

Pollution Prevention

Environmental Assistance Office

October 30, 2005

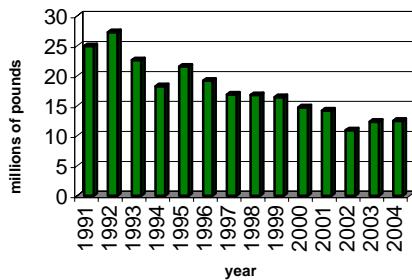
Results:

To decrease toxic chemical use, reduce hazardous waste generation, and encourage more environmentally sustainable practices by businesses, institutions, governmental organizations and consumers.

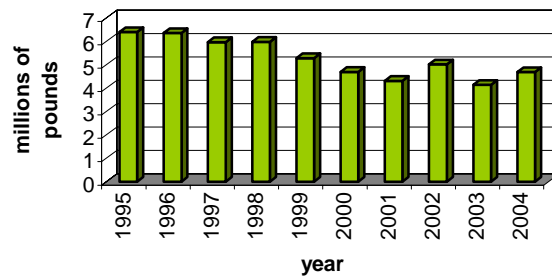
Key Environmental Program Indicators

The amount of hazardous waste reduction that has occurred over baseline from businesses, institutions, governmental organizations and consumers. The amount to toxic chemical use reduction that has occurred over baseline from businesses, institutions, governmental organizations and consumers.

Annual Hazardous Waste Shipments in Vermont



Annual Toxic Chemical Use in Vermont



Story Behind the Base Line

The Pollution Prevention program was established in 1992 to assist businesses, institutions, and governmental organizations to reduce their generation of hazardous waste and use of toxic chemicals. Larger entities became subject to a statutory requirement to develop three-year plans for toxics use and hazardous waste reduction. Baseline quantities of hazardous waste generation and toxic chemical use were established in 1992 and 1995, respectively. The Pollution Prevention program oversees the planning requirement and provides assistance to entities subject to the planning law, as well as smaller entities not subject to the law. Steady progress has been made in reducing hazardous waste generation (over 50%) and toxics use reduction (25%) since the baseline year.

Strategies

Regulation, Compliance Assistance and Enforcement

Mercury Regulatory Program – Administer mercury product labeling law to encourage reduction in mercury use and proper disposal and recycling of mercury product wastes. Provide staff support to the Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution (Vision Program 53892)

Education and Technical Assistance

Business Assistance – Provide direct pollution prevention technical assistance to businesses. Administer toxics use reduction and hazardous waste reduction planning law. Implement Business Environmental Partnership as a business assistance and recognition program (Vision Program 53904)

EPA Initiatives – Participate in new or innovative non-regulatory approaches to improve environmental performance sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (Vision Program 53881)

Pollution Prevention Integration – Develop and implement department procedures, staff training, and special projects for the integration of pollution prevention into DEC permitting, compliance and enforcement programs (Vision Programs 53882 and 53889)

Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence – In 1994 the Annual Governor’s Awards in Environmental Excellence were initiated for businesses, individuals, and organizations that have accomplished exemplary pollution prevention or resource conservation. Each year solicitations and applications are distributed and publicized and there is an annual awards ceremony (Vision Program 53886)

Mercury Education/Reduction – Implement mercury education and reduction initiatives to promote reduced use of mercury-containing products and to encourage proper disposal and recycling. Implement mercury education programs to alert Vermonters to the risks of eating certain types of fish in order to reduce risk to especially sensitive populations. Coordinate with Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution (Vision Program 53894 and 53908)

Publications/Written Outreach – Provide pollution prevention and compliance assistance outreach and education materials to businesses, institutions, governmental organizations and consumers (Vision Program 53896)

8. **What Will You Do to Improve Performance** * PPA Funded Activities

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|-------|--|
| FY 04 | *Develop pollution prevention environmental fact sheet series
*Mercury reduction initiative conducted with hospitals and affiliated clinics
Municipal grant program for household hazardous waste management
Quarterly meetings with hazardous waste management program for outreach/assistance coordination for conditionally exempt generators
* Evaluate VT Business Environmental Partnership Program standards and incentives in order to increase business participation
Review municipal solid waste implementation plans that have been submitted
Develop pollution prevention outreach program for schools
Conduct fluorescent lamp recycling campaign |
| FY 05 | Complete mercury reduction initiative with hospitals and affiliated clinics
Complete fluorescent lamp recycling campaign
Quarterly meetings with hazardous waste management program for outreach/assistance coordination
*Pollution prevention technical assistance to municipal wastewater treatment plant operators
*Conduct 2-3 environmental roundtable meetings with hospitals
* Conduct 5 pollution prevention/compliance assistance workshops for small businesses |

*Administration of Vermont Business Environmental Partnership

*On-site pollution prevention technical assistance to businesses

FY 06

*Administration of Vermont Business Environmental Partnership

*On-site pollution prevention technical assistance to businesses

Quarterly meetings with hazardous waste management program for outreach/assistance coordination

Conduct 1-2 environmental roundtable meetings with hospitals

*Conduct 5 small business workshops on pollution prevention/compliance issues

* Pollution prevention technical assistance to municipal wastewater treatment plant operators

*Revise vehicle service and repair P2/compliance guide

* P2 assistance initiative with microbreweries

FY 07

*Administration of Vermont Business Environmental Partnership

*On-site pollution prevention technical assistance to businesses

Quarterly meetings with hazardous waste management program for outreach/assistance coordination

Conduct 1-2 environmental roundtable meetings with hospitals

* Conduct 5 small business workshops on pollution prevention/compliance issues

3-5 vehicle service and repair workshops

* Continue P2 assistance to municipal treatment plant operators

FY 08

* Administration of Vermont Business Environmental Partnership

* On-site pollution prevention assistance to businesses

Quarterly meetings with hazardous waste management program for outreach/assistance coordination

* Conduct 5 small business workshops on pollution prevention/compliance issues

Performance Measures and projections to '05, '06, '07, '08

Indicator	P/A	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hazardous waste reduction statewide (% from 1992 baseline)	P			30	35	35	40	40	40	40	55	55	55
	A	21.2	29.7	38.1	38.4	28.1	46	48	55	54			
Toxics use reduction by large users of toxic chemicals	P			5	10	10	10	15	15	20	25	30	30
	A		6.7	6.5	17.4	22.1	27.2	21.6	35	25			
Pollution prevention plans reviewed	P		65	65	65	50	50	50	50	40	35	25	25
	A		65	65	55	54	45	19	30	27			
Biennial legislative report on pollution prevention	P		1		1		1		1		1		1
	A		1		1		1		1				
DEC rules reviewed for pollution prevention	P		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	A	3	3	5	2	3	3	1	2	0			

# of businesses enlisted in VT Business Environmental Partnership *	P A	25 10	25 8	25 6	25 13	15 15	15 3	10 16	10 16	10	10
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Program Highlights

DEC initiated a community-based municipal wastewater pollution prevention project to assist municipal treatment plant operators in reducing and preventing discharges of toxics, and other undesirable substances that may interfere with the operation of POTWs. This is primarily accomplished through outreach to community residents and businesses. DEC has initiated work with two towns, Bethel and Waterbury. Informational brochures on reducing toxic and other discharges accompanied by a letter from the municipality have been sent to all households connected to the municipal sewer. An EPA informational brochure entitled “Where Does All the Dirty Water Go?” was adapted to address the specific wastewater concerns of the municipality and POTW. Environmental Assistance Office staff canvassed businesses and other non-residential sewer users in the community and hand delivered a letter from the municipality along with EAO’s environmental assistance brochure. The brochure highlighted available P2 and compliance assistance services offered through the EAO and encouraged facilities to take advantage of these resources. In the Town of Bethel where work has been completed, 175 residential brochures were mailed. Five businesses and a school were visited and provided with P2 and compliance recommendations. During the course of this project, a heavy metals discharge interfering with the POTW operation was identified by the town and eventually traced to the high school. EAO advised the municipality during the investigation and provided assistance to the school in identifying and eliminating heavy metals from art and science lab supplies.

In the Town of Waterbury, over 1100 residential brochures were mailed and approximately 60 businesses were contacted. Direct assistance to businesses is ongoing and will focus on excessive fats, oils, and grease discharges that are an ongoing problem at the POTW.

Thus far the project has been well received by municipalities and POTW operators and further work in the coming fiscal year is planned with at least two more municipalities.