

Challenges for Collaborative Technical Assistance Delivery – Panel Discussion

Anne Kaufmann, P2 Specialist

Boulder County Health Department, Environmental Health Division

Partners for A Clean Environment (PACE)

1) Vision, mission, and guiding principles

Boulder County Environmental Health

Vision: Boulder County will be a place where individual responsibility and community action results in a healthy environment.

Mission: Protect, promote, and enhance the health and well-being of the public and environment by:

- Assessing and mitigating environmental health risks
- Providing educational opportunities
- Creating partnerships with the community
- Collaborating with other agencies

PACE

The overall goal of the PACE program is to reduce the use of hazardous materials and the amount of waste to water, land, and air that results from business, government, and household activities in Boulder County.

2) Overview of technical assistance offerings

The primary mechanism for technical assistance in Boulder County is Partners for A Clean Environment (PACE), a cooperative effort of the city of Boulder, Boulder County Environmental Health, the city of Longmont, Boulder Chamber of Commerce, and Boulder Energy Conservation Center. PACE is a voluntary, non-regulatory program which offers free pollution prevention education, technical assistance, and recognition to Boulder County businesses, organizations, and residents.

Business sectors

- Auto repair
- Auto body
- Printing
- Dental Offices
- Restaurants
- Manufacturing

Methodology

With input from business representatives, we develop a set of pollution prevention criteria that businesses in that sector must complete in order to become Certified PACE Partners. PACE staff contact businesses and conduct site visits with interested

businesses. Certified businesses receive a PACE window decal, an 11”X 14” certificate describing the criteria they completed, and public recognition through free advertising at least twice per year.

PACE staff develop and distribute resource sheets to help businesses meet the criteria. For example, we developed a resource sheet on silver recovery options and local silver recovery vendors for printers and dental offices. We follow up with businesses at least annually to encourage progress toward certification.

Additional resources provided by PACE include:

- A comprehensive web site, www.pacepartners.com, which contains downloadable PACE resource sheets, news about upcoming events, and links to other P2 assistance sites;
- A biannual newsletter distributed to all targeted businesses;
- Periodic workshops; and
- Press releases and community television broadcasts to educate the community about business efforts and to market environmentally responsible businesses.

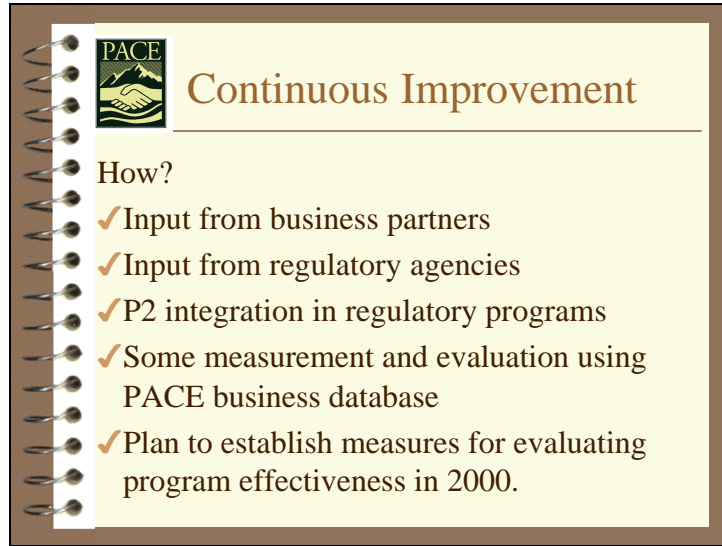



Strengths of Program

- ✓ Focus on smaller, generally unregulated businesses which collectively have large impact
- ✓ Direct contact and follow-up
- ✓ Public recognition for businesses which complete sector-specific P2 initiatives
- ✓ Partnerships with local regulatory agencies (air quality, industrial pre-treatment)
- ✓ Tracking/measurement of pollution reductions

 **Areas for Improvement**

- ✓ **Communication**
 - with local regulatory agencies, other local technical assistance providers, and state P2 and regulatory agencies
 - with businesses - what will better help/motivate them?
- ✓ **Marketing and Public Education**
 - to residents - what is P2, support for PACE partners
 - to businesses - why participate
- ✓ **P2 within county and municipal government operations**



 **Continuous Improvement**

How?

- ✓ Input from business partners
- ✓ Input from regulatory agencies
- ✓ P2 integration in regulatory programs
- ✓ Some measurement and evaluation using PACE business database
- ✓ Plan to establish measures for evaluating program effectiveness in 2000.

 **Collaboration**

Existing Efforts:

- ✓ Local Colorado P2 providers meet at least twice/year to share resources
- ✓ Partnerships in Boulder and other counties with regulatory agencies

Challenges:

- ✓ Different priorities (agricultural vs. commercial)
- ✓ Lack of coordinated focus on state-wide issues (e.g. P2 and HHW, mobile sources)
