

Great Lakes BPS Meeting Minutes

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GREAT LAKES BPS CONCEPT

- 8 State Great Lakes Basin (home to over ½ of Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, 50% of country's manufacturing output)
- Currently there is an Illinois based program, Ohio based program, SE Michigan Project

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- Do not have technical partner in S.E. Michigan (as URS is providing support in Chicago)
- URS is prepared to help drive it, but will not be in the project management role for the duration. Hoping for a more visible company to partner with.

FUNDING EFFORTS

- EPA Region 5 (potential funding) is interested in the concept being leveraged across a large area. This is the region for combining programs to Great Lakes Basin.
- Great Lakes National Program Office (EPA Region 5)
- National Watershed Protection Program through EPA headquarters
- EPA CRDA
- Michigan support at state and local level (Mich. Dept. Env. Quality)
- Would like to try Great Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Asking for funding above \$5000 from participating companies is prohibitive to enrollment. The major cost to participating companies is not the \$\$, but the time cost to participate.
- The financial sustainability of the project is proven in the business plan; the reason this will continue is because there is a managing entity.
- Another goal is to create a sustainable network beyond the pilot project to continue to promote new opportunities.

EXAMPLES

- New Jersey Example: Waste Minimization for DOW. A new use for latex wastewater, which cannot be disposed of easily, was found to spray over coal to reduce dust. Waste foam waste also added to potting soil for moisture retention. BPS efforts (both in house and with other companies) led to \$155 million profit at a cost of \$100,000.
- Metallicized glass for ovens – “glass cullet”, now has more demand than waste.

OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED

- The UK has more of the drivers for these kind of initiatives (lack of space for landfills). The U.S. may have a similar driver in transportation issues.
- The local component is great component for BPS in areas where the community can see the effects of waste, toxicity, etc. Leverage local people who are connected (industry/ politics/ otherwise) and care about the effects.
- Encourage companies thinking “outside the box” to find other ways to be profitable by appealing to the market, minimizing waste, etc. The message must not be purely altruistic, but triple bottom line. It must appeal to shareholders.
- For Walmart, the involvement began because of food waste from headquarters being given to composter.
- WRAP – waste reduction always pays