

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# ENVIROMATTERS

September 25, 2006

## MDE Helps Companies Prevent Pollution with Award Winning Program

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) continues to provide pollution prevention services to Maryland businesses that enable them to reduce their waste streams and operating costs and improve their overall environmental performance. In particular, MDE's Environmental Management System (EMS) Implementation Assistance Program, operated in partnership with the Maryland Technology Extension Service, has helped 30 companies over the past five years meet the requirements of the global ISO 14001 standard for EMSs. While some of the participants choose to go on and register to the standard, others simply enjoy the benefits of EMS implementation at their facility including stronger regulatory compliance.

### P2's Proactive Approach

EMSs help facilities both strengthen their environmental compliance program and institutionalize the concept of pollution prevention through company policies and procedures. P2 offers a proactive approach to environmental management where waste is reduced or eliminated at the source rather than through control and treatment technology. For instance, companies with EMSs must have environmental policy statements that include a commitment to preventing pollution. Companies are also required to identify all environmental impacts, both regulated and non-regulated and identify projects that address these impacts.

### Proven Program Results from P2 Participants

An aerospace manufacturer increased electric power use efficiency and eliminated the use of chromates through reformulation of its primer coat.

A bottling company reduced electric energy consumption by 7.5 percent, reduced water consumption by 7.5 percent, and solid waste by 10 percent.

An automotive supplier saved \$150 per month on hazardous waste reduction from paint mixing, reduced solid waste by 10 percent and saved \$470 on monthly energy costs.

A cement manufacturer undertook a successful water-recycling pilot potentially saving 17 million gallons per year in water use and discharge, saving \$10,000-12,000/year statewide.

An aerospace company achieved a 200-ton reduction of solid waste with an associated annual cost savings of \$90,000 per year, and a 600,000 kilowatt per year energy reduction, saving \$50,000 per year. This reduced 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide and other air emissions from entering our environment.

A food manufacturer achieved a 20 percent reduction in wastewater, 5-10 percent reduction in water use, 25 percent reduction (2,000 lbs) in hazardous waste, 100,000 pounds in solid waste, and a 10 percent reduction in energy usage.

The MDE EMS program involves workshops, on-site meetings and technical assistance. At the conclusion of this six-month program, an audit team is available to help assess the company's EMS. There is no cost to participate in this valuable program.

The program received the Most Valuable Pollution Prevention Program Award last week from the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, - the largest national membership organization devoted to pollution prevention. Its members are a group of experts from business and government.

For more information on the benefits of a "prevention-first" approach, contact MDE's Pollution Prevention Coordinator Laura Armstrong, [larmstrong@mde.state.md.us](mailto:larmstrong@mde.state.md.us) at (410) 537-4119 or 1-800-633-6101 x 4119 or visit our web site at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/permits/pollution.asp>

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