



Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality
www.michigan.gov/deq

Rick Snyder, Governor
Dan Wyant, Director

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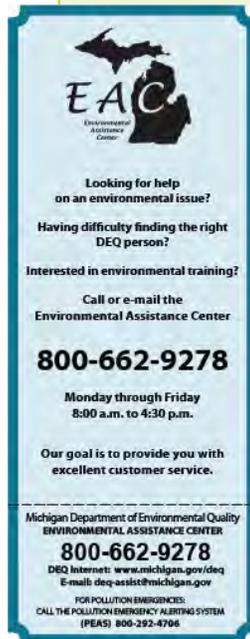
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ANNUAL REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA), strives for sustainable, long-term protection of the environment by providing assistance with environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and environmental education. The OEA offers businesses, schools, and individuals the information they need to meet and surpass Michigan's environmental regulations. The following report summarizes the OEA accomplishments for fiscal year 2012 (FY12).

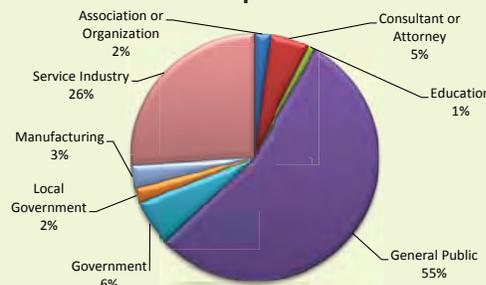
Environmental Assistance Center



One of the principle services offered by the DEQ is the OEA Environmental Assistance Center (EAC). The EAC is a call center that provides businesses, individuals, and communities with a single point of access to all DEQ programs. Callers may contact the EAC toll free at 1-800-662-9278 during business hours to receive fast, direct, one-on-one assistance from the OEA assistance staff. Approximately half of the incoming inquiries are resolved by the OEA staff, while the other half are routed to the DEQ regulatory staff or agencies like the Department of Natural Resources or United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

In FY12 the EAC handled 16,388 inquiries, 99 percent of which were resolved within one business day. The majority of the inquiries (55 percent) were from the general public, 26 percent were from service industries, 8 percent from government, 5 percent from consultants or attorneys, 3 percent from manufacturing industries, 2 percent from associations or organizations, and 1 percent from education. The customers assisted by the EAC routinely return satisfaction surveys with complimentary comments.

Environmental Assistance Center
Sector Inquiries FY12



"I am impressed with the help and professionalism of the DEQ every time I call." - comment from survey respondent

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For additional details on these activities, visit
www.michigan.gov/deqoea



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Protecting Michigan's environment through pollution prevention (P2) is a key element in preserving Michigan's natural resources for future generations. The state's P2 programs are administered by the DEQ in accordance with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

This legislation entrusts the DEQ with these P2 responsibilities:

- Educating and serving as a catalyst for change within the business community to bring about reductions in the generation of environmental wastes; and
- Providing technical and financial assistance to small businesses and institutions to facilitate P2.

This annual report fulfills the reporting requirements to the Legislature, showcases Michigan's P2 and compliance assistance programs, and highlights the importance of taking care of Michigan's resources.

Clean Diesel Grant Program



Diesel exhaust has been linked to health problems, including increased risk of premature mortality, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and asthma. The Clean Diesel Grant Program funds projects that prevent or reduce diesel emissions from on-road, stationary, and non-road diesel engines. Since 2008, Michigan has received more than \$3 million in federal clean diesel grant funds under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, which has been used to clean up diesel engines in fleets throughout Michigan. In FY12 the Michigan Clean Diesel Program affected over 500 vehicles ranging from school buses to long-haul trucks. Activities ranged from replacing old diesel engines with newer cleaner burning diesel engines to installing technologies that control diesel emissions. Through these actions, 215 tons of nitrogen oxide, 33 tons of particulate matter, 85 tons of hydrocarbons, 318 tons of carbon monoxide, and 3,560 tons of carbon dioxide will not be released to the environment over the lifetime of the affected vehicles. This results in cleaner air for Michigan residents.

Community P2 Grants

The Community P2 Grant Program seeks to bring local governments, businesses, planning agencies, and residents together to achieve measurable pollution reductions using innovative, sustainable P2 practices. In FY12 the DEQ partnered with four municipalities and one non-profit group through the Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program to expand drug collection and incineration in Michigan. The program worked with over 237 pharmacies in 75 Michigan counties to prevent the release of over 7,000 pounds of pharmaceuticals into the environment. The program also conducted outreach to 2,676 Michigan pharmacies and met with 100 individuals to communicate the impact pharmaceuticals have on the environment and proper management of pharmaceutical waste. Community P2 Grant recipients are required to match state funds by at least 25 percent.

Organizations that received funding in FY12 include:

- Macomb County Health Department
- Crawford County Commission on Aging
- Great Lakes Clean Water Organization
- Ingham County Health Department
- Kent County Department of Public Works

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Economy, Energy, and Environment

The Economy, Energy, and Environment (E3) Michigan Project is the third pilot location in the country to engage in the U.S. EPA's E3 Initiative. This program is a collective of federal, regional, state, and local resources designed to strategically provide service to the manufacturing industry in Michigan to enhance competitive economic advantage, improve environmental performance, and provide leadership foundation and capacity for sustainable manufacturing in the state.

E3 Michigan's primary objective is to accelerate the adoption of E3 recommendations by the partners and participating companies and to measure the project implementation results. Community partners and companies are working with the DEQ to facilitate the placement of engineering interns to assist companies in this process.

In FY12 E3 assessments identified opportunities to conserve 3.2 million kWh of electrical energy and 40.8 thousand MMBTU of natural gas. The aggregated data for 6 participating companies also identified the possible conservation of 5 million gallons of water and the reduction of nearly 100,000 pounds of solid waste. The total economic benefit, for the environmental impacts of these activities, is approximately \$1.2 million.

Green Chemistry

The Michigan Green Chemistry Program is a state effort led by the DEQ with the objective to advance the use of the green chemistry principles in Michigan. The program is supported by the Michigan Green Chemistry Roundtable, a multi-sector advisory group, which continues to successfully advise and contribute on a number of initiatives.



The Green Chemistry Program hosted the third annual Green Up: Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The theme of the conference was "Innovation for a Sustainable Future," providing attendees a chance to explore research and application examples, opportunities, and implications of greening chemical products and processes in Michigan. The third annual Michigan Green Chemistry Governor's Awards were given to promote excellence in innovation, economic development, and public health risk reduction by businesses and institutions, with a focus on the benefit to Michigan. The award ceremony took place during a lunch ceremony at the Green Up conference. Winners of the 2011 Michigan Green Chemistry Governor's Award were:

- Recycled Polymeric Materials
- KTM Industries
- K.Y. Simon Ng, PhD, Wayne State University

The Michigan Green Chemistry Program continued to offer opportunities through its grant program, including the following accomplishments in FY12:

- The Michigan Green Chemistry Clearinghouse, created by a diverse team of organizations, was launched to the public. The clearinghouse team created new content including a number of education resources, a public newsletter, and a monthly webinar series.
- Project summaries of previous DEQ green chemistry grants were developed and posted to the Web site www.michigan.gov/greenchemistry.



Winners of the 2011 Michigan Green Chemistry Governor's Award

The DEQ continued participation in regional and national green chemistry related efforts, including joining the Green Chemistry and Commerce Council as a supporting member. The DEQ also joined the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable's Safer Chemistry Challenge Program as an Alliance Member, and the DEQ helped plan the Great Lakes Green Chemistry Conference.

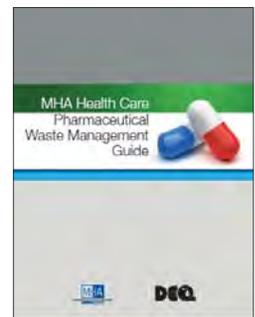
POLLUTION PREVENTION

Health Care P2 Partnership

The Health Care P2 Partnership seeks to work together with health care organizations and providers to promote sustainable waste reduction solutions for the health care industry in Michigan. Notable accomplishments in FY12 include:



- The DEQ, in partnership with the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA), Michigan Green Health Care Committee, organized a two-day conference focusing on waste reduction and energy efficient initiatives in health care. Over 100 health care providers participated in the conference held on September 11 and 12, 2012, at the Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- The Michigan Green Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Advisory Sub-Committee developed the MHA Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Management Guide, which was introduced at the January 26, 2012, Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Management Workshop. The guidebook was written to help hospitals and health care facilities in Michigan navigate the pharmaceutical waste management regulations.
- With assistance from the DEQ, the Michigan Green Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Advisory Sub-Committee held a webinar on July 26, 2012, to introduce a revised MHA Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Management Guide to a broader health care audience. The webinar provided detailed training to hospital and health care professionals on the proper disposal of pharmaceutical and medical waste at hospitals and other health care settings. Over 178 people attended the Pharmaceutical Waste Webinar.
- In September 2012 the DEQ sent 10,000 Michigan health care providers a pharmaceutical waste informational mailing and released a new Pharmaceutical Waste Tutorial to help health care providers around Michigan properly manage pharmaceutical and medical waste at their facilities.



Guidebook published for workshop attendees.

Mercury P2

For decades, mercury has been a pollutant of concern due to its toxic and bioaccumulative properties. The DEQ has several programs that reduce mercury discharges and emissions in order to protect the health of residents as well as the fisheries and tourism industries. The significant P2 efforts to reduce mercury impacts in FY12 include the following:

- Grant work continues with Michigan Energy Options to recycle mercury thermostats removed during energy efficiency improvements and community demolition efforts. The state, with nearly 150 collection sites, has an opportunity to offer free collections throughout Michigan. The number of thermostats recycled has increased from about 3,000 per year in 2009 to 15,406 in 2011-2012, an increase of 14 percent over last year's totals.
- A grant was awarded to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Clean Sweep Program. During FY12, 1,365 mercury items were collected representing the capture of several hundred pounds of pure mercury from local residents, schools, and businesses.
- Through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant, Michigan expanded efforts to remove mercury and reduce its impact from the state fisheries and water supply. This funding source offered an opportunity to provide a \$300 incentive to dentists installing amalgam separators to reduce mercury discharges. From its beginning in January 2011 through September 2012, a total of 912 amalgam separators were installed under the program. This has resulted in approximately 1,000 pounds of mercury captured.
- Rules were formally adopted under 2008 PA 503, which regulates mercury amalgam discharges from dental offices.
- A total of 22,937 mercury auto switches were recycled in FY12. There are currently over 200 collection sites located throughout Michigan for mercury auto switches.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

- The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) collaborated with Michigan State University to develop Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on mercury that can be viewed on YouTube or aired on cable and TV channels. The resulting final short PSAs currently include:

1. Mercury – Cool but Dangerous
2. Mercury – Something in the Air
3. Mercury - It Can be Recycled
4. Mercury – Cleanup Can Cost You
5. Mercury – It’s in the Fish

These PSAs have been airing at the Michigan Secretary of State offices across the state and are available for viewing on the MDCH’s YouTube Web site at www.youtube.com/michigandch.



YouTube public service announcements on mercury

Michigan Business P2 Partnership

The Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP3) is a voluntary program open to all Michigan organizations interested in initiating or expanding P2 practices and receiving recognition for these efforts.



“Setting goals and tracking progress is a part of doing business. Innovation, networking and sharing information to “raise the bar” is the value of MBP3.”
– Steelcase, Inc.

- The estimated combined cost savings gained via the P2 results reported by MBP3 partners during FY12 was \$92,284,640 (Cost factor source: U.S. EPA P2 Cost Calculator and guidelines).
- MBP3 added 17 new facilities to its membership in FY12 who committed to develop P2 goals and report results annually.
- P2 news and opportunities were disseminated to partners and presentations were given at workshops to inform and engage potential new partners.

P2 Results Reported By Partners In Terms of Green House Gas Reductions: Metric Tons of CO² Equivalents (MTCO₂Eq) Reduced (FY12)

Reduction	MTCO ₂ Eq Reduced	Equivalency
Energy Use 358,609,505 Kilowatt hours	303,912	The annual green house gas emissions from 59,591 passenger vehicles.
Water Use 305,042,198 Gallons	852	The CO ₂ emissions from 95,516 gallons of gasoline consumed.
Solid Waste Diverted from the Landfill 1,529,159,060 Pounds	2,194,343	The CO ₂ emissions from burning 189,986 railcars worth of coal.

(Source: U.S. EPA GHG Equivalencies Conversion Tool)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Michigan Green Communities Challenge

The Michigan Green Communities Challenge was launched in 2009 and emphasized energy efficiency projects in an effort to help local governments prepare for and make the best use of federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds. In FY12 a team of graduate students from the University of Michigan worked with Challenge participants and partner organizations to update the program. The updated Challenge reflects broader topics, such as green economic development, resource conservation, and water quality in addition to maintaining a strong energy component.

The Challenge is supported by the DEQ, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Economic Development Corporation Energy Office, Michigan Municipal League, and Michigan Townships Association. It uses a rating system to recognize sustainability accomplishments and serves as a guide for community leaders looking to learn from their peers. Participation is free and open to all local governments in Michigan as part of the statewide Michigan Green Communities network that aims to support local sustainability efforts.

There were 25 local governments recognized for environmental leadership at the Michigan Green Communities conference held in November 2012. They are the first governments recognized under the recently expanded Challenge. Awards were given at four levels of accomplishment:

- Gold: Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Delhi Township, Dexter, Oakland County, Rogers City, and Williamstown Township.
- Silver: Curtis Township, Delta Township, Farmington Hills, Lathrup Village, Meridian Township, Monroe County, Quincy, and Ypsilanti.
- Bronze: Ferndale, Fruitport, Novi, Saline, and Troy.
- Member: Birmingham, Clawson, East Jordan, Roseville, and Sterling Heights.

Neighborhood Environmental Partners Awards Program

The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Awards Program was developed by the DEQ to recognize facilities and their community partners who have worked together on environmental and natural resource projects to improve the local environment in their communities.

In FY12 DEQ Director Dan Wyant awarded eight facilities in Michigan the NEP Program Award for their outstanding commitment to environmental community outreach. The eight facilities that received an award were:

- Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant
- Detroit Edison – Monroe Power Plant
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors LLC
- Holland Board of Public Works
- Herman Miller Inc. – Grand Rapids
- Pilgrim Manor Retirement Community – Grand Rapids
- U.S. Army Garrison-Detroit Arsenal

Examples of FY12 projects include:

- Shoreline Cleanup and Adopt a Highway projects
- Habitat creation and restoration projects (examples: planting native plant species, creation of butterfly gardens, building bird boxes, maintaining nature trails, camp and park restoration projects)
- Water quality sampling projects with local schools and watershed groups
- Earth Day Activities (including plant tours and environmental presentations at local schools)
- Green LEED Certified Habitat for Humanity projects



One of the groups receiving their Neighborhood Partners Award at the Awards Ceremony

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program

The Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) provides onsite P2 assessments to Michigan businesses and institutions. Assessments are performed by teams of retired engineers and are always free, confidential, non-regulatory, and objective.



RETAP
 RETIRED ENGINEER
 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This year the RETAP was awarded the Michigan Green Leaders Award by the *Detroit Free Press* for its effectiveness in providing voluntary P2 technical

assistance to small businesses and doing outstanding work in making Michigan a greener place to live and work. To date, the RETAP has assisted over 1,200 businesses by providing specific recommendations to eliminate waste, conserve resources, increase process and energy efficiencies, and improve profits.

"The RETAP allowed us access to knowledge and expertise that we would not otherwise have been able to afford or know how to get. We continue to reap benefits from the services provided, and I wanted to commend the organization." Jacquie Katterman, President, Katterman Trucking, Inc.

In FY12 the RETAP completed 80 assessments encompassing 169 buildings and identifying over \$3.2 million in potential cost savings or an average of \$40,500 saved per RETAP assessment (see table below). The RETAP engineers provided 589 hours of additional P2 assistance for small businesses and government facilities, which identified over \$101,000 in potential savings.



Michigan Green Leaders Award presented to RETAP program staff by the *Detroit Free Press*

RETAP Completed 80 P2 Assessments in FY12

Reductions	Amount
Operating Costs	3.2 million Dollars
Waste Disposal	2.5 million Pounds
Water Usage	13.6 million Gallons
Electricity Usage	17.4 million kWh
Natural Gas Usage	0.9 million CCF
CO ² Emissions (equivalents)	33.9 million Pounds

Small Business P2 Loan Program

All across Michigan, small businesses are taking advantage of the DEQ's Small Business Pollution Prevention Loan (P2 Loan) Program to assist them in deploying preferred technologies and practices. Established under the 1998 Clean Michigan Initiative Bond approved by voters, the P2 Loan Program has dispersed over \$6.3 million in 61 loans to small businesses. Any business that employs 500 or fewer people, is independently owned or operated, and not dominant in its field is eligible to apply for a low interest loan.

In FY12 over \$172,000 was awarded in loans to the following P2 Loan Program participants:

- East Lansing Orthopedic Association, P.C., and their local lender, Capitol National Bank
- Reno Chiropractic Center, P.C., and their local lender, Chiropractic Federal Credit Union
- Saunders Blue Water Investment, and their local lender, GreenStone Farm Credit Union

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

The OEA's Compliance Assistance Program offers multi-media environmental assistance to businesses, industry, governmental officials, and the general public on all major DEQ programs.

Clean Corporate Citizen Program

The Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) Program is a program for businesses, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations demonstrating environmental stewardship and a strong environmental ethic. The C3 Program is built on the concept that C3 designated facilities can be relied upon to carry out their environmental protection responsibilities without rigorous oversight and should enjoy greater permitting flexibility than those that have not demonstrated environmental leadership. The C3s must establish an Environmental Management System (EMS), implement P2 activities, and demonstrate compliance with their environmental requirements. Participants awarded a C3 designation receive public recognition and are entitled to certain regulatory benefits, including expedited permits. There are currently 128 active C3 participants in the program. Highlights over the past fiscal year include welcoming the following new members:



- American Mitsuba Corporation - Mt. Pleasant
- Brownstown Battery Assembly Plant - Brownstown
- Detroit Edison MichCon Cadillac Service Center – Cadillac
- Detroit Edison MichCon Grayling Service Center - Grayling
- Detroit Edison MichCon Mt. Pleasant Service Center - Mt. Pleasant
- Detroit Edison MichCon Tawas Service Center - Tawas
- Detroit Edison MichCon Traverse City Service Center - Traverse City
- General Motors, LLC - Flint Assembly - Flint
- General Motors Technical Center - Warren
- ITC Holdings Corporation - Novi Louisiana-Pacific Corporation - Newberry
- Moeller Manufacturing Company, Inc. - Wixom

In FY12 C3 partners reported annual savings of over \$18.1 million as a result of sustainable, P2 activities they have implemented at their facilities.

Permit Coordination

The DEQ administers more than 65 permits, licenses, and professional certifications. Determining which of these is required for a project or activity can be challenging, especially for a new or expanding business. The OEA makes the process simpler, by guiding businesses through the “Michigan Business One Stop” (One Stop) web portal. Through One Stop (www.michigan.gov/business), a user can determine the permits, licenses, and certifications needed in order to conduct business within the state of Michigan. During FY12 the OEA helped numerous businesses navigate One Stop to determine the environmental regulations that applied to their prospective business operations. The OEA continues to serve on several workgroups to provide ongoing improvements to the One Stop tool, in order to increase efficiencies and convenience for new, existing, and expanding businesses in Michigan.



Michigan Business One Stop

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

Customer Service Program/Survey

To gain a better understanding of how the department is meeting customer needs, the DEQ instituted a Customer Service Program. As part of this program, the DEQ distributed a customer satisfaction survey and developed two publications to assist the regulated community with inspections – “What to Expect from an Environmental Compliance Inspection” and “Environmental Inspections: Rights and Responsibilities.” As mandated by the Michigan Legislature, the DEQ is reporting on the program results and outcomes.

- Out of 113 inspected businesses that completed the survey, 100 percent reported that their DEQ inspector was professional, courteous, and adequately answered their questions during the inspection.
- 98 percent reported that their DEQ inspector adequately explained their initial finding to them at the close of the inspection.

The complete survey results can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/deqsurveys.

Through this program, the DEQ can assess the services it provides, make improvements where needed, and ultimately increase customer satisfaction.



Environmental Audit Privilege and Immunity

The Environmental Audit Privilege and Immunity Law reduces the fear of disclosure of information regarding violations by businesses and municipalities to the DEQ that may lead to enforcement and penalties. It also provides incentives for businesses to perform environmental audits and promptly report and correct violations, leading to increased compliance. Obtaining privilege involves filing a document called a Notice of Intent to Perform an Environmental Audit prior to performing the audit. Immunity provisions can be sought later by promptly filing a document called a Voluntary Disclosure and correcting the observed violations. In FY12, 69 Notices of Intent to perform an audit and 8 Voluntary Disclosures were filed in efforts to voluntarily comply with environmental regulations.

Pharmaceutical Outreach Campaign

In late 2009, health care professionals, through the MHA, reached out to the DEQ for help in understanding pharmaceutical and medical waste management regulations that apply in a business setting. This resulted in the development of a DEQ coordinated Pharmaceutical Campaign, which came to fruition in FY12. Contributors to the DEQ Pharmaceutical Campaign included: the U.S. EPA, MDCH, MHA, Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA), Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology, Michigan Health Care Safety Association, Michigan Association of Local Public Health Professionals, and the many health care providers and citizens receiving and acting upon the educational materials shared. This DEQ partnership and outreach campaign educated Michigan businesses and residents about the emerging environmental concerns related to pharmaceuticals and encouraged everyone to take steps now to protect our source waters.



MPA Household Medication Disposal Event

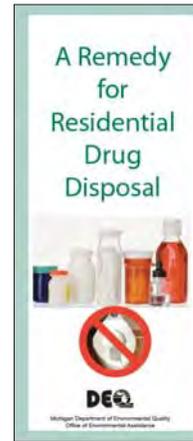
The following FY12 major campaign milestone events resulted from the partnership:

- **January 26, 2012** – The DEQ and MHA co-published and delivered the MHA Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Management Guide via a workshop to 116 attendees. The guidebook outlines best management practices for managing pharmaceutical and medical waste in a manner that facilitates compliance with environmental regulations and the myriad of other pharmaceutical

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

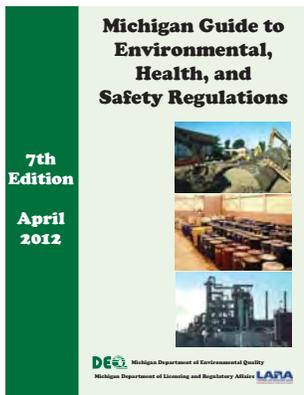
regulations that apply to health care (patient safety, worker safety, hospital/pharmacy accreditation, and the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations).

- **June 15, 2012** – The DEQ awarded nearly \$250,000 in Community Pollution Prevention Grants to five organizations for programs that will increase public access to free, convenient, safe, and environmentally optimal drug collection programs and foster the development of successful models that can be implemented across the state.
- **July 26, 2012** – The DEQ and MHA co-published a revised MHA Health Care Pharmaceutical Waste Management Guide, expanding its usefulness to all health care providers and delivered it to 178 attendees through a Pharmaceutical Waste Webinar, available now for on-demand viewing.
- **September 11, 2012** – The DEQ collaborated with the MPA at their third annual Household Medication Disposal Event at the Capitol. In three hours, volunteers collected 579 pounds of unused medications worth nearly one million dollars, which were sent for incineration.
- **September 14, 2012** – The DEQ, OEA sent a direct mailing to 10,000 healthcare providers encouraging them to view the newly recorded Pharmaceutical Waste Tutorial. The tutorial details the environmental concerns, preferred disposal method, and a single, simple target compliance option for waste pharmaceuticals. The mailing also included the updated Prescription for Clean Water: Guide for the Safe Disposal of Unused Medications and A Remedy for Residential Drug Disposal brochures.



Publications

The OEA publishes regulatory guidance materials, both online and hard copy, in coordination with expert program staff. These products provide independent, immediate access to compliance assistance resources. The OEA publications range from Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and brochures to more extensive fact sheets, subject area guidance documents, and comprehensive guidebooks like the Michigan Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations. In FY12 OEA staff published 16 new or updated compliance assistance publications on a variety of topics, some of which included:



- The 7th Edition of the Michigan Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations (www.michigan.gov/ehsguide)
- Michigan Air Emissions Reporting System (MAERS) User Guide and Workbook
- Greenhouse Gas Title V Permitting Guidance for Sources with Fuel Combustion Equipment
- Environmental Inspections Rights & Responsibilities Brochure
- Michigan Facilities' Guide to SARA Title III, Emergency Planning and Release Reporting - 10th Edition
- MHA Pharmaceutical Waste Management Guide

The OEA staff also published a biweekly DEQ Environmental Calendar and quarterly Environmental Assistance Bulletin highlighting decisions and actions before the DEQ as well as training events and outreach materials. Each edition of the Environmental Assistance Bulletin included a Compliance Assistance Corner article providing regulatory guidance on a current topic of interest to the regulated community.

"This is the greatest thing ever. Michigan should be proud to have such an amazing tool. Few other States have anything like this or that compares in quality and ease of use." – Survey comment regarding Michigan Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

SARA Title III

The Michigan SARA Title III Program implements the reporting requirements of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. At the end of FY12, there were 7,527 facilities in Michigan's online database for which 6,271 hazardous chemical inventory reports and 489 emergency planning notifications were submitted. The SARA Program staff processed 36 written follow-up hazardous chemical release reports and received 774 facility Toxic Chemical Release Inventories online. In addition to responding to numerous SARA Program inquiries, the SARA Program staff provided training at five conferences during the year, published an updated SARA guidebook, and maintained current information on the Web pages specific to SARA Title III, Release Reporting, and Emergency Planning.



Workshops, Webinars, and Online Training

The OEA oversees scheduling, logistics, registration, and speaker coordination to deliver training events that educate businesses, municipalities, institutions, and the general public on environmental requirements, P2 practices, and other topics related to the DEQ's mission. These training events include live workshops, conferences, and webinars, as well as recorded videos and tutorials that can be accessed by users at any time.

"I have attended Agency sponsored or cosponsored environmental conferences in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and this conference was by far the best one I have attended."
– survey comment from MECC attendee.



DEQ Director Wyant addressing the MECC conference attendees

In FY12 the OEA collaborated with programs throughout the DEQ to coordinate 23 workshops held throughout the state. Over 1,800 businesses, municipalities, institutions, and environmental professionals participated in these live events. The largest event of 2012 was the Michigan Environmental Compliance Conference (MECC), which had 700 attendees. The 2012 MECC was held in April and May in Gaylord, Grand Rapids, and Livonia with multiple tracks on various environmental regulations and DEQ programs.

The OEA coordinated and hosted 20 webinars in FY12. The webinars ranged in scope from explaining how the DEQ regulates greenhouse gases and hazardous waste to how to apply for a Non-Point Source Grant and use DEQ applications such as WaterTrack and MAERS. The 20 live webinar broadcasts educated 2,936 people throughout Michigan and the United States. Recordings of these webinars are posted at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops and have been viewed by 959 people since posting.

The OEA's on-demand training curriculum continues to be a huge success. The free videos and recorded webinars offered through the curriculum provide Michigan businesses with around-the-clock access to accurate regulatory information. There are currently 27 on-demand training videos posted at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops. The videos have received 28,365 views since the curriculum started in 2008.

During FY12, the OEA collaborated with 38 businesses and organizations to help market and co-sponsor events, including: Michigan Manufacturers Association; Air and Waste Management Association; Corp! Magazine; Michigan Association of Hazardous Materials Professionals; MHA; Small Business Association of Michigan; University of Michigan; and Herman Miller.

"This is an exemplary public outreach educational effort and reflects very well upon this agency." – survey comment from an Introduction to Hazardous Waste Webinar attendee.

Environmental Education

Environmental Education helps Michigan citizens understand the natural environment. Environmental Education helps people understand the connection of people and living things to the air, land, and water, and how these systems relate to the global environment. These connections lead to informed decisions on environmental protection and natural resource conservation. The DEQ Environmental Education strategy is as follows:



I can see like a bug!

1. Integrate environmental education curriculum support into Michigan schools at the middle school level to ensure students have early training and exposure to environmental concepts.
2. Build and maintain a strong network of partnerships to leverage and support environmental education at all levels of education.
3. Coordinate a vibrant internship program to provide college-level exposures to environmental work.

Environmental Education FY12 highlights include:

- The Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS), a science-based curriculum impacting grades 4-9, includes units on ecosystems and biodiversity, land use, water quality, air quality, and energy resources. The MEECS was published in 2006. The DEQ is currently updating the five units and expanding units on climate change education and outdoor education. In FY12, 243 educators attended an MEECS workshop. Workshops have been conducted for nearly 4,000 educators since MEECS was first published.
- The DEQ continued to maintain active partnerships with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education, the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, the Michigan No Child Left Inside Coalition, Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University, Michigan Envirothon, Great Lakes Young Writers' Initiative, and the Great Lakes Education Collaborative.
- Working with a myriad of colleges and programs, the DEQ facilitated 85 internships during FY12, a 19.7 percent increase over FY11.
- As part of our environmental education of youth, the DEQ celebrated Earth Day with nearly 2,100 children (10.5 percent increase over FY11) and more than 400 teachers and assistants (33 percent increase over FY11).



DEQ student interns volunteering



Students listening intently



Earth Day participants learning about rocks