

School IPM Update - PPDC

May 18-19, 2016

Webinar Series

Since August 2014, EPA's Center for School IPM has hosted a successful webinar series for the school community on various aspects of Integrated Pest Management. The 15 webinars presented, to date, have drawn over 5,200 participants representing 27 million students. Webinar topics are derived from input from the Center staff, EPA Regions, the former PPDC IPM Committee, and webinar participants. The webinars have consistently generated positive participant reviews and sparked numerous requests for additional information on IPM. Presentations from past webinars are available on the EPA [School IPM website](#) and recordings of many of the webinars are available on YouTube.

Grants

On March 17, 2016, EPA announced the award of \$500,000 to help reduce students', teachers' and staffs' exposure to pests and pesticides in our nation's schools, while saving money, energy and pesticide treatment costs. The two projects that received awards were:

- **NEHA Mentorship Program for Developing School IPM Capabilities-- National Environmental Health Association (\$241,000).** This project will promote effective and environmentally sensitive pest management practices in schools through an intensive mentorship program between local health departments and underserved school districts. The mentorship program, pairing local health departments with school districts, will provide increased access to technical resources, and partnerships. This project will take place in 2016 and 2017.
- **Keeping the Pests Out: The Economics of Integrated Pest Management in Schools – Health Resources in Action (\$300,000).** This project will examine the costs and benefits of implementing school IPM activities. Currently, there are only a few studies about the economics of school IPM. This project will help school districts understand the costs and benefits associated with establishing and sustaining IPM programs. The results of this two year project will be available in early 2018.

For more on these grants, visit epa.gov/managing-pests-schools/school-integrated-pest-management-ipm-grants.

Awards

EPA will recognize school districts, individuals, and organizations for demonstrating strong commitments to improving children's health by promoting IPM practices with a five-tier award program. On March 21, 2016 the first Federal Registered Notice for the School IPM Information Collection Request (ICR) was issued. The initial 60-day public comment period will end May 20, 2016. Pending any substantial comments, a second Federal Registered Notice will be issued with a 30-day comment period. The Office of Management and Budget will subsequently review our request, provide their own opportunity for public comment, and, ultimately provide their approval/disapproval. We are optimistic of the merits of our request and look to launch the School IPM awards program in late 2016.

Roundtable

On May 25, 2016 in Washington, DC, EPA will convene, under the auspices of RESOLVE, national organizations to pursue a voluntary effort to make IPM practices the standard in all schools over the next three years. The purpose of the Roundtable is to secure the endorsement of IPM as the preferred approach for managing pests in schools by national organizations with influence in the school community and a plan and commitment to disseminate the endorsement and related information.

The following organizations have committed to participate:

Allergy & Asthma Network	Healthy Schools Network
American Academy of Pediatrics	IPM Institute of North America
American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology	National Association of County and City Health Officials
American Academy of Sanitarians	National Association of School Nurses
American Association of School Administrators	National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers	National Environmental Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	National Pest Management Association
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	National School Boards Association
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	National School Plant Management Association
Children's Environmental Health Network	

PPDC members, who were formerly part of the PPDC IPM Committee, were invited to observe.

Blogs / Articles

The Center for School IPM staff are using various Agency outlets, including the Greening the Apple, Greenversations, and New England Beacon blogs and PESPWire e-newsletter, to highlight, in more conversational tones, IPM issues of relevance to schools. Since 2014, some 40+ blogs and articles have been published to inform and engage the public on IPM issues.

Outreach at National Meetings

EPA Headquarters and School IPM Center staff participated or will participate in the following national conferences through presentations, posters, and/or hosting booths:

- Entomological Society of America – Nov. 2015 | Aug. 2016
- National School Plant Management Annual Conference – Mar. 2016
- National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference – June/July 2016
- National Environmental Health Association & HUD Healthy Homes Conference - July 2016

Regional Outreach at State Meetings

EPA's Regional School IPM coordinators participated or will participate in the following state conferences through presentations, posters, and/or hosting booths:

- School Nurse Organization of Washington Spring Conference - Mar. 2016
- Nevada PTA Convention – Apr. 2016
- Louisiana School Nurse Organization Conference – Apr. 2016
- California PTA Convention – May 2016
- New Mexico PTA Convention – May 2016
- Texas School Nurse Association Annual Conference – Nov. 2016