

Delivering High Quality Pollution Prevention Information to Businesses and Communities

Peaks to Prairies identified auto body and residential construction as sector specializations in 1998 through input from the Regional Roundtable. In 1999 a survey and collection of relevant resources took place resulting in the addition of many fine resources to the Library. With the addition of new staff, Peaks has introduced a web-based "Tech Source" for these two sectors provided as a resource for regional businesses and assistance providers. Other sector work is underway involving pollution prevention in vocational education labs and for youth (see articles on page 2).

Resources for the **Residential Construction Tech Source** have been reviewed and cataloged and the collection is available in a searchable format on the web at <http://peakstoprairies.org/construction>. Included are internet resources, hard copy items from the Peaks library collection as well as items easily available through interlibrary loan system. The Center was represented at the NAHB Green Building Conference in Denver April 5-8. This year's conference focused on site preservation, materials selection, lifecycle analysis, waste minimization, and financial incentives for builders to think green. In the closing sessions it was stated that the next step is to improve on and promote education in this area. Residential Construction Tech Source is addressing this need.

The **Auto Body Tech Source** is now available in a searchable format on the web at <http://peakstoprairies.org/autobody>. This reference collection also includes internet resources, hard copy items from the Peaks library collection and items easily available through interlibrary loan. Peaks to Prairies continues to work with CCAR by providing P2 content to compliment CCAR's work in compliance, and by reviewing the developing CCAR Virtual Auto Body Shop. Through a partnership between the Montana State University Extension Service Pollution Prevention Program and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center's STAR (Spray Technique Analysis and Research) Program, further content development is currently underway.

Peaks has been an active participant in development of the **P2Rx Topic Hub** project. All resources collected and recommended by Peaks in our sector specializations have been entered in an Access database in accordance with the current draft of *Guidelines for Topic Hub Data Records*. Peaks is participating in ongoing discussion and editing of the *Topic Hub Development Process Guide* and supports marketing this P2Rx resource to the business and assistance provider communities.

*Pollution Prevention (P2)
—avoiding or reducing
pollutants at the source—
is an economically viable and
sustainable means to a
healthful environment and a
strong economy.*

The Center...

- ◆ Offers access to current regional information and contacts
- ◆ Encourages regional collaboration and leveraging of resources
- ◆ Facilitates regional communication about activities and projects

Current Project Tasks

1. Build partnerships around common issues among businesses and agencies
2. Identify Region 8 P2 providers and create a directory
3. Coordinate regional communications
4. Support P2Rx communication and marketing
5. Enhance links and services
6. Explore complimentary funding opportunities
7. Report progress and activity



2000 P2 Roundtable

- Regional Strategic Planning
- Interagency Panel Discussion - *Challenges for Collaborative Technical Assistance Delivery*
- Training by Bob Pojasek - *Measuring Environmental Excellence and Technical Assistance Success Using a Baldrige Model*
<http://peakstoprairies.org/y2kroundtable.htm>

Higher Education Survey

<http://peakstoprairies.org/higheredsurvey.htm>

Profiling Region 8 Higher Ed:

1. Curriculum
 2. Research
 3. Technical Assistance
 4. Internship Opportunities
 5. Green Campus Initiatives
- Survey form on-line.

Sector efforts at peakstoprairies.org/:

Autobody Tech Source
.../autobody.htm

Residential Construction Tech Source
.../construction.htm

P2 for Vo-Ag Educators
.../VoEd

Collaborating to Sustain Our Western Quality of Life...

Region 8 Pollution Prevention Roundtable
Jackson Hole, Wyoming ♦ September 6-8, 2000

Region 8 P2 programs are fortunate to have Dr. Bob Pojasek facilitate our planning and offer training this year. Dr. Pojasek is President of Pojasek & Associates, and a well-known participant in P2 affairs in the U.S.

First day at the Roundtable will be a benchmarking event through an interagency panel discussion entitled — *Challenges for Collaborative Technical Assistance Delivery*. The discussion will offer participants a variety of perspectives on what works and what doesn't in providing technical assistance and a forum for brainstorming collaborative solutions. Invited panelists include representatives from federal, state and local programs, NIST, Department of Defense, tribal and agricultural programs, and single media programs.

Following the panel, Dr. Pojasek will train participants to measure success by using a Baldrige Model. The last two days will be devoted to regional sharing and strategic planning. Assistance providers from throughout the region have been invited to attend. More information is on the web at <http://peakstoprairies.org/y2kroundtable.htm>.

P2 for Vocational and Agricultural Educators

This web-based assistance program was created by a Peaks to Prairies mini-grant for secondary educators maintaining laboratories and teaching areas such as mechanics and automotive, wood or carpentry, metals and welding, green houses and farm plots, and animal confinement areas. These teaching areas are small scale representations of industry and production agriculture.

Research by the Agricultural and Technology Education Program at MSU indicated that pollution prevention education was needed for teachers in vocational education. The research also showed positive perceptions of environmental issues. The resource provides P2 background, checklists for various lab areas, a discussion group, FAQ page, exemplary practices page, and student initiatives page. It is available on-line at <http://peakstoprairies.org/VoEd>.

The benefit of introducing P2 to this audience is twofold: not only will waste and pollution be minimized in the present, but students can take what they learn and apply it in their careers. New funding specific to this program was just received allowing for continuation and expansion of the project.

New Staffing: Spring 2000

Thomas Bass is Peaks' new sector coordinator. He recently received his Master's degree examining pollution prevention in Montana high school vocational education laboratories. He earned his bachelor's degree in Animal and Dairy Science from the University of Georgia. Other professional interests include environmental issues in agriculture, land use, and transportation. Tom has been involved in bicycle racing for 7 years, and spends most of his free time training for and traveling to races.

Joanne Wilke is Peaks' new part-time librarian and news page manager. With a varied background in office management, human resource development, and magazine and freelance writing and editing, Joanne brings efficiency, organization, and solid research skills to the Center. Joanne attended MSU on a full-ride athletic scholarship, has a B.S. Degree in Physical Education, Health and Science, and lives in Bozeman with her husband, two children, and 29 chickens.

Best Practices to Minimize Western Sprawl

Peaks to Prairies has awarded a mini-grant to Tellus Institute to produce a user-friendly booklet and web site of ideas describing steps that state and local government agencies can take to decelerate sprawl and environmentally damaging development in western states. The booklet will include useful practices for both metropolitan areas and smaller communities. Each practice will illustrate the creative thinking and on-the-ground examples in which people are currently engaged. Sources for the information will include the Internet, interviews with numerous contacts in Region 8 at the federal, state, and local levels as well as private and non-governmental organizations. A literature review of current articles and reports on solutions to sprawl will be included. It will serve both as a stand-alone reference of best practices and a guide for where to look for more in-depth information.

A feedback form will be included for users to send comments, corrections, and new ideas. A contact in Region 8 will collect comments to incorporate into future versions of the booklet. Tellus will also discuss with the state pollution prevention programs how to best facilitate adoption of the practices by local entities.

Copies of the booklet will be distributed to relevant state agencies (e.g., Environmental Protection Departments, Planning Departments, Transportation Departments, Energy Departments). In cooperation with the state pollution prevention programs, Tellus will further distribute copies to local agencies and county extension offices, among others. Tellus has secured the matching requirement of the grant by commitments from four of the six Region 8 states.

Home*A*Syst for Native Americans

Based on the concept of a home inspection or energy audit, Region 8 Native American Home*A*Syst is a tool to help Native American homeowners and renters conduct a complete and confidential home pollution prevention assessment. Topics include:

- Drinking Water - Well location and maintenance, and water testing
- Indoor Air Quality - Improving the air you breathe
- Wastewater - Proper septic system design and maintenance
- Hazardous Products - Selection, use, and disposal
- Lead - Identify sources of lead
- Fuel Storage - Safe management of gasoline, oil and other fuels
- Heating and Cooling - Save energy and protect health
- Household Waste - Preventing, reusing, recycling and composting

Indian Housing Authorities, Indian Health Services and Tribal Extension agents can use Home*A*Syst assessment worksheets to help residents discover how their activities may contribute to environmental problems. Individuals first complete the assessments by answering questions like: Has it been more than three years since your septic tank was pumped or inspected? Do you burn yard and food waste or send it to a landfill? Does your drinking water flow through lead pipes or contact lead solder? Do you store hazardous household products in original containers?

The Native American Home*A*Syst materials help participants develop an action plan to protect their family's health, their property values and the environment. Funded by an EPA Environmental Justice Pollution Prevention grant, Peaks to Prairies will make these resource available to others on the web in August 2000.

■ *Urban land use in Region 8 states increased from roughly 1,500,000 acres to roughly 2,000,000 acres between 1982 and 1992 (up 33%).*

■ *Motor vehicles are the largest source of air pollution along the Front Range. These pollutants are responsible for approximately 70% of the Brown Cloud and can lead to violations of the federal health standards (Regional Air Quality Council).*

■ *A recent survey conducted for the American Institute of Architects reports that 68% of state and local government executives and policymakers said they believe concern over "livable communities" is growing.*



Grant Writing Tip:

Did you know federal proposal forms (SF424, 424A, etc.) are available on the web and can be filled out like a spreadsheet?

A free, easy to download utility allows you to edit and print budget forms and then does the calculations for you.

<http://fillform.gsa.gov>



<http://www.montana.edu/wwwp2er>

P2Rx Contributions

- Sector Hub Project
- National Programs Database
- P2Rx Marketing
- Operational Standard Setting
- Bi-annual Group Meetings
- Monthly Administrative Conference Calls
- Monthly Web Development Conference Calls
- Virtual Library Discussion
- NPPR Information Workgroup

Web Site Statistics Jan-May, 2000

Month	# Page Views	# User Sessions	Avg. Hits/Day
Jan	1342	703	118
Feb	1961	860	163
Mar	2235	863	169
Apr	2626	796	201

Web Club Offers Rewards for Pollution Prevention

A year ago, the Pollution Prevention (P2) Enviro-Rangers Web Club was created through a mini-grant from Peaks to Prairies. The club was designed to get kids interested in environmental issues through activities, games, and prizes. Geared to the 8-14 age-group, all club activities are documented through the web allowing participation by kids in rural areas.

Bookmarks, brochures, news articles, and informational displays have been created to promote the club. The brochure and bookmarks have been sent to county extension agents, teachers, P2 programs, and club leaders in Region 8 for distribution. The three-dimensional informational displays have been well received and were recently used at Earth Day events in Utah and Colorado and at a teacher fair in North Dakota.

Peaks to Prairies is providing regional coordination for the Club and seeking state coordinators to promote the club in their state and interact with club members one-on-one. Both Montana and North Dakota have established state coordinators. A six minute video is being created starring the club's first ten members. The video will be used to assist club leaders and others by describing how the club works.

To find out more about the P2 Enviro-Rangers Web Club, check out its clubhouse at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwp2er>, or contact the Peaks to Prairies Center at 406-994-3451.

Mercury Thermostat Program

A program was recently developed in Montana to halt the amount of mercury going into landfills from the disposal of mercury-containing thermostats. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) makes improvements to homes through the Low Income Weatherization Program including up to 2000 furnace modifications and changeouts throughout the year. Many of these furnaces have mercury thermostats. DPHHS and the MSU Extension Service partnered to initiate a collection and disposal program.

Through the program, DPHHS technicians collect mercury thermostats from clients, store and log them properly labeled under universal waste regulations. Thermostats are turned in at semi-annual trainings and are taken to an approved storage facility for recycling. Thermostats are replaced by programmable, non-mercury containing thermostats provided by the weatherization program. The support and contributions of an industry partner, Johnstone Supply, make this possible.

Other states and P2Rx Centers expressed an interest in this model. Peaks to Prairies will post implementation guidelines on the Peaks to Prairies web site to assist others wishing to start a similar effort. With increasing national concern about PBTs, this has been an effective measure to prevent air, soil and water problems caused by this obvious source of mercury in landfills in our region.

Web Development

The Center was recently given access to its raw log files allowing for accurate tracking of site use. Some basic stats for the year are listed in the table to the left. Web Trends software is currently being used for analysis. Peaks to Prairies also established ownership of its own domain, peakstoprairies.org, in late April. In May, Center staff attended Cold Fusion training with seminars on information architecture and usability evaluation hosted by Region 7 P2RIC. The web development team are meeting weekly and working diligently on reorganization, addition of content, improved usability and graphical enhancement of the site.

Montana Landowner Stewardship Program

The purpose of the Montana Landowner Stewardship Program is twofold:

1. Assist landowners in adopting *stewardship* practices on their own property to protect natural resources including soil, water, plants and animals; and
2. Assist landowners in recognizing opportunities to take action with their neighbors to protect natural resources, address local resource issues and meet community goals.

The stewardship program is being developed and implemented in cooperation with many state and local organizations and agencies to assist landowners, real estate agents, conservation districts, lending agencies, and local planners. June 2 - 3, 2000 a pilot train-the-trainer workshop was conducted in Montana to use and implement the modules. While this effort is not funded by the Center, it will be available on the web site as an added-value program for the region. For more information on the modules, contact Mike Vogel at the Peaks to Prairies Center, 406-994-3451.

USDA Structure and P2

The Cooperative Extension Service and the U. S. Department of Agriculture support many programs related to pollution prevention, especially those related to agricultural production. To help state and regional pollution prevention providers understand the USDA structure and programs relating to pollution prevention, Peaks to Prairies is developing a directory of programs.

Dozens of agricultural specialty programs exist on landgrant campuses. This well-developed delivery system is enhanced by long-standing credibility and partnerships with federal agencies and local, state, regional and national producer groups. Other agricultural resources with an environmental emphasis are the National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center, the National Farm*A*Syst program, and the Pollution Prevention Educational Resource Compendiums dealing with Sustainable Agriculture. The directory will be located on the Peaks to Prairies web site.

Region 8 Pollution Prevention Library

The Peaks to Prairies Pollution Prevention Library focuses on P2 information generated by assistance providers in EPA Region 8, or applicable to Region 8 business and industry. The library offers a lending service and assists clients in researching specific P2 information. The Library's goals are:

- 1) help users find accessible, high quality information geared to specific needs;
- 2) make P2 resources easily available through the web and inter-library loan.

Peaks to Prairies is creating a searchable, web-based card catalog that will enable small businesses and other assistance providers to easily find and acquire P2 information. In the near future, the Peaks to Prairies Virtual Library will provide quick access to many regional and EPA resources available on the web or through inter-library loan (at a library near you).

The library will also help assistance providers get their resources "into circulation" either by putting them on the web or getting them into the inter-library loan system. The on-line card catalog will then provide a centralized location to search this unique collection. A Collection-Development Policy is posted on the web that will enable the library to continue obtaining and loaning P2 niche resources. Select references from the hard-copy library are also being integrated into the interlibrary loan system to increase accessibility.

Library services are being promoted through articles submitted to business publications. Plans are also underway to promote the Community Section of the Library as a resource to Region 8 educators.

Landowner Stewardship Education Modules

- 1- Consumer Stewardship and Neighboring
- 2 - Water Quality & Quantity
- 3 - Soils and Irrigation
- 4 - Streams, Wetlands, and Riparian
- 5 - Weeds
- 6 - Grazing & Pasture Mgmt
- 7 - Livestock Health
- 8 - Forestry
- 9 - Wildlife
- 10 - The Urban Interface



News, Events and Grant Opportunities

- Updated weekly
- Metatagged in accordance with NPPR news standard

<http://peakstoprairies.org/news.htm>

P2 Resource Library

- Access to on-line pubs
- Leading library of 4000 books, videos, training modules, etc.
- Region 8 publications
- Links to Region 8 libraries
- Research service

<http://peakstoprairies.org/resources.htm>



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Upcoming in 2000-2001

Plans and preparations are underway for the next fiscal year. Here are some highlights:

- This issue sports Peaks to Prairies' new logo designed by MSU Communications Services. The new look will be incorporated into Peaks' "bigger and better" web site planned for launch in early 2001. Improvements planned for the site include more regional profile information, more information searching options, and more accessibility to regional resources.
- Activity reporting will become standardized and consistent. A form and method have been adopted for collecting and reporting Center activities based on P2Rx guidelines. Access to web log files has been obtained and Web Trends will be used to analyze and report on web traffic.
- Peaks to Prairies will develop four topic hubs adding "Smart Growth" and "P2 in Outdoor Recreation" as focus areas based on regional interest. These are added to the current work being done with Residential Construction, Renovation, and Demolition" and "Auto Body Repair and Customizing."
- Regional P2 in Higher Education Directory will be updated and expanded using the model developed in 1998. Current and new institutions will be notified of the availability of the results to foster interaction. Information will be presented in a searchable database for easier access.
- Mini-grants program will continue, providing a forum for Region 8 states to explore regional issues. Acceptable proposals must demonstrate regional benefit and preferred topics are identified at the roundtable. Proposals are reviewed by state programs generating helpful interstate discussion.

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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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.