

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

“Green Initiatives”

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ISSUE PRIORITY:

PROMOTE A TOXIC FREE FUTURE

DEC's specific regulatory functions fall within its larger mission of protecting human health and the environment. Fulfilling that broad mandate means promoting safer, greener ways of doing business and living our lives. The key to reducing waste and creating a toxic free future rests on reducing or eliminating the use of toxic chemicals and reducing energy, water and other resources throughout a product's life cycle.

Accomplishing this involves both pollution prevention – addressing toxics and waste at their source by choosing alternative practices, redesigning products, and adopting new manufacturing processes – and maximizing materials recovery through product stewardship, remanufacturing, and recycling. Government has a pivotal role to play in every aspect of this transformative approach. It can invest in green chemistry and green technology, practice green purchasing, mandate safer technologies and products, provide technical assistance, and influence consumer choice through education and outreach.

Prevention, however, is an evolving goal. Toxic chemicals are still a part of commerce, and unnecessary waste remains a challenge. Because of this, vigilant “end-of-the-pipe” controls and waste management will continue to play a fundamental role in DEC's mission – protecting human health and the environment and ensuring a level playing field for green alternatives. DEC has a long and effective history of addressing pollution in all media – air, water, soil, and sediment – and these flagship programs will remain central to our mission even as we move toward a new vision of the future.

NYSDEC's “Green” Pesticide Initiatives

- Alternative Lawn Care Messaging Initiative
- Alternative Lawn Care Pest Management Provider Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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Use Less-Toxic Products

As consumers, we put ourselves, our families, and our pets at risk when we use herbicides, pesticides, highly corrosive products like drain cleaners.



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Green Lawns and Gardens

Have a Beautiful Yard without Chemicals

We all want a beautiful looking yard, but also one that is safe for our families, friends and pets to enjoy. Use the tips and resources on this page to learn how to have both and protect the environment at the same time.

Why Make the Switch from Lawn Chemicals?

Lawns and gardens maintained with repeated fertilizer and pesticide applications may *look* perfect but this perfection is achieved at the expense of soil vitality.



[Download this poster. \(PDF, 957 KB\)](#)

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What's in YOUR Lawn?



Lawn Contents:

Compost.....	Barcode
Earthworms	
Ladybugs	
Mulched leaves & lawn clippings.....	

Lawn Contents:

2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid.....	Barcode
Pendimethalin.....	
Imidacloprid	
Glyphosate-Isopropylammonium.....	
Other lawn chemicals.....	

Think about it.

For more information about how to have a beautiful lawn
the natural way, visit www.dec.ny.gov

David B. Bunker | Tommaso Willmann | David Bunker

NEW YORK STATE
Conservationist

August 2009

INVASION!

NEW YORK'S BATTLE AGAINST
NON-NATIVE SPECIES

**Hooked
on fishing**

Pest Management
in Schools





How schools are using green pest management alternatives

by John Razzano

Many school systems across the state are emphasizing alternative management methods for keeping bugs, weeds, mice and other pest problems out of cafeterias and off playing fields. In Nassau County, under the watchful eye of their teacher, first graders at Lakeville Elementary sweep up crumbs after a classroom snack that might otherwise attract insects and mice. In Rockland County, the North Rockland High field hockey team practices for a game as a groundskeeper carefully examines the sideline turf, deciding not to treat for grubs after counting only a few.

In both cases, the school systems involved are part of a growing movement that emphasizes managing pests with alternatives to pesticides. Working together with their school boards, administrators and staff, Great Neck School District on Long Island, North Rockland Central School District in the Hudson Highlands, and other school systems throughout the state are finding both people- and earth-

friendly ways of dealing with pest problems. They are at the forefront of a management approach known as integrated pest management (IPM), which started in the 1970s and emphasizes minimizing, or where possible, eliminating pesticide use. Using a wide array of both simple and sophisticated techniques, they are demonstrating that alternatives to pesticides can effectively prevent and control pest problems in even the most demanding situations.

Great Neck

Great Neck Central is a Long Island suburban district with around 8,000 students and faculty spread over five elementary, two middle and three high schools located on hundreds of acres of grounds. In 1986, the Great Neck School Board hired David Kincaid to be District Consultant for Health and Safety. Kincaid serves as a kind of health and safety czar. This is a high-level approach that gives him the authority to draft

New York State Conservationist, April 2009

district policy recommendations and, once approved by the school board, to follow through with action.

Once, when he was visiting his daughter's school, Kincaid noticed contractors were spraying to control insects.

Fields were mowed as needed rather than on a schedule, increasing turf density and blocking out weeds.

He could smell the insecticide as he walked the hall. "If I could smell insect spray, what were the kids breathing?" he asked. His first order of business was to end "spray first, ask questions later" contracts. Next, he hired an entomologist (bug specialist) who could provide a better understanding of the pests that needed to be managed. He began trying alternative methods, introducing an IPM pilot program in 1992.

After two successful years, the board of education voted in 1994 to adopt policies to use IPM methods and organic groundskeeping techniques that emphasize natural rather than synthetic

pest-management products. Each school now participates in a thorough inspection program to stop infestations before they happen. Maintenance staff learn to prevent infestations in school buildings by sealing cracks where insects and rodents can enter, fixing leaks to remove sources of water, and cleaning up litter and food scraps that attract and feed pests. Synthetic fertilizers and chemical herbicides have been replaced with organic fertilizer, mechanical aeration, non-toxic pesticide products like corn gluten, and beneficial species of bacteria to fight weeds and grubs on school grounds.

Teachers adopted simple procedures for classrooms, like mopping up spills and sweeping up crumbs that attract insects. As teachers brought these sanitation rules back to their students, it wasn't long before the entire school was involved in

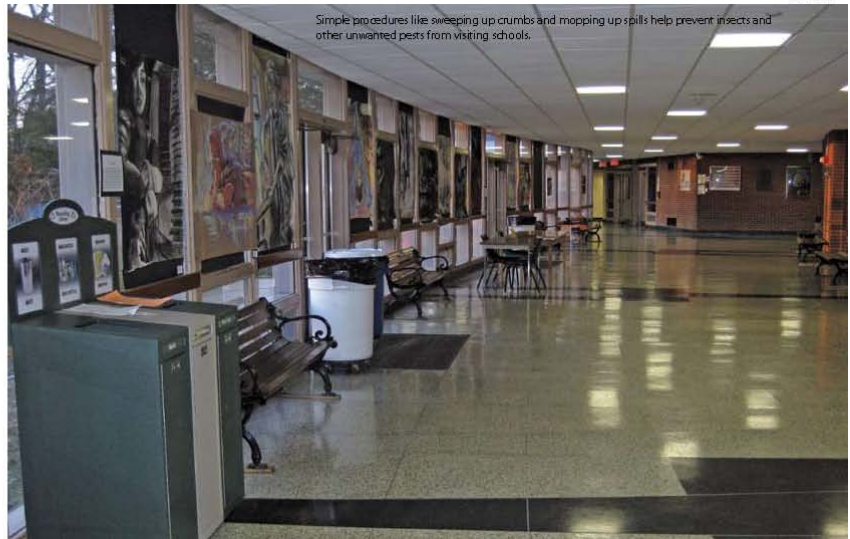
the program. "Education is essential," Kincaid said. "You are more likely to get people to do something differently if you can work within the system to persuade them that it's better. In the absence of such persuasion, most people don't think of their effect on the environment."

Since implementing IPM policies, pesticide spraying and fogging have been eliminated, and the district has far exceeded expectations for the program, all while holding the line on costs.

The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition recognized Kincaid in 2004 for "Dedication to Environmental Health." He is optimistic about the future. "Green consciousness is way ahead of where it was even five years ago," he said. "It's simple really. If you don't maintain a healthy school environment, you can't expect to have healthy children."

North Rockland

North Rockland Central is a suburb an district in Rockland County with



<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43593.html>





Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program



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The Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) is a voluntary program that forms partnerships with pesticide users to reduce the potential health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use and implement pollution prevention strategies.

While government regulation can reduce pesticide risk, PESP is guided by the principle that, even in the absence of additional regulatory mandates, the informed actions of pesticide users reduce risk even further. Based on this principle, membership in the program is completely voluntary.

By joining, organizations pledge that environmental stewardship is an integral part of pest control, and they commit to working toward pesticide practices that reduce risk to humans and the environment. Members take a strategic approach to risk reduction and undertake specific, measurable activities toward achieving their risk reduction goals.

EPA recognizes the need to protect public health and the food supply with efficient, cost-effective pest control. In our role as a partner, the Agency promotes the adoption of innovative, alternative pest control practices that reduce potential pesticide risk.

Highlights

- [PESP Regional Grants: Proposals due June 12, 2009](#) (20pp, 134K, [about PDF](#))
- [PRIA 2 Partnership Grants: closed April 15, 2009](#)





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**TRUGREEN GOES GREENER
WITH MORE TARGETED,
ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIBLE LAWN CARE
OPTIONS**

***HELPING HOMEOWNERS TAKE BETTER
CARE OF THEIR LAWN SQUARE***

***MEMPHIS, Tenn. - March 19,
2009 /PRNewswire/*** — As Americans spend more time enjoying their lawns, research shows they're looking for environmentally responsible ways to care for their little square of the Earth*. TruGreen, the world's largest lawn care services provider, is going greener today with its debut of Targeted Lawn CareSM (TLC) to address customers' specific lawn care needs.

Video - Responsible Lawn Care



[Embed this Video](#)



TruGreen PESP Strategy

Goal 3 and Tactics

- **Implement green alternative programs.**

1. Design and pilot consumer programs that provide consumers options for lawn fertilization and pest management strategies that include **natural alternative products.**

2. **Refine and expand green alternative programs** to more areas of the country in based on lessons learned in the pilot locations.

3. Complete the conversion of lawn program options to **promote and expand green alternative programs** across the United States by 2010.

NYSDEC's ("Organic" or "Least-Toxic") Alternative Pest Management Provider Program





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