Working with Municipalities to Promote TUR

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Community Education Program

Toxics Use Reduction Networking (TURN) Grant Program
Establish 1996
$10k to municipalities and environmental/community organizations
X projects funded to date
Community Website
General Education and Outreach

Goals

- Raise awareness about toxics and toxics use reduction strategies
- Train the trainer
- Promote model community projects for replication
- Create model policies and practices
- Create network of citizens/officials promoting TUR.

Municipal Audiences

- Health Agents
- Boards of Health
- Department of Public Works
- Water Treatment Operators
- Schools
- Fire Departments
- Local Emergency Planning Commissions
- Police
- Conservation Commissions
- Affordable Housing Agencies

How we work with Municipalities

- Education Training
  - Toxics, Toxics Use Reduction, Green Building, Integrated Pest Management, TUR in Food Establishments, Nail Salons, DPWs, Schools, Janitorial Cleaning
- Support Collaboration/Networking
- Provide technical resources (library, chemical research, laboratory)
- Grants

Health Officials Training

1997 First Collaboration with Health Departments – Center for Ecological Technology trained Health Agents in TUR
Several years with general trainings with Massachusetts Health Officers Association
2001? Survey of Interests (Integrated Pest Mgmt., Nail Salons, Food Establishments)
Health Officials Training

- 2003 on-site municipal audit training for Health Officers (focus on DPWs)
- 200? Toxics in buildings, IAQ, green building opportunities with Boards of Health
  - Highlighted opportunities for TUR throughout their training manual
- 2004 Additional Nail Salon Training

Special Trainings

- Created Pollution Prevention advanced course as part of Massachusetts Community Preservation Institute
- LEPC trainings on Emerging Issues in Toxics and Environmental Health

Supporting Collaboration

- Newton Green Decade Coalition and Newton Board of Health
  - Community education program on pesticides and alternatives
  - Library resource center
  - Newton adopted first Town Integrated Pest Management Policy

Supporting Collaboration

- Marblehead ‘Living Lawn’ Demonstration
- Marblehead Pesticide Awareness Committee partnering with Health Department, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department
  - Community Pesticide Education Program
  - Created Business Conference for Local Landscapers
  - Simple Steps to a Living Lawn and Pesticide Brochures
  - Built Demonstration Lawn Site
  - Saturday Organic Lawn Care Classes
  - Health Dept. requested assistance on an Organic Land Care Policy for Town-owned Property

Supporting Collaboration

- Wellesley Pesticide Awareness Collaborative 2000-2001
  - Wellesley Health Department
  - Required citizen/health agent partnership in each town
  - Literature, displays, a web site, informational forums, guide for running a community education campaign
  - 17 Health Departments mailed Pesticide Alerts and information on alternatives
Supporting Collaboration

- Surveyed restaurants and schools on toxics used (mainly pesticides, disinfectants, cleaners)
- Identified opportunities to reduce toxics
- Developed Training Program
- Model IPM Plan for Food Establishments (regulation)

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TUR in Schools

- Motivation: Six new and renovated schools, Indoor Air Quality and Public Record
- Staff and Teacher Training
- EHS Policy
- Green Building Design Recommendations

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Vocational Cosmetology

- Lynn Rose and Western MassCOSH developing and piloting H&S Curriculum in Vocational Cosmetology
- Specific Modules for Hair Perming, Coloring, Bleaching, Artificial Nails, General Hazard Mapping
- Presented at State Vocational School Training
- Awareness Training on Nail Salon Hazards for Health Agents Statewide

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Healthy Cosmetology Committee

- Collaboration of state and local health officials, worker safety advocates, and researchers
- Goal is to promote awareness statewide
- Work with Board of Cosmetology
- Advance Safety Curriculum
- Develop Healthy Cosmo Website
- Continue Health Agent Trainings

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Green Building Promotion

- Research on Alternative Building Materials and Availability
- English/Spanish trainings for homebuyers and contractors
- Green Affordable Home Specifications
- Work with City Officials
Green Building Promotion

Community Training (English and Portuguese)
Community Brochures and website
Collaboration with Climate Change Groups

Successes

Raising Awareness about Toxics and Toxics Use Reduction Techniques
Increased networking on topics such as nail salons, pesticide use, janitorial products
National networks beginning

Successes

Leveraging at Association level can be more effective
– Buy in from Directors
– Web/material dissemination
– Annual conferences/training tracks
– Incorporating TUR into their jobs
– Individual town models still important
– Encourage networking among model towns
Engage Associations in Grant Review

Barriers/Challenges

Competing Priorities
– Homeland security focus of municipalities
– Regulatory nature of many municipal jobs
Sustaining Projects beyond funding
Institutionalizing TUR

Barriers/Challenges

Measuring success
Providing specific information for so many audiences and topics
Champion turnover
Getting the word out on success stories to increase project replication