

Preventing Pollution Has Many Benefits

Vince Kuppig
Partners in Pollution Prevention Intern

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

When it comes to pollution prevention (P2), that statement couldn't be more accurate.

The idea with pollution prevention is if the pollution is prevented in the first place, there's no need to worry about how to deal with the pollution. Pollution prevention isn't dealing with the pollution after it's already happened.

Pollution prevention has many benefits. By looking ahead to the future, pollution prevention reduces both financial costs as well as environmental costs such as health problems and environmental damage.

Pollution prevention isn't just recycling. While recycling is a form of pollution prevention,

more can be done.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines pollution prevention as "source reduction." Source reduction is any practice that reduces, eliminates or prevents pollution at its source.

Each state also has its own definition of P2. Nebraska's definition of pollution prevention is "all activities that lead to the elimination or reduction of waste quantities and toxicity at the site of generation."

While those definitions might seem to mainly apply to businesses, preventing pollution isn't just for the big industries. It's something every individual can take part in. Everybody — big businesses, small businesses and even individuals — generates wastes, which means everybody can help prevent pollution.

At home, you can prevent pollution in many ways. For example, pollution prevention

can be achieved by: turning lights off; saving water; carpooling, taking public transportation or riding a bike; closing shades in the summer and opening them in the winter and recycling.

At work, many of the same P2 practices can be performed. You can also use double-sided photocopies, work toward a paperless office and substitute non-hazardous materials for hazardous materials.

In Lancaster County and throughout the state, University of Nebraska-Lincoln student interns are taking part in an internship called Partners in Pollution Prevention (P3).

Over the years, P3 interns have worked out of the Lancaster County Extension office. Usually one or two interns work each year at the extension office with the rest of interns spread throughout the state.

The interns visit Nebraska

businesses and provide them with technical assistance reports that detail ways to reduce wastes.

Waste awareness often comes only after someone has had the time and inclination to study the situation and point out greater efficiencies, said Bruce Dvorak, a UNL engineering associate professor and an intern

adviser. The internship provides this opportunity.

"Students have the enthusiasm, the fresh perspective. They're not beaten down by the rush of the day," Dvorak said.

For more information on the program, call Dvorak at 472-3431 or visit www.ianr.unl.edu/P3.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Training on Sept. 30

A train-the-trainer lesson on the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) will be given Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1 p.m. Recycling is not mandatory in Nebraska at the present time but it could happen if the landfills continue to fill at the present rate. Following the 3R's in our daily lives will help lower the amount of trash going to the landfill. This training will give participants information on recycling, Shop S.M.A.R.T. (Save Money And Reduce Trash) and ideas on how to make treasures from trash. Call Pam at 441-7180 to register for this training. (LB)

ATV Rider's Handbook Available to All

For work or fun, riding an all terrain vehicle can be an enjoyable experience. Properly used, ATVs are highly functional machines and perform many tasks for farmers, ranchers and recreational outdoorsman. However, reckless or unsafe use of an ATV can result in dangerous situations for riders and the environment.

Many people have been seriously injured or have lost their lives as a result of ATV-related accidents. This is especially true for young people. According to reported information (since 1985) to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 35 percent of all victims were under 16 years of age and 15 percent were under 12 years of age.

To help reduce ATV accidents resulting in serious injury and lost lives, the National 4-H Council has developed an ATV Rider's Handbook using source material from the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA). The handbook contains chapters on becoming familiar



with your ATV, protective equipment, basic riding techniques, effects of alcohol and drugs, respecting the environment, handling emergency situations and riding strategies.

A single copy of the ATV Rider's Handbook is available without charge from:

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
2 Jenner Street, Suite 150
Irvine, CA 92718

ATV Safety Tips

Stressing these additional points when working with young people could help prevent ATV-related injuries:

- ATVs are designed for one operator only. **Never carry a passenger.**
- ATVs are for off-road use only. **Never operate an ATV on paved surfaces or public roads.**
- Protective clothing is the badge of responsible, safe riding. **Always wear an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, gloves and protective clothing.**

- Substance abuse is especially dangerous when operating an ATV. **Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during the operation of an ATV.**
- Speeding and stunts (wheelies, jumps, etc.) are strong temptations among children, especially if peer pressure is involved. This will increase the risk of losing control with potentially disastrous results. **Never operate an ATV at excessive speeds.**

Source: *ATV Rider's Handbook*

Safety Course for Drivers 50 and Over Scheduled for Sept. 16 & 17

UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County is co-sponsoring a 55 ALIVE Driver Safety Course scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 16 and Wednesday, Sept. 17, 12:30–4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 payable at the first class. Call 441-7180 to register.

Drivers aged 55 and over, compared with drivers aged 30–54, are involved in more accidents per mile driven. The number of accidents per mile rises sharply at about age 75.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest classroom driver refresher course specially designed for motorists age 50 and older.

The eight-hour course is taught in two, four-hour

sessions spanning two days. The course helps drivers refine existing skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques. AARP members and non-members alike may take the course. There are no tests.

The AARP Driver Safety Program course covers the following topics:

- Vision and hearing changes
- Effects of medication
- Reaction time changes
- Left turns and other right-of-way situations
- New laws and how they affect you
- Hazardous driving situations

Research shows a direct link between the kinds of driving problems experienced by older motorists and the physical changes that can occur in all older persons. The loss of

vision, hearing and physical strength is gradual and can go virtually unnoticed until older drivers are faced with a driving emergency that they are no longer able to handle.

For example, the gradual failure of sensory acuity associated with aging reduces the quantity and accuracy of information capable of being processed. This reduces the ability of the individual to respond or react to his/her environment with speed and judgment current traffic often requires.

By being aware of these normal age-related changes and learning how they affect driving, older motorists can compensate for them and become better drivers.

This Nebraska student came from a small town—and found community.

AMBER SAYERS is a junior computer engineering major and Honors student from Hay Springs, NE. She excels in this top-notch program, and she's also learned to excel outside the classroom. She credits upperclass students for her involvement in Feed the Need, a community service program, UNITE (NU's Inter-Tribal Exchange), and even the Juggling Club. "I had other options, but the diversity of programs and opportunities with the feel of a small town made the University of Nebraska-Lincoln a great place for me."

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