

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)
POLLUTION PREVENTION BUREAU (P2 Bureau)

Small Business Assistance

The P2 Bureau's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) welcomed Bonnie Rouse in November of 2000. Bonnie replaced Karen Ekstrom as DEQ's Small Business Ombudsman and will serve as the Department's primary contact in the SBAP. Prior to taking this small business assistance position, Bonnie specialized in Occupational Safety and Health and worked extensively with small businesses throughout the state as Safety Director for Montana Motor Carriers Association and Senior Loss Control Consultant for Montana State Fund.

The SBAP continues to provide environmental assistance to Montana's small business community through services like on-site environmental audits, the development and distribution of informational materials, environmental training targeted to small businesses, and serving as the "Small Business Advocate" within the agency. Current projects include an ongoing effort to increase the visibility and effectiveness of the SBAP, and outreach and assistance to businesses using Class V injection wells, and sand and gravel, asphalt, and concrete producers in the state.

Source Water Protection, Groundwater Planning, and Wetlands Conservation

The P2 Bureau continues to provide assistance to more than 2,000 public water systems in Montana for which a delineation and assessment report must be completed in the next few years. Our goal is to have the majority of communities complete a source water protection plan in addition to the required delineations and assessments for their public water supplies. The assessment part of the SWPP identifies businesses, other sites, or certain land uses within the delineated area that may pose a potential risk of contamination because of the chemicals or processes used. These businesses will be targeted for P2 assistance by Bureau staff and others at DEQ.

The P2 Bureau also continues to provide support to several local water quality districts in their efforts to address water quality issues like source water planning and hazardous waste management. Further, through continued coordination with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and other DEQ programs, the P2 Bureau remains involved in groundwater planning activities throughout Montana. The Bureau continues to manage the wetland grants program, facilitate the statewide Wetlands Council, coordinate the completion of a baseline inventory of wetlands in Montana, and encourage and support the integration of wetland restoration projects into other DEQ and state government programs.

Bioenergy and Transportation Activities

Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 2000-2001 efforts to reduce transportation pollution in the greater Yellowstone region have been particularly successful. Voluntary year-round use of E-10, a blend of 10 percent ethanol with 90 percent regular gasoline, has reduced carbon monoxide emissions by an estimated 1,600 tons the past year throughout an area three times the size of New Jersey.

E-10 is used by Park Service and concessionaire fleets, and is now offered at all public service stations on much of the public land near Yellowstone and several gateway communities in Montana.

The state motor pool added 52 E-85 Fords to their fleet in July 2001 and state and park officials are using E-85 in the Yellowstone area. Smoke, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, toxic air contaminants, and oxides of nitrogen are being reduced in the Greater Yellowstone Area due to increased use of biodiesel fuel by buses and trucks. DEQ was credited with raising over \$150,000 for the Clean Snowmobile Challenge 2001 (CSC) to reduce pollution and noise from snowmobiles.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

The P2 Bureau continues to gather information and data for an updated version of Montana's Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP). For diverse reasons, including staff turnover, this update has been put on hold in the past but this year's workplan includes a concentrated effort to complete the update.

Staff will take advantage of the opportunity to further define and document the information needed for effective solid waste management decision-making as the new version of the IWMP is prepared. Problems locating data, verifying data, and developing the plan will be documented and will provide valuable information for setting goals and defining outcomes for the Voluntary Recycling Reporting Effort. Our bureau will initiate the Voluntary Recycling Reporting Effort after completion and adoption of the IWMP. The department will seek volunteers with diverse experience to help design and implement a voluntary method of reporting on recycling activities within the state. Lack of any reporting methods makes updating the IWMP and planning for and implementing effective recycling strategies very difficult. The department hopes that a voluntary effort will result in a cooperative method of reporting that protects business concerns regarding confidentiality while providing decision-makers with valuable information.

The PAYT grant closed out in July and we are still working toward a more thorough evaluation of two countywide pilot projects that took place. Ultimately, both counties decided against implementing PAYT permanently. We are creating fact sheets on these two projects to share lessons learned with other communities. We are discussing possibilities amongst ourselves for increasing the type of technical support that we are able to offer future communities interested in PAYT.

Greening the Government or 3Rs in State Government also closed out in July and we were pleased to have an EPP success story before it closed out. The state's central purchasing agency will incorporate Energy Star specifications in all solicitations for the purchase of information technology hardware, office machines, and lighting products. Part of the reason the agency director approved this policy was Governor Martz's Executive Order requiring energy conservation by all state agencies.

The Business and Community Assistance Section of the P2 Bureau, within which recycling activities are included, has been working to increase visibility of our programs. The Bureau had a display at the Waste Not Montana 2001 Conference and will participate in an upcoming Sustainability Fair, and an event in the State Capital. We want to make individuals and businesses aware of our services and increase understanding of DEQ's responsibilities. In addition to that kind of visibility, we are establishing an increased presence on the Internet. Within the next six months, a large number of pages will be published that are designed to help individuals and businesses take advantage of both our services and the vast wealth of experience and resources available from across the country.

The Internet is also being used to disseminate information regarding waste tire management in Montana, especially in light of Holnam Cement Plant's impending permit application to burn waste tires as fuel. We have tried to design a waste tire website that presents facts and dispels myths while allowing the public to draw their own conclusions regarding this controversial activity. That website is a priority for our section and will be online soon.

Upon completion of the IWMP, and a better understanding of the role recycling activities play in our communities and in our economy, the Bureau plans to explore a partnership with the Department of Commerce to increase the prevention part of our pollution prevention activities. We want to provide new and existing businesses information regarding waste reduction, reducing toxicity in the workplace, and planning for business expansion with the environment in mind.

The P2 Bureau is continuing its efforts to develop an educational "tool kit" for Montana contractors that describes resource efficient construction practices and products that make sense for Montana. Together with our partners, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, the Montana Building Industry Association, and the Montana State University Extension Service Pollution Prevention Program, the P2 Bureau recently surveyed builders from around Montana to determine which sustainable building practices they are currently using, builders' attitudes about using sustainable building practices and products, and what barriers will need to be overcome in order to increase the uses of these products and practices in the state.

Current work on the project includes compiling and reporting the results of the survey, visiting job sites where sustainable building practices were or are being used, documenting the processes used and the builders' responses to them, and developing and distributing informational materials that focus on a series of specific practices and products that make sense for Montana's climate and the materials available here. We expect the educational "tool kit" to be available by fall of 2001.

Finally, recent months marked the conclusion of the 2001 Legislative Session, during which the P2 Bureau worked diligently with the Legislature on a variety of issues. In addition to researching a number of issues related to solid waste management, recycling, and waste reduction, the bureau prepared fiscal notes and provided input and testimony on several pieces of legislation. Most notably, our efforts were fundamental to the passing of HB499 and SB92, both of which provided or extended credits for recycling and/or using reclaimable materials, and HB118, which among other things provided assurances to Montana businesses that assistance from DEQ's SBAP is protected from other Department functions for use in any administrative or judicial enforcement action.