



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Liesl Eichler Clark, Director 

DATE: December 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on Waste Minimization and Waste Reduction Assistance

In accordance with Section 324.14306 of Part 143, Waste Minimization, and Section 324.14510 of Part 145, Waste Reduction Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on Waste Minimization and Waste Reduction Assistance for fiscal year 2020.

If you need further information, please contact Elizabeth M. Browne, Acting Director, Materials Management Division, at 517-284-6551; or you may contact me at 517-284-6708.

Attachment

cc/att: Chris Harkins, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency  
Chris Kolb, Director, State Budget Office  
JoAnne Huls, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office  
George W. Cook, III, Legislative Affairs Director, Governor's Office  
Emily Laidlaw, Policy Director, Governor's Office  
Josh Sefton, Senate Fiscal Agency  
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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

## Legislative Report

# Waste Minimization and Waste Reduction Assistance Report

Report Period:  
Fiscal Year 2020

This report is provided in accordance with Section 324.14306 of Part 143, Waste Minimization, and Section 324.14510 of Part 145, Waste Reduction Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

### **MCL 324.14302 Pollution prevention; incorporation; purpose; personnel and support staff.**

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) conducted the following actions, including data collection and analysis, to incorporate pollution prevention goals within its regulatory and permit programs and to advance the concept and implementation of pollution prevention:

- Through the Integrated Assessment Program, conducted voluntary, self-initiated, pollution prevention assessments at small- to medium-sized businesses with the aim of improving their in-plant environmental performance and compliance. As part of the launch, EGLE conducted intradepartmental trainings on the program.
- Identified per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as an opportunity to encourage pollution prevention through EGLE's regulatory and permit programs and actively engaged with the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) and its statewide workgroups to explore and implement pollution prevention solutions.
- Through the Clean Diesel Program and the Fuel Transportation Program, used pollution prevention strategies to support EGLE's Air Quality Division's priorities to maintain and/or gain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone.
- Participated in EGLE's Climate and Energy Team, which included developing recommendations to incorporate mitigation/resilience into criteria used in funding decisions.
- Participated in the DTMB's "Sustainability Practices at State Facilities," which has a broad mandate to reduce the state's Greenhouse Gas footprint, including waste reduction, sustainable purchasing, energy efficiency and renewable power, carpooling, improvements in the fuel-economy and deployment of State vehicles, and encouraging sustainable individual behaviors by EGLE staff.

### **MCL 324.14303 Pollution prevention; duties of department; emphasis on in-plant pollution prevention and reduction of hazardous waste.**

EGLE conducted the following activities:

- Identified PFAS as an opportunity to encourage pollution prevention through EGLE's regulatory and permit programs, and actively engaged with MPART to explore and implement pollution prevention solutions.
- Supported the Integrated Assessment Program.
- Set goals to reduce diesel emissions in the state to protect human health and improve air quality.
  - EGLE's Fuel Transformation Program collaborated with diverse stakeholders to pilot and promote new zero-emission vehicles and protect children's health with Volkswagen Settlement Funds by incentivizing the replacement of 317 diesel school buses with 17 new, all-electric school buses and 300 lower-emission diesel and propane school buses. The program has a direct impact on improving air quality, and this project will have a total lifetime emissions reduction of nearly 27 short tons of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), approximately 1,700 pounds of PM 2.5, and nearly 3,800 short tons of Greenhouse Gasses.
  - The Michigan Clean Diesel Program focuses on reducing diesel emissions from vehicles, engines, and equipment prioritizing areas designated as having poor air quality and to gain or maintain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone. The fiscal year (FY) 2020 grant removes 13 older diesel buses and replaces them with 12 propane buses and one new diesel bus for elimination of an estimated lifetime emissions of 2.3 short tons of NO<sub>x</sub> and .185 short ton of fine particular matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).
- Continued efforts to improve recycling in Michigan:
  - Infrastructure Grants: EGLE's FY 2020 Recycling Program collaborated on 23 projects totaling \$3.2 million in grants to local community, tribal, and non-profit partners, helping to increase collection and processing capacity and improve access and participation.
  - Recycling Quality Improvement: EGLE launched a collaboration in 2020 with a national nonprofit, The Recycling Partnership, to combat recycling contamination and improve the capture of high-quality recyclables at curbside and public drop-off recycling facilities. The projects are made possible by an \$800,000 EGLE grant and will continue through 2021 to

serve more than 100 communities and 300,000 households extending from the Tip of the Mitt to the Sunrise Side, from Grand Rapids to Metro Detroit.

- Public Education Campaign: EGLE's national award-winning "Know It Before You Throw It" campaign featuring the Recycling Raccoon Squad continued to garner extraordinary levels of engagement from the public, media, local units of government, and other partners. The campaign introduced a local focus during 2020, collaborating with seven community recycling programs throughout Michigan on local campaigns tailored specifically to the needs of each community. This successful effort will expand to include more Michigan communities and partners in 2021.
- Markets: EGLE launched NextCycle Michigan to improve the recovery of materials and create a circular economy within Michigan. The EGLE-led initiative utilizes Innovation Challenges to identify, incubate, and fund ideas that grow Michigan's recycled materials' supply chain and end markets. This provided businesses, communities, and non-profits with funding support through the Recycling Market Development Grant Program to help create demand-pull for materials that were once thought of as waste, keeping them circulating in Michigan's economy.

#### **MCL 324.14304 Transmitting certain information.**

Due to changing technology, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) maintains relevant information received under Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know, Section 313 of Subtitle B of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Public Law 99-499, 11023, and makes it available to EGLE at any time via the Internet at: [EPA.gov/Toxics-Release-Inventory-Tri-Program/Tri-Data-and-Tools](https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-data-and-tools).

#### **MCL 324.14502 Reduction in amount of generated environmental waste; emphasis on pollution prevention; personnel; staff and services.**

EGLE administered the following initiatives and programs to inform, assist, educate, and provide funding to persons and to facilitate a reduction in the amount of environmental waste generated in the state with a particular emphasis on in-plant pollution prevention:

- Completed one, full on-site assessment, through the Integrated Assessment Program. Four additional assessments are currently in progress. Assessment findings presented several opportunities for improved electrical and gas usage savings, lighting upgrades throughout the site buildings, and general housekeeping, improving staff safety and efficiency.
- Administered the Small Business Pollution Prevention Loan Program to help finance pollution prevention projects at small businesses.
- Administered the Clean Corporate Citizen Program and the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Program to recognize businesses for their environmental compliance and improvement of their environmental performance.
- Provided matching funds and administered the federal Diesel Emission Reduction Grant (DERA), which focuses on reducing emissions from diesel engines. One grant of \$450,000 was issued to Hamilton Consortium, which removed 13 older diesel buses and replaced them with 12 propane buses and one new diesel bus; this will eliminate an estimated lifetime emissions of 2.3 short tons of NO<sub>x</sub> and .185 short ton of PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- Administered Michigan's allocation of funds from the Volkswagen Settlement, with a focus on mitigating NO<sub>x</sub> emitted into the air from diesel engines.
- Conducted 13 webinars and one conference to educate interested organizations about pollution prevention technologies, alternative fuels, and sustainability. These included: the Sustainability Series Webinars, which targeted sustainability professionals, consultants, nonprofits, governments, and communities; the Michigan Clean Diesel Program and the Fuel Transformation Program school bus webinars, which targeted local, regional, state, and federal governments, transit agencies, schools and universities, non-profits, regional planning agencies, and industry professionals for trucking, airlines, manufacturing (buses, electric vehicles, and equipment),

utilities, alternative fuels, rails, and marine industries. The Michigan Sustainability Conference targeted sustainability professionals in manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, and communities.

- Conducted 24 presentations, with an emphasis on alternative fuels and sustainability. Presentations were made to the following conferences, associations, and programs: Michigan Compliance Week, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Michigan Green Healthcare Conference, Southwest Detroit Truck Route Study Steering Committee, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation, Birmingham and Detroit Rotary Clubs, Fox 47, The 100 Best Fleets Conference, Grand Valley State University, Michigan Sustainability Conference, and Clean Marinas Program.

#### **MCL 324.14503 Pollution prevention information clearinghouse; establishment; duties; contracts.**

EGLE maintained a Pollution Prevention Program Website to distribute information and publications pertaining to pollution prevention, pollution prevention technologies, grant applications, and program forms. EGLE also sponsored pollution prevention workshops targeted at specific industries, with a focus on the health, environmental, and educational benefits of emission reductions from school buses. To offer pollution prevention assistance, EGLE staff participated in conferences, meetings, and webinars presented by business organizations.

#### **MCL 324.14504 Pollution prevention technical assistance.**

EGLE provided and supported pollution prevention technical assistance to business and industry throughout the state by providing instruction on self-conducted environmental waste audits, consultant referrals, on-site assistance to business and industry, and other information and assistance. These actions were primarily accomplished by the following activities:

- Conducted an on-site assessment through the Integrated Assessment Program.
- Conducted a series of webinars in collaboration with the following: the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Training, National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, Suppliers Partnership, USEPA-DEPA, Detroit Green Business Council, Green Living Science, and PFAS Summit.

#### **MCL 324.14506 Pollution prevention research grants program; establishment; distribution of information and applications for grants; form and contents of application; recipients of grants; considerations.**

There was not any activity; EGLE was unable to provide grant funding due to fund unavailability and discretionary spending limitations because of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic. If revenue becomes available in the future, EGLE will pursue the program.

#### **MCL 324.14513 Small business pollution prevention assistance revolving loan fund; creation; disposition; lapse; expenditure; loan eligibility requirements; loan limitations; “fund” defined.**

EGLE has continued to maintain the program; however, demand for the program has been extremely low during the last several years. No new loans were executed during FY 2020.