Reducing Wastewater Impact at Small POTW’s
A Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet Series

Small communities are facing many issues in maintaining wastewater permit compliance and the operational capabilities of their Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) due in part to the age of the plants and infrastructure, volume, growth, pollutant loadings and ever tighter wastewater discharge regulations. Maintaining compliance with the POTW permit is a high priority for the community and when a non-compliance situation arises one of the first steps that can be taken is to request the assistance of a state environmental Technical Assistance Program (TAP).

State TAP programs are usually associated with the University, a small business assistance program or the environmental regulatory agency in a non-regulatory role. The services of the TAP are frequently either no-cost or very low cost. They provide pollution prevention, waste reduction and recycling assistance as well as regulatory compliance assistance, that can have a significant impact in resolving regulatory non-compliance issues. Links to state technical assistance programs are provided later.

The UW-Extension, Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) is the Wisconsin TAP and has developed a series of fact sheets about common industry sectors or pollutants that can be helpful to POTW’s who are experiencing problems with pollutant discharges. Each fact sheet provides basic pollution prevention strategies, information and internet links to many additional resources that can be used by a business or community to reduce or eliminate pollutants in wastewater. A POTW can provide the fact sheets to dischargers and a referral to the TAP, to start resolving wastewater problems. You can get paper copies of the fact sheets by contacting SHWEC at www.shwec.uwm.edu or if you are reading this on your computer, just click on any of the following to print or download the file to your computer.

- Pollution Prevention for Removing Mercury as a Wastewater Pollutant
- Pollution Prevention for Dairy and Cheese Plant Operations
- Pollution Prevention for Small Slaughterhouse and Meat Packing Operations
- Pollution Prevention for Fats, Oil and Grease from Food Service
- Pollution Prevention for Machining, Cleaning, Degreasing, Finishing Operations for Metal Products
Technical Assistance Programs (TAP) Resources

State TAP’s are an inexpensive way to help businesses find the best methods to successfully reduce pollutant loadings. The University of Wisconsin-Extension-Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) provides environmental information and assistance that can help you reduce or eliminate wastes, wastewater and air emissions through on-site visits and direct technical assistance. SHWEC can also help companies implement environmental management systems, implement “Green Building” technology and provide referral to resources that can help reduce energy costs. Visit the SHWEC web site at [www.shwec.uwm.edu](http://www.shwec.uwm.edu) to learn more about SHWEC or to contact a specialist.

Access to other TAP programs in the Great Lakes Region is available through The Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR) at [http://www.glrppr.org/](http://www.glrppr.org/) and access to additional national TAP resources is available through the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable at [http://www.p2.org/](http://www.p2.org/).


The US-EPA Region 5 Pollution Prevention Program which funded this series of fact sheets is accessible at [http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/p2pages/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/p2pages/index.htm).

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