

Organizing the Internet...the P2Rx Topic Hub Project

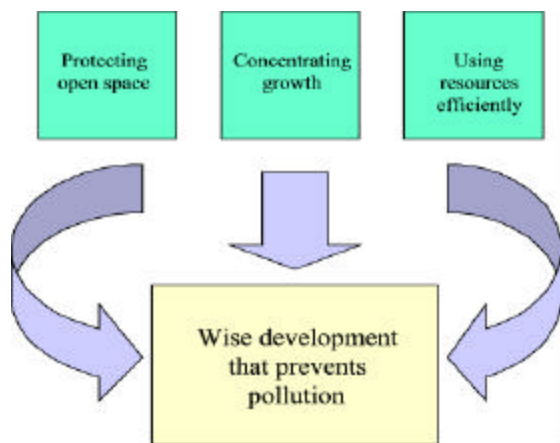
Have you ever despaired of finding the information you need on the web? Help is on the way! P2Rx* has tackled the job of organizing pollution prevention information so the lost can be found, reliability is insured and you don't have to recreate the wheel yet again. At the end of April, after months of planning and programming, the software development team delivered the topic hub framework and each P2Rx Center is busy populating their chosen specialty topics.

Searchers will find a variety of important sectors, materials, issues and concepts covered. The list of topics that will be available by the end of September is available at <http://www.p2rx.org/TopicHubMatrix.htm>. Peaks to Prairies is developing these hubs: P2 in Residential Construction, Auto Body P2, P2 in Outdoor Recreation, and P2/Smart Growth Connection. Resources pertaining to a given topic are identified, reviewed and placed within a uniform context so searchers can quickly and easily find what they need. In addition, the entire Topic Hub Collection will be easily accessible from the P2Rx.org web site, the Peaks to Prairies' web site and through other regional centers. You can see hubs that are currently available at <http://peakstoprairies.org/TopicHub>. As new topics come online, they will be announced on the Region8P2 list serve.

*P2Rx is a coalition of regional centers dedicated to improving national pollution prevention information dissemination in the service provider community --
<http://www.p2rx.org>.

Discovering Common Ground: The Potential for a P2/Smart Growth Connection in Western States

http://peakstoprairies.org/pdf_Files/SmartGrowth.pdf



The fruit of a mini-grant to Tellus Institute to explore pollution prevention opportunities pertaining to smart growth in the west is now available. The report shows how virtually every step that promotes smart growth in fast-growing communities, also prevents pollution and urges both movements to capitalize on their common interests to accomplish more. It explores the roots of poor development decisions, documents reasons to change

direction, and proposes three tenets of wise development that prevent pollution. Agencies in Colorado, Utah, Montana and North Dakota provided in-kind match in support of the project. This is a key reference in the Smart Growth Topic Hub Peaks to Prairies is putting online. If you know of important resources dealing with this issue that should be included in the collection, please contact the Center at:
information@peakstoprairies.org.

**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

2000-01 Project Focus

1. Build partnerships
2. Facilitate regional training
3. Regional communication: annual roundtable, web site, mini-grants, P2 projects
4. Create web-based P2 information hubs for: Auto Body, Residential Construction, Smart Growth, and Outdoor Recreation
5. Contribute to P2Rx efforts -- the national coalition of regional P2 Centers
6. Tribal P2
7. Evaluation and reporting of activities

--Waste is paying twice--



The 2nd annual competition for the cleanest, quietest snowmobile was held in Jackson Hole, March 27-31. Thirteen student teams competed with University of Waterloo taking top honors. Winners showed noise reductions of over 75% and emissions reductions of more than 60%. Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers, the goal is to generate new ideas and technology that can be implemented industry-wide.

Colorado and Wyoming schools competed this year and Montana may join next year. For more information, go to the SAE web site at:

[//www.sae.org/students/snow.htm](http://www.sae.org/students/snow.htm)

Residential Construction - Build it Green!

Want to build something energy efficient yet breathable? Want information on cost-effective “de-construction” rather than demolition? What about locating resources for environmentally friendly construction materials? If these are the types of things you are looking for, and you want to find them easily and intuitively; the Residential Construction Tech Source is the place to look. Recent additions to Tech Source include links to materials exchanges, a user-friendly news section, and new resources. (Check out the new *BEES 2.0 - Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability* -- software to help calculate a balance of environmental and economic performance of building products - <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oa/software/bees.html>.)

Two new site features are the **Contractor’s Guide** and **Visit Homes Across America**. The **Contractor’s Guide** provides practical ideas on how to reduce or eliminate waste in residential construction operations including liability, health and safety, design considerations and information specific to air and water quality, solid waste and hazardous materials. **Visit Homes Across America** hyperlinks to green, clean and energy efficient homes in the U.S. If you know of a demonstration project in your state that isn’t listed, please contact the Center. <http://peakstoprairies.org/>

Find Service Providers in the P2 Yellow Pages

A printed directory of small business and pollution prevention service providers in Region 8 went out in March. Thanks to all who helped update our records. The directory includes state and local pollution prevention programs, Midwest Assistance Programs (MAP), Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP), Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), state Small Business Administration offices, and state Small Business Assistance Programs (SBAP). Regional programs are also included.

We will announce availability of the searchable web version in July via the list serve. At that time we will expand the list of service providers to include more groups. Keeping this information up-to-date is an important focus of this effort. The web site will allow you to check information and email updates as needed.

Region8P2@listserv.montana.edu

The list serve is operating smoothly and is available to assistance providers in Region 8 for promoting events or publications, asking questions, or sharing news. The Center maintains the list serve to encourage cross-agency communication and encourage waste reduction into everyday thinking for businesses, households, schools, and agencies.

[//peakstoprairies.org/listserv.htm](http://peakstoprairies.org/listserv.htm)

Getting Your Message Out

Letting clients know what you do helps you successfully provide services. And that requires good marketing. The MSU Extension Service employs a communication specialist to help. Some of their techniques are now offered on the web site. You will find writing tips, how to deal with the media, making news releases interesting, and more.

[//peakstoprairies.org/NEWTIPS.htm](http://peakstoprairies.org/NEWTIPS.htm)

Regional News Spotlights

With the creation of **Regional News Spotlights**, regional news has been expanded to include ongoing coverage of specific P2 related topics within Region 8. *Ongoing News on Libby, Montana: Vermiculite Mine Controversy*, initiated these spotlights, and continues to provide current news on the town, mine owners, and agencies responsible for protecting miners and their families; including the W.R. Grace vs. EPA struggle. The page also provides general asbestos information, potential grants for asbestos-related research, and links to related resources.

A second spotlight was uploaded in March 2001: *Ongoing News on Wind Power in Region 8*. With energy becoming a hot topic nationally, this spotlight focuses on the huge potential for producing wind power in Region 8. News includes “Wind Power as a Rural Crop,” existing wind projects within the region, upcoming conferences, and associated links. Are there news items of regional interest you would like the Center to research and present as new **Spotlights**?

on the web at
[//peakstoprairies.org/Contacts](http://peakstoprairies.org/Contacts)



EPP Workshop

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Inviting: Federal, state and local government personnel

When: August 8-9, 2001, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Denver EPA conference center, 999 - 18th Street, Suite 300

Agenda:

- Affirmative Procurement Programs:
- Basic Elements
- Implementation
- Promotion

No registration fee. Check out these web sites for background information:

www.ofee.gov and www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/. Questions - contact Gilbert Bailey, EPA EPP Program Manager, at 303-312-6284 or bailey.gilbert@epa.gov.

Greening Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks

In 1997 when Yellowstone National Park celebrated its 125th anniversary, Park administration asked what could be done to preserve and protect this national treasure for the next 125 years. The result was creation of a movement dubbed *The Greening of Yellowstone*. Through partnerships with local and state governments and private interest groups, the Park has successfully implemented projects to address a wide variety of pollution prevention, waste reduction, alternate fuel and recycling issues.

Peaks to Prairies is helping educate Park visitors about greening efforts with an article in the newspaper everyone receives at the entrance, *Yellowstone Today*. In the summer issue, a table describes Park greening projects, shows on the map where they can be found, and gives readers P2 ideas to take home with them. The Center also produced a "green-mark" (like a bookmark for a greening project) for the new ethanol initiative. For the first time this summer, visitors will have the option of filling their gas tank with E-10, a fuel blend containing ethanol, at all gas stations in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. With research and data provided by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the green-mark informs motorists of the benefits of using ethanol. Visit the Yellowstone area this summer and find out how the Park Service is working to maintain and enhance our National Parks. You can visit them on the web at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/> and <http://nps.gov/grte/>.

EnviroRangers Has a New Face

ChickenWoman has taken over the children's web club, injected some energy, and given it a kid-friendly appeal. An advisory board was created early this year to provide input and feedback on the P2 activities so central to the site. A pilot classroom has continued participation in these activities, and inspirational photo records of their completed activities link from the general *EnviroRangers News* page. An interactive *P2 Quiz* was created in April as a fun introduction to P2, with links to additional kid-friendly *P2 Facts* and a *P2 Bulletin Board*. Perhaps the largest change to the club is the addition of monthly news items complete with photos, links, jokes, quotes, and thought-provoking questions. This monthly P2 news is available back to October 2000, and a glossary will be developed from terms within these news items.

EnviroRangers for Teachers/Youth Leaders - Since young people often need supervision to complete activities toward a prize, the EnviroRangers' site has been started to incorporate group activities and information for teachers and youth leaders. The brand new *Teachers/Leaders* page includes adult-friendly resources, links, and grant information, and also links to the new Teacher/Leader section of the *P2 News* page. It directs youth leaders to pilot classroom activities and to the newly developed *Group Activity Classroom Instructions*. These group activities were created specifically to incorporate youth groups and classrooms into the club, and give concise directions for grab-n-go ease of use.

P2 for Ag and Vocational Education Labs

<http://peakstoprairies.org/VoEd>

New products were developed for the P2 in Agricultural and Vocational Education project. A self-audit instrument, slide show and lab checklist poster have been created and will be available this summer for vocational educators. These products compliment the web-based resources and address the following areas: general housekeeping for the classroom and workshop, mechanics lab, wood lab, greenhouses and farm plots, animal confinement areas, welding/metals lab, and any other similar teaching area.

Also related to vocational education, is the development of a technical and vocational questionnaire to be included in the re-issuing of the Peaks to Prairies P2 Survey of Higher Education. Learning more about existing P2 education at regional institutions can help identify where opportunities lie for integrating P2 into the regular curriculum. Technical and vocational colleges are excellent pathways to introduce P2 into a vast number of sectors.



Cleaning National Parks:

Using Environmentally Preferable Janitorial Products at Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

published by EPA Region 8

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/library/cleaning.pdf>



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

State Stats on the Web

[//factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet) -- U.S. Census Information, Census 2000 data released May, 2001

[//www.ers.usda.gov/emphases/rural/data/amenities](http://www.ers.usda.gov/emphases/rural/data/amenities) -- USDA's Natural Amenities Scale, county physical characteristics presumed to enhance area appeal

[//www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) -- USDA Census of Agriculture - State Profiles

[//nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov) -- National Center for Education Statistics, includes the *Common Core of Data* database

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Ideas Wanted -- P2 Week, September 17-21, 2001

In 1992, the first P2 Week was organized as a grass roots effort in California to promote and highlight pollution prevention efforts. Since then it has become an event celebrated nationally by government agencies, business groups and community organizations. Peaks to Prairies is producing a regional packet (available in August) to help agencies and organizations participate in large and small ways. The packet will include history of the event, sample press releases and organized activities, sources for promotional materials, an outreach guide, and successful strategies used in this region and elsewhere in the U.S. Much of the information will be available on the web site. If you would like to order hard copies of the packet or have an idea to contribute (we'll give you credit!), call or email the Center.

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 provide information service providers need 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 regional 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.



**POLLUTION PREVENTION
INFORMATION CENTER**

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