

P² Quarterly

The Newsletter of Lee
County's Pollution
Prevention Program

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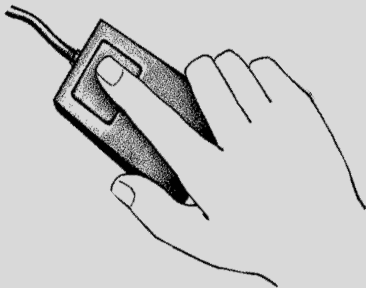
Leadership and Teamwork for Change

To have a successful business it takes committed planning and organization. Management should be committed to working with employees from the planning to the implementation of the plan. Realistic goals need to be outlined and the proper amount of dedicated resources provided for the plan to be successful. It takes more than simply being involved to make an organizational plan succeed. Its' kind of like the chicken and the pig with regard to breakfast. The chicken is merely involved where the pig is committed to the success of the meal. Once the tasks are assigned to employees, it still takes a total team commitment to carry out the goals to be the best the organization can be. Management is in charge, but it takes committed **leadership** to implement change and convey the message of responsibility to do the job right. It would be the optimum scenario if the leadership came from the management and all the team members shared the success, but this is not always the case.

The trend for the next industrial revolution is to produce products with the least amount of waste. If industries could produce the same product without the waste stream, the profits of the organization could be maximized and help secure the longevity of the organization. Generally the focus of management has been on cutting the cost of operations, usually in labor, without looking at all the aspects of operations. The key to a successful organization is its' ability to address **all** portions of operations equally. Flexibility and communication between departments of implemented changes that affect downstream processes is vital to a successful evolving change. Once these operational procedures become policy, where do you begin to institute the changes that will positively affect the organizational processes? The buying of Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) can have a major impact on the success of reducing and/or eliminating waste streams entirely and the cost associated with regulatory management requirements.

An important step in instituting policy changes should begin with the purchasing process. The evaluation of purchased products should not be limited to the front door cost of the product. To cor-

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Visit our website at:

<http://www.lee-county.com/pollution>

Fines and Criminal Actions by the USEPA and FDEP on the Rise

For the last several newsletters, we have presented many cases where businesses and individuals have been fined and subject to jail time for violation of environmental regulations. This information is intended to bring awareness to Lee County Businesses regarding enforcement actions that may occur when regulations are disregarded. Please remember that the Lee County Pollution Prevention Program is not an enforcement-based program. The program is here to assist our businesses in remaining compliant.

The following companies and individuals have been enforced upon, according to *Environmental Compliance Alert*:

- Gary Wallace, owner of E. Henderson Grease and Septic Tank Cleaning Service in New Caney, TX faces up to five years in prison and a possible \$250,000 fine for violating the Clean Water Act. Purportedly, Wallace ordered employees to discharge sewage directly into the San Jacinto and Trinity rivers instead of properly handling and treating the waste.
- Carl and Jean Stiffler, owners of Southwest Wrecking Co., Enid, OK: and Edward Shaw, owner of ESCM, Inc. Largo, FL each face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Stifflers were convicted of failure to provide workers with proper protective clothing, failure to keep asbestos waste materials wet and failure to dispose of the asbestos waste materials properly. Shaw was convicted of lying to USEPA and state officials to cover up the Stiffler's activities.
- Gregory Smith, plant manager, BFI-Maryland/Washington, D.C., has received one year of probation for scheming to avoid pretreatment costs by pumping stormwater containing medical wastes from a holding area into a parking lot. These medical wastes, by law, must be incinerated. BFI faces a \$1.5 million criminal penalty. Smith was the third BFI manager to be convicted. He received a lesser sentence by cooperating with the authorities.
- Ralph Dearden, owner of D & B Paint Manufacturing Co., Ft. Lauderdale, FL, faces up to five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine for dumping hazardous paint wastes in a field near the Everglades. Dearden conspired with a local resident to dump 40 chemical waste drums, which were discovered during routine aerial inspections by the Florida Marine Patrol.

Environmental Compliance Alert, along with other environmental publications, has been reporting for the last several months that the Federal Government and State of Florida will be intensifying their enforcement efforts over the next several years. The Lee County Pollution Prevention Program is here to assist Lee County's Businesses in being prepared should these government organizations appear at their site. If you have not had an assessment and would like to receive this service, please call (941)479-8126 to arrange an appointment.

Generator responsibility goes beyond arranging for waste to be hauled

When you generate hazardous waste you are responsible for it from “cradle to grave”. This means that if your hauler hauls your hazardous wastes to a Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) facility, and has an accident enroute, and the hazardous waste is spilled, you are liable for cleanup costs. With this type of responsibility, an electrician who replaces your fluorescent tubes and then disposes of them into a dumpster somewhere makes you liable for them! In these type of situations, expensive legal proceedings may result. These regulations do not always seem fair, so be very careful how you handle hazardous wastes. The Lee County P2 Program can help you with management of hazardous waste and pollution prevention (479-8126). Make sure that you keep all disposal/recycling records documenting proper disposal.

The largest contributor of mercury in our environment according to USEPA is construction debris (probably from mercury containing thermostats). Other major contributors are mercury switches, fluorescent tubes and other mercury containing lamps, manometers, thermometers. It is no surprise that fluorescent lamps and other mercury containing devices are the most frequently found items in checks on dumpsters. If you are disposing of these lamps in your dumpster, mend your ways and recycle them as a universal waste. State enforcement officials are escalating enforcement cases for illegal disposal of hazardous waste (mercury containing lamps and devices), so verify your hauler’s procedures for proper disposal.

It is Occupational License Renewal Time...

If you have not received your renewal for the 2000-2001 Lee County Occupational License yet, you will be receiving it soon. Your renewal is due by September 30, 2000 and your new license will be effective October 1, 2000-September 30, 2001. The total due will be dependent on the number of employees plus the hazardous waste surcharge. The surcharge must be paid if *ANY* amount of hazardous waste is generated by the business, regardless of amount.

If you feel that you should not be paying the hazardous waste surcharge, you must contact the Pollution Prevention Program at 479-8126 to determine if you qualify for an exemption. Once it is determined that you do not generate hazardous waste, you may acquire the exemption one of two ways. You can come to 1500 Monroe Street, First Floor, and our staff will help you fill out the Activity Certification Affidavit (the exemption form), or we can send you the form, which needs to be notarized and returned. If you decide to visit us in person, you will need to have a picture ID for verification. At the completion of the visit, you will leave with a white original, along with a yellow copy for your business records. If you receive the exemption via mail, you will receive an original from us. The original needs to be submitted to the Tax Collector’s office with your renewal fee, minus the \$20.00 surcharge. **DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR RENEWAL TO THE TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE WITHOUT HAVING THE EXEMPTION PROCESSED BY OUR OFFICE. IF YOU PAY THE SURCHARGE AND LATER RECEIVE AN EXEMPTION, NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN. IF YOU SUBMIT THE RENEWAL MINUS THE SURCHARGE, WITHOUT THE EXEMPTION, THE TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE WILL RETURN YOUR CHECK AND ASK FOR THE EXEMPTION OR PAYMENT OF THE SURCHARGE. IF THIS OCCURS AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2000, THE TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE WILL CHARGE A LATE FEE.** If you have received an exemption since the last renewal period and still see the surcharge on the renewal notice, you need to contact the Pollution Prevention/Small Quantity Generator Program.

Please try to address these issues early in the renewal period. Our goal is to assist in making this process as quick and painless as possible. By addressing the possibility of exemption early in the renewal period, much frustration can be avoided.

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rectly evaluate the total cost of the product, you need to add the front door cost, the use or life of the product, and the final disposal of the waste stream. The front door savings can be insignificant to the total cost of the purchased material. The use of a particular material may have more regulatory requirements (OSHA/RCRA) to the end user. And if you had no waste from the use of a particular material this savings can be added to the bottom line. This one step has a domino effect on the entire operational aspect of the facility. It reduces exposure of toxic chemicals to the worker, which promotes a healthier working environment. The benefit of this is less employee time off due to occupational illness and

more production time by the trained employee. Another positive issue from utilizing EPP's is limited or non-existent regulatory requirements. This allows the resources formally used to address the labor issues of regulatory compliance as well as the high cost associated with the disposal of the hazardous waste to be counted as profits. Allowing employees that are committed to instituting "their" changes and share in the new profits will increase the efficiency of the operations within the organization. There are several web sites that promote EPP and provide guidance on products and language to initiate your own plan. You can utilize these successes and customize them to your facility's needs.

Contact our web page for linkage to these web sites, or if you need further information on real life EPP successes, please do not hesitate to contact the P2/SQG Program at 479-8126.

Lee County has also had some success with EPP implementation that was recently recognized by the White House Task Force on the Environment.

**Questions?
Comments?
Suggestions?
Story Idea?**



**Call us at
479-8126!!**

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