



THE MARK OF ZERO

The Official Newsletter for the Zero Waste Network

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Region 6 Focus: Hats Off to Local Green Companies

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Typically when we think about dry cleaning, we think about the chemical smell when we first walk in the door, the chemical smell on our clothes after they've been dry-cleaned. I personally gave up dry-cleaning my clothes three years ago because I couldn't stand the smell anymore. The chemical is perchloroethylene (PERC). This hazardous solvent can contaminate ground water, contribute to smog, and is a suspected carcinogen at sufficient high levels. While giving your clothes that dry-cleaner scent, PERC typically gives drycleaner staff headaches, skin irritations and other various health issues. That seems so be changing nationwide. More and more dry cleaners are abandoning PERC and turning to more Earth-friendly cleansers. The nationwide demand for PERC, as it is known, has declined 82 percent from 1985 to 2002, according to the Textile Care Allied Trades Association; in Southern California, it has been banned altogether.

The New Mexico Environment Department's Green Zia Environmental Excellence Program is a voluntary recognition program designed to recognize businesses that are reducing their environmental impacts and footprints. Last month One Hour GreenEarth Martinizing received the Commitment Level recognition for its' environmental stewardship and overall process improvement. One Hour GreenEarth has been in business in Santa Fe and Albuquerque for 40 years, and Bruce Squires, owner and manager has taken a turn for an alternative method called silicon-based cleaning. This is a new technology that is just being introduced in some cleaning chain stores. This is a clear, odorless, non-toxic silicone-based solvent (known as a siloxane) rather than PERC. Accidental silicone solution spills decompose into sand, water and carbon dioxide and do not release Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which are deleterious to the ozone layer. The silicone cleaning solution does not require regulation under any of the hazardous waste laws and it does not present the health risks that PERC and other petroleum-based cleaning solvents pose. People with chemical sensitivities to dry cleaning are reported to be able to use the silicon-based Green Earth Cleaning system without problems. Hats off to One Hour GreenEarth Martinizing for their efforts to reduce their environmental impacts.

Other companies that received recognition are Hall Environmental Analysis Lab, Inc, of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Bandelier Trading Company and White Sands Trading Company.

To recognize your business or receive additional information on the New Mexico Environment Department Pollution Prevention Program contact Michelle Vattano at (505) 827-0677 or click on http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/P2_Web/.

UT Arlington selected as the Region 6 OSHA center

The Center for Enterprise Development at the University of Texas, Arlington has been selected as one of eight new OSHA Training Instituted Education Centers. CED was chosen based on an evaluation of their occupational safety and health experience, continuing training background, classroom and laboratory availability, and their ability to provide training throughout the region. OSHA Education centers provide training courses on OSHA standards and occupational safety and health issues. Last year more than one half million people received training through this program.

The Division for Enterprise Development hosts several programs, including the Center for Environmental Excellence, which Zero Waste is a part of. To find out more visit www.uta.edu/ced.

2007 P2 Workshops Wrap Up

Last fall, the Zero Waste Network teamed up with the TCEQ Pollution Prevention Planning Program to host a series of P2 workshops. Overall, 250 representatives from over 200 companies attended.

The yearly workshops benefit large and small companies, and are geared towards attendees include plant managers, corporate environmental, health, and safety managers, production personnel, engineers, and related professionals. Attendees are given a packet with specific pollution prevention options and case studies for a company of their type. Companies use these customized packets to create their own Pollution Prevention Plan. Over the past two years attendees have reported reducing over 10,000 pounds of hazardous waste, reducing energy use and **saving more than \$250,000!**



Companies work together on a "bubble up" exercise which helps them prioritize their waste based on amount produced, finances, and risks.

Zero Waste and TCEQ plan on teaming up again to host another round of P2 workshops in the fall of 2008. Look out for future workshop dates and find out more information about the workshops at www.zerowastenetwork.org/events and at www.p2plan.org.

From Our Partners: Lean and Green Manufacturing

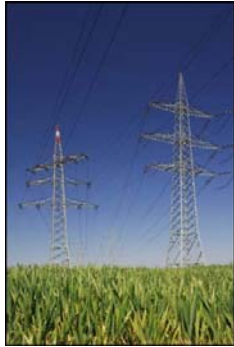
In 2008, the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) began its 5th year of transforming organization to become both Lean and Clean. Companies are learning about the symbiotic relationship between cost-saving material management and environmental management systems. With a better understanding on how to identify material wastes, recent workshop participants each identified typical savings of \$71,800 to over \$300,000. In addition, all found opportunities to reduce utility costs and solid waste impacts.

At the conclusion of the onsite projects attendees shared their thoughts.

"At first I doubted that someone who knew very little about our business could actually tell us how to do something better. I was wrong," one business owner said.

"I was reminded to start using my brain again!" another said. "I have started to look at things in a new way."

“Don’t be afraid to try this!” a group from central Texas said. “You will have no regrets.”



Implementing Lean and Clean-- Workshop Objectives:

- Learn to see Lean opportunities for improvement and opportunities for savings in materials, energy, water and utility consumption, or pollution prevention/mitigation.
- Understand the environmental performance implications and the connections to process improvement.
- Introduction to strategies and tools to integrate environmental factors into lean initiatives bridging the gap for reducing and eliminating all forms of waste.

To find out more on lean manufacturing and P2 visit the lean manufacturing topic hub at www.zerowastenetwork.org.

City of Austin takes on Zero Waste

The Zero Waste Economy Designing a Full-Cycle System—Upstream AND Downstream



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The City of Austin has announced its plan to become a complete zero-waste city by 2040. Gary Liss, of Gary Liss & Associates, was hired by the city to write a zero-waste plan.

Zero-waste plans have an encompassing view of trash reduction, focusing less on recycling and more on prevention of waste production. The plan emphasizes the need to “Reduce and Reuse first, *and then* Recycle”. Three main waste streams are targeted: construction and demolition (which contributes to 1/3 of all landfill waste), organics, and traditional recyclables. The plan emphasizes the economic and job growth opportunities of a zero-waste plan.

A series of public and private meetings will be held in February and March to brainstorm ideas on how to reach zero-waste and to hear the public's opinion on the topic. For more information about future hearing dates visit www.zerowastenetwork.org/events.

The Zero Waste Network is leading an effort to develop an implementation project as part of EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. This project will ensure that the Austin Zero Waste plan is implemented in an effective manner. If you are interested in participating please contact us at (512) 904-2281.

Other News

Chemical Industry Awaits New Plant Site Security Rules

The legislation passed by Congress grants DHS the authority to establish national performance standards for chemical plant site security and to visit U.S. chemical facilities to evaluate security systems and require corrective actions where appropriate. The department will also have the authority to shut down chemical plants that fail to comply with these standards. DHS will have this authority for three years.

Energy Savings at POTW's

Massachusetts has announced the first phase of an innovative pilot program, targeting 14 wastewater and drinking water treatment plants across the state, which will reduce the amount of energy that municipal facilities currently use to treat wastewater and drinking water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save communities money. The "Energy Management Pilot for Wastewater and Drinking Water Plants" brings together state and federal agencies and electric and gas utilities to conduct facility energy audits, assess each plant for its renewable and clean energy possibilities, and offer support for the implementation of these energy-related projects. MassDEP is taking the lead on the pilot program. If the targeted energy reductions of this pilot are achieved, the result would be a total annual reduction of approximately 200,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 760,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and 250,000 pounds of nitrogen oxide (NO_x).

EPA Awards Over \$50,000 to A Nurtured World Incorporated

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$53,300 to A Nurtured World Incorporated. The funds will be used to target significant environmental aspects of the City of Dallas, including air pollution, water supply and water quality. Nurtured World will work with citizens, businesses and organizations to learn about their environmental impacts and identify ways to address them, and conduct site visit training for pollution prevention providers.

Energy Quick Start Website Launched

The new Energy Quick Start Web site, www.energyquickstart.org, provides industry with a variety of resources to help manage energy costs and identify savings opportunities. It provides technical documents, software tools, training, case studies, listings of experts, and calculators. It also includes guidance to help manufacturers develop an energy management plan, which is vital for sustained efficiency improvements.

TCEQ Expands Tax Breaks Companies with Pollution Control Equipment

Companies will be able to seek a special tax break for portions of existing plants that have not previously qualified for the pollution control equipment abatement under rules finalized Wednesday by state environmental regulators.

For more P2 news visit: www.zerowastenetwork.org/news

This newsletter is presented by the Zero Waste Network. The Zero Waste Network identifies ways to increase wealth by improving environmental efficiency. The organization is part of University of Texas Arlington's Center for Environmental Excellence in the Division for Enterprise Development. For more information visit our website at www.zerowastenetwork.org or contact us by phone at (512) 904-2281 or by email at admin@zerowastenetwork.org.