

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development**  
**Environmental Stewardship Division**  
**MAEAP TURFGRASS – FY16**



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**Legal Authority:** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended, and Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011, as amended

**Description of the Program:**

- The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) is a voluntary, proactive initiative designed to protect groundwater and surface water resources by advancing turfgrass management practices, preventing pollution, and increasing regulatory compliance within the turf industry.
- The program provides on-site visits and workshops providing compliance assistance, technical assistance, pollution prevention and “green” purchasing information.
- MTESP is intended to organize efforts of the turfgrass industry, state agencies, Michigan State University, and environmental advocacy groups to advance the environmental stewardship of the turfgrass industry and to recognize environmental achievements.



**Why It Matters:**

- The program identifies state and federal laws affecting the turf industry related to drinking water and irrigation wells, fuel storage, pesticides and fertilizers, and emergency response plans.
- The MTESP has been used as a model for other voluntary, industry-based environmental programs in Michigan.
- There is strong interest in expanding this program into additional segments of the green industry by the Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association, professional lawn care companies, parks, and municipalities.

**Key Stakeholders**

- Michigan Turfgrass Foundation
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Golf Course Owners Association
- Golf Association of Michigan
- Michigan Golf Course Superintendents

**Key Statistics**

- Michigan turfgrass encompasses 1.89 million acres
- 413 participating properties
- 30 properties certified by the program

**FY16 Accomplishments:**

- Promoted MTESP activities at the 2016 Michigan Turfgrass Conference halftime show with a table top booth.
- Promoted the program at every Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA) event, 18 total in 2016 with over 1,000 total attendees.
- Promoted MTESP at the 2016 Michigan Golf Course Owners Conference Vendor Luncheon with a table top booth.
- Advertising with the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association.
- Advertising with the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association.
- Recognition for certified facilities in the GAM Course Directory.
- Advertising with the GAM.

**Measuring Success:**

Metric	FY14	FY15	FY16
Workshops provided	4	5	0
Workshop participation	317	307	0
On-site visits	1	10	13
Participating courses	255	286	413
Total certified courses	75	85	30

**Dashboards and Scorecards:**

- The MAEAP Turfgrass Program did not have an item on the departmental scorecard for FY16. Staff is working with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Director of Strategy and Business Performance to design measures toward this end.

**FY17 Goals:**

- Continue to refine and update the online training tool designed to reduce the environmental impact of the turf industry on water quality.
- Pursue incentives for assessment completion and certification, and to increase initial participation and continuing participation in the program.
- Work with the PPPMD division to educate facilities that are in need of the program by inclusion of a tri fold document included with the letter detailing issues from an inspection.