



Toxics Use Reduction Institute

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

Lexington Health Department 2002
TUR in Food Establishments

- 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)



TUR in Schools

Milton Environmental Health and Safety Committee partnering w/ Milton BOH

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



TUR in Schools

Boston Public Schools, Multiple Grants

- Working with Staff, Custodial Union, MassCOSH and Boston Urban Asthma to promote green cleaners
- Previous TUR Walk-thrus with OTA and Staff and Teacher Training on Chemical Safety



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



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



Green Building Promotion

Healthy Homes - Affordable Homes, a Green Building Education and Demonstration Project, Pioneer Valley Project, Springfield, 2003, 04

- 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

Somerville Green Building Project, Environmental Office and Health Department, 2004

- 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



Successes

- Train-the-trainer
- Making the link between TUR and existing job responsibilities
 - Sanitary Code/IPM
 - Nuisance law/ TUR in Nail Salons
 - Fire Prevention/TUR in Nail Salons, Autobody shops



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

