

# P2Rx Centers Provide Technical Assistance, Training, and Information to Help Businesses Go Green and Improve Their Bottom Line

By Laura L. Barnes, Librarian and Executive Director, Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Prairie Research Institute

[l-barnes@illinois.edu](mailto:l-barnes@illinois.edu)

The Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx™) is a national partnership of regional pollution prevention information centers funded in part through grants from U.S. EPA. It builds networks, delivers pollution prevention (P2) information, and measures P2 program results. The strength of the network lies in the expertise and diversity among the regional centers and the variety of audiences served including government and state environmental agencies, technical assistance providers, businesses, educators, nonprofit organizations, and the general public. Centers offer a common set of information products and services. Each center also has specific projects or specializations targeted at meeting each region's unique needs.

## Core P2Rx Services

All of the P2Rx Centers participate in the Rapid Response information service that provides assistance in answering sustainability questions or gathering information on a particular topic. Users submit questions at <http://www.p2rx.org/services/rapidresponse.cfm> and their questions are forwarded to the corresponding regional center.

The P2Rx Centers also develop topic hubs, web-based guides to pollution prevention information and expertise in specific industry and topical areas. Each topic hub includes narrative on the subject and links for further information. Currently, there are topic hubs covering 29 subjects. An additional 40 topic hubs have been archived and are no longer being updated. See [http://www.p2rx.org/p2inforexpert/topic hubs\\_2.cfm](http://www.p2rx.org/p2inforexpert/topic hubs_2.cfm) for a complete list of active and archived topic hubs.

Each Center also maintains a regional news feed and event calendar. They also facilitate networking and training within their regions.

In addition, the P2Rx Centers develop national products and services, including the following:

P2 Results Data System (<http://www.p2rx.org/measurement/>)

P2 Programs Directory (<http://www.p2rx.org/programs>)

P2 Impact column at GreenBiz.com (<http://www.greenbiz.com/business/engage/enterprise-blogs/p2-pathways>)

Lean and Environment Workgroup (<http://www.p2.org/workgroups/lean-p2>)

Social Media Best Practices LibGuide (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/social-media-best-practices>)

P2Rx Social Media and Behavior Change webinar series ([http://www.p2rx.org/new\\_home/webinars.cfm](http://www.p2rx.org/new_home/webinars.cfm)).

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### The Regional Centers

**The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)** (<http://www.newmoa.org>) serves U.S. EPA Regions 1 and 2. NEWMOA's projects include:

The National Sustainable Lodging Network (<http://sustainablelodging.org/>), an online community of sustainable hospitality practitioners. They have also developed the Green Lodging Calculator, which allows hotels to estimate the financial and environmental benefits of sustainable lodging practices. Membership is open to all regions.

The Green Lodging Calculator

(<http://greenlodgingcalculator.org>), which helps lodging facilities and sustainable hospitality programs estimate the financial and environmental benefits of sustainable practices.

Green Chemistry Connection

(<http://www.greenchemconnect.org/>), an online community of green chemistry practitioners and an information clearinghouse of resources to support their work. Currently, membership is open only to those in the Northeast, but NEWMOA plans to make it available nationally sometime in 2014.

**The Environmental Sustainability Resource Center (ESRC)** (<http://esrconline.org/>) serves U.S. EPA Regions 3 and 4. ESRC's projects include:

- Promoting E3 (Economy, Energy, and the Environment) collaboration among federal agencies, states, and local communities.
- Regional training and webinars.

Direct technical assistance through the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Program.

**The Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR)** (<http://www.glrppr.org>) serves U.S. EPA Region 5, as well as the Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes. GLRPPR's projects include:

A series of LibGuides

(<http://uiuc.libguides.com/profile/laura-l-barnes>) focused on a variety of environmental topics. Those of most interest to businesses include the Pollution Prevention 101 LibGuide (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/p2>) and the Green Business LibGuide (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/green-business>).

Developing information resources and training related to four focus areas: technical assistance; behavior change and the environment; sustainable electronics; and green chemistry. GLRPPR's webinar archives are available at <http://www.glrppr.org/meetings>.

Sector Resources

(<http://www.glrppr.org/sectors>), a large collection of online sustainability information, organized by topic.

Collaboration with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and the Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network to organize two regional green chemistry conferences. The first was held in November 2012 (see the agenda at <http://www.glrppr.org/conference/agenda.cfm>). Watch videos of the conference sessions at <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdiKiiSvKTZ5JaIBvTaVUTHU8Dak9rwcJ>). The 2014 conference will be held in Cleveland, OH from March 31-April 4, 2014. For more information, visit <http://www.glrppr.org/conference2013/index-3.html>.

### The Zero Waste Network

(<http://zerowastenetwork.org/>) serves U.S. EPA Region 6. Their projects include:

A series of hands-on workshops that help participants prepare a customized plan for increasing business efficiency. They also offer monthly Lean and Environment webinars in cooperation with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Center. To register for the webinars, visit <http://zerowastenetwork.org/workshops/LeanEnvironment.cfm>.

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A P2 success story database that provides examples of how a real facility saved money, reduced waste, and/or lowered their regulatory burden through an innovative P2 practice. Zero Waste is currently accepting success stories and case studies from all U.S. EPA regions. Access the database at <http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/success/index.cfm>. Add a success story at <http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/success/addstory.cfm?regionalcenter=>.

The Pollution Prevention Planner (<http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/p2plan/index.cfm>), which is designed to help Texas companies complete a P2 plan. It is also a useful tool for companies that are not required to submit a P2 plan.

P2 Options (<http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/P2Options/index.cfm>), a set of best management practices for a variety of industries to save money and reduce waste.

**The Pollution Prevention Resource Center (P2RIC)** (<http://www.p2ric.org>) serves U.S. EPA Region 7. Their projects include:

P2 Infohouse (<http://infohouse.p2ric.org/>), a searchable online collection of more than 50,000 P2 related publications, fact sheets, case studies and technical reports. It includes many older P2 publications that are not available in electronic form from other sources.

In collaboration with the Nebraska Business Development Center and the International Facilities Management Association, provides training toward the IFMA Sustainability Facility Professional Credential. For more information, visit <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/sustainability/sfp.cfm>.

Maintaining service-provider directories (<http://p2ric.org/p2information/directory.cfm>) with information on the technical assistance agencies and programs that promote pollution prevention, energy efficiency, and manufacturing improvements to businesses and industries in the region.

Collaboration with the University of Nebraska Omaha to develop a series of LibGuides related to regional environmental issues. The LibGuides are available at <http://libguides.unomaha.edu/search.php?iid=128&c=0&search=p2rx%20wiki>.

Resources specifically for business, including archived webinars (<http://p2ric.org/business/>).

**Peaks to Prairies Pollution Prevention Center** (<http://peakstoprairies.org/>) serves U.S. EPA Region 8. Their projects include:

E3 in Montana Agriculture (<http://e3.peakstoprairies.org/>), which applies the Economy-Energy-Environment (E3) framework (<http://e3.gov/>) to Montana's agricultural industry.

Coordinating the Tribal Pollution Prevention Network (<http://tribalp2.org/>), which works collaboratively with tribes throughout the United States in reducing the environmental and health risks associated with the generation of waste in tribal lands.

Homes Across America (<http://homes-across-america.org>), which serves as a major vehicle for sharing information amongst builders, architects, and building associations.

P2 Bookmarks (<http://peakstoprairies.org/library/p2bookmarks.cfm>), quick links to P2 information which are organized by subject.

**The Western States Pollution Prevention Network (WSPPN)** (<http://wsppn.org/>) serves U.S. EPA Region 9. Their projects include:

P2 training, including a certificate program (<http://wsppn.org/p2-training/p2-certificate-registration/>); P2 101 videos (<http://wsppn.org/p2-training/p2-101-basic-training/>); and Green Chemistry 101 videos (<http://wsppn.org/p2-training/green-chemistry-101-video-training-modules/>).

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The Green Business Program Resource (<http://wsppn.org/resources/green-business/>), which includes information about green business certification programs and links to selected certification programs across the country.

Collaborates with regional green business organizations, including the California Green Business Association.

Co-sponsors the annual Used Oil/HHW conference with CalRecycle (<http://wsppn.org/conference/2013-conference/>).

**The Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)** (<http://www.pprc.org>) serves U.S. EPA Region 10. Their projects include:

A partnership with the Green Lab Alliance (<http://pprc.org/index.php/2013/projects-2/projects/greeninglabs/>) to promote best practices and resources for improving the sustainability of lab environments.

Greening Sports, which is designed to complement efforts by the Green Sports Alliance (<http://greensportsalliance.org/>), U.S. EPA (<http://www2.epa.gov/green-sports>), and the Natural Resources Defense Council (<http://www.greensports.org/>) to assist sports teams, venues, and leagues to reduce their environmental footprint. PPRC developed the Green Sports Directory (<http://pprc.org/index.php/greening-sports-directory/>), a guide to local, regional, and national contacts that can help sports facility managers “green” their operations.

ResourceFull Use (<http://pprc.org/index.php/2012/projects-2/projects/resourcefull-use/>), which provides manufacturers and industry with workshops and a website-based mechanism to assess resource needs and actively exchange resources (e.g., use the waste of one organization as an input for another).

By-Product Synergy Northwest (<http://pprc.org/index.php/2012/projects-2/projects/by-product-synergy-northwest/>), a Northwest public-private partnership aimed at reducing waste going to landfill while taking a closed-loop approach to materials and resources on a regional basis. Member companies work in facilitated sessions to identify opportunities for reusing waste materials or optimizing the use of input materials. Technical experts and regulatory representatives support the program and help participants develop innovative approaches to save money and reduce waste.

The P2Rx Centers provide a wealth of resources to help businesses and organizations operate efficiently, while keeping the environment in mind.

