



Shoptalk

A PUBLICATION FOR DANGEROUS WASTE MANAGERS

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Local Source Control Partnerships to Help Small Businesses

A new funding partnership of state and local governments in 2008 will help small quantity generators of dangerous waste keep toxics out of the water. The Local Source Control program provides \$2.5 million to be used in Puget Sound area counties and the Spokane River watershed. The money will be used by local governments to hire specialists to help small businesses control, reduce, or eliminate sources of toxic pollution.

Nearly 70 percent of the state's dangerous waste generators – including thousands of small businesses – are in the Puget Sound region and the Spokane River watershed. Local governments are hard-pressed to provide the needed level of expertise and oversight to the large number of small businesses that handle toxic chemicals on a daily basis.

“Our work with the larger generators has helped bring down the amount of dangerous waste produced in the state from 317 million pounds in 1992 to 113 million pounds in 2003,” said Ken Zarker, in the Department of Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program.

“Now, by funding this work at the local level, we can address the needs of the smaller businesses that want to do the right thing but don't have the technical expertise enjoyed by the larger companies.”

The local source control specialists are expected to reach thousands of small businesses in the next 18 months through site visits, workshops, presentations, newsletters, and other sources of information. The program's priority is to reduce pollutants that reach Puget Sound and the Spokane River watershed from toxic cleanup sites, storm water sources, and waste generation. The program will also gather data on the amounts and types of pollutants reduced through these efforts.

Ecology solicited proposals from interested governments in the fall. The department expects to sign 13 partnership agreements and get the program rolling in early 2008. (See sidebar.)

For more information on the Local Source Control Specialist program, contact Patricia “Chipper” Hervieux, at (360) 407-6756, e-mail at: pher461@ecy.wa.gov.

Local source control specialists will provide on-site technical assistance to smaller businesses, similar to the services provided by Ecology's hazardous waste inspectors.

Accepted for funding

- Whatcom County Health Department (Environmental Health Division)
- Kitsap County Public Works (regional approach with Mason County Public Works, Mason County Health Department, Cities of Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Paulsbo)
- San Juan County (Marine Resources Committee)
- City of Bellingham (Department of Public Works)
- Kitsap County Health District (Clallam and Jefferson Health Authorities)
- Snohomish Health District (Snohomish County Fire Marshall & City of Everett Public Works)
- Seattle Public Utilities (Lower Duwamish proposal only)
- City of Bellevue (consultant Taylor and Associates)
- Skagit County (Public Health Department)
- City of Issaquah (Department of Public Works)
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (Commencement Bay proposal only)
- King County (Environmental Health Services & Water and Land Resources Divisions)
- Spokane Regional Health District

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Why Should a Dangerous Waste Generator Be Concerned About Stormwater?

Any business generating dangerous waste could contribute pollutants to Washington's surface waters through stormwater runoff. Stormwater running off your business's equipment, raw or finished products, parking lots, rooftops and storage areas can contaminate the water directly or by collecting dirt, oil and grease, and toxic chemicals.

Runoff with too much of these pollutants harms aquatic life and people. About a third of the state's surface waters are already too polluted to meet state standards for water quality – you can't fish, dig shellfish, or swim in them.

Businesses that generate dangerous waste may be classified with a Standard Industrial Code (SIC) that requires them to get an Ecology stormwater permit. A business can get a conditional exclusion, however, if all industrial activity, and storage and delivery of chemicals takes place inside. You can find out if your business needs to meet the rules and avoid penalties at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/indust_list.html.

Whether you need a permit or not, do your part to prevent pollution through basic housekeeping:

- Make sure process water doesn't reach storm drains.
- Cover dumpsters.
- Store materials and chemicals inside. If they have to be outside, cover and contain them.
- Sweep your parking lot regularly, or install filters to keep sediment out of catch basins.
- Clean sediments out of catch basins. If sediments build up in a catch basin and chemicals are stored and spilled nearby, have the sediments tested to see if they designate as dangerous waste.

Following these steps will not only keep your work areas clean and your employees safe, but can save you money from the cost required to 'designate' catch basin sediments.

For more information on stormwater compliance and pollution prevention, contact your Ecology regional office and ask for a stormwater inspector.



What goes down the storm drain can wind up in your drinking water.

Lean & Clean Succeed (Part 2)

The Department of Ecology and Washington Manufacturing Services collaborated in the award-winning Washington Lean and Environment Project. The pilot project combined lean and pollution prevention methods to help three companies reduce wastes, increase competitiveness, and cut costs. (See *Lean and Clean Succeed, Autumn 2007 Shoptalk*)

At Lasco Bathware in Yelm, the project identified \$132,000 in annual savings. Lasco Bathware makes fiber-reinforced plastic and acrylic tubs and showers. The company eliminated process bottlenecks in the shipping and packaging area. Lasco increased production, reduced variability in spraying fiber-reinforced plastic in one model by 69 percent, and cut the time needed to set-up and change-over acrylic molds in half. In addition, Lasco eliminated an oven used for shrink-wrapping, which will save \$99,300 and reduce natural gas use by 12.6 million cubic feet each year.

At Columbia Paint & Coatings, the project identified \$139,000 in annual savings. Columbia Paint & Coatings makes high-quality residential, architectural, commercial, and industrial paint and coatings.

"At first bringing a regulator into our facility was scary. However, the project enabled us to form a relationship with Ecology and lent us another pair of eyes on our processes," said

George Stavnes, Columbia Paint's Vice President of Research and Development/Regulatory Affairs/Corporate Safety.

The company demonstrated that they could increase production by eight percent without hiring additional staff during peak production. Columbia Paint also reduced the lead time for paint production from six to three days. They reduced by 36 percent the time for the quality control inspection cycle and freed up one employee to focus on other value-added tasks. And they dropped their daily discharge of wastewater from 131 to 49 gallons. Now the company's Helena, Montana facility also reuses all the wastewater from production.

If you would like to explore the Lean and Clean process or request related grant funding, contact Hugh O'Neill at Ecology at (360) 407-6354; or Nigel Moore at Washington Manufacturing Services at (425) 438-1146, ext. 104. The final project report and individual case studies are available at www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs.shtm.

Lean & Environment Seminar Coming to You

Washington Manufacturing Services and Ecology will present a seminar on the Washington Lean and Environment Project: Past, Present, and Future, on March 25, 2008.

The seminar will be an interactive video teleconference at four satellite locations around the state. It will address using lean and environmental strategies to significantly improve productivity and environmental performance. You can see the results of case studies from three Washington manufacturers at the Lean and Environment Web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/lean/index.html. Those businesses reduced costs and wastes by a combined \$1.3 million annually through the project.

Share ideas about your business at the networking lunch. For more information and registration, go to www.pprc.org/solutions/leangreen/leangreen0325.html, or contact Michelle Gaither at mgaither@pprc.org.

Ask for Lead-free Wheel Weights

The next time you replace or balance your tires, consider asking for coated steel weights instead of the more common lead weights. A lead wheel weight can fall off and deteriorate, then lead ends up in the air and road dust.

A typical car or light truck has more than one-half pound of lead in wheel weights. A study found that approximately 13 percent of weights fall off of vehicles. In Washington, that works out to roughly 80,000 pounds of lead each year!

"Most of us never think of our wheel weights, but replacing the lead weights on our cars is an easy way to reduce lead in the environment," said Holly Davies, a chemical action plan developer at the Department of Ecology.

Lead is harmful to human health and the environment, and children are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts from lead. The 2007 Legislature considered, but did not pass a bill to ban the use of lead wheel weights.

Ecology is planning to replace the lead weights on their fleet vehicles with the most environmentally preferable alternative: steel weights that are coated to prevent rust.

The businesses that service Ecology's fleet support our request for lead-free alternatives. Most have indicated they will stock steel weights and provide them to customers upon request.

The cost of the steel weight is slightly higher than lead, but as the demand for steel increases, the price should drop.

For more information on the state Chemical Action Plan for Lead, visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/leadcap/.



Rule Update in 2008

Ecology will update the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, Chapter 173-303 WAC, in 2008. The changes will make the state's rule more consistent with the federal rules and the hazardous waste program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This includes the manifest rule and combining the universal waste categories for mercury. The changes will also update the biological and chemical testing methods.

Join the electronic list serve to learn more about the upcoming amendments: <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/dw-rules.html>. If you have questions about the rule amendment process, contact Chipper Hervieux at (360) 407-6756 or e-mail her at: pher461@ecy.wa.gov.

Special Solvent Recycling Program Ends

As of January 31, 2008, Safety Kleen will no longer offer its "Continued Use" (CUP) solvent recycling program in Washington. Generators that had been part of the program will now need to designate their spent solvents. If it is dangerous waste you must count the solvent weight towards determining your generator status. More regulatory requirements may apply depending on your status.

Only a limited number of businesses were enrolled in CUP. If you have questions about how this may affect your business, call the hazardous waste compliance staff at your Ecology regional office. (See contact numbers on page 4.) To learn more about hazardous waste management, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/reg_comp_guide/index.html.

No Dangerous Waste Workshops in 2008

The Dangerous Waste Management workshops are on hiatus. They will resume in 2009. Contact the nearest Ecology office for information on your responsibilities as a dangerous waste generator in Washington, or for information on reducing or recycling dangerous waste.

State Earns National Award

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) recognized Washington's Lean and Environment Project with the Most Valuable Pollution Prevention award.

The Roundtable presented the award in Washington D.C. on September 20. The Lean and Environment Project (see *Lean and Clean Succeed*) was sponsored by the Department of Ecology and Washington Manufacturing Services. Together, the three pilot projects saved the participating companies \$1.38 million annually and cut their hazardous waste by 89,200 pounds, among other benefits.

"These projects are an amazing demonstration of how saving money and environmental protection are complementary and not mutually exclusive," said Ecology Director, Jay Manning. "In each of these projects, superior environmental management resulted in improved productivity and efficiency, and greater profits."

NPPR is the largest membership organization in the United States devoted solely to pollution prevention. The roundtable's mission is to provide a national forum to promote efforts that avoid, eliminate, or reduce pollution at the source.

Calling All Dentists!

Best Management Practices for Dental Office Waste (#06-04-007), a new Ecology booklet, discusses topics of concern for dental offices. It covers how to manage amalgam waste from chair-side traps, vacuum pump filters and the office plumbing, what to do with x-ray wastes, lead foil, and aprons, and how to choose an amalgam separator. For your free copy, contact Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or e-mail: dzin461@ecy.wa.gov.

2007 Tier Two Reports are due and must be postmarked by March 1.

For more information, call 800-633-7585.

2007 Dangerous Waste Annual Reports are due March 3. For more information, call 800-874-2022.



Questions and Answers

Q How do firefighters know when chemicals are in a building? There was a fire at a chemical storage building near Grandview last year and the fire-fighters seemed to know that the chemicals inside wouldn't explode. How did they know that?

A Probably because the company who owned the storage building had filed their Tier Two report that year. Under Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, (SARA Title III), businesses who store hazardous chemicals must report that information each year to the State Emergency Response Commission and local governments. Those reports help emergency responders make better and earlier decisions on whether to evacuate an area, enter a burning building, and other life-saving actions.

Q What has to be reported for Tier Two?

A The maximum amount of a chemical on-site at any one time during the previous calendar year.

Q When are the next Tier Two reports due? Can I report online?

A Reports for calendar year 2007 are due March 1, 2008. Ecology's Community Right-to-Know Unit will send reminders in early January to previous reporters. To report electronically, visit EPCRAMail at: www.ecy.wa.gov/epcra/epcramail.html.

Q Where can I get help with my Tier Two report?

A Visit the Community Right to Know Web site at: www.ecy.wa.gov/epcra. You'll find reporting requirements, forms, Local Emergency Planning Committee contact numbers, and other helpful information. You can also contact us at epcra@ecy.wa.gov or call 800 633-7585. (Press 2 at the greeting to reach the EPCRA unit). And your Local Emergency Planning Committee can provide training.

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Department of Ecology

Your business is liable for all dangerous wastes you generate. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a dangerous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling dangerous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, at:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000
Lacey: (360) 407-6300
Yakima: (509) 575-2490
Spokane: (509) 329-3400

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.

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