



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR


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



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

TO: Senator Jeff Irwin, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Representative Rachel Hood, Chair, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

FROM: Phillip D. Roos, Director 

DATE: September 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Report on the Community Pollution Prevention Fund

In accordance with Section 445.573f(5) of Initiated Law 1 of 1976, as amended (Bottle Bill), following is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) annual report on the Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Fund for fiscal year (FY) 2023. This report summarizes the P2 grant provided, contractual commitments made and achieved, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of this fund.

EGLE issued one P2 grant from the Community P2 Fund in FY 2023 to the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum for \$100,000 to develop a statewide Food Waste Reduction Roadmap. This grant was a carryover from FY 2022; it was awarded in FY 2022, but not fully executed until FY 2023. The project was approved for a grant extension and will close in December 2023.

The purpose of the FY 2022 Food Waste Reduction Roadmap Grant Project (Roadmap) was to identify the current best practices in food waste reduction that are taking place in Michigan today--specifically, the best practices for farmers, food manufacturers, the food service industry, and grocery retailers. This project will also identify the barriers to adopting and implementing identified strategies to reduce food waste. The Roadmap is underway and currently expected to be completed by the end of December 2023. It will result in recommendations for state and local policy makers to address barriers to adoption and implementation of food waste reduction strategies in the farming, food manufacturing, food service industry, and grocery retail sectors. Early drafts of this Roadmap indicate that technical assistance to help educate and identify pollution prevention, food waste reduction, and sustainability opportunities and best practices is needed in the food industry in Michigan.

An evaluation of the Community P2 grant funds was conducted in FY 2023 to determine how these funds could contribute to the objectives outlined in the MI Healthy Climate Plan. As stated in the MI Healthy Climate Plan, one of the key recommendations listed in the plan is to reduce food waste by half, as part of the effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Michigan. This key recommendation aligns with the Roadmap and the use of future Community P2 funding to be dedicated to food waste reduction efforts throughout Michigan. Food production is the largest stress to biodiversity, through habitat destruction and nutrient pollution, and it is estimated that 170 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent GHG emissions come from food loss and waste in the United States each year. Food and beverage production create a

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variety of liquid wastes (which often contain high levels of fats, oils, grease, and starch and have a high biological oxygen demand) and solids (which require modified treatment processes, compared to other wastewater treatment applications). Pollution prevention is source reduction; by focusing the Community P2 Program on food waste reduction, these funds will be directly impacting the reduction in GHG emissions throughout the state.

If you need further information, please contact Elizabeth M. Browne, Director, Materials Management Division, at 517-242-2746; or you may contact me at 517-512-5992.

cc: Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency
Christopher M. Harkins, Director, State Budget Office
Patti Tremblay, Director of Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office
Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office
Jonah Houtz, Senate Fiscal Agency
Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency
Jacques McNeely, State Budget Office
Zach Hendrix, State Budget Office
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
Travis Boeskool, Deputy Director, EGLE
Paul McDonald, EGLE
Dale Shaw, EGLE
Elizabeth M. Browne, EGLE
Tracy Kecskemeti, EGLE
Julie Staveland, EGLE
Emily Freeman, EGLE
Devan Dodge, EGLE
Rebecca DeGrazia, EGLE