

Follow-up project

CASE
SUMMARY
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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Major: Mechanical Engineering
School: Iowa State University

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Major: Mechanical Engineering
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The P2 program has existed since 2001, but 2004 was the first summer the DNR attempted to compile an aggregate of hard data on the success of the internships. Every summer, the interns submitted reports documenting numerous recommended projects that were intended to save millions of dollars and significantly reduce waste in Iowa. As three years had passed since the first year of the program, the DNR was interested in what kinds of environmental reductions and cost savings had been generated as a result of the intern program. Former P2 interns Brian Crawford and Ryan Burnley had the job of finding out.

With roughly 47 previous business participants to contact, the interns' summer was divided between company visits and the composition of internal reports documenting findings. During the visits, the interns worked with previous DNR advisers to answer three main questions:

- Which recommended projects were implemented?
- What environmental reductions and cost savings were being generated by those projects?
- Why were some projects not implemented?

The resulting reports documented this information on a project-by-project basis, including program feedback from intern advisers and follow-up intern recommendations for additional projects and ways to better implement existing projects. After the completion of the reports, all of the companies were revisited by a member of the P2 staff to discuss the report and options for future collaboration, including participation in the P2 Services Assessment Program or additional internships.

By the end of the summer, several important trends had emerged that will help shape the goals and structure of the P2 Intern Program in the future. Among these trends, the following observations were noted. On average, most companies had implemented approximately 50 to 60 percent of their recommended projects (by number), and at least another 10 percent are slated for completion within the coming years.

In total, the implemented intern projects are generating \$13,115,987 million in cost savings due to environmental reductions of 39,000 tons of solid waste, 395 million gallons of water, 293,000 gallons of hazardous waste and 11 million kWh of energy. Clearly, the P2 Intern Program is making great strides towards a cleaner Iowa.

Written by Brian Crawford

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