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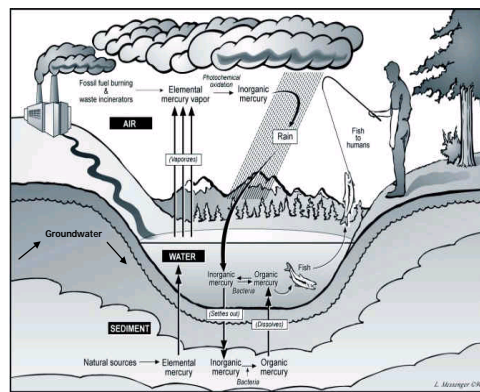
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RECYCLING MERCURY WHILE RECYCLING AUTOMOBILES

Mercury (Hg) is a serious pollutant of concern. When spilled or released, mercury can collect in water bodies, where it bioaccumulates in fish that may be caught by area children and families. Since 1988, the Michigan Department of Community Health has issued a state-wide fish consumption advisory for all the state's 11,000 lakes due to mercury contamination.



People contributed to past mercury releases, but we can take action to prevent future ones. Michigan auto repairs and dismantlers are key to preventing mercury releases. Automobiles 2003 and older can contain several mercury switches in convenience lighting and anti-locking braking systems that need to be removed and recycled. This will prevent spills and emissions that otherwise would occur during crushing, shredding, and melting the steel for reuse.

Removing these switches also helps ensure the scrap metal will be recycled since foundries, metal fabricators, and steelmakers are subject to air regulations that require they ensure the scrap metal they melt is free of mercury.

Mercury auto switches are recycled for free through the national program, the "End of Life Solutions" (ELVS). Information on where to find the mercury switches is provided on their Web site. Select "Mercury Switches" then the "Educational Materials" tab at the top. ELVS registers new sites and orders the first storage buckets. After joining, sites recycle the full buckets of mercury switches free of charge through the ELVS contractor, the [Environmental Quality Company \(EQ\)](http://www.environmentalquality.com). Individuals may recycle their auto switches through [Clean Sweep Sites](http://www.cleansweep.com) or some local [Household Hazardous Waste \(HHW\)](http://www.householdhazardouswaste.com) programs.

It is estimated that over 2 million older model vehicles containing mercury switches will be recycled each year for at least the next seven years. Some vehicles are still being driven and repaired. That's a lot of switches that have the potential to be removed and recycled. But, each switch only takes an average of 51 seconds to remove it. The desired outcome for all our efforts is to make our fish safe to eat and our communities safe from mercury contamination. For questions regarding mercury recycling, contact Maggie Fields FieldsM@michigan.gov or 517-335-6250 or visit the program Web site at www.michigan.gov/mercuryp2.

DEQ RECOGNIZES NINE FACILITIES WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS PROGRAM AWARD

Nine facilities in Michigan are being recognized with the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program Award for their outstanding commitment to environmental community outreach. DEQ Director Dan Wyant will personally recognize each facility and their community partners with awards ceremonies planned throughout the state.

The NEP program offers business and citizens groups the opportunity to work together to improve their neighborhoods, making them cleaner and more attractive places to live and work.

The nine companies receiving an award are:

- Consumers Energy—J.R. Whiting Plant
- Detroit Edison—River Rouge Power Plant
- Dow Corning—Midland Site
- General Motors LLC
- Ford Motor Company
- Pilgrim Manor Retirement Community—Grand Rapids
- US Army Garrison—Detroit Arsenal
- Holland Board of Public Works
- Herman Miller Inc.—Grand Rapids



Further information on the NEP Program is available on the DEQ Web site at www.michigan.gov/deqnep or by calling the DEQ's Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278.

POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANTS FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is awarding \$199,960 in Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant funding to four recipients focusing on community sustainability planning.

Community Sustainability Planning offers local governments an opportunity to re-examine their processes and to drive improvements and efficiency in its day-to-day operations. Increases in efficiency and reductions in energy and waste generation can lead to lower emissions and significant cost savings. Savings that can further sustain local government operations.

The applicants receiving funding are as follows:

- City of Ann Arbor, \$50,000
- Muskegon County, \$50,000
- Oakland County, \$50,000
- West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, \$49,960

The grant requires recipients to implement community sustainability planning and the development of local models and approaches that address local sustainability issues, emissions, and energy challenges. The four grant recipients will be required to match the state funds by at least 25 percent.

Further information is available by calling the DEQ's Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278.

ENERGY ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE FOR 75 SMALL BUSINESSES

The Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) provides onsite pollution prevention and energy efficiency assessments to businesses (with 500 or fewer full-time employees in Michigan) and institutions of any size. The RETAP assessments are performed by teams of retired engineers and are always free, strictly non-regulatory, and completely objective. To date, RETAP has conducted over 1700 assessments encompassing a broad range of industries, commercial operations, institutions, and government facilities.

For each assessment, RETAP provides a written report containing specific recommendations to save money, reduce energy usage, conserve water, and eliminate waste generation. The report further includes resource and cost savings estimates of the significant recommendations identified during the assessment. In 2011, RETAP has completed 71 assessments (to date) at a broad range of manufacturing operations and various public and private facilities. The total estimated annual reductions in energy and water usage, waste disposal, and facility operating expenses of the significant recommendations from these assessments are as follows:

2011 – Thru June 30th	
71 Assessments 169 Buildings	
<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Electricity Usage:	19.1 million kWh
Natural Gas Usage:	1.2 million CCF
Water Usage:	26.9 million gallons
Waste Disposal:	1.5 million pounds
Operating Costs:	3.6 million dollars

RETAP maintains nearly sixty (60) retired engineers, scientists, and other professionals active in the program. Each RETAP engineer has thirty to forty years of experience within Michigan industry giving RETAP the unique ability to offer over 2200 years of combined professional experience to help businesses improve their operations and save money free of charge.

RETAP is looking to complete an additional 75 energy assessments over the next six months to meet current U.S. Department of Energy grant obligations. Any small business interested in receiving an energy assessment or additional RETAP information may contact David Herb at 517-241-8176 or herbd@michigan.gov.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CORNER:

WHERE DO I GO FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT SHORELINE CONSTRUCTION ON INLAND LAKES?

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) has a new Web site, Facebook page, and newsletter with substantial information about construction along the shorelines of inland lakes.

The Web site has information on shoreline ecosystems, attractive and beneficial shoreline construction methods, local and state regulations and permitting requirements, and much more. On it, are several new publications produced by the MNSP and its members, including:

- *Natural Shoreline Landscapes on Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Guidebook for Property Owners*, by MNSP
- *The Water's Edge*, a brochure about the benefits of natural shorelines by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- *Answers to Homeowners Questions about Lakescaping*, a brochure about lakefront landscaping options by MSU Extension

Compliance assistance staff are experienced department personnel in OEA that specialize in another environmental program division. Staff provide one-on-one and referral assistance on calls received by the Environmental Assistance Center. If you have any environmental questions on which you need assistance, call 1-800-662-9278.

The MNSP Facebook page is now available to answer your questions about shoreline construction. You can see questions and answers that others have asked, and submit questions yourself to shoreline experts from the MNSP. To get access to the Facebook page, go to the Facebook page link on the MNSP Web site.

The MNSP newsletter will be out soon via electronic distribution to anyone wishing to be included with updates on the MNSP events, operations, trainings, and general news about the partnership and shoreline construction. If you would like to be included in the distribution of the e-newsletter, you may contact Scott Brown, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, at sbrown@mlswa.org, or Kip Cronk, DEQ, at cronkk@michigan.gov.

Have a lake association meeting or an event where you would like an expert to come and speak? The MNSP operates a shoreline expert speakers bureau from their Web site. The speakers bureau includes professionals from nonprofit organizations, conservation groups, and natural resource professionals experienced in natural shoreline construction methods from throughout the state of Michigan.

The MNSP Web site is located at www.mishorelinepartnership.org. If you have questions about the MNSP education and outreach efforts, in general, you may contact Julia Kirkwood, DEQ, kirkwoodj@michigan.gov.

2011 MICHIGAN GREEN CHEMISTRY AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Advancing Innovation for a Sustainable Future



The Michigan Green Chemistry Roundtable invites you to attend the 2011 Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference, scheduled for October 27, 2011 at the University of Michigan North Campus Research Complex in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Business leaders, engineers, chemists, researchers, teachers, policymakers, and anyone else interested in moving green chemistry and engineering forward in Michigan are invited to attend this event.

The Michigan "GreenUp" Conference is designed to be a hotbed for collaborative learning and sharing – all in the name of advancing innovation in Michigan for a sustainable future. Green chemistry and engineering can revolutionize the way we work and live, by employing less toxic materials and processes in the manufacture and design of the products we use every day. While protecting human health and the environment, green chemistry and engineering can also help businesses create new markets, reduce costs, increase safety, and gain a competitive edge.

Conference highlights include:

Michigan Green Chemistry Governor's Award Breakfast

Presentation by Governor Rick Snyder

Welcome by University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman (invited)

Keynote Speaker Julie Beth Zimmerman, PhD – Yale University

Acting Director for Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering and Associate Professor of Green Engineering School of Engineering and Applied Sciences School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Breakout sessions, panels, and interactive workshops

Posters – including a student poster contest

Don't miss this information-packed day! Hear from leading experts in technology, chemistry, engineering, and economic development about the positive changes that are already happening here in Michigan, and what's in store for the future. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/greenup.

HOUSEHOLD MEDICATION DISPOSAL EVENT PHARMACY DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL—SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Clean out your medicine cabinets and bring your unused medications to the State Capitol for disposal. The DEQ is partnering with Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) to increase public awareness about the importance of proper disposal of pharmaceuticals. Pharmacists and police officers will be on hand on the south Capitol lawn from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. to collect controlled and non-controlled substances for incineration. Bring your unused medications including controlled substances, narcotics, over-the-counter medications, prescription medications, eye drops, inhalers, insulin, medicated ointments/lotions, medication samples, pet medications and vitamins/supplements. Items that will not be accepted include waste medications from health care facilities, medical waste (harps, needles and syringes) or medications that are a listed or characteristic hazardous waste (chemotherapy medications). Information contact: Chad Rogers, Office of Environmental Assistance, 517-373-2838 or rogersc1@michigan.gov.

MICHIGAN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 30 – September 2, 2011 near Traverse City, Michigan

Transitions in Wetland Science, Management and Policy

The **Michigan Wetlands Association and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality** invites you to attend in the annual conference at the Grand Traverse Resort. Along with a special symposium on climate change adaptations and wetlands, this professional conference will include tracks on current issues in state and federal wetland policy and regulation; and on the protection, management, and monitoring of wetlands at the watershed level.

Who should participate and attend?

Expected participants include wetland managers and scientists from state, tribal, local, and federal resource agencies, wetland consultants, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and other interested citizens.

Conference highlights include:

- ✦ Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation and Wetlands
- ✦ Recent and Proposed Changes in State and Federal Wetland Policy
- ✦ Wetland Protection and Management at the Watershed Level
- ✦ Field trips
- ✦ Exhibits
- ✦ Networking

More detailed information, including how to exhibit and sponsor the conference, can be found on the conference Web site at www.miwetlands.org.

ITRC TRAINING COURSES

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) offers a wide variety of guidance documents and **FREE** internet-based training courses on innovative environmental technologies and approaches specific to the areas of site characterization, monitoring, and remediation as well as other environmental topics. Summarized below is the August, September, and October 2011 schedule of upcoming **FREE** Internet-based training courses provided by the ITRC. Archived training events from additional topics are also available for viewing and/or download. A complete list of course offerings can be found at: www.itrcweb.org/ibt.asp

Upcoming Course Dates (registration opens 4-6 weeks in advance):

- **August 16, 2011**, Use and Measurement of Mass Flux and Mass Discharge, 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm EASTERN Time

- **August 25, 2011**, Permeable Reactive Barriers: Technology Update, 11:00 am – 1:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **August 30, 2011**, Use of Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites, 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **September 8, 2011**, Solidification/Stabilization: Performance Specifications and Long-Term Stewardship for Solidification/Stabilization, 11:00 am – 1:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **September 15, 2011**, Phytotechnologies, 11:00 am – 1:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **September 22, 2011**, In-Situ Remediation of Chlorinated Ethene – DNAPL Source Zones, 11:00 am – 1:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **September 27, 2011**, Project Risk Management, 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **September 29, 2011**, Mine Waste Treatment Technology Selection, 11:00 am – 1:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **October 11, 2011**, Incorporating Bioavailability Considerations into the Evaluation of Contaminated Sediment Sites, 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **October 18, 2011**, Permeable Reactive Barriers: Technology Update, 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm EASTERN Time
- **October 20, 2011**, Attenuation Processes for Metals and Radionuclides, 11:00 am – 1:15 pm EASTERN Time

Note: All dates/times are subject to change – check www.itrcweb.org for the most up-to-date information.

Registration: <http://clu-in.org/studio/seminar.cfm> or at www.itrcweb.org - click on “Internet-based Training”. Course registration opens 4-6 weeks prior to each course offering.

Associated Guidance Documents: Available from <http://www.itrcweb.org>. You can download the ITRC guidance documents that are the basis for the training materials - click on “Guidance Documents”.

For additional information, please contact Michigan’s State Point of Contact (POC) Joe Rogers at: rogersj5@michigan.gov or 517-373-9897.

EVENTS

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

2011 MICHIGAN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT, ACME, MICHIGAN. The Michigan Wetlands Association is pleased to announce a statewide wetland conference, which will be co-sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, with financial support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the NOAA Coastal Zone Program, and will be open to the public. Highlights will include a special symposium on climate change adaptation, emphasizing the link between wetland management and restoration and response to climate change. In addition, sessions are planned to share information on recent changes to Michigan’s regulatory program, wetland monitoring and assessment, and other topics through a mix of invited and contributed papers. Updated conference information can be found on the Web at www.miwetlands.org. For additional program information, contact **Peg Bostwick**, Michigan Wetlands Association at peg.bostwick@aswm.org.

2011 PTI SERIESL SEPTEMBER 14 & NOVEMBER 9

AIR PERMIT APPLICATION WORKSHOP FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS, CONSTITUTION HALL, LANSING, MICHIGAN. For most first-time applicants, completing the Permit to Install application is a daunting task. However, submitting a complete and timely application can be more manageable if you know what’s expected. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is offering this workshop designed to give information on how to submit a complete permit application. Since this workshop is geared to first-time applicants, a significant portion of the session is devoted to your specific application. Air Quality Division permit engineers will be available to discuss your permit application with you one-on-one. To take full advantage of this time with the permit engineer, it is recommended you bring detailed information about your project with you to

the session. This training is designed for first-time air permit applicants who need help completing their permit application; however, those who have applied before and need a refresher are welcome to attend as well. Registration fee is \$35 and includes workshop materials. Updated workshop information and registration is available on the Web at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops, click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops". Information Contact: **James Ostrowski**, Office of Environmental Assistance, 517-241-8057 or ostrowskij2@michigan.gov. Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or deq-assist@michigan.gov.

OCTOBER 4-5, 2011

MICHIGAN GREEN HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE, THE PARK PLACE, TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN. This conference is intended for individuals that work in the health-care field, specifically for those individuals that are affiliated with the engineering, environmental services departments, sustainability, and/or individuals who have a passion for helping their facility reduce their ecological footprint. If you are someone that wants to learn about sustainability, building an effective green team, increasing energy efficiency, recycling, and other successful green initiatives at hospitals, this is the conference for you! Updated conference information is available on the Web at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops, click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops". Information Contact: **Mike Young**, Office of Environmental Assistance, 989-894-6238 or youngm1@michigan.gov. Registration Information Contact: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or deq-assist@michigan.gov.

OCTOBER 27, 2011

2011 MICHIGAN GREEN CHEMISTRY AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE: ADVANCING INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, NORTH CAMPUS RESEARCH COMPLEX, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN. The 2011 Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference continues the momentum of the green chemistry movement in Michigan. Green chemistry and engineering can revolutionize the way we work and live, by employing less toxic materials and processes in the manufacture and design of the products we use every day. While protecting human health and the environment, green chemistry and engineering can also help businesses create new markets, reduce costs, and gain a competitive edge. Come hear from leading experts in the fields of technology, chemistry, engineering, business process improvement, and economic development discuss advancements in green chemistry and engineering and how these innovations will lead Michigan to a sustainable future. Updated conference information is available on the Web at www.michigan.gov/greenup. Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or deq-assist@michigan.gov. Information Contact: **Jennifer Acevedo**, Office of Environmental Assistance, 517-335-3203 or acevedoj@michigan.gov.

NOVEMBER 8 - 9, 2011

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ASSET MANAGEMENT: A "HANDS ON" APPROACH, DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, NOVI, MICHIGAN. In many communities, the water and wastewater infrastructure is severely stressed from overuse, under funding of maintenance and renewal, and aging. *The Fundamentals of Asset Management* workshop, sponsored by the Michigan Rural Water Association, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will provide information on a comprehensive approach to managing these capital assets. This hands-on workshop will focus on demonstrating, step-by-step, how an agency would select and deploy "Best Appropriate Asset Management Practices" that are best suited to that agency. This training has been approved for 1.4 Continuing Education Credits in Water and Wastewater Managerial. To register, visit <http://www.mrwa.net/Training.aspx>. For more information, contact **Tim Neumann, Michigan Rural Water Association**, 989-539-4111 or tneumann@mrwa.net.

If you are interested in participating in the development of or exhibiting at any Office of Environmental Assistance event, please call **Mary Goodhall** at 517-241-7968 or goodhallm@michigan.gov.