

## Integrating P2 with Career Training

A survey of vocational and technical schools in U.S. EPA Region 8 was completed in late summer of 2002. The purpose of the survey was to determine how waste minimization, source reduction, and pollution prevention concepts are being included in vocational training programs. Survey results are available on the Peaks to Prairies web site (Business and Education/Campus P2).

Seventy-two public and private, nonprofit vocational and technical schools in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming were identified and contacted. The schools offered a wide variety of programs including agriculture, business, construction, parks and recreation, health professions and mechanics. The study yielded an overall response rate of 29.2% with eight completed surveys and 13 schools responding that they either did not teach or were not interested in P2 or regulatory compliance topics.

Of those filling out surveys, all either currently offered regulatory compliance or pollution prevention topics in their curriculum or were interested in doing so. Ag Business and Production was the most common field where these topics were integrated into regular classes. Respondents chose the web and government publications as their top sources for information. Peaks to Prairies will continue to accept surveys to broaden results. A copy of the survey form is available on the web site and Peaks to Prairies staff will conduct phone interviews next year.



## New P2 and Youth Education Resource

Peaks to Prairies is pleased to announce the launch of a new topic hub that defines the relationship between pollution prevention and environmental literacy. The hub offers teaching strategies, curricula and activities, and a reference library, and includes over 180 links related to P2 and education. Curricula and activities are identified by age groups and by the following topics: Agriculture, Air Quality, Energy Conservation, Household & Community

Waste Management, P2 Careers, P2 Consumer, Transportation, and Water Quality. This hub is currently under review by educators and P2 professionals. Your comments are welcome. Please take a look at <http://peakstoprairies.org/topichub/> and click on "Youth Ed."

**Wanted: Homes** (see page two for details)

## In This Issue...

- ★ **Wanted: Homes**
- ★ **Find Funding for P2**
- ★ **Mercury Reduction Programs Database**
- ★ **P2 Network News from State Programs**
  - Colorado:** Environmental Conditions and Directions Study
  - Montana:** Recycled Glass Cullet in Road Base Construction *and* Automated Materials Exchange Launched
  - North Dakota:** Fargo Landfill Gas Collection and Control Project
  - South Dakota:** P2 Projects Focus on Reducing Pollution of Water Resources
  - Utah:** EMS Developed for National Dinosaur Monument
  - Wyoming:** Small Business P2 Video
- ★ **Sector News Briefs**



*Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season!*





**Homes Across America** wants to “open the front door” to resource efficient and high performance home building in the U.S. Visitors to the site can:

- ▶ Learn about the “green” technology used in homes across the country
- ▶ Find builders and designers who have created resource efficient homes
- ▶ Study climate factors dictating home design
- ▶ Find local, non-biased technical assistance for building green
- ▶ Track trends and innovations in home building over time.

A partnership project of:  
 Peaks to Prairies Information Center  
 Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx)  
 Montana State University Extension Service

## Find Funding for Pollution Prevention

The new, searchable *Request for Proposal (RFP) Clearinghouse* provides information on current and pending RFPs related to pollution prevention, as well as an archive of past solicitations. Managed by the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC), the clearinghouse allows you to search for both national and local grant programs by keyword, subject area or geographic eligibility. If your agency offers a grant program, the Clearinghouse is a good way to advertise the availability of funds. A short form is available so you can enter information on-line. Visit the Clearinghouse at <http://www.pprc.org>, click on “Funding for You.”

## Wanted: Homes

We are collecting data for *Homes Across America* from all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. We are looking for:

- ★ agency contacts with expertise in resource efficient building
- ★ homes built for comfort, health, performance and durability (constructed in 2000 or later)

**Homes:** We want to profile a variety of homes and technologies and we'll follow up all leads. We are currently investigating about sixty possible homes, some from national programs like these:

- American Lung Association Health Houses
- Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Real Goods Demonstration Homes (mostly Energy)
- Building America Homes (mostly Energy)

A third of the possibilities are demonstration homes built for the purpose of collecting performance data and demonstrating new technologies. The other two-thirds are marketable homes that are being used as homes for real people. Four of the possible home profiles are remodel/retrofit projects, the rest are new homes. Not all of these leads will make it into the showcase. Please send us your ideas, especially in states listed above right.

**Agencies:** We have identified at least one agency in each state (except Massachusetts and New Hampshire) with expertise in resource efficient building. Thirty-four of these contacts are from the state-based USDA Extension Housing Programs. We hope to enhance the collection with many more state-sponsored and not-for-profit agencies with expertise in this area.

If you know of resource efficient homes and agencies that provide technical assistance in your state, please tell us. We will contact them and invite them to be part of the showcase and you will receive a Homes Across America mug to show our appreciation.



## Mercury Reduction Programs Database

Mercury has been used in a number of common products including: thermometers, batteries, switches, fluorescent lamps, dental amalgams, and paints. When these products are landfilled, the mercury is released into the environment.

Mercury is also released as a result of burning fossil fuels and some manufacturing processes. EPA is concerned by the toxic effects of mercury in the environment and has encouraged state and local entities to initiate mercury recovery, reduction and education programs.

To encourage sharing of ideas and progress, one of the P2Rx Centers, Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA), has collected information on current programs around the U.S. Their database contains information on more than 100 programs. You can search for programs in particular areas or browse for ideas. If you are currently involved in mercury reduction and education, a brief on-line form allows you to enter information about your efforts into the database. Visit the database at: <http://www.newmoa.org/>, click on “mercury” and then “reduction programs.”

### **Need agencies with expertise:**

Massachusetts, New Hampshire

### **Need Homes:**

Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virgin Islands, West Virginia, Wyoming

*We also want more homes and agency contacts in other states.*

# Sector News Briefs

Agriculture Community Growth Construction Energy Mining Outdoor Rec Small Business Waste Management Water/Wastewater

## University of Colorado Wins Solar Decathlon

Student teams from 14 universities and colleges competed in the first ever Solar Decathlon September 26 – October 5, 2002 in Washington DC. The Decathlon, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, with its National Renewable Energy Laboratory and private-sector partners BP Solar, The Home Depot, Electronic Data Systems (EDS), and the American Institute of Architects, is a contest to “design, build and operate the most effective and efficient solar-powered house.” The University of Colorado took home the first place award with a home designed to fit in anywhere. Learn more about the solar decathlon at [http://www.eren.doe.gov/solar\\_decathlon/](http://www.eren.doe.gov/solar_decathlon/) and more about the University of Colorado winning design at <http://solar.colorado.edu/index.html>. — Dept. of Energy

## Bicentennial Funding Sourcebook Issued

“Nearly 200 years ago, President Thomas Jefferson sent an expedition westward to find and map a transcontinental water route to the Pacific Ocean,” begins the presidential proclamation issued last July designating 2003-2006 as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration. Public focus on this event provides an ideal opportunity to deliver pollution prevention and stewardship messages to visitors and sightseers. The Department of Interior recently released their *Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Funding Sourcebook*. This document has been compiled to assist states, tribes, and communities in locating potential sources of federal, state, and philanthropic support for Bicentennial projects (including natural resource management and conservation). The sourcebook is available at: [http://www.lewisandclark200.org/pdf\\_files/bicentennialsourcebook.pdf](http://www.lewisandclark200.org/pdf_files/bicentennialsourcebook.pdf).

## New Report Links Urban Sprawl to Drought

A new report prepared by American Rivers, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Smart Growth America examines the effects of urban sprawl on water resources. Titled *Paving Our Way to Water Shortages: How Sprawl Aggravates Drought*, the report looks at how urban sprawl affects the natural water cycle, including localized drought conditions. The report concludes that urban sprawl may be partly to blame for drought conditions as new paved surfaces affect the way water naturally infiltrates into the ground. It is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/pavingourway1.pdf> — U.S. Army Environmental Center, Western Region Review

## New BEES Software

BEES (Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability) version 3.0 brings to your fingertips a powerful technique for selecting cost-effective, environmentally-preferable building products. The new version incorporates many more building products (about 200 building products and roughly 80 brand-specific products) as well as improvements in the U.S. life cycle assessment (LCA). BEES 3.0 is available for download free of charge from <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oea/software/bees.html>. — EPA

## New Search Capacity: P2Rx Topic Hubs and EPA

It is now easier to find exactly what you're looking for in the topic hubs. Whether it's a particular fact sheet or case study or if you're wondering in general what resources are available on a subject, the new topic hub search engine can help. Look for the Search feature at the bottom of each P2Rx Topic Hub page. Peaks to Prairies also now offers a search for resources on other P2Rx Center sites and of all EPA sites. Click “search” from the home page.



## Effluent Emission Guidelines And New Source Performance Standards For Construction... (67 FR 63867)

EPA recently extended the comment period for this proposed rule until 23 December 2002, and added two documents to the rulemaking docket: 1) National Association of Home Builders, “Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices Research Project;” and 2) EPA “...Proposed Rule for Effluent Limitation Guidelines and Standards for the Construction and Development Industry.” For further information, contact Eric Strassler, EPA at (202) 566-1026, or link <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/construction/>. — EPA

## EnviroRangers On-line Activities

The *EnviroRangers P2 Web Club* has added 30 new, on-line P2 activities for youth to complete toward earning club patches (or just for fun). All activities are linked to helpful reference information, as well as to the Youth Education Topic Hub. Upon completing an activity, a club member's work is reported directly to the site manager and each club member is given the opportunity to view on-line “prizes.” Prizes are rotated regularly.

If you know of a great electronic game, P2 related story, or amazing interactive visual that would be a good reward, please contact us at [information@peakstoprairies.org](mailto:information@peakstoprairies.org) to have it included.

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## Region 8 State P2 Programs and Center Advisory Committee

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## Under the Big Sky Greening Conference, June 11-13, 2003

Headwaters Cooperative Recycling Project (HCRP) and the Ethanol Producers and Consumers (EPAC) are hosting this unique joint conference to be held in beautiful Big Sky, Montana. Major sponsors include Unilever, the National Park Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The conference will focus on new and existing partnerships among local communities, state and federal agencies, and private industry. Attendees will choose from conference tracks dealing with stewardship, sustainability, energy conservation, and the expansion of renewable fuels. The conference will culminate with a dedication of the regional composting facility located in West Yellowstone and a guided bus tour of Yellowstone National Park.

Invitations are being distributed within the Rocky Mountain Region and surrounding states. Applications are currently being accepted for sponsors, exhibitors and speakers. For more information: <http://peakstoprairies.org/greening/>, HCRP at 406-225-3194, EPAC at 406-785-3722.

## About the Peaks to Prairies Center

The Center is operated by the Montana State University Extension Service and serves EPA Region 8 states-- Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. As part of a non-regulatory, educational entity, the Center draws on resources of the land-grant system. The Center's goal is to protect the environment through pollution prevention and its major function is to serve as a networking tool for state and local governmental agencies, trade associations, educational institutions, consultants, and non-governmental organizations who serve small businesses.

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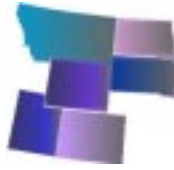
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Peaks to Prairies is a member of the Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx), a national coalition of pollution prevention information centers representing all ten EPA regions. Through P2Rx, centers bring regional networking to a national level, exchange information and build on each others' ideas. Support for Peaks to Prairies is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state programs listed on the left.





# P2 Network News from State Programs

EPA Region 8

Bi-annual Update: Vol. 4, #2  
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## Colorado: Environmental Conditions and Directions Study

The Environmental Conditions and Directions Study (ECADS) was commissioned by the Colorado Governor's Pollution Prevention Advisory Board to prioritize activities, assist in policy formation, and identify current gaps. The study was conducted by interviewing expert stakeholders and researching and collecting relevant data.

The Executive Summary of the study states that the contribution of industry and commerce towards the top ten environmental conditions is relatively small (compared to results of a similar 1993 study). Of more concern are:

- Agriculture (accounts for 92% of total water use)
- Mobile sources (the largest source of Colorado's air pollution)
- Electricity generation and use (leading emitter of greenhouse gases)
- Mining (sector with greatest toxic release inventory [TRI] reported releases)

**Top Environmental Concerns:**  
Land use patterns, Water quality, Air quality, Water supply, Energy, Solid waste, Hazardous waste, Transportation, Education, Agriculture

Results of the study have been compiled into a document that includes: project methods, a detailed report on environmental conditions, recommendations, data tables, and appendices with expert interview information and data source information. The Colorado P2 Program will share their experience and the study results with agencies wishing to undertake a similar effort. Contact Kirk Mills at 303-692-2977 ([kirk.mills@state.co.us](mailto:kirk.mills@state.co.us)).

## Montana: Automated Materials Exchange Launched

Over its nearly eight-year history, this free bulletin board service has proved its value with hundreds of users posting listings and making successful exchanges. Now the MME website has been totally redesigned with new features including a searchable database of products available and on-line listing forms. Maintained by the Montana State University Extension Service Pollution Prevention Program, in partnership with the Montana Chamber of Commerce, this free service connects businesses, schools, farms and ranches, government agencies and other organizations that have materials they need to get rid of with parties who can use them.

The MME is a cost-saving alternative to disposing of surplus, used or leftover

items, industrial by-products, or any other unwanted but usable material. The database allows searching by Montana community, county, or region and by material type, "wanted" or "available" listings, or keyword. By providing reuse opportunities, the MME helps prevent waste and reduce environmental impacts. It also helps businesses and organizations save on purchasing and disposal costs. Small or large quantities of almost any usable material can be listed on the MME website. Both "wanted" and "available" listings can be posted, and any listing can be confidential if requested. Users can also designate "available" materials as free to schools, charities, or government agencies.

## Montana DEQ: Recycled Glass Cullet in Road Base Construction

The Federal Highway Administration recently endorsed the use of recycled products in highway construction. In August, the Montana DEQ Pollution Prevention Bureau met with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to discuss this change.

As a result, the MDT has started modifying the enabling specifications to allow the use of recycled glass cullet in Montana road base construction that will provide an end-use market. The DEQ Pollution Prevention Bureau will maintain a database of recycled glass cullet available throughout the state and provide details for future projects to the MDT. The DEQ will work closely with local governments and regional recycling organizations concerning this project.

The two agencies are currently planning a spring 2003 pilot project in Missoula. Afterwards, the concept will be rolled out across the state, which is a big step forward for glass recycling in Montana. Based on typical generation and collection rates for recycled glass in Seattle's Clean Washington Center, Montana has the ability to recover approximately 10,000 tons annually.

If you have any questions, please contact, Brian Spangler, Business and Community Assistance Program Manager, Pollution Prevention Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, (406) 444-5307.

*Where there's smoke there's....pollution*  
—Anonymous

Find it, or give it away, buy it, sell it, or trade it on the Montana Materials Exchange! Just log on to <http://www.montana.edu/mme> and place a "wanted" or "available" listing.

## North Dakota: Fargo Landfill Gas Collection and Control Project

The City of Fargo, North Dakota, received a grant from EPA's Region 8 Pollution Prevention Program to help finance a gas collection and control system at the city's landfill. The system transports methane gas generated by decomposing waste at the landfill to Cargill's oilseed processing plant in West Fargo where it is used to power boilers. Methane is a waste problem in landfills causing odors and air pollution in surrounding areas. The City of Fargo will now receive revenue for it instead. The system was placed into full operation on June 1, 2002. As the

*"This is an example of industry and government partnering to address a major problem with an innovative solution,"*  
--Bruce Grubb, Fargo Enterprise Director, in *The Forum*

first in the state of North Dakota to capture the gas for reuse, this project makes Fargo a model for both public and private landfills throughout North Dakota and the region. For more information contact Kent Belland at the North Dakota Department of Health, [kbelland@state.nd.us](mailto:kbelland@state.nd.us) or (701) 328-5166 For information about other methane recovery projects, visit the EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/projects/projects.htm>.

## South Dakota: P2 Projects Focus on Reducing Pollution of Water Resources

Several South Dakota P2 activities focus on reducing surface and ground water pollution. The activities provide livestock producers and resource managers with cost effective BMPs that:

reduce fecal coliform bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads reaching surface and ground water resources and support reaching the TMDLs developed for the state's surface water bodies.

The activities are part of a statewide strategy developed by a public-private partnership during 1999 to reduce the environmental impacts associated with livestock production. Strategy related activities completed or in progress include:

### ★Projects

1. *Fecal Coliform Strain Identification*
2. *Manure Management BMPs Based on Phosphorus*
3. *Grassland Management and Planning*

### ★Videos

1. *Best Practices: Manure Management*
2. *Living With a Septic System*

### ★Manure as a resource publication series

### ★Exhibits at fairs and Ag expositions and conferences

1. *Straight Talk on Manure*
2. *Calibrating Manure Spreader Application Rates*
3. *Sampling Manure for Nutrient Management* (available 1/03)
4. *Using the Results of a Manure Analysis* (available 5/03)
5. *Developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan* (9/03)

For information about the projects, on-line copies of publications and videos produced, and links to project web sites visit:  
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/P2/P2.htm>

## Wyoming: Small Business P2 Video

The Wyoming P2 Program, in cooperation with the Wyoming DEQ Solid and Hazardous Waste Division and the Waste Minimization Program of EPA Region 8 recently completed a video on compliance assistance and P2 for small businesses. The 30 minute video outlines the basics of identifying hazardous wastes, proper waste handling techniques, and pollution prevention practices that should be followed by small business hazardous waste generators.

Although the video is directed to waste generators in Wyoming the information has been prepared to be useful for anyone in the region to use as a learning or teaching tool. The Wyoming P2 Program has some additional copies of the video available to interested parties free of charge. To obtain a copy contact Steve Roseberry of the Wyoming P2 Program by phone at 307-777-6105 or email to [SROSEB@state.wy.us](mailto:SROSEB@state.wy.us).

## Utah: EMS Developed for Dinosaur National Monument

As part of the National Park Service/EPA Partnership Project, an Environmental Management System (EMS), based on ISO 14001 Standard, was put into operation at Dinosaur National Monument the week of September 11, 2002. This is the second Department of Interior facility to develop an EMS. Another EMS was developed in Grand Canyon National Park several months earlier. The EMS Team from EPA Region 8 included Mary Byrne, Reinvention Team, Eric Steinhuis, Emergency Response and Preparedness Team, and Marie Zanolwick, P2 Team. Sonja Wallace from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality also participated and will provide follow-up support to the Park as they operate their EMS. The Park is proactive in involving their partners from concession operations and the Department of Transportation within this system. The Park's goal is to apply for EPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program in September 2003, after their system is in place for one year. For more info contact Marie Zanolwick, 303-312-6403.