EPA School IPM Grant Fact Sheet

2012 Grantee: Washington State University

Expanding Verifiable Integrated Pest Management in Pacific Northwest K-12 Schools

Reducing Pest & Pesticide Risk for 468,000 Students in Washington and Oregon

Funding Awarded: $250,000

Overview

Coalition Building / Training & Outreach / Continuing Education / Transferability / Sustainability

Led by Washington State University, with the co-lead of Oregon State University, this two-year project is designed to impact 32 percent of the students in 52 K-12 school districts in Washington and Oregon, amounting to 468,000 students. This project will build on existing organizational experience and capacity within the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Consortium to expand existing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts and introduce IPM to new school districts. The PNW Consortium is a cooperative effort of regulatory bodies, school districts, industry members, nonprofits, and university and K-12 support teams. Washington State University and Oregon State University are key partners in the consortium.

Objectives

- Measure school IPM implementation in Washington and Oregon using an online survey tool.
- Form a regional IPM Consortium of stakeholder organizations to coordinate implementation of proven approaches for school IPM adoption.
- Provide education to Consortium members and other change agents.
- Provide hands-on training for IPM implementers at the school district level.
- Provide IPM information to teachers, support staff, departments of education, parents, and administrators.
- Verify IPM implementation statuses using the IPM STAR assessment program.
- Improve IPM record-keeping and pest management evaluation in school districts.
- Diffuse the Pacific Northwest IPM implementation model to other regions.

Programs & Activities

Outreach: Fact sheets, emails, Pest Presses and enabling public access to IPM materials and publications from participating university websites.

Information Gathering & Knowledge Transfer: Feedback surveys, use of the National Pesticide Information Center hotline data, nation-wide webinar at program completion, adaptation of the iPestManager web-based application that reports, tracks, and monitors pests to focus on prevention and monitoring, and a post-project workshop review for lessons learned.

Programs and Activities (continued)

Training & Certifications:

Training and Coalition Building: Training events will focus on developing and implementing verifiable IPM programs for school district administrators and consortium members; use of webinars, specific training for school district IPM coordinators, and meetings that promote involvement of partner organizations and local stakeholders.

Curriculum and Workbooks: Development and use of science-based IPM curriculum and workbooks for indoor and outdoor school IPM.

Rodent School Academies: Specific training on IPM practices for rodents will be offered due to mouse problems in regional school districts.

Continuing Education Training: Pesticide applicators will be asked to participate in this verifiable IPM program in order to stay current with certification requirements.

Desired Outcomes

- 52 school districts (30 percent of the student population) in Washington and Oregon will benefit from implementation of IPM school programs.
- 40 pesticide applicators representing at least 30 school districts will increase their knowledge in verifiable school IPM through continuing education and coalition trainings.
- 40 pesticide applicators that apply pesticides on school property will modify their application choices and/or practices to reduce risks, and to reduce their pesticide applications as a result of project activities.
- More schools/districts in Washington will appoint IPM Coordinators.
- Educational information and best practices will be shared between states.
- Increased understanding and awareness of costs/cost savings from IPM implementation.
- Communication tools for school IPM partners and stakeholders to strengthen/develop collaborative partnerships.
- Increased awareness/knowledge and skills for implementing IPM in school communities.