



Achieving Pollution Prevention Success

Conserving Resources through On-Site Technical Assistance in Ohio

Project Description

Funded by a 16-month U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pollution Prevention (P2) grant, the University of Toledo, in partnership with the Ohio Edison Centers and other members of the Ohio Statewide Environmental Network (OSEN)², collaborated to discuss assistance opportunities for small and mid-size manufacturers in Ohio. The goal of the project was to help companies achieve reductions in water and energy use, wastewater generated, and greenhouse gas emissions, while saving money.

Seminars

Two source reduction seminars were planned and conducted by the Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) and TechSolve to provide training and education in current best practices for resource conservation. CIFT conducted a seminar regarding water conservation and wastewater best practices attended by 14 manufacturers. TechSolve conducted a seminar regarding solid waste disposal and resource recovery that was attended by 16 organizations.

On-Site Technical Assessments

The University of Toledo, along with TechSolve and CIFT, conducted twelve assessments of Ohio manufacturers and businesses to identify opportunities for pollution prevention, including energy efficiency improvements. TechSolve's four site assessments looked primarily at water usage, wastewater management, and resource recovery in companies in the Cincinnati area and resulted in recommendations such as the installation of a waste treatment system to reduce cost of off-site treatment, resource recovery for an industrial byproduct for use as a fuel source, and the reuse of treated wastewater for on-site cooling usage. The University of Toledo's four site assessments included a comprehensive examination of current lighting usage at companies in the Toledo area. This included evaluating and recommending the switch to more efficient lighting technologies to conserve electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CIFT's four site assessments consisted of evaluating and making recommendations to improve the efficiency of compressed air systems and wastewater treatment systems of companies in the northern Ohio area.

Results and Lessons Learned

The pollution prevention project achieved the following results:

- 25,234 kWh electricity conserved
- 23 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions (MTCO₂e) reduced
- 8,480 pounds of hazardous waste reduced
- \$2,450 saved

¹ Pollution Prevention involves the reduction or elimination of pollution at the source by modifying production processes, using less toxic substances, implementing resource conservation techniques, conserving water and energy, and reducing greenhouse gases. Energy and water conservation, hazardous materials and greenhouse gas reductions, and cost savings are all benefits of a P2 approach. EPA provides grant assistance to states and tribes to help businesses identify and implement P2 practices.

² OSEN was formed in 1997 to provide environmental assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers in Ohio, and includes the following organizations: Ohio EPA, University of Toledo, Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT), TechSolve, and the Ohio Department of Development.

Snapshot

Grantee: University of Toledo

Title: University of Toledo Pollution Prevention Incentives for States

EPA Funding: \$97,155

Total Funding: \$194,342

Project Period: 10/1/2013 - 1/31/2015

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