




Pollution Prevention Week

PRESERVING OUR HOME, RIGHT FROM THE START

SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2017 • FIND OUT MORE AT MICHIGAN.GOV/P2 

Pollution Prevention Week September 18-24, 2017

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

2017 Pollution Prevention Week

An Invitation to Michigan's Businesses, Local Governments, and Citizens:

The State of Michigan has been commemorating Pollution Prevention (P2) week since its inception in 1996. In that time, we have observed the impact this challenging idea has had on Michigan businesses. Our vision has remained focused on helping partners realize cost reductions, risk avoidance, and enhance their competitive advantage through their pollution prevention activities. P2 has become widely accepted as a standard business operating procedure, and we as a society are beginning to realize the promise of P2. Who could have predicted 30 years ago that companies would be running landfill free operations, building products out of materials that were considered scraps, or partnering with the non-profits to develop tools to enable business to place a value on nature in their decision processes. Large companies are not the only ones benefiting from a pollution prevention strategy.

P2 Week allows us to celebrate our accomplishments and contemplate the challenges that still need to be addressed. We have prepared materials, including this Pollution Prevention Week Planner, to help you consider ways to reduce, reuse, or recycle waste produced at your business, home, and in your community. We also have business and industry programs to help incorporate pollution prevention into your day-to-day activities. Consider joining our Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership to develop a P2 strategy, and join the Michigan Sustainability Nexus GovDelivery, an excellent resource for networking and sharing. We have many other P2 programs designed to educate businesses and communities, including the free Integrated Assessment Program, and initiatives, such as green chemistry, green communities, clean marinas, environmentally preferred purchasing, and sustainability. You can explore these and other programs on our P2 website at www.michigan.gov/p2.

It is important to remember to encourage your business associates, neighbors, and local governments to practice P2 and to share strategies and successes. By sharing your P2 strategies with others, you are helping to protect our air, water, and land, as well as promoting the economic benefits of these activities.

For additional information on Pollution Prevention Week, or for ideas about how you can help to make a difference, please visit the michigan.gov/p2 website, or contact the MDEQ Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or deq-assist@michigan.gov.

Jack Schinderle, Director
Waste Management and Radiological
Protection Division
Department of Environmental Quality

Pollution Prevention Week

The State of Michigan invites you to be a part of Pollution Prevention (P2) Week, by incorporating activities into your daily routine that reduce, reuse, and recycle waste. P2 Week is an opportunity for individuals, schools, communities, and industries to showcase or share ideas regarding how they reduce waste, are more efficient, or reduce energy use. Promoting P2 or “green” activities at home, work, or school helps to protect the local economy, improve health, and reduce energy costs. For P2 ideas, see the following pages or the *P2 Week Website* at: <http://www.michigan.gov/p2community>. Here you’ll find links to the Governor’s proclamation, P2 tips, sustainability, and many other resources.

The Governor, as well as Representatives and Senators, has supported P2 Week through Proclamation and Resolutions highlighting this week as an opportunity for Michigan government, residents, and businesses to take actions that foster a prosperous and sustainable future. Many businesses and corporations currently participate in voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and initiatives.

Try a few activities during P2 Week this year, and encourage your neighbors and colleagues to participate as well! If you are a business, join one or more of the DEQ’s partnerships this week to learn more about how others in business are practicing pollution prevention. Contact the DEQ Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Michigan’s Pollution Prevention Week slogan is:

“Preserving our home, right from the start!”

Michigan agencies are actively practicing P2 and green initiatives. Among these are: the DNR has been reduced wastes at most parks and designed restrooms that are energy and resource efficient; DTMB has been improving energy efficiencies and recycling within state buildings; since 2005, all state buildings have been built energy efficient and green. DEQ District offices in both Bay City and South East Michigan have been certified as green with the US Green Building Council and Energy Star. All of these efforts save the state money by reducing waste, protecting staff health, and saving energy.

Note: The DEQ Pollution Prevention (P2) Web site is at: www.michigan.gov/p2

Pollution Prevention (P2) Week Activity Ideas

P2 Week activities can be as easy as publicizing “green” efforts that already exist in your community or organization. The type of activity you undertake is limited only by your imagination and energy!

Local Agencies/Government:

- Formally proclaim **P2 Week!** (see attached example) and present awards.
- Hold brown bag lunch seminars about: how to save energy, food donation, rain gardens, etc.
- Join [Michigan Green Communities](#) and take the challenge.

Businesses:

- Attend the Sustainability Series [Webinars](#) and [Conference](#).
- Set up a mentoring program where experienced companies help others to initiate green programs.
- Hold tours of clean, lean or green operations to show off what you have accomplished.
- Participate in a community environmental project like [Neighborhood Environmental Partners](#) (NEP).
- Host a workshop on green activities that improve regulatory compliance and cost savings.
- Join the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) [P2 Partnerships](#).
- Join the DEQ's [Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership](#) (MBP3).
- Apply to the DEQ for [Clean Corporate Citizen](#) (C3) status.
- Request an [Integrated Assessment](#) – free, confidential advice for waste reduction and operational efficiency.

All Organizations:

- Host an event for staff and visitors including displays, workshops, and other activities.
- Organize carpool or “Bike-to-Work” days.
- Participate in a community environmental project like [Neighborhood Environmental Partners](#) (NEP).
- Support community recycling, household hazardous waste, and other collections.
- Develop an [Environmental Management System](#) for your facility.
- Add environmentally preferable and low toxic materials into your purchasing procedures.

Schools:

- Participate in the Green School Program. www.michiangreenschools.org
- Have students write and present a play, puppet show, or musical performance about green actions.
- Organize an environmental art show consisting of art produced from recycled materials.
- Have students analyze ways your school can cut down on the amount of trash or food you throw away and make a list of all the possibilities. Establish a Green Team to implement workable ideas.
- Have students conduct energy or water-use audits within the school.
- Organize a field trip to a recycling/composting center or local treatment facility.
- Sponsor contest among classes to reduce paper waste, food waste, recycling, etc.
- Develop a bulletin board emphasizing things people can do to reduce air pollution, water, and energy use.
- Ask students to keep a diary for one day to detail their activities and to identify waste reduction alternatives for activities known to contribute to pollution: for example, walk to school rather than drive.
- Have students make a personal pledge to do one thing during **P2 Week** that will prevent pollution.
- Have a drawing and award environmentally appropriate prizes to winners (wind-up flashlights, etc.).

Additional Activities:

- Hold a celebratory breakfast for community and/or business spotlighting accomplishments. Consider a press release for the event.
- Have guest speakers on green practices available, or on those that they have used.
- Have a “Clean-up Day” for local natural and recreation areas.
- Provide an article for newsletters, local newspapers, or radio service announcements focusing on a particular issue.
- Plan environmental workshops that focus on green or sustainability programs during this week.

Tips for Being Green

What's your footprint? [Carbon Footprint](#)/[Ecological Footprint](#)

At Home:

- 🌱 Use re-usable grocery and shopping bags!
- 🌱 Install a programmable thermostat to turn down the heat or air conditioning at night.
- 🌱 Buy carbon neutral or give it as a gift: www.liveneutral.com; www.terrapass.com.
- 🌱 Replace lights with energy saving compact fluorescents (CFLs) or LEDs.
- 🌱 Do not mow your lawn or fill your gas tank on Ozone Action Days.
- 🌱 Minimize water use by purchasing efficient toilets, faucets, and shower heads.
- 🌱 Use a household hazardous waste collection site to dispose of hazardous wastes such as batteries, cleaning fluids, paint thinners, pesticides, and mercury items.
- 🌱 Recycle! Recycle plastics, glass, aluminum, newspaper, used oil, tennis shoes, eye glasses, cell phones, electronic equipment, TVs, remodeling construction wastes, etc.
- 🌱 Purchase non-toxic, and [Energy Star](#) efficient products with minimal packaging.
- 🌱 Use little or no fertilizer or pesticides, especially near lakes and streams.
- 🌱 Buy local! Local farmers, businesses, manufacturers (this supports local businesses and reduces fuel needs and transportation emissions).
- 🌱 Increase the amount of insulation in your home to reduce heat loss and save on energy bills.

At Work:

- 🌱 Carpool, bicycle, walk, or take public transportation to work. www.michigan.gov/mdot
- 🌱 Start or support an office recycling program for paper, toner cartridges, etc.
- 🌱 Look into the installation of energy saving lights, or add timers or motion sensors.
- 🌱 Give preference to doing business with other environmentally sound companies.
- 🌱 Print on both sides of the paper to reduce paper use and filing cabinets needed.
- 🌱 Use green, healthy, less toxic cleaning materials.
- 🌱 Do a waste audit to reduce expenses. Get a free audit by the [RETAP Program](#).
- 🌱 Join the [Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership](#) program.

At School:

- 🌱 Participate in the Green School Program. www.michiangreenschools.org
- 🌱 Maintain heaters, air conditioners, refrigerators, and other equipment to reduce the energy used.
- 🌱 Print copies on both sides of each sheet of paper.
- 🌱 Start or support a school recycling program for juice boxes, paper, cardboard, etc.
- 🌱 Start a free-cycle or re-cycle program for outgrown student sports or music equipment.
- 🌱 Use Biodiesel in the school buses. This reduces fuel needs and emission problems.
- 🌱 Use washable dishes in the cafeteria.
- 🌱 Have students analyze and make lists of ways the school can increase recycling and cut down on the trash thrown away and energy used. Establish an Eco-Club consisting of students, teachers, and maintenance personnel to implement actions.
- 🌱 Purchase green products with minimal packaging or that are [Energy Star](#) efficient.
- 🌱 Use less toxic chemicals in the classroom.

Pollution Prevention (P2) Week Sample Press Release

**[Business/local government/organization]
to Observe
National Pollution Prevention Week**

[Business/local government/organization] is pleased to announce its support and participation in Pollution Prevention (P2) Week, celebrated this year September 18-24, 2017. This has been a national event celebrated annually since 1996. P2 is any method or activity that prevents, eliminates and/or minimizes the production of waste at its source, and includes environmentally sound reuse or recycling. P2 or 'green' initiatives help to sustain our environment and economy.

This year, **[business/local government/organization]** has a number of activities planned, including **[list of activities and schedules]**. "Pollution Prevention Week is a perfect opportunity to raise awareness and educate our community and employees about the environment and sustainability," said **[business/local government/organization official]**. "Reducing waste, and conserving water and energy helps everyone save money and protect the environment!"

For more information on pollution prevention, or what you can do to participate in P2 Week, please contact the **[business/local government/organization]**, or call the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278. P2 information is also available on the DEQ's P2 website, www.michigan.gov/p2 or on the "P2 Week" website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/p2community> .

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Pollution Prevention (P2) Week Sample Proclamation

Pollution Prevention Week September 18-24, 2017

WHEREAS, the people of (city/county) of (city/county Name) value the area's natural resources and supports a clean and safe environment in which to raise our children; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of pollution prevention are well documented and achieved through eliminating waste at its source, or where this is not feasible, reducing, reusing and recycling; and

WHEREAS, pollution prevention can improve environmental conditions and thus the standard of living; protect the health and safety of workers; strengthen our community; and provide for our future; and

WHEREAS, pollution prevention can increase industrial and energy efficiency, and commercial competitiveness, and thus save businesses money; and help make the state become more environmentally, economically, and socially sound; and

WHEREAS, by focusing on pollution prevention, Michigan can meet the challenges of having healthy communities, clean watersheds, efficient government, competitive businesses; and

WHEREAS, Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity for government to join forces with business, industry, environmental groups, community organizations, and the citizens of Michigan to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that September 18-24, 2017, is Pollution Prevention Week and the (city/county) of (city/county Name) does hereby urge all community members and businesses of (city/county Name) to join in this observance and incorporate pollution prevention into our everyday activities.

Dated: _____

(City/County Elected Official)

Pollution Prevention (P2) Week Sample Resolution

In the matter of establishing Pollution Prevention as a Priority in the Use and Management of Hazardous Materials in the City/County of _____.

WHEREAS, The presence of hazardous materials, pollutants, and wastes in the City/County of _____ poses a potential threat to public health and safety through exposure to ourselves and our children or our air, water, or land; and

WHEREAS, Pollution prevention is a fundamental strategy to protect the environment and maintain the health and safety of workers in the workplace by stopping pollution before it occurs. Pollution prevention can benefit businesses by increasing industrial efficiency through process and material waste reduction, thereby saving businesses time and money.

WHEREAS, With a proactive approach to pollution prevention, Michigan can meet the challenges of having both a sustainable environment and healthy economy for its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Pollution prevention is a means to promote environmental stewardship which improves our communities and protects our natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity to join together for a clean and vibrant Michigan by taking action to reduce waste at its source or, where this is not feasible, identify opportunities to reuse and recycle; therefore, be it

RESOLVED That it is the policy of the City/County of _____ to encourage and promote practices and technologies that will, in order of priority:

First, prevent the generation of pollutants at the source by eliminating or reducing the use of hazardous substances;

Second, recover and recycle wastes for reuse; and

Third, handle the wastes that cannot be reduced or recycled so that the environment and community health are not threatened by their management and ultimate disposal.