

Lessons Learned from Winning Policy Campaigns

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Portland and Multnomah County Toxics Reduction Strategy

- A plan for minimizing use of toxic substances of concern in government operations by using the Precautionary Principle
- Adopted unanimously by the Portland City Council and Multnomah Board of Commissioners in May of 2006.



Overall Campaign Strategy

- 3 Phased Approach to Build Internal/External Support
 1. **Outreach and education**
 - SDC and Sustainability Forum (May 2003)
 - Precautionary Workshop (April 2004)
 - E-mail List, Website
 2. **Making the Case**
 - Workgroup – Scope of Problem, Recommendations (Summer 2004)
 - Report: Precautionary Approaches for Health and Environment (September 2004)
 - Resolution adopted to Develop a Toxics Reduction Strategy (September 2004)
 3. **Preparing the Strategy (2005-May 2006)**
 - Workgroup Appointed Cursory Inventory of Toxics in Use
 - Initial Set of Recommendations
 - Stakeholder Input
 - Resolution passed adopting strategy

Key Components Leading to Success

- Government- Community Partnership
 - Oregon Center for Environmental Health
 - Sustainable Development Commission
 - Multnomah County's Sustainability Initiative
 - City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development
- Not having to re-invent the wheel
- Laying the groundwork
- Sponsoring Commissioners from City and County
- Building support in community
 - Oregon Be Safe, PSU, OHSU, METRO, NCAP
- Collecting Stakeholder Input
- Allowing time to navigating through bureaucratic channels

Challenges

- Timeline-
- Staff comments vs. External comments
 - Strategy: Process vs. Actions
 - Allow departments and bureaus more input in process
 - How to conduct alternative assessment
 - Steering Committee and Task Forces
 - One on One briefings
 - Words: Eliminate, Reduce, Minimize, Maximum Extent Feasible
 - Risk Assessment and “everything is toxic”
 - Precautionary Principle can be used in conjunction with traditional methods to trigger process for selecting least harmful alternative
 - Established “model programs”
 - Pesticides and IPM
 - Compromise
 - Priority Chemicals of Concern List
 - Lean on published lists CA Prop 65, WA Ecology Priority Chemicals of Concern List
- Opposition
 - Though concerns expressed, all were supportive of overall goal and use of Precautionary Principle
 - Under the industry radar

Implementation and Next Steps

- Establish Steering Committee
- Start with Foundation Building and Short Term Actions
 - Purchasing Policy and Guidelines
 - Comprehensive Inventory
 - Procurement- Cleaning Products
 - Use and Management- Amalgam Separators
- Strategic Planning to Achieve Mid and Long Term Actions
 - Ensuring on-going support and funds are allocated in city/county budgets

Portland and Multnomah County Toxics Reduction Strategy

Long-term Vision

- Promote a healthy community and environment by eliminating the governmental purchase, release and use of toxic substances that present potential negative health or environmental impacts.

Goal

- By using the Precautionary Principle as a framework, replace toxic substances, materials or products of concern with viable least-toxic alternatives by 2020.

Guiding Principles

1. Use products and substances that do not contain or generate persistent bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals, heavy metals of concern, or known, probable or suspected carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, endocrine disrupters, organ toxics or respiratory irritants.
2. Use effective and progressive integrated pest management strategies to minimize reliance on pesticides of concern and to ensure careful screening of products and their application to minimize adverse impacts.
3. Effectively utilize procurement tools that support toxics reduction in the purchase of all goods and services.
4. Implement best management practices that support toxics reduction and proper waste management in all operations.