 2002.

Ohio EPA Office of Pollution Prevention is known for providing free non-regulatory assistance, and has been very successful, helping more than 5,800 Ohio companies reduce waste since 1994, many in the Lake Erie Basin. The office’s Web site has been acknowledged by U.S. EPA and others as one of the better state agency sites to obtain practical pollution prevention information. Find out more at [www.epa.state.oh.us/opp](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp) or call the office at (614) 644-3469.

## More help understanding regulatory requirements is now available online

A new online compliance assistance manual is available to help businesses understand state and federal environmental regulations. EnviroChem Ohio was developed by the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council and Webco Environmental Management, Inc., with a \$49,800 grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund and \$48,500 from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority. It can be accessed on the Internet at [www.ohiochemistry.org](http://www.ohiochemistry.org) by clicking on “Links of Interest.”



EnviroChem Ohio is designed specifically for plant managers (and others with environmental responsibilities) who may not have extensive environmental regulatory experience, as well as for smaller companies who do not have extensive environmental resources. It helps the Ohio chemical industry, as well as other manufacturers, suppliers and customers, define regulated activities and determine required practices for auditing, tracking, record keeping, reporting, improving environmentally sound operations and integrating pollution prevention activities into all aspects of their operations.

The online compliance guide includes chapters on Environmental Management, Pollution Prevention, Air, Waste and Water Management and SARA Title III reporting requirements. It includes many electronic links to resources at Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA and other useful sites.



### Event & Activity Calendar



#### **Thermometer Exchanges**

**May 4, 2002;** Montgomery County will be hosting a thermometer exchange at the Dayton Children's Hospital. Mercury containing fever thermometers will be exchanged for digital thermometers.

**Month of May, 2002;** Hamilton County will be holding a series of thermometer exchanges throughout the county. Mercury-containing fever thermometers will be exchanged for digital thermometers. Collection of other household mercury-containing items can be arranged. For more information, contact Bill Narotski at (614) 728-1264 or [bill.narotski@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:bill.narotski@epa.state.oh.us).

#### **Green Products EXPO 2002**

**May 16, 2002;** Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Training Seminar and Exhibition. Learn more about environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP). It's a chance to see how EPP can save money, promote economic growth, protect the environment and reduce liabilities. Registration is **FREE!** For more information or to register, contact Bruce Suits at (513) 352-6270 or [Bruce.Suits@RCC.ORG](mailto:Bruce.Suits@RCC.ORG).

## New Application Available for Regulated Community Education Grants

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) provides approximately \$1 million annually to support education projects targeting the regulated community, the general public and pre-school through university students and teachers. Ohio EPA would like to increase the number of OEEF grants awarded for quality education projects that can help the regulated community understand and comply with Ohio's environmental laws. Previous grants have funded compliance assistance manuals, workshops and training for regulated entities.



After much discussion and stakeholder input, the OEEF has developed a set of grant application guidelines specifically geared toward the needs of the regulated community audience. The guidelines were developed as the result of a collaborative effort between OEEF staff and representatives of the regulated community as a means of acknowledging the unique requirements of this audience.

The new guidelines give consideration to regulated community applications that address a regulatory or compliance issue, or a compliance assistance need identified as a priority by Ohio EPA on a local, state or regional level. Regulated community applications will now be ranked against each other before being placed into the overall ranking system. This is being done in an attempt to eliminate the inevitable "apples and oranges" comparison which happens when this audience is ranked against K-12, university and general public audiences, and to give them more uniform representation in the grant review process. The new guidelines will be piloted during the January and July 2002 grant rounds. Feedback concerning the guidelines and their appropriateness in meeting the needs of the regulated community will be welcome and appreciated.

To obtain a copy of the OEEF grant application guidelines, please send your request to:

Ohio EPA, Office of Environmental Education  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049  
(614) 644-2873  
e-mail: [oeef@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:oeef@epa.state.oh.us)

The OEEF receives its funding from one half of the civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's air and water pollution control regulations. General information about the OEEF and OEEF-funded projects can be found on the Ohio EPA Web page at [www.epa.state.oh.us/other/oeef/oeemain.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/other/oeef/oeemain.html).

## ETC<sup>2</sup> Working With EPA and Small Businesses to Solve P2 Issues

The Environmental Technology Commercialization Center (ETC<sup>2</sup>) is a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technology transfer center managed by Battelle Memorial Institute. ETC<sup>2</sup> assists small business and EPA in developing various environmental technologies. Among those technologies, ETC<sup>2</sup> has offered assistance on multiple pollution prevention technologies. The following examples highlight these collaborations.

Last year, ETC<sup>2</sup> facilitated a collaborative agreement between EPA and International Chemical Products, Inc. (ICP), a small Huntsville, Alabama company, to develop commercially applicable versions of a metal surface-treatment technology called the Picklex<sup>®</sup> process. Hazardous waste from pickling is eliminated by the Picklex<sup>®</sup> process, an affordable pollution prevention process industry can implement. This agreement also provides ICP the opportunity to negotiate an exclusive license with EPA.

A small business in Cleveland, Ohio, Metaloy, Inc., is a global leader in the distribution and marketing of equilibrium catalyst and other nonhazardous byproducts generated within the oil, chemical and related industries. Metaloy is working with an EPA

ETC<sup>2</sup> continued from page 3

researcher to investigate new markets for recycled alumina. Claude Kennard of Metaloy states, “By recycling spent alumina, Metaloy reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and produces lower cost raw materials for industry. From a waste minimization standpoint, capturing materials for reuse makes economic dollars and sense.”

EPA and Technical Database Services, Inc. (TDS), in New York City, collaborated to complete the development and distribution of a Windows®-based environmental software tool that assists in the design of replacement solvent systems. Existing chemical processes can then be improved by using the software to identify solvent systems that are less hazardous, less costly and more efficient.

For more information, contact Kathya Mahadevan with ETC<sup>2</sup> at [mahadevank@battelle.org](mailto:mahadevank@battelle.org) or (513) 362-2600.

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