

Ski Areas Get Online Pollution Prevention Help

The Peaks to Prairies Pollution Prevention (P2) Information Center recently published its online Ski Area pollution prevention topic hub. The hub was a joint venture of Peaks to Prairies, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Pollution Prevention Program, and Tetra Tech EM Inc.

The Ski Area topic hub serves as an information resource for pollution prevention assistance providers, ski area managers and staff, and businesses that provide products and services to the ski industry. The hub details pollution prevention challenges faced by ski areas. These include energy use, construction, maintenance, resort and restaurant management, and snow making. The narrative pinpoints management and operation areas that can benefit from pollution prevention. Online links highlight P2 success stories and strategies used by ski areas. Users can also find links to green products, services, industry trends, and environmentally sustainable methods of operation that benefit ski areas, employees, recreationists, and communities.

According to Mike Vogel, Peaks to Prairies Center Director, the topic hub will help ski areas help people have fun, while reducing expenses associated with ski operations and environmental regulations. "Ski areas face a changing economic as well as a changing global climate," Vogel said. "This double whammy is pressing the ski industry and managers into new ways of doing business. This website shows how ski areas are doing everything from lobbying government officials to addressing climate change, to running the leanest and greenest mountain operation possible. Greening their operations is proven to be the best way to save money and improve the environment. The most successful ski areas go far beyond what regulations require. They are doing novel things that many types of businesses could benefit from."

The ski hub is one of many industry-specific topic hubs developed by EPA-funded regional P2 information centers around the United States. Topic hubs are designed to get users directly to relevant online information, and are updated frequently. To access the ski area topic hub, log on to: <http://www.peakstoprairies.org/topic hub>.

Criteria for Sustainable Western Rangeland

American rangelands are in decline, and federal land management agencies have been under the gun for their lack of consistent, standardized national indicators for reporting the conservation status of rangelands. After two years of consultation, a rangeland stakeholders' roundtable released the first set of criteria and indicators that can be used to assess how degraded these lands really are. Learn more at <http://sustainable rangelands.cnr.colostate.edu/index.html>.

The National Ski Areas Association recently released its third Sustainable Slopes Annual Report. The report highlights environmental best practices and details what participating ski areas have done to implement the association's Environmental Charter for Ski Areas. The report is available at <http://www.nsaa.org>.

Bi-annual Update: Vol. 5, #1
Spring 2003

Also In This Issue...

- ★ Resource Efficient Homes Website
- ★ New Peaks to Prairies Team Member
- ★ P2 on Public Lands
- ★ Group P2 Activities
- ★ P2 Network News from State Programs
 - Colorado:** Fort Carson Sustainability Efforts
 - Montana:** Backyard Gold Compost Project, Rest Area Projects, and Electric Vehicle Project
 - North Dakota:** EERC - Providing Advances in Wind Energy
 - South Dakota:** Storm Water P2 Workshop
 - Utah:** New Projects
 - Wyoming:** Gold Guidelines
- ★ Under the Big Sky Greening Conference
- ★ Hits, Views and Visitors
- ★ National P2 Week
- ★ P2 Roundtable



Resource Efficient
HOMES ACROSS AMERICA

comfort • health • performance • durability

<http://www.homes-across-america.org/>

According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center, 19,000 "green homes" were built between 1990 and 2001. In 2002 alone 13,000 green homes were built.

Group Activities to Learn About P2

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

What's Clean? is a new addition to the group activities on the Pollution Prevention EnviroRangers Web Site. Classroom teachers and youth group and club leaders can use this guided activity to make and test earth-friendly cleaning products. It gives recipes for making cleaners from common household goods and teaches pollution prevention strategies like reducing packaging waste, reducing use of chemicals in commercial cleaning products, and protecting indoor air quality. Other group activities also available on the site deal with air pollution you can see in the snow, buying to reduce packaging, and alternatives to landfill disposal.

P2 EnviroRangers also offers activities that youth can do on their own. Activities dealing with Home and Household, My Community, Communications and Technology, Young Entrepreneur, and Farm and Ranch can be completed wherever a computer with the internet is available. The club facilitator at Peaks to Prairies keeps track of each individual's progress toward earning patches and other prizes. The site gives many links for further research by students or teachers.

Group activities are available in the "Teachers and Youth Leaders" section of the site and individual activities are in the "Earn Your Patch" section.

Website Showcasing Resource Efficient Homes

The Peaks to Prairies Pollution Prevention Information Center announced the launch of its web-based Homes Across America (HAA) project July 14th. Homes Across America showcases resource-efficient homes throughout the United States. It also offers a database of contacts, listed by state, which can supply technical assistance on resource efficient building. The site is for contractors, architects, homeowners, and anyone interested in seeing ways to improve the resource efficiency of a home.

Mike Vogel, Director of Peaks to Prairies, said, "HAA keys on seven categories a team should consider when building or renovating a home. Energy efficiency and indoor air quality are two examples. With increasing energy costs and the negative impacts of poor indoor air on human health, people want resource efficient, healthy homes. Homes Across America profiles such homes, and the people, affordable technologies, and techniques that make them possible."

Resource efficient construction has support from homebuilders associations throughout the country. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy have many programs that focus on pollution prevention and home energy efficiency. Some mortgage lenders have programs to encourage green building. And there are tax breaks.

People can view the home profiles at <http://www.homes-across-america.org>. Site visitors can also submit an online form about a home they feel would be appropriate to feature on the site. Homes Across America is a project of Montana State University Extension Service in partnership with the Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx), and is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Peaks to Prairies Welcomes New Team Member

Steve Guettermann is the new Pollution Prevention Specialist at Peaks to Prairies. He will concentrate on developing pollution prevention materials for the construction, public lands, ski, and community growth sectors. Before coming to Peaks to Prairies, Steve worked in the natural products industry. He developed educational and marketing materials for several companies, and worked with industry leaders to get consumers' rights health legislation passed by Congress. Steve also worked with the Montana Conservation Corps and developed environmental programs for leaders and trail crews throughout the state, many of which centered around restoration and mining reclamation projects. As a freelance writer, he has contributed to over thirty books and a variety of health and environmental education materials, including a water education notebook for Montana State's Project WET. Steve earned his Master's degree in Science Education from Kansas State University. He can be reached at 406-994-4292 or sguettermann@montana.edu.

P2 on Public Lands

Public lands provide a cultural heritage and environmental protection for unique natural habitats. They also play a valuable role in the economies and public health of many surrounding communities. The agencies responsible for managing these lands (the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service and state and local agencies) have a difficult task. They face many of the same pollution prevention challenges as other recreational industries, but also have unique problems and opportunities--including the responsibility for protecting these areas with shrinking budgets while making them accessible to an increasing number of visitors.

Find out more by visiting the new "Public Lands" topic hub. The information presented is currently in review. If you have knowledge or resources in this area, we invite you to suggest editorial revisions or additions to the collection of links. The topic hub can be found at <http://peakstoprairies.org/topichub>, scroll down to "Public Lands" in the side bar.

Under the Big Sky Greening Conference

Mid-June brought an eclectic group of more than 200 people together at Huntley Resort in Big Sky, Montana to highlight greening achievements in the greater Yellowstone region and focus on new and existing partnerships among communities, state and federal agencies and private industry.

Conference tracks dealt with ethanol and biodiesel fuels, composting, recycling, and sustainability and pollution prevention. The conference also featured an alternate fuel vehicle display and large exhibit area including the Mobile Outreach on Pollution Prevention (MOPP) van from Iowa Waste Reduction Center. Speakers included nationally known experts from the National Park Service, U. S. Department of Energy, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Toyota Motor Company, and Montana state and local government and elected officials. The speaker who traveled the furthest was Andres Cloumann, Electrolyser Division of Norsk Hydro (Norway) who gave a presentation on their fuel cell technology. Peaks to Prairies facilitated a track with several sustainability sessions including Greening the Parks, Greening Education on Public Lands and Green Construction in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

The successful conference was a joint venture of the Ethanol Producers and Consumers (EPAC), Yellowstone National Park and Headwaters Cooperative Recycling (HCR). Other conference organizers included the National Center for Appropriate Technology, Peaks to Prairies P2 Information Center, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and the Montana Solid Waste Contractors. Major sponsors of the Conference included the National Park Service, Unilever, the Consumer Products and Food Company, the New Uses Council, the Renewable Fuels Association and the Ford Motor Company. For questions about this and future conferences, contact Kathy Jackson, HCR - 406.225.3194 or Shirley Ball, EPAC - 406.785.3722.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition has recently completed the 2003 E85 Purchasing Guide which is available online. An 18 page electronic document containing facts about E85, a listing and description of the 2003 E85 alternative fuel vehicles, and E85 fueling locations is now available at http://www.e85fuel.com/information/purchasing_guide.htm.



National Pollution Prevention Week

(September 15-21, 2003)

For information on creating P2 events see the *Guide to Promoting P2 Week* at http://peakstoprairies.org/pdf_files/p2weekfromweb.pdf.

We are living beyond our means. As a people we have developed a life-style that is draining the earth of its priceless and irreplaceable resources without regard for the future of our children and people around the world.
--Margaret Mead

Hits, Views, and Visitors

Peaks to Prairies is using a program called Web Trends to analyze web site visitation. By tracking what pages are most visited, visitation trends over time, time spent during visits, and how visitors are referred to the site, we can find out what information people find most valuable and what they would like to see more of. No "cookies" or other visitor identification technique is used; we just look at where people go on our site.

With an average of 481 hits per day, the hits rose by 15% the first quarter. The second quarter the number of hits dropped by 8%, but was still 7% higher than at the beginning of the year. With an average visiting time of just under six minutes, the number of different people who visited the site rose by over 18% each quarter, and the number of those who 'hit' the site ten or more times rose by 20%.

Most Popular Pages:

Quarter 1 2003:

P2Rx Topic Hubs: <http://peakstoprairies.org/topichub/>

Construction Guide Design Considerations: <http://peakstoprairies.org/p2bande/construction/contrguide/section4.cfm>

Library: <http://peakstoprairies.org/library/>

Autobody Paint Prep: <http://peakstoprairies.org/p2bande/autobody/abguide/fs5.cfm>

Quarter 2 2003:

Greening Conference: <http://peakstoprairies.org/greening/index.htm>

P2Rx Topic Hubs: <http://peakstoprairies.org/topichub/>

Construction Guide Design Considerations: <http://peakstoprairies.org/p2bande/construction/contrguide/section4.cfm>

Autobody Paint Prep: <http://peakstoprairies.org/p2bande/autobody/abguide/fs5.cfm>

Science advances through tentative answers to a series of more and more subtle questions which reach deeper and deeper into the essence of natural phenomena. —Louis Pasteur

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOZEMAN, MT
PERMIT #69

remember to add text re: Please help us to update our mailing list, by forwarding any changes or errors on the above label.

Region 8 State P2 Programs and Center Advisory Committee

Colorado

Kirk Mills, Department of Public Health and Environment
email: kirk.mills@state.co.us

Montana

Mike Vogel, Montana State University Extension Service
email: mvogel@montana.edu

Lou Moore, Department of Environmental Quality
email: lmoore@state.mt.us

North Dakota

Kent Belland, ND Department of Health
email: kbelland@state.nd.us

South Dakota

Dennis Clarke, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
email: dennis.clarke@state.sd.us

Utah

Sonja Wallace, Department of Environmental Quality
email: swallace@deq.state.ut.us

Wyoming

Steve Roseberry, Department of Environmental Quality
email: sroseb@state.wy.us

2003 Region 8 Pollution Prevention Roundtable in Jackson: September 29, 30 & October 1, 2003

Held at beautiful Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming, this year's roundtable will focus on issues facing regional pollution prevention programs with a special session on environmental management systems. This session will be a facilitated discussion of what makes an EMS, how or if it can be used as a P2 tool, case studies of EMS projects in the region, and culminate with planning for the coming year. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend a regional administrative summit of public land managers and regulatory agency staff at Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park on Tuesday and Wednesday. Directly following the roundtable, Peaks to Prairies will host the semi-annual Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange meeting (also at Snow King Resort). For more information about the roundtable, visit the web site: <http://peakstoprairies.org/network/roundtable/>.

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. 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.

<http://peakstoprairies.org>
phone: 406/994-3451 fax: 406/994-5417

Executive Director:

Michael Vogel
mvogel@montana.edu

Program Coordinator:

Laura Estes
laurae@montana.edu

Sector Specialist:

Steve Guettermann
sguettermann@montana.edu

Resources/EnviroRangers:

Joanne Wilke
ewilke@montana.edu



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.



Montana: Backyard Gold Compost Project

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) P2 Bureau launched the Backyard Gold Compost Project 2003 in April. Its goals were to enhance waste diversion by encouraging enthusiasm for composting and provide “how to” information in newspaper articles, booklets, brochures, web sites, and workshops. In June, the P2 Bureau facilitated truckload sales of economical compost bins in six Montana cities. This added over 3,000 composting systems to Montana residences, with a potential for diversion of over 1,000 tons of green waste from landfills. The project will conclude with a follow-up survey in 2004, designed to measure the continued use of the compost bins and the success of the project. For more information contact Jan Stetzer at jstetzer@state.mt.us.

Rest Area Projects

In 1999, The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) updated the Rest Area Plan for the State of Montana. Its purpose is to provide a guide for future rest stop construction and remodel. Much of the plan addresses environmental concerns associated with rest stop projects including NEPA compliance, wastewater treatment systems, air and noise pollution, and recycling services. With assistance from the Montana DEQ’s Pollution Prevention Bureau, MDT is now looking to expand the “greening mindset” to all areas of these projects. DEQ P2 is assisting in two ways: 1) researching and recommending a variety of environmentally preferable products and 2) working with design consultants to integrate these products into the final projects. For more information on this venture, contact Bonnie Rouse at MT DEQ – 406-444-3641 or brouse@state.mt.us.

Colorado: Fort Carson Sustainability Efforts

In September of 2002, Fort Carson community members, non-government organizations (NGOs), and businesses met to address regional issues and set long-term goals to assure the health, wealth, and well being of Fort Carson and the surrounding area. Twelve sustainability goals were set, a five-year plan drafted, and the larger goal of creating a Sustainability Management System that exceeds the requirements of an Environmental Management System was established. The five-year plan, the twelve sustainability goals, and other information can be viewed at <http://www.envquest.com/>.

Fort Carson will hold another sustainability conference with stakeholders on October 9, 2003 (location to be determined) with four special working groups:

Sustainable Business Partnerships - will work to determine how Fort Carson can support the local economy through sustainable purchases and how sustainability can help businesses be more competitive.

Area Military Installation Partnerships - will discuss how the many military installations in the area can further sustainability through shared best business practices and collective efforts.

Regional Sustainability Indicator Development - will work on ways to measure, set, and present indicators with a regional emphasis.

Awareness and Promotion of Sustainability - will develop methods to create regional awareness of sustainability and promote activities and progress. For more information contact Kelly O’Neill at Kelly.O'Neill/SAIC@carson.army.mil.

North Dakota: EERC - Providing Advances in Wind Energy

Converting energy resources cleanly and efficiently, cleaning up past environmental contamination, and preventing future environmental contamination are research priorities at the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC). Wind energy is poised to make significant advances, and the EERC is strategically positioned to provide a timely and focused platform to advance wind energy.

As a result of efforts at the EERC, landowners and industrial wind energy developers worldwide can now investigate more wind resource data from the upper Midwest. The new *Wind Energy Database*, produced by EERC’s Plains Organization for Wind Energy Resources (POWER), includes more than 130 monitoring sites in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The public can access the data at the POWER Web site <http://www.undeerc.org/wind>.

The database is easy to use and offers both historic and current wind energy data in U.S. or metric units. It allows users to look at a map of the region, click on a state and a specific site, select data fields of

interest, and instantly see the data available for those parameters. The data can be printed or exported to spreadsheet applications.

Other useful resources available at the site include:

- A new legislation link highlighting proposed wind energy legislation in the central states.
- Regional geographic information system mapping to view spatial information related to wind energy.
- *Harvesting the Wind: A Landowners’ Guide to Wind Energy Development in the Great Plains* pamphlet.
 - Links to wind energy contacts in the region.

POWER was established by the EERC to serve as a regional center for wind energy with support from the U.S. Department of Energy and the North Dakota Division of Community Services. For more information, contact Brad Stevens (bstevens@undeerc.org) at (701) 777-5293 or Troy Simonsen (tsimonsen@undeerc.org) at (701) 777-5283.

South Dakota: Storm Water P2 Workshop

The South Dakota (SD) P2 Program formed a public-private partnership to sponsor four one-day storm water P2 workshops during April 2003. The workshops used an interactive classroom - field experience format to provide over 184 construction industry professionals, municipal planners and government agency personnel with the skills needed to write and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan. The workshop participants represented nearly 90 construction companies, municipalities; local, state and federal agencies; and industrial technical assistance providers. Because of the interactive training format used, maximum attendance at each workshop was limited to 50 individuals.

The SD P2 program's project partners included the SD Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of American and the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Surface Water Quality and Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs. The training cadre included a certified soil and erosion control professional, DENR program specialists, municipal storm water program staff and construction industry project supervisors.

The workshop was the follow-up to a municipal storm water P2 workshop sponsored by the SD P2 Program during 2002. A third storm water workshop is planned for April 2004. The 2004 workshop will use a classroom-field experience format similar to this year's training to provide construction project managers with the skills needed to implement storm water P2 Best Management Practices (BMPs). The field experiences will include placement of the storm water BMPs included in a storm water P2 plan at an active construction site. For more information contact Dennis Clarke at: Dennis.Clarke@state.sd.us.

Montana: Technology Education Electric Vehicle Project

In the fall of 2002, MSU's Facilities Services donated a truck with a failing engine and 120,000 miles on it to Ken Bruwelheide's technology education class. With support from the MSU Extension P2 Program, the 1986 Chevy S10 pickup has now been converted into an electric vehicle designed to meet suburban transportation needs, with a 65-75 mile range at 30-35 mph. Visit their web site at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwad/te330home.html>. Ken Bruwelheide can be contacted at 406/994-5777 or uedkb@montana.edu.

Wyoming: Gold Guidelines

The Wyoming P2 Program, in cooperation with the Small Business Assistance Program and the Land Quality Division of Wyoming DEQ, have prepared guidelines for non-commercial panning and gold dredging operations within the outdoor recreation sector. These activities are regulated by the Land Quality Division within Wyoming and, for activities on federal lands, by the appropriate Federal agency (e.g., the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the United States Forest Service (USFS)).

Guideline Number 19 of the Land Quality Division, Wyoming DEQ, provides information on specific concerns, restrictions, and P2 practices for these types of recreational activities to protect human health and the environment. For further information contact the Wyoming Pollution Prevention Program Coordinator, Steve Roseberry, at 307-777-6105 or email to SROSEB@state.wy.us.

Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless. — Thomas Edison

Utah: New Projects

Utah DEQ has launched two programs for air quality. **Clean Air Utah** includes a quiz resulting in potential daily choices for keeping air clean, and can be found at <http://www.cleanair.utah.gov/>.

The **Step It Up** program (<http://www.hearthishighway.org/stepitup/index.html>) encourages people to walk and not use their car wherever possible. Employees are given a pedometer to

count the number of steps each day, with a goal of 10,000 steps (approximately five miles). Points are also accrued for carpooling, telework, consolidated trips, etc. Utah DEQ will do surveys (before and after) to measure progress and calculate reductions in air pollution.

Utah's **Mountain Rec** site, a resource for practical ideas and proven management practices related to mountain resort industries and

environmental impacts, is now up at <http://www.utmtngroup.utah.gov/>.

Utah DEQ is working toward a performance track program with the U.S. EPA called **Clean Utah**.

Sonja Wallace, P2 Program Coordinator, recently became a certified auditor for ISO 14001 and is available to work on audit teams. For more information, contact Sonja Wallace at SWALLACE@utah.gov.

Is your agency or facility interested in demonstrating environmental leadership by changing the way it manages electronic assets? If the answer is yes, take a closer look at the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) at

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/>.

Looking for more tools to help implement pollution prevention? Visit the Peaks to Prairies "New Web Tools for P2" page at: <http://peakstoprairies.org/network/news/tools.cfm>.