



pollution prevention



Over the years,
we've learned a lot about
how to clean up our pollution mistakes.
The most important thing we've learned?
Start clean and it will stay clean.

Avoiding the creation of pollution instead of trying to fix it after it is already in the environment – this translates into a formula for a cleaner environment. Pollution Prevention protects our environment and eliminates or reduces expensive waste.

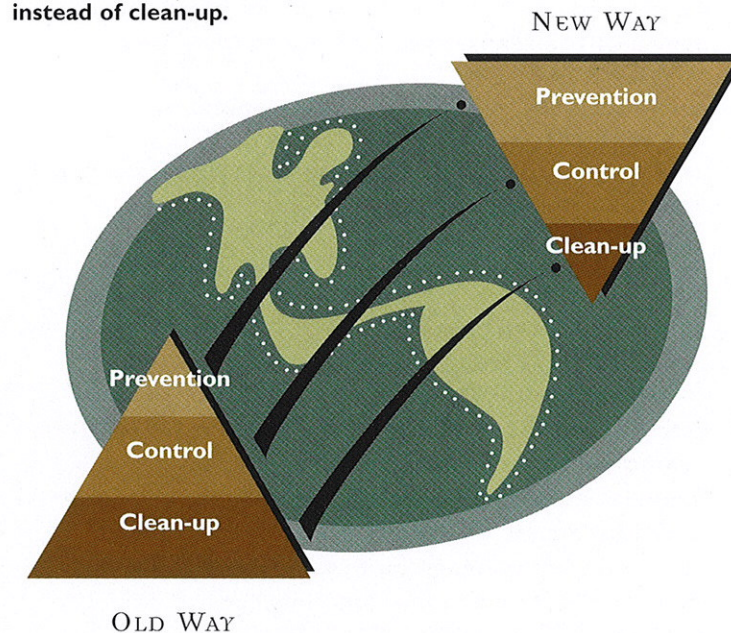
The average Canadian can play a very important role in pollution prevention, whether at home, at work or in influencing industry in their community. What are you prepared to do?

P2 also allows our economies to grow in harmony with our surroundings... *the concept behind sustainable development.*

pollution prevention:
The use of processes, practices, materials,
products or energy that avoid or
minimize the creation of pollutants and
waste, and reduce overall risk to human
health or the environment.

POLLUTION PREVENTION: A NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

There has been a shift in the way we do business.
The emphasis is on prevention,
instead of clean-up.



THE NEW WAY MEANS RE-THINKING OUR WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

We have to re-think the way we design and operate our mines, farms, manufacturing plants, refineries, transportation systems, parks...
you name it!

Implementing pollution prevention will differ from one sector to another, but there are some common practices:

- ~ Efficiently using and conserving natural resources
- ~ Substituting "clean" and green materials and feedstock
- ~ Thinking P2 for purchasing, product design and reformulation, process changes, equipment modifications and production
- ~ Reducing, re-using and recycling on site
- ~ Training everyone in pollution prevention techniques
- ~ Introducing operating practices

EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM POLLUTION PREVENTION

THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITY

- ~ **P2 minimizes or avoids the creation of pollutants**
- ~ **prevents the transfer of pollutants from one medium to another**
- ~ **accelerates the reduction and/or elimination of pollutants**
- ~ **uses energy, materials and resources more efficiently**
- ~ **minimizes health risks**

THE BUSINESS

- ~ **P2 improves efficiency**
- ~ **promotes the development of source reduction technologies**
- ~ **recognizes that waste is a cost that can be reduced**
- ~ **promotes a more competitive economy**
- ~ **improves employee morale, teamwork and productivity**
- ~ **improves access to capital**
- ~ **improves public image and customer loyalty**
- ~ **reduces the risk of non-compliance, criminal liability, costly enforcement and administrative costs**
- ~ **avoids costly clean-up**

Major guiding principles of P2

- All Canadians are individually and collectively responsible for the quality of the environment, and should be involved in pollution prevention wherever they have the opportunity to do so.
- Prevention should be considered at the earliest possible point in the development of any concepts, plans, policies, products, projects or processes.
- Pollution prevention planning should be a continuing process, incorporating opportunities for improvement on an ongoing basis, such as new scientific and technological developments.
- Prevention should apply throughout the entire life-cycle of a product.

A strategy to fulfill the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment commitment to pollution prevention, May 1996

A helping hand

Environment Canada's Action 21 Community Funding Program provides financial support to non-government, non-profit organizations to carry out local environment projects that support national priorities, including pollution prevention. Your Action 21 Regional Representative can tell you more. Find out who he/she is by contacting the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention, or visit the Environment Canada Action 21 web site at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/action21>

WHAT THE P2 LEADERS ARE DOING

Pollution Prevention is not just good business, it's the way to do business. Here are some examples:

- ~ An automotive instrument panel manufacturer took action to eliminate the use of chromium and minimize the use of water resources and energy.
- ~ A dry cleaner installed a new state-of-the-art process to reduce emissions of the dry-cleaning solvent, perchloroethylene.
- ~ One company has found ways to take the cadmium out of some colorants used to manufacture various plastics.
- ~ Many companies and municipalities are successfully reducing pesticides and chemical fertilizers to keep the grass green... and clean!

For more information, visit the Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse, an Internet-based tool that helps Canadians understand and engage in pollution prevention. It also helps with pollution prevention planning efforts. With a large information base and sophisticated search engine, there are links to information about pollution prevention, success stories, a "What's New" section and other related sites. To help set you on your way to pollution prevention, visit the site at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic>

SMALL BUSINESSES CAN BE P2 LEADERS TOO!

- ~ **Set realistic goals...** decide on one or two areas to begin.
- ~ **Start with P2 ideas** that take little capital investment.
- ~ **Talk to your business neighbours** about sharing information on storage, collection and recycling.
- ~ **Get all employees involved.**

FIRST THINGS FIRST!

- 1 Reduce at the source!** What is causing the air or water pollution? Are there toxic substances being used or generated which could be eliminated, replaced or at least reduced? Target the waste streams that can be eliminated at the source!
- 2 Recycle and reuse right on site.** Try to find creative ways to use everything as many times as possible.
- 3 Make P2 part of everyday life,** the same way that worker safety and product quality are an assumed given in today's work place.
- 4 Is a waste audit a good idea?** There's lots of information out there on how to do your own!

P2 PRIORITIES

Can you put the following key P2 priorities in order? If so, you can design an effective P2 approach! (we got you started with the first one...)

- _____ Evaluate alternatives in detail... think about the cost/benefit to the environment, and potential savings. Make sure all costs of waste management are accounted for with a cost-benefit analysis.
- _____ Monitor/measure your progress – are the actions preventing the pollution?
- _____ Don't sit back – look for new opportunities to improve!
- 1** _____ Develop a written P2 policy, supported by everyone (especially management), and put the goals where everyone can see them.
- _____ Take stock of your situation: what kinds of pollution might you be able to prevent at your workplace? No need to be realistic at this stage – dream high!
- _____ Create a team of people with different skills to spearhead P2.
- _____ Gather as much data/information as you can about the pollution you hope to prevent, and the work practices that cause it.
- _____ Select a few priority actions to implement.
- _____ Get cracking! Implement those actions.
- _____ Make any corrective actions you need to prevent as much pollution as you can.
- _____ Get everyone brainstorming on P2 ideas. Generate some pollution prevention alternatives (options) to consider. Try to find solutions that eliminate the creation of the pollution in the first place.
- _____ Develop a schedule to implement the P2 plan.
- _____ Communicate your success to others!

[Answers: 6, 10, 13, 1, 3, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 5, 8, 12]

For a copy of Pollution Prevention – A Federal Strategy for Action, visit our website at www.ec.gc.ca or phone the Environment Canada Inquiry Centre at 1-800-668-6767.

To find out more about pollution prevention, please contact the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention. Phone: 1-800-667-9790, send e-mail to c2p2@sarnia.com or visit their website at: <http://c2p2.sarnia.com>