



# Environmental Assistance Bulletin

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor  
Steven E. Chester, Director

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## THIRTEEN FACILITIES TO RECEIVE DEQ NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS PROGRAM AWARDS

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Steven E. Chester awarded thirteen facilities in Michigan the Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program Award for their outstanding commitment to environmental community outreach. Their community partners were also recognized for their outstanding environmental contributions.



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

"I've often said that environmental stewardship and economic prosperity go hand-in-hand, and the companies we are recognizing today truly demonstrate that belief," said Director Chester. "I applaud their enthusiastic commitment to the environment and a willingness to improve the communities they are a part of."

Director Chester presented the awards at a ceremony held on July 23, 2009, in Lansing.

The thirteen companies receiving an award were:

- AkzoNobel Coatings Inc. – Pontiac
- Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant
- DuPont – Mt. Clemens
- Ford Motor Co. – Romeo Engine Plant
- Detroit Edison – River Rouge Power Plant
- General Motors – Flint Metal Center
- General Motors – Lansing Delta Township and Regional Stamping Plant (GM LDT)
- General Motors – Orion Assembly
- General Motors – Pontiac Assembly Center
- General Motors Power Train – Romulus Engine Operations
- General Motors Power Train – Warren Transmission Plant (GM WTP)
- Herman Miller Inc. – Grand Rapids
- Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation – Ontonagon Mill

Further information on the NEP Program is available on the DEQ Web site at [www.michigan.gov/degnep](http://www.michigan.gov/degnep), or by calling the **Environmental Assistance Center** at **1-800-662-9278**.

## SMALL BUSINESS P2 LOAN PROGRAM UNDERGOING RULE CHANGE

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is seeking interested parties to join a Small Business Pollution Prevention Loan (P2 Loan) Program stakeholders group for the purpose of examining proposed rule changes to the P2 Loan Program. The P2 Loan Program provides low-interest loans to small businesses undertaking pollution prevention projects at their place of business.

The rules for the P2 Loan Program were promulgated in 1999. A rule revision is needed to address legislative changes that occurred subsequent to the promulgation of current rules and to add clarity to the program.

Those interested in taking part in the process should contact the P2 Loan Program Manager, **Karen Edlin** at **517-373-0604** or [edlink@michigan.gov](mailto:edlink@michigan.gov) by August 14, 2009.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANTS FOR HOSPITALS



The Department of Environmental Quality is awarding \$82,355 in Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant funding to four hospitals for projects focusing on pollution prevention at healthcare facilities in the State of Michigan.

“Hospitals are often the cornerstones of our communities and are in a unique position to demonstrate waste reduction opportunities,” said Director Chester. “Our communities’ health and the health of our environment are important to all of us.”

The hospitals receiving funding are:

- Covenant Medical Center, \$24,000
- Northern Michigan Regional Hospital, \$20,000
- Otsego Memorial Hospital, \$13,655
- War Memorial Hospital, \$24,700

These hospitals will be implementing various programs to support their goals including installing energy efficient lighting, purchasing environmentally preferred products, and implementing water conservation practices. The four community grant recipients are required to match the state funds by at least 25 percent.

## GREEN CHEMISTRY NEWS

The Department of Environmental Quality’s Michigan Green Chemistry Program is working hard to keep you informed of important green chemistry and chemical policy news and happenings through its website [www.michigan.gov/greenchemistry](http://www.michigan.gov/greenchemistry). Check the website frequently for the latest green chemistry news from around Michigan and beyond.

**ATTEND MICHIGAN'S GREEN CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 25, 2009**

Keynote speaker and “founding father” of green chemistry, John Warner, will inspire and inform leaders across the state at Michigan’s First Annual Green Chemistry Conference, which is being held on September 25, 2009, at the Fort Shelby Downtown Detroit Doubletree.

The Michigan Green Chemistry Conference will launch a multi-level approach to green chemistry. Leading experts in the fields of business technology, chemistry, engineering, and process improvement will discuss ways to advance and sustain green products and processes in Michigan. Participants will receive fact-based strategies, along with tools and resources to develop first level action plans for their respective business models.

Register early to guarantee your seat at this very important event! Registration and updated conference information is available on the Web at [www.michigan.gov/greenup](http://www.michigan.gov/greenup). For more information, contact the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278, or e-mail at [deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov).

**CASH FOR CLUNKERS – SALVAGE PROCESSING & DISPOSAL**

The Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS) or "Cash for Clunkers" program began June 27, 2009, and is proposed to last until November 1, 2009. This national program provides incentives up to \$4,500 for turning in a “clunker” for a more fuel efficient car or truck. The goals include: 1) stimulating the auto industry and jobs, 2) removing older vehicles that are larger sources of climate change gases from the road, and 3) reducing dependence on foreign oil.



To ensure that these clunkers remain off the road, dealers must disable the engines and shred or crush the clunkers by a reputable approved auto recycler. The recyclers must comply with several requirements, including the proper disposal of the automotive toxics and fluids (mercury, oils, antifreeze, etc.), properly and crush or shred the clunkers on site.

The official Cash for Clunkers website is [www.cars.gov](http://www.cars.gov). Most information needed for vehicle recycling can be found at [www.cars.gov/disposal](http://www.cars.gov/disposal). The Automotive Recyclers Association has also created a website for CARS or Cash for Clunkers program to help recyclers comply with the program requirements.

Although the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is not officially involved in the Cash for Clunkers program, a CARS web page at [www.michigan.gov/deqp2](http://www.michigan.gov/deqp2) was created to help Michigan companies and dealers be successful and properly recycle the wastes. If you have DEQ-related questions regarding this program, contact **Maggie Fields** at [fieldsm@michigan.gov](mailto:fieldsm@michigan.gov).

## COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CORNER

**Question: Who do I contact to report an environmental emergency?**

**Answer:** The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) maintains a pollution emergency hotline for callers to report **environmental emergencies**. Examples of the types of emergencies that might be called in include chemical spills/releases to the environment, leaking containers/tanks, tanker accidents and pipeline breaks. The **MDEQ Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS)** is toll-free and available 24 hours a day for in-state calls by calling **800-292-4706**. Calls originating out of state should use **517-373-7660**. The phone numbers utilize an answering service that is staffed 24 hours a day. Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, the operators give callers the option of contacting the appropriate MDEQ district office serving the area where an incident has occurred, or the operators will take the information and dispatch the calls to the district offices for follow-up as necessary. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), discussed below, should be called concerning agricultural emergencies.

*Compliance assistance staff are experienced department personnel in OPPCA 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 question on which you need assistance, call 1-800-662-9278.*

The MDEQ also maintains the Environmental Assistance Center (EAC) which provides the general public and regulated community the opportunity to access information and assistance for **non-emergencies** on a wide array of environmental topics and MDEQ programs. The EAC can be reached at **800-662-9278**, or you can send an email to [deg-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deg-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov). The EAC does not take emergency calls. The EAC can, however, receive general non-emergency complaints and will forward the information to the correct MDEQ staff for follow-up. The EAC is staffed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and callers can leave a message after hours.

The MDA maintains several hotlines to report **agriculture emergencies**, motor fuel quality (MFQ), animal disease breakouts and crop failures. Emergencies that involve pesticide or fertilizer spills need to be reported to the **MDA Agriculture Pollution Emergency hotline, 800-405-0101**. MDA oversees motor fuel quality, fuel pricing, and verifies that the pumps are calibrated to dispense the correct measure of fuel. MFQ consumer complaints can be reported to **800-632-3835** and this number is displayed on every gas pump. Crop loss reports or animal disease breakouts should be phoned into the MDA hotline, **517-373-0440**.

Local and federal officials also need to be notified of environmental emergencies. Facility owners and operators should go to [www.michigan.gov/degrelease](http://www.michigan.gov/degrelease) for details of release notification requirements in rules and regulations that apply in Michigan.

## MEET MICHIGAN'S CLEAN CORPORATE CITIZENS

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance is pleased to announce the availability of the 2007-2008 edition of the "Meet Michigan's Clean Corporate Citizens" report online at [www.michigan.gov/degc3](http://www.michigan.gov/degc3). This year's report features establishments from across Michigan including our first university, foundry, and retirement community, as well as a number of manufacturing and power generation facilities.



Besides the annual report, the Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) web site contains additional information on the C3 Program that may be of interest to your establishment. Please feel free to contact **Donna Davis** of our C3 Program at **517-335-2784** if you have any further questions. We hope you enjoy this year's snapshot of environmental success stories.

## MICHIGAN OFFICE OF STATE EMPLOYER ANNOUNCES FURLOUGH DATES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT

The Office of the State Employer announced details on plans to implement furlough days for some state employees as required under Executive Order 2009-22 approved by the Michigan House and Senate Appropriations committees on May 5. The executive order requires the unpaid furlough (temporary layoff) of state employees to achieve a savings of \$21.7 million before September 30, the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, including the Environmental Assistance Center, will be closed on the following days: Friday, August 7; Friday, August 21; and Friday, September 4. For more information and Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's press release, please visit [www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442\\_21974-214883--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_21974-214883--,00.html).

## EVENTS

2009

### AUGUST

**EXPLORING MICHIGAN'S RARE WETLANDS, Various Locations, Michigan.** The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, together with Michigan Natural Features Inventory, is conducting a series of workshops that will provide a unique opportunity to learn more about Michigan's rare wetland communities. Each workshop will include morning presentations from Michigan Natural Features Inventory ecologists on overall landscape, community classification, rare and imperiled wetland types present in the state, and strategies for identification. Plants, animals, and other characteristics of each community type will be discussed. Each training session will include afternoon field visits to one or more of the rare and imperiled wetland types in the respective area. Attendees should come prepared with boots, water, and other field gear to participate in the afternoon field visits. Registration fee is \$35 and includes workshop materials and lunch. Register on-line at [www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops](http://www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops), click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops" and scroll down to Exploring Michigan's Rare Wetlands. Information Contact: **Amy Lounds**, Land and Water Management Division, **517-241-8169**, or [loundsa@michigan.gov](mailto:loundsa@michigan.gov).

Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center, 800-662-9278**, or [deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov).

Date	Location
08/04/09	Room C, Haggerty Center, Traverse City
08/11/09	Stockbridge Township Hall, Stockbridge
08/13/09	Farm Center Classroom, Kensington Metro Park, Milford

### SEPTEMBER 9, NOVEMBER 4

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**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. Online registration is available on the Web at [www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops](http://www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops), click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops".

Registration Fee: \$25, which includes parking in the Ellis Parking Lot on the east side of Constitution Hall and training manual.

Information Contact: **James Ostrowski**, Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, 517-241-8057 or [ostrowskj2@michigan.gov](mailto:ostrowskj2@michigan.gov).

Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or [deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov).

#### SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

**MICHIGAN'S GREEN CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE, Fort Shelby Detroit Downtown Doubletree, Detroit, Michigan.** Save the date for the first annual Michigan Green Chemistry Conference! Leading experts in the fields of business technology, chemistry, engineering, and business process improvement will inspire and inform as business leaders discuss ways to advance and sustain green products and processes in Michigan. Check out [www.michigan.gov/greenup](http://www.michigan.gov/greenup) for updated information on this event.

Information Contact: **Karen Edlin**, Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, 517-373-0604 or [edlink@michigan.gov](mailto:edlink@michigan.gov).

Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or [deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov).

#### OCTOBER 22, 2009

**MICHIGAN GREEN HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Ann Arbor, Michigan.** This conference is intended for individuals that work in the healthcare field, specifically for those individuals that are affiliated with the engineering and environmental services departments, and/or individuals who have a passion for helping their hospital reduce their ecological footprint. If you are someone who wants to learn about sustainability, federal stimulus money, energy, pharmaceutical waste, and green buildings, this is the conference for you! Check out [www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops](http://www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops) for updated information on this event.

Information Contact: **Mike Young**, Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, 989-894-6238 or [youngm1@michigan.gov](mailto:youngm1@michigan.gov).

#### NOVEMBER 5, 2009

**ANNUAL FALL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE, Lansing Community College, Lansing, Michigan.** Co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, West Michigan Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, and East Michigan Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, the fall program will feature discussions of timely environmental issues.

A conference brochure and registration form is anticipated in September 2009.

For additional information, contact **Kurt Kissling**, Pepper Hamilton LPP at 313-393-7313 or visit [www.wmawma.org](http://www.wmawma.org).

If you are interested in participating in the development of any Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance event, please call **Mary Goodhall** at 517-241-7968 or email at [goodhallm@michigan.gov](mailto:goodhallm@michigan.gov).