

Pollution Prevention for Businesses

Are you a business owner interested in reducing electronic and paper wastes, and increasing energy efficiency? If so, consider joining the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). This Partnership offers networking opportunities regarding pollution prevention strategies and technologies. MDEQ provides assistance to businesses, institutions and the public to improve the environment and save money by adopting the three "R's" **reduce, reuse and recycle**. Known also as pollution prevention, this is a non-regulatory assistance program that provides information, technical assistance and financial incentives to reduce pollution.



MDEQ offers a variety of programs and services, such as the Michigan Great Printers Project, or the Marina Pollution Prevention Initiative, to encourage businesses, institutions, and government agencies to pursue pollution prevention. Various other programs are designed to educate businesses and communities on waste reduction audits, mercury pollution prevention, green lodging, green building, environmentally preferred purchasing, energy efficiency, electronic recycling, etc. The Clean Corporate Citizen Program continues to grow, with over 120 businesses currently reaping the economic benefits and recognition of their efforts. You can explore these and other programs at the MDEQ P2 website at www.michigan.gov/deqp2.

MDNRE also provides technical and financial services to assist businesses with identifying and implementing process efficiencies and alternatives to using hazardous materials. This includes free, confidential on-site assistance available to businesses of less than 500 employees. Businesses may also be eligible for low interest loans, technology demonstration grants and student interns.

Here are some simple things you can do to get a kick start pollution prevention initiatives at your business:

- Join the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's P2 Partnerships.
- Apply to the MDEQ for Clean Corporate Citizenship.
- Request a Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) audit – free, confidential advice for waste reduction and operational efficiency.
- Start a Paper Recycling Program at your offices.
- Organize carpool or "Bike-to-Work" days.

- Support community recycling, household hazardous waste and other collections.
- Add environmentally preferable and low toxic materials into your purchasing procedures.
- Make your facilities “greener” through energy efficiency, green cleaning or water conservation.
- Volunteer in the local river and park clean-up events.