

2009 Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP)

Project title: IPM training for Urban Pest Management Professionals

Project leader: Dawn H. Gouge, Urban Entomologist, University of Arizona, MAC.

Team members: Theresa Foster, Environmental Programs Coordinator, City of Phoenix.
US Green Building Council LEED Accredited Professional.

Monica Rabb, Environmental Quality Specialist, City of Phoenix.
Certified Hazardous Materials Manager and Certified Environmental Trainer.

Thomas Green, IPM Institute of North America. The Institute's mission is to leverage marketplace power to improve health, environment and economics in agriculture and communities through Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Ellis M. Jones, M.A. Acting Director, Arizona Office of Pest Management. Mr. Jones has been employed with the Arizona Department of Administration since 1998.

Vince Craig, Assistant Director Compliance/enforcement Division, Arizona Office of Pest Management. Mr. Craig has worked for the Office of Pest Management (OPM; formerly the Structural Pest Control Commission) for 18 years. He holds an EPA certification license and holds an applicator license, in seven categories.

Alan Pugh, Program Projects Specialist, Arizona Office of Pest Management. Alan has an Applicator License in all eight categories regulated by the OPM, as well as a Qualifying Party license in six of the categories.

Specific activities proposed:

A. Develop a two day IPM boot-camp training program for pesticide applicators.

- Trained pesticide applicators are vital to establishing sustained IPM services to municipalities, businesses and residents. The University of Arizona and the IPM Institute of North America, will develop an IPM curriculum and competency exam for Office of Pest Management (OPM).
- The OPM will expand their current training program to include IPM and offer the training to over 200 licensed pesticide companies in Phoenix. This will provide job skills training, mentoring and continuing education units (CEUs) to enterprises that consist largely of small businesses.
- Upon passing an exam, pesticide applicators will receive an IPM endorsement that can be used in their professional marketing efforts.
- The OPM will assume responsibility for the sustained training program, using their existing training plans combined with the IPM training program instituted by the University of Arizona and IPM Institute.
- Several 3-hour (3CEU) modular courses will be developed on topics of need (bed bugs, bats, etc.).

B. 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.

- The City of Phoenix will provide environmental information and outreach through articles in the “Notes” newsletter in the City of Phoenix water/solid waste monthly bill that is sent to over 360,00 residents.
- Group 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.
- Group 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:

A. 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)

B. 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 development and training.

Local travel of University faculty \$1,500

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

We have requested matching funds to be provided from an EPA CARE grant submitted by the City of Phoenix.

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

C. Action A: Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) servicing residential and commercial pest management accounts. We expect to have a significant percentage of pest management professionals (PMPs) in the Phoenix metro area attend the IPM endorsement classes and gain proficiency in IPM.

Outputs: Number of IPM Boot Camp 2 day training events
Number of Pest Specific 3 hour modular training events
Number of PMPs trained

Outcome: Percentage of attendees receiving the endorsement, percentage of companies with endorsement, and increase in IPM endorsed vendors.

Action B: Community.

Outputs: Number of outreach events and community newsletters, etc.
Develop and broadcast radio spots and advertisements such as newspaper articles for the community.

Outcome: Behavior changes evaluated through survey results, demonstrating increased understanding of IPM. This will only be undertaken if the EPA CARE grant application is funded.

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.