

POLLUTION PREVENTION REVIEWS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES

Pollution prevention reviews look for ways that businesses can avoid or minimize pollution and waste and reduce potential threats to sources of drinking water and human health. They do this by looking at and analyzing the entire business, from production, to raw materials, to inventory control. Pollution prevention reviews are intended to address existing and potential impacts of business operations within vulnerable areas.

Why are Pollution Prevention Reviews Important ?



Pollution prevention reviews aim to proactively protect human health, sources of drinking water and the environment. They shift the emphasis of a business away from having to react during an environmental emergency to anticipating and preventing an emergency in the first place.

What are the Benefits of a Pollution Prevention Review ?

In addition to protecting human health, sources of drinking water and the environment, pollution prevention reviews also help businesses:

- Save money by reducing waste disposal, energy and raw materials costs.
- Improve worker safety.
- Improve operational and maintenance efficiencies.
- Reduce business risks, fines, liability, remediation and insurance costs.
- Reduce the expense for regulatory compliance.
- Improve employee morale.
- Improve public image and gain access to global and green markets.



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How do Pollution Prevention Reviews Work ?

Pollution prevention reviews are conducted by a pre-qualified consultant and paid for by local, participating Conservation Authorities who have received funding from the Ministry of the Environment's Source Protection Program Early Action Fund.

On-site pollution prevention reviews typically last 2 to 4 hours and are followed by a customized report to the business within 2 to 3 weeks.

A trained consultant will visit and work with participating businesses to:

- Define sources, quantities and types of waste.
- Collect information on unit processes, products, raw materials, water usage, energy usage and waste generation.
- Highlight process efficiencies and inefficiencies.
- Identify areas of wastage and loss.
- Identify the constituents of pollutants.
- Help set targets for pollution prevention and cost effective pollution prevention strategies.

The consultant will undertake a detailed analysis of several key areas within the business with the goal of minimizing or eliminating the threat of contamination to sources of drinking water, including:

1 Product Design

- Propose designs that reduce environmental impact or product reformulations that reduce the use of toxic materials.
- Propose ways to increase product life.

2 Process Changes

- Propose changes to the processes with the aim to find efficiencies.

i) Input Material Changes

- Propose ways to purify materials.
- Propose ways to substitute elements with less toxic materials.



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ii) Technological Changes

- Propose changes to layout.
- Propose ways to increase automation.
- Propose ways to improve efficiencies to the process.
- Propose ways to improve equipment performance.
- Propose new technologies.

iii) Improved Operating Practices

- Propose ways to improve operations and maintenance procedures.
- Propose ways to improve management practices.
- Propose ways to improve stream segregation.
- Propose ways to improve material handling.
- Propose ways to improve production scheduling.
- Propose ways to improve inventory control.
- Propose ways to improve employee training.
- Propose ways to improve waste segregation.

The final report will be kept confidential between the participating business and the consultant and will not be given to any other organization. The recommendations provided in the report are for business owners to consider. Some businesses may consider a phased plan to address all recommendations starting with those that are easy and cost-effective and prioritizing others for the future. All recommendations and pollution prevention strategies are voluntary, but businesses can start by taking early action to improve their business operations, before regulatory policies and plans are in place.

Why is the Province Interested in Funding Pollution Prevention Reviews for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses ?

The intent of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* is to ensure communities are able to protect their municipal drinking water supplies through developing collaborative, locally driven, science-based source protection plans. Communities will identify potential risks to their local drinking water sources and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks. Municipalities, conservation authorities, landowners, farmers, industry, small and medium-sized businesses, community groups, and the public will all work together to meet common goals.

One step that small and medium-sized businesses can take now is to participate in a cost-free pollution prevention review, especially if you are located in a vulnerable area. This will help businesses address potential threats to sources of drinking water, by growing knowledge and enhancing local business capacity to address significant threats of business operations.

For more information about this program, or to find out if your business qualifies, contact your local Source Protection Region or Area. You can find out which Source Protection Region or Area you live in at www.conservation-ontario.on.ca.



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Who is

Eligible for a Pollution Prevention Review ?



Pollution Prevention Reviews are available to small and medium-sized businesses that are located within or extend into the 100 metre radius of a municipal wellhead or a 200 metre radius of a municipal surface water intake. Businesses with 500 employees or less are considered small or medium-sized and are eligible for pollution prevention reviews through this program.



For More Information on Pollution Prevention Reviews

Please contact your local Source Protection Region or Area:



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For more information on the Source Protection Program, please visit the Ministry of the Environment's website:
www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/cleanwater/sourceprotection.php

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