

Part three of a series:

Today marks beginning of Pollution Prevention Week

Today is the start of National Pollution Prevention Week, a time for individuals, businesses and local governments to highlight their pollution prevention and waste-reduction activities and achievements, expand their efforts and commit to new actions.

Fluor Hanford is working in cooperation with the Cities of Richland and West Richland, the Richland School District, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, the Fluor Waste Services organization and the people of the 222-S Laboratory to sponsor events to raise community awareness of pollution prevention. This article focuses on the importance of recycling to reduce water and energy usage. This is the third in a series of articles on the many ways to conserve precious resources.



The first Pollution Prevention Week was held in October 1993 in California, with proclamations and resolutions from then Governor Pete Wilson and the State Assembly. The celebration has since been repeated yearly with great success and is now known as National Pollution Prevention Week. It's a time for businesses, environmental groups and citizens to join forces and share information. Through pollution-prevention efforts, businesses can become more competitive, both businesses and government agencies can realize cost savings and environmental quality can be enhanced.

Pollution Prevention, also known as "source reduction," is any practice that reduces, eliminates or prevents pollution at its source. By reducing the total amount of pollution that is produced, there is less waste to control, treat or dispose of, and there are fewer hazards posed to public health and the environment. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

What can I do?

There are many ways to prevent pollution. Reduction of pollutants can be achieved by using raw materials, energy and water more efficiently. Conserving and protecting natural resources can also reduce the amount of waste produced.

Ways to prevent and reduce pollution include:

- Product redesign
- Substitution of raw materials
- Process or equipment modifications
- Improvements in maintenance, training, inventory control or housekeeping.

Preventing pollution offers important benefits. Not creating pollution avoids the need for expensive waste management and cleanup. By anticipating the future, pollution prevention reduces both financial costs (waste management and cleanup) and real environmental costs (health problems and environmental damage). As a result, pollution prevention holds the exciting potential of protecting the environment and strengthening economic growth through more efficient production and use of natural resources.

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Today marks beginning of Pollution Prevention Week, cont.

For more information on saving resources, check out these Web sites:

<http://www.ci.kennewick.wa.us/pw/watercon> for the City of Kennewick's water-saving tips.

<http://www.bentonpud.or/energysav/engry> for the Benton County Public Utility District's energy-saving tips.

<http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/enviro/enviro> for City of Richland information on water, energy, recycling and more than 35 various environmental links. <http://apweb03.rl.gov/polprev/> for information from the Fluor Hanford Pollution Prevention/Waste Minimization Group on ways to reduce waste, or call 373-1125. ♦

Week of events celebrates pollution prevention

Monday, Sept. 17

- Brown-bag session at 2704-HV, noon to 1 p.m., "Shop SMART" (Save Money and Reduce Trash) seminar. Call Bertrand Griffin II at 373-4327.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

- Brown-bag at the HAMMER Training Center Administrative Building, Room 14, noon - 1 p.m. Shop SMART seminar. Call Kathy Hinkelman at 376-7631.
- Waste Services presentations, MO-279 in 200 West, "Water and energy conservation," 11 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2 p.m. Call Gayle Valante at 373-1621.
- Watch for the KidZone article on pollution prevention in the *Tri-City Herald*.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

- Elementary students will pick up trash at Lewis & Clark, Marcus Whitman, William R. Wiley, Richland High, Jefferson and Tapteal schools in Richland, and Westgate and Washington elementary schools in Kennewick.
- Environmental ventriloquist Keith Ramsay will perform at the Richland Public Library at 7 p.m.
- Shop SMART seminar at the Richland City Council chambers, 7 p.m. Call Gail Baasch at 942-7730 to reserve your spot.

Thursday, Sept. 20

- Pasco High driver education classes will be learning about the littering laws.
- Brown-bag at 222-S Lab, "Energy and Water Conservation," noon to 1 p.m. Call Bertrand Griffin II at 373-4327.
- Energy and Water Conservation presentation, FFTF, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Call Al Hill at 372-8963.

Saturday, Sept. 22

- Environmental Trade Show at Home Depot, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring vendors, exhibitors, entertainment and activities for kids (coloring contest and building projects). There will be a recycled clothing boutique as well as collection containers for cell phones, eyeglasses, phone books and hearing aids. Tri-City Motor Sales will demonstrate an electric car and local utilities will have ideas on saving water and energy.
- Household hazardous waste collection event, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tri-Cities Coliseum parking lot.

Sunday, Sept. 23

- Recyclables treasure hunt at the Three Rivers Children's Museum, 650 George Washington Way, from 2 to 4 p.m. ♦