

2010 Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP)

Project title: **Advanced IPM Service Providers for Green Communities**

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Project Steering Committee: Dawn H. Gouge (UA), Monica Rabb (City of Phoenix), Ellis Jones (OPM), Fred Willey (AZ PPO).

Team members: April, 2010

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| Support Organizations | IPM Institute of North America | http://www.ipminstitute.org/ | (608) 232-1410 | ipmworks@ipminstitute.org |
| | Arizona Asthma Coalition | http://www.azasthma.org/ | (480) 595-7071 | CTumolo@azasthma.org |
| | Southwest Green Magazine | http://www.sw-green.com/Home.html | (602) 363-1677 | Dr. George B. Brooks, Jr. |
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Previous progress 2009:

The UA, city of Phoenix, Arizona Office of Pest Management (OPM), and AZ Pest Professionals Organization (AZ PPO), in partnership with local pest management companies are developing a Professional Training Program to prepare jobless or underemployed Phoenix residents to become highly trained IPM professionals. City of Phoenix staff from the Office of Environmental Programs (OEP) and Community and Economic Development Departments will coordinate the training using EPA Brownfield Job Training grant funds. EPA has approved the IPM job training course with a minimum job placement goal of 75%. The initial course will train no more than 20 individuals. The course will be repeated twice in the first year assuming job placement is 75% or higher.

OEP and Phoenix Workforce Connection (which is part of the Community and Economic Development Department) will advertise the program, run background checks, and screen all applicants. Applicant requirements will follow requirements necessary for OEP's Brownfield job training grant and will be combined with the requirements of OPM and AZPPO. Training program participants will complete the following training components:

- 1) Brownfield selection interviews and background checks (May-June, 2010)
- 2) OSHA's 40-Hr. HAZWOPER training (June-July, 2010)
- 3) Customer Service Course (1 day) (June-July, 2010)
- 4) OPM Core training and certification (2 days) (June-July, 2010)
- 5) 40-Hr. IPM training (August, 2010)

- 6) 8-Wk. on-the-job training with a sponsoring pest management company (August-September)
- 7) IPM proficiency exam
- 8) Graduation will occur during the 2010 Saguaro Continuing Education Conference and Expo (September, 29 -30)

We are partnering with the Sustainable Cities Network.

Specific UA activities proposed:

Conduct 40-hour IPM boot-camp training program for newly certified pesticide applicators

- Trained pesticide applicators are vital to establishing sustained IPM services to municipalities, businesses and residents. UA faculty have developed an IPM curriculum and competency exam.

Create educational materials for outreach to the community

Consumer demands for green pest management services are apparent to some extent. Currently, the pest management industry is looking for ways to demonstrate added service benefits in order to sustain themselves in a depressed economy. IPM provides distinct health and safety benefits over traditional extermination services.

- UA faculty will provide consumer oriented outreach materials to the city of Phoenix.
- The City of Phoenix will distribute outreach materials through articles in the “Notes” newsletter in the City of Phoenix water/solid waste monthly bill that is sent to over 360,00 residents.
- Our team members will collaborate to harmonize messages about pests and environmental toxins in the home. Most of the participants in this group have their own websites and portals through which they distribute information. Each has agreed to promote this program through these sites.
- Our team members will continue to promote collaboration with environmental partners/groups such as the Arizona Asthma Coalition, Keep Phoenix Beautiful, City of Phoenix Libraries, Homeowners Associations, Section 8 Housing, and Arizona State University Sustainability.
- The City of Phoenix coordinates Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) collection in Phoenix neighborhoods and publicizes these as community events. They will continue to facilitate household hazardous waste events monthly, at 10 various locations around the City. This allows residents to properly dispose of unwanted pesticides correctly.

Location of activities: University faculty will provide training in Maricopa County, the Office of Pest Management will expand the training program statewide. The City of Phoenix partners are restricted to activities in Phoenix.

Target audience and benefits from the proposed project:

Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) servicing residential and commercial pest management accounts

- Access to contracts requiring IPM services
- Competitive marketing advantage
- Required annual CEUs
- Professional standards for urban IPM (identified as a need during the APMC Summit http://ag.arizona.edu/apmc/APMC_Summit2006_post.pdf, and Western Regional School IPM Working Group priority setting workshop <http://ag.arizona.edu/apmc/groupmeeting.html>; http://ag.arizona.edu/apmc/docs/WSIPMWG_Priorities_9-24-07.pdf)

Community

- Increased awareness of IPM
- Access to a larger number of companies able to provide IPM services
- Added value of services for customers
- Pollution prevention

Budget: A total of \$5,000 is requested to cover travel and consumable costs associated with curriculum delivery and competency testing.

Local travel of University faculty \$1,500

University consumables and communication costs (printer ink, office supplies, training materials and equipment, cell phone) \$3,500.

Expected outcomes and impacts: Phoenix as a municipality is an EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) partner.

Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) servicing residential and commercial pest management accounts. We expect to have significant retention and employment (>75%) of graduates completing the course.

Outputs: Number of Advanced IPM Service Providers for Green Communities 1-2.
Number of unemployed/underemployed people employed as Advanced IPM Service Providers 30-40.

Outcome: Longer term increases in new PMPs receiving the endorsement, increases in the number of companies with endorsed technicians, and increases in IPM vendor requests.

Community

Outputs: Outreach events and community newsletters, etc.
Develop and broadcast radio spots and advertisements (such as newspaper articles) for the community.

Outcome: Eventual behavior changes which may be evaluated using survey tools, demonstrating increased understanding of IPM. This is not a near-time goal.

Plan for evaluation: A boot-camp training evaluation will be completed by every participant. The evaluation will also solicit input on topics of need that will be developed into modular CEU courses. Annual revision of the boot-camp training will occur based on evaluation results.