



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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



PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

TO: Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Phillip D. Roos, Director 

DATE: January 25, 2024

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 2023.

If you need further information, please contact Elizabeth M. Browne, Director, Materials Management Division, at 517-242-2746; or you may contact me at 517-614-6873.

Attachment

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Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency  
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JoAnne Huls, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office  
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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 2023

Authority:  
MCL 324.14306 of Part 143, Waste Minimization, and  
MCL 324.14510 of Part 145, Waste Reduction Assistance, of the Natural  
Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as Amended

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

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) conducted the following actions to incorporate pollution prevention (P2) goals within its regulatory and permit programs, including data collection and analysis to advance the concept and implementation of P2:

- The Clean Diesel Program, with a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant, supported the P2 priorities of the USEPA, the Clean Diesel Program, and EGLE's Air Quality Division to maintain and/or gain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone, including reduction of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and carbon dioxide.
- The Fuel Transformation Program (FTP) used P2 strategies to reduce vehicle emissions and support the priorities of the Air Quality Division to maintain and/or gain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone.

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

EGLE conducted the following activities:

- Set goals to reduce diesel emissions in the state to protect human health and improve air quality through the EGLE FTP.
- The Michigan Clean Diesel Program focuses on reducing diesel emissions from vehicles, engines, and equipment, prioritizing areas designated as having poor air quality and gaining or maintaining compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone.
- Continued efforts to improve recycling in Michigan through the following programs:
  - Materials management planning, including grants to counties, regional planning agencies, municipalities, and other entities responsible for preparing, implementing, and maintaining materials management plans.
  - Local recycling programs, including grants to local units of government, nonprofit, and for-profit entities for recycling infrastructure, local recycling outreach campaigns, and other costs necessary to support increased recycling.
  - Market development, including grants to local units of government and nonprofit and for-profit entities for purchasing equipment, research and development, or associated activities to provide new or increased use of recycled materials to support the development of recycling markets.
  - NextCycle Michigan, a State of Michigan-sponsored partnership and innovation platform designed to support the state's recycling, climate, and circular economy objectives through broad and diverse engagement across Michigan. NextCycle Michigan is designed to help applicants bring quality recycling projects forward, not just for EGLE grant funding, but for broader recycling public and private investment across the state.

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

Due to changing technology, the 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 online 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 facilitate a reduction in the amount of environmental waste generated in the state with a particular emphasis on in-plant P2:

- Conducted webinars and a conference to educate interested organizations about P2 technologies with a particular emphasis on alternative fuels, food waste reduction, and sustainability. The Catalyst Communities Webinars targeted sustainability professionals, nonprofits, local governments, and other community-based organizations. The Michigan Clean Diesel Program and FTP school bus grant administration targeted local, regional, state, and federal governments; transportation; transit agencies; schools and universities; non-profits; and regional planning agencies. The Michigan Sustainability Conference targeted areas included fuel transformation, sustainability professionals, manufacturing, healthcare, recycling, and communities.
- Administered the federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 16133, which focuses on reducing emissions from diesel engines.
- Administered Michigan's allocation of funds from the Volkswagen Settlement, with a focus on mitigating NOx emitted into the air from diesel engines.
- Administered the Clean Corporate Citizen Program and the Michigan Business P2 Program to recognize businesses for their environmental compliance and continuous improvement of their environmental performance.
- Provided presentations with a particular emphasis on energy, recycling, and sustainability.

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

EGLE maintained a P2 Program website:

- Published information describing P2 technologies.
- Distributed publications pertaining to P2.
- Provided information and application forms, as necessary to fulfill EGLE's responsibilities.

EGLE also sponsored P2 workshops, targeted at specific industries, with a focus on the health, environmental, and educational benefits of emission reductions from vehicle electrification and food waste reduction. EGLE staff also participated in the conferences, meetings, and webinars of business organizations to offer P2 assistance.

**MCL 324.14504 Pollution prevention technical assistance.**

EGLE provided and supported P2 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:

- Launched the Retired Engineers, Scientists, Technicians, Administrators, Researchers, and Teachers (RESTART). RESTART assessed 50 public K-12 school buildings representing 2.8 million square feet of building space and identified recommendations that would yield approximately 17 million kilowatt-hours in electricity savings, 272,000 centum cubic feet in fuel savings, and 15,000-kilowatt year in demand reduction.
- Conducted webinars in collaboration with Catalyst Communities.
- Hosted the Michigan Sustainability Conference in collaboration with Michigan Green Communities and Catalyst Communities.
- Participated in on-site assessments for small businesses with the Michigan State University Industrial Assessment Center.

**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.**

Funding was not allocated for this activity in fiscal year 2023.

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

EGLE participated in the USEPA [P2 Financing](#) workgroup to collaborate with the USEPA and other states for review and coordination of resources for P2 financial assistance and provided technical assistance for the development of the [USEPA Financing Tip Sheet](#) and [An Introduction to Pollution Prevention Finance](#). EGLE has continued to maintain the program; however, demand for the program has been extremely low the past several years. No new loans were executed during fiscal year 2023.