

2015 Pollution Prevention (P2) Awards Luncheon

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) promotes pollution prevention as an environmental ethic to achieve improvements in public health and environmental quality. The Pollution Prevention Award recognizes projects that eliminate or reduce the generation of pollutants or wastes at the source or projects that conserve natural resources. The Pollution Prevention with Distinction Award goes above and beyond the Pollution Prevention Award by meeting at least one of the following distinctive qualifications:

- Quantitative environmental health impacts (workers or the community).
- The project can be used by similar organizations in different locations within the state.
- P2 projects encompassing multiple processes or media.

Pollution Prevention with Distinction Award Recipient



**KDHE's Division of Environment Director, John Mitchell
with Via Christi Health's Carolyn Koehn**

Via Christi Health, Wichita, is a provider of health care services in Kansas. Via Christi Health is being awarded for its "Greening the OR" initiatives and efforts in energy conservation. Operating Room teams at Via Christi use hundreds of single use devices and instruments every week. Instead of discarding the devices, Via Christi Health now works with a vendor to reprocess and reuse these devices. Nearly five tons of devices that used to be incinerated or landfilled are now reprocessed annually, at a cost savings of approximately \$159,000. Each of Via Christi Health's nineteen surgical rooms has one light fixture that supports two spotlights. By upgrading the original spot lights to the Steris Harmony LED 585 in all nineteen OR surgical rooms, Via Christi Health saved 84,840 kWh, reduced GHG's by 83 MTCO_{2e}, and experienced a savings amounting \$8,484. The cost to replace these units was approximately \$40,000 per room. Via Christi Health also replaced their conventional lighting with LED's in underground passageways that connect the hospital to the distribution and energy centers, parking lots, garages, and ongoing remodeling projects. The lighting fixtures replacement documented savings of 135,200 kWh/year representing a 50% reduction in energy use.

Pollution Prevention Award Recipients



KDHE's Division of Environment Director, John Mitchell with DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport Thomas Williams and Jason Williams

DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport, Wichita, is a hotel serving Kansas. DoubleTree was awarded for its efforts in reducing energy and water usage.

Lighting upgrades involving the replacement of T-12 ballasts with T-8 and T-5 ballasts, the replacement of incandescent lights in the lobby and restaurant areas with fluorescent lighting, and the upgrade of incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) in each of the 302 guest rooms' ten lamps resulted in a decrease of 327,436 kWh/year.

DoubleTree also changed out all 302 guest room sink aerators from 2.2 gallons per minute (gpm) flow to 0.5 gpm resulting in the conservation of 1,201,387 gallons annually.

General Motors Fairfax Assembly, Kansas City, assembles the Chevrolet Malibu and the Buick Lacrosse. General Motors is receiving an award for its Purge Thinner Reduction Project. The main purpose of this project was to reduce the usage of the thinner that is used to purge paint from the lines (piping) to the painting equipment and used to clean the painting equipment between color changes.

By creating a Purge Reduction Committee that met monthly and examined everything related to how the thinner was used, General Motors decreased its thinner use by 101,894 gallons, lessened VOC emissions by 92,700 pounds, and experienced a savings of \$405,500 over 12 months.



KDHE's Division of Environment Director, John Mitchell with General Motors Fairfax Assembly's Sherri Zeller and Chris Degner.

Pollution Prevention Award Recipients



KDHE's Division of Environment Director, John Mitchell with Sherwin-Williams' July Ulmer and Mick Strickland

Sherwin-Williams, Andover, manufacture protective and marine paint coatings. Sherwin-Williams is receiving an award for its reduction in aquifer water and energy usage. The facility's prior fire suppression system utilized two, 200,000 gallon tanks that drew 26.1 gallons per minute of ground water from an aquifer. Installation of an enhanced fire suppression system resulted in less than 30,000 gallons of ground water needed for the facility's protection.

An employee Sustainability Team was created to focus on electricity usage reduction and their efforts have reduced the amount of electricity being consumed for every 100 pounds of product produced from 10.18 kWh in 2013 to 8.52 kWh in 2014.

Learn more about the Pollution Prevention Awards by visiting
http://www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/p2_pollution_prevention_awards.html.

Photographs courtesy of Diana Lehmann of KDHE's Bureau of Water