

## **Healthcare Environmental Awareness and Resource Recovery Team (HEARRT)**

**Abbott Northwestern Hospital**

**Thursday, April 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – noon**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Announcements**

- Crystal Saric Bevins, Fairview's waste coordinator, announced Fairview has developed a green charter and environmental policy
- New MnTAP fact sheets:
  - "Reducing waste from the operating room" Case study of surgeon reducing waste. available at: [www.mntap.umn.edu/health/142CS.OperatingRoomWaste.pdf](http://www.mntap.umn.edu/health/142CS.OperatingRoomWaste.pdf)
  - "Hospital and clinic cleaning guidelines" [mntap.umn.edu/health/CleaningGuide.html](http://mntap.umn.edu/health/CleaningGuide.html)
- Addressing Climate Change brochure developed by Healthcare without Harm
- LESS 1-800-621-6404 Is a reuse program for laboratory cuvettes and rotors. Saves money and waste with reprocessing—about 50% of new cost. See [www.lessinc.net/](http://www.lessinc.net/)
- Hennepin County Medical Center has signed the Healthy Foods compact and is composting food waste.

#### **Minnesota Global Warming**

*Jim Chiles, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 651-757-2272, [jim.chiles@state.mn.us](mailto:jim.chiles@state.mn.us)*

Is the climate really changing? While there are many perspectives on global warming, Data shows rising temperatures that match the rising concentration of Green House Gases (GHG) increasing in our atmosphere. We have seen a rapid increase in both these during the Industrial Age. This has led to climate variability and most notably, such things as the melting of glaciers, change in forest types, a significant change in nighttime temperatures, and a change in loon distribution.

Minnesota's GHG emissions were about 150 million tons of CO2 equivalent in 2005, an increase of 32% from 1990 (twice the national average). This increase is due to population growth and consumer choices. If no action is taken, MN emissions would increase to 200 million tons by 2025. To reverse the trend, each level of government has different opportunities and hurdles.

The top three major emission sources for MN in 2005 were electricity use (34%), transportation (24%), and use of fossil fuels in Res/Comm/Ind Sector (20%).

In 2007-08, bills were passed including Bio-fuel initiatives, more renewable energy for electricity, and a GHG reduction target of 15% by 2015, 30% by 2025, and 80% by 2050.

The Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) made recommendations on how to apportion effort by sector to meet the state's overall GHG reduction targets and sketched out recommendations. Another stakeholder group is now following up with details about policies for better solid waste management in the high-population areas.

#### **Winning the Environmental Award**

*Mary Wenck, VA Medical Center, 320-252-1670 x6508, [mary.wenck@va.gov](mailto:mary.wenck@va.gov)*

The St. Cloud VA Medical Center won the VA Midwest Region Network 2009 Green Environmental Management System Award. Their (GEMS) program is an ISO 14001 based environmental management system used to blend environmental compliance, stewardship and continual performance improvement into daily operations at all levels of the organization. The award recognized the St. Cloud VA Medical Center for its paper reduction, rag management, and affirmative procurement programs.

The paper reduction program uses awareness, pledges with lanyard rewards, and measurement to motivate employees to reduce paper use. The shop rag management program uses a color coded system to ensure rags are properly disposed based upon the products used on them. Material Data Safety Sheets and products are coded with either a blue (non-hazardous), green (oil-grease) or red (toxic-flammable) dot. The dot color tells employees which color rag to use and which color disposal bin to place used rags in. The Affirmative

Procurement Policy (APP) requires all employees to purchase environmentally friendly products and its scope extends to contractors and suppliers as well. A few of the environmentally friendly purchases required by the APP include recycled content products, energy and water efficient products, alternative fuel efficient vehicles, non-ozone depleting products, and products with no or low toxicity.

### **Battery Recycling Service**

*Cheryl Lofrano Zaske, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Coalition, 320-963-2232, [clofrano-zaske@rbrc.com](mailto:clofrano-zaske@rbrc.com)*

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation was founded in 1994 by environmentally-aware rechargeable battery industry members to divert Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd) from entering landfills. Collection started in 1996 in the US and 1997 in Canada. In addition, cell phone recycling began in 2004. The types of batteries that are accepted are Ni-Cd, Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), and Nickel Zinc (Ni Zn).

This is the only comprehensive recycling program of its kind, and is of no-cost to retailers, businesses, communities, and public agencies. Collection, transport, and recycling complies with state and federal laws. So far, 50 million pounds of used rechargeable batteries have been recycled.

When enrolled, a RBRC site identification number is assigned. A pre-paid and pre-addressed box is sent with instructions, including bagging each battery with bags that are provided or tape terminal end of each battery. When full, seal up box and UPS will pick up at your location for free. Another box will then be sent.

This is a waste-less recycling process, where natural resources are recycled, reclaimed nickel and iron are turned into stainless steel, cadmium is used to make new Ni-Cd batteries, the battery electrolyte is used in the facility's wastewater treatment plant, and remaining non-hazardous byproducts create slag, used as road base and construction aggregate. The metals are also reclaimed and cell phones are refurbished, when possible. For more information or to enroll, please check visit the web site at [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) or contact Cheryl Lofrano Zaske at [clofrano-zaske@rbrc.com](mailto:clofrano-zaske@rbrc.com).

### **Smart Trips**

*Damian Goebel, Smart Trips, 651-224-8555 x24, [damian@smart-trips.org](mailto:damian@smart-trips.org)*

There are many impacts from people driving alone. This includes air pollution from vehicles and the link to heart disease and respiratory health. Vehicle emissions are directly proportional to fuel consumption. For example, a 1% decrease in fuel consumption equals a 1% decrease in emissions, while a 2% decrease in cars on the road equal 5-8% decrease in congestion. To reduce these issues as a business, metropasses can be offered to employees at a lower cost and internal promotion and region-wide ride matching can increase ridesharing. Showers and lockers can also be offered to bikers and walkers and employees could opt to do telecommuting or a flex-schedule. To learn more about these options, a business could host a Commuter Fair.

### **Hazardous Waste Discussion**

*Brandon Finke, MPCA, 651-757-2358, [Brandon.finke@state.mn.us](mailto:Brandon.finke@state.mn.us)*

*Tanya Maurice, MPCA, 651-757-2555, [Tanya.maurice@state.mn.us](mailto:Tanya.maurice@state.mn.us)*

- MPCA has sent a letter to wastewater treatment facilities in the State regarding pharmaceutical disposal. Please email Brandon or Tanya for a copy of the letter.
- New fact sheets will soon be available on MPCA's website. One related to evaluating for the lethality characteristic and the other gives more guidance on reverse distribution. Look for them in the coming weeks.
- MPCA is looking at the possibility of an on-line self assessment for non-hospital health care generators.
- Finally MHA and MPCA are partnering to provide hazardous waste training again this year. Information can be found at both the MHA and MPCA websites.

### **Attendees**

Name	Phone	Representing	E-mail Address
------	-------	--------------	----------------

Amanda Baribeau	651-757-2211	MPCA	Amanda.baribeau@state.mn.us
Catherine Zimmer	612-624-4635	MnTAP	Zimme053@tc.umn.edu
Tanya Maurice	651-757-2555	MPCA	<a href="mailto:Tanya.maurice@state.mn.us">Tanya.maurice@state.mn.us</a>
Jim Chiles	651-757-2272	MPCA	<a href="mailto:Jim.chiles@state.mn.us">Jim.chiles@state.mn.us</a>
Mary Wenck	320-252-1670	VA Medical Center	<a href="mailto:Mary.wenck@va.gov">Mary.wenck@va.gov</a>
Cheryl Lofrano Zasko	320-963-2232	RBRC	Clofrano-zasko@rbrc.com
Damian Goebel	651-224-8555	Smart Trips	damian@smart-trips.org
Mitch Josephson		Children's Hospitals and Clinics of MN	
Denise J. Deutsch	612-219-0975	SWDI a Division of Stericycle	
Nicki Loduha	612-262-4814	Allina Medical Clinics	
Melissa Turner	507.213.7903	Clean Harbors	
LeRoy Carlson		Redwood Area Hospital	
Bill Freischel	952.891.7547	Dakota County	
Margaret Krishnan	612-467-2647	VAMC Minneapolis	
Katherine Clausen	612-467-7338	VAMC Minneapolis	
Paul whittaker	952-442-2191	Ridgeview Medical	
Jason R. Kuehl	763-315-7900	Institute for Environmental Assessment	
Crystal Saric-Bevins	612-672-6132	Fairview Health Services	
Damian Goebel	651-2248555 x 24	St. Paul Smart Trips	
Warren Winkelman	952-445-7440	Mesical Disposal Sysstems	
Craig Bodin	612-775-8734	Phillips Eye Institute	
Rod Vold	651-775-21226	Bay West	
Doris Sumner	612-863-5093	ANW	
Ferid Grutzner	6123080961	Veolia	
David Fashant	952 924 1394	Fairview Southdale	
Steven Waderich	612 863 7161	ANW	
Tim Matthews	218-232-6263	Cuyuna regional medical Center	
Danielle Gathje	651-241-8259	United Hospital	
Jerry Fink	763-520-1395	North Memorial	
Mary Wenck	320-252-1670	VA St. Cloud	
Catherine Zimmer	612.624.4635	MnTAP	
Paul Anderson	612-285-9865	SWDI	
Jeff Gordon	651-291-3463	Bay West	jeffg@baywes.com

