



Wright, Jennifer <jennifer.wright@dnr.iowa.gov>

P2 News

1 message

State Of Iowa <StateOfIowa@public.govdelivery.com>
Reply-To: StateOfIowa@public.govdelivery.com
To: jennifer.wright@dnr.iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:05 AM

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- [P2 Week: September 19-25, 2022](#)
- [What is an EMS?](#)
- [Request a 2023 P2 Intern!](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

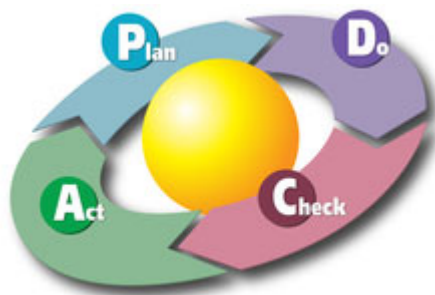
P2 Week: September 19-25, 2022

Pollution prevention (P2), also known as source reduction, is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment or disposal.

Adopting Pollution Prevention gets results! P2 Services has helped Iowa businesses save \$114,372,979 through implemented environmental projects since 2001. Nationally, P2 Programs have helped businesses save \$2.0 billion from 2011-2020 by identifying, developing & implementing P2 at their facilities. Learn how to tap into P2 technical assistance at www.iowap2services.com.

What is an EMS?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a set of processes and procedures that helps an organization address its environmental concerns and regulatory requirements in a systematic and cost-effective manner. An EMS is an effective tool for businesses, institutions, municipalities, and other organizations with intensive utility use or manufacturing facilities. It can help an organization achieve its environmental goals through consistent review, evaluation, and improvement of its environmental performance. The assumption is that cyclical review and



evaluation will identify opportunities for improving the environmental performance of the organization.

An EMS's proactive approach, based on a Plan-Do-Check-Act model, can help reduce the risk of non-compliance and improve health and safety practices for employees and the public. An EMS can also help address non-regulated issues, such as energy conservation, and can promote stronger operational

control and employee stewardship. Basic Elements of an EMS include the following:

- Reviewing the organization's environmental goals
- Analyzing its environmental impacts and compliance obligations (or legal and other requirements)
- Setting environmental objectives and targets to reduce environmental impacts and conform with compliance obligations
- Establishing programs or projects to meet these objectives and targets
- Monitoring and measuring progress in achieving the objectives
- Ensuring employees' environmental awareness and competence
- Reviewing progress of the EMS and achieving improvements

The benefits of implementing an EMS include:

- Improved environmental performance and enhanced compliance
- Increased efficiency, reduced costs, and reduced environmental impacts and risks
- Conservation of resources
- Gaining new customers/markets by those that may require a facility that has implemented an EMS
- Enhanced employee morale through reduced risks
- Employee awareness of environmental issues and responsibilities
- Enhanced image with public, regulators, lenders, investors

Pollution Prevention or source reduction is a key component in the successful development of an EMS as it can help an organization achieve many of the above benefits.

The components of an EMS can be found in various forms in any facility. EMS components, in most cases, are simple tools, although they may take some effort to develop initially. These components help organize a facility's environmental activities and priorities. With this in mind, some facilities will choose to develop and use portions of an EMS like ISO 14001 and some facilities will implement an entire EMS.

In the next few P2 newsletters we will present information about several of the components of an EMS.

Pollution Prevention Services (P2 Services) provides confidential non-regulatory assistance to companies that includes assistance with developing portions of an EMS, reviewing an EMS for conformity to a standard, and assistance recommending improvement projects and implementing those projects to meet EMS goals.

Request a 2023 P2 Intern!



Requests for projects are now available for the 2023 P2 internship program. In this nationally recognized internship program, Iowa companies and institutions submit potential P2 projects for consideration. P2 Services then matches upper-level engineering students with specific projects based on each student's coursework, academic performance, experience, technical, and communication skills.

After one week of comprehensive training with P2 program staff the intern serves at the host facility, where they analyze the current processes, research strategies, calculate cost comparisons, and implement improvements. After writing a final report documenting results and recommendations, the intern presents this information to host company management and writes a case summary of the project. P2 Interns will arrive on-site at their host companies May 30, 2023.

Check out our [P2 Anniversary document](#) (pdf) for ideas of project areas and to see past project successes! Case summaries from our 2022 interns will be posted in September. Our technical staff is available for project development, questions, and ideas as your company considers hosting a P2 intern. [Download the 2023 project request form](#) (doc), and for more information on the program, visit www.iowap2interns.com or email P2Services@dnr.iowa.gov.

Upcoming events

September 19-21 [Exploring Energy Decarbonization and Resiliency Solutions for Your Business and Organization](#) Chicago

September 28-29 [2022 Iowa Water Conference](#) Dubuque

October 3-5 [2022 Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Management Conference](#) Bettendorf

October 12-13 [2022 Iowa Environmental Health Association Fall Conference](#) West Des Moines

November 8-9 [Iowa Energy Summit](#) Altoona

Learn more about our program at www.iowap2services.com.



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