## WA Statewide School IPM Project

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&

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### Washington Statewide School IPM Project

- Conducting focus groups
- Working with our partners
- Encouraging peer mentoring
- Providing recognition
- Documenting progress



### **Focus Groups**

**Purpose**- to get input from school district facility managers on how to improve IPM outreach to districts

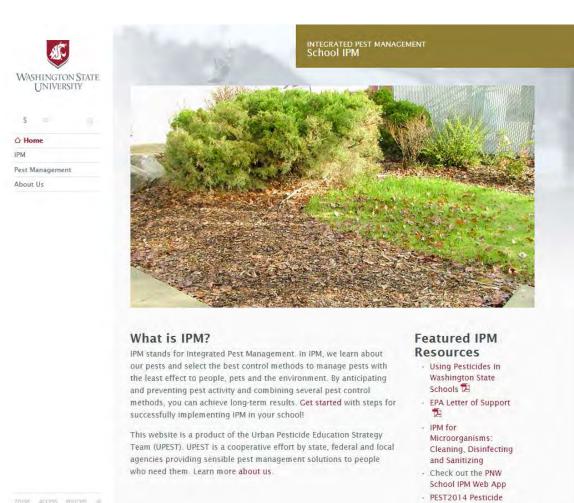
- Champion school districts
- Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators
- Federal Way Coalition Event



## Focus Groups – Materials Requested

#### Materials Requested:

- IPM one-pager for teachers
- IPM one-pager for principals
- Best practices in pest proofing
- IPM for new construction
- IPM for landscape architects
- IPM and composting
- More outdoor school IPM resources
- Many of the requested materials are already available on WSU School IPM site; working to expand the site



### Focus Groups – Receiving Recognition

- Getting mileage out of a recognition program:
  - Provide clings/decals to display
  - Having a recognizable logo
  - Provide schools with a short blurb to put into the district's newsletter
- Provided this input to EPA School IPM Center of Expertise



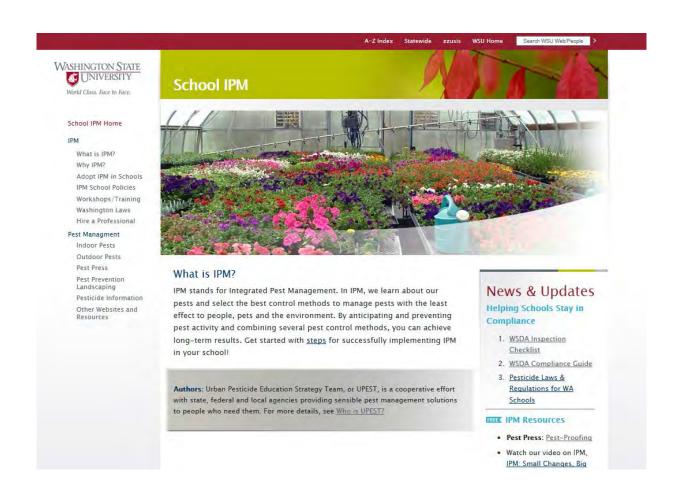
Energy Star is an example of a recognizable logo

### Working with Our Partners

- Expanding UPEST
- Letter of Support
- Dept of Heath School Environmental Health Workshops
- Washington Association of School Administrators Conference
- Indian Health Service Program



UPEST is a Washington interagency committee created in 1994 with a focus on school and community IPM. New members invited in 2015.



## Washington School IPM Letter of Support

- High-level signatures from EPA,
   OSPI, DOH, and WSU Extension
- Sent to all public K-12 WA school districts
- Benefits-
  - Building relationship between organizations
  - Increased requests to join WSU school IPM listserv
  - Now a tool for school districts to get support from administration



Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington State University Extension, and the Washington State Department of Health share the common goals of keeping our children healthy and providing them with a safe learning environment. We want to highlight the importance of safe and effective pest control programs in our schools, announce upcoming training and networking events, and provide you with information to assist your school district.

Children face many risks from pests and pesticide exposures. Pests can bite, spread disease, cause allergic reactions, and trigger asthma attacks. Also, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Epidemiologic evidence demonstrates associations between early life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function, and behavioral problems." Furthermore, pest and pesticide problems can be quite costly and cause legal liability for districts.

We collectively recommend schools use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a means to reduce the risk of pests and pesticide exposure to children. IPM is a smart, sensible, and sustainable approach to managing pests that focuses on addressing the underlying causes that enable pests to thrive. Practicing IPM has many benefits beyond pest management, including water and energy savings. Although Washington state schools are not required to implement an IPM program, we strongly recommend it as a best practice.

## Department of Health School Environmental Health Workshops

Partnered with WA
 Department of Health to
 present on the basics of IPM
 and available resources at nine
 school environment health
 workshops across the state,
 reaching dozens of school
 districts

Time	Topic	Speakers	
9:00 AM	Introductions	Nancy Bernard	
9:10 AM	School Communicable Disease Update	Local Health Jurisdiction	
9:40 AM	Indoor Air Quality  Ventilation & Filtration Investigating IAQ Concerns Controlling Asthma Triggers Fragrance-Free Policies Cleaning & Disinfection Your Experiences	Nancy Bernard, MPH School Environmental Health and Safety Program Manager Washington State Department of Health	
11:30 AM	New Radon Testing Protocols for Schools	Mike Brennan Radiation Health Physicist Washington State Department of Health	
12:00 PM	Lunch – on your own		
1:00 PM	School Integrated Pest Management	Juliann Barta / Derrick Terada U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10	
1:45 PM	Hazardous Chemicals in Schools: Science, Arts, Shops	Dave Waddell Local Hazardous Waste Management in King County	
4:00 PM	Turn in Evaluations	Thank you for attending!	

## 2015 Washington Association of School Administrators Conference

- Department of Health and EPA Region 10 will set up a table to discuss children health and IPM to school district superintendents, principals, and vice principals
- Conference is estimated to have 500-800 registrants



## Indian Health Service - School IPM Assessments

- EPA and IHS trained officers on IPM and developed new IPM assessment tools and guidance for tribal schools
- IHS now conducting IPM assessments in tribal schools throughout WA state
- Replicability- Partnering with another EPA & IHS region to expand this work and document lessons learned



#### Integrated Pest Management Program Seeking Tribal Partnerships

The Portland Area Indian Health Service is excited to offer a unique program which provides free pest and pesticide consultations and technical assistance to tribes in WA, OR and ID. In partnership with the tribe, IHS will conduct pest management and pesticide risk assessments to determine 1) what and where the problems or risks may be; and 2) what is the most efficient and safest way to address those problems or risks.

Target sites may include any number of indoor or outdoor areas:

- sobbools
- whome gardens
- · healthcare facilities
- whomes

- childcare facilities
   community centers
- elder care facilities
   places of business
- célebration grounds
   agricultural operations
- parks
  playing fields

- · processing plants
- acommodity centers
- emanufacturing facilities
- · roadways

#### What is integrated Pest Management?

IPM is a scientific approach to pest control which minimizes risks to people and the environment. It combines a number of strategies to get at the root cause of a problem, providing long-term, sustainable Together, IHS and the tribe will develop a plan
to implement safer pest control practices and
work together to execute it. The goal of the program is to
reduce the health risks and environmental impacts of
pesticides through the promotion and adoption of Integrated
Pest Management.

IHS is currently seeking to partner with tribes who may have some pest/pesticide concerns or who are interested in safer, more effective alternatives. Coalition events are an opportunity for school districts to learn more about IPM implementation from experts and their peers.



# Dr. Bobby Corrigan will teach a rodent academy in July.



# Expanding and labeling Washington's school IPM 'champions'.



WSU recognizes school IPM champions in collaboration with the IPM Institute of North America.



# Providing Recognition- Great Start Award Program

- EPA CoE is developing a tiered award program for school districts
- EPA Region 10 will work with any interested WA K-12 public and tribal school districts to pilot the Great Start Award, until the national award is available



#### Does your school district:

- only use a certified pesticide applicator for all pesticide applications?
- have a designated IPM coordinator that receives regular training?
- have a written IPM policy?
- have completed a self-assessment checklist for at least 10% of your facilities to address pest conducive conditions and pest problems?

### **Documenting Progress - Tracking**

- Currently keeping track of districts participation in events and webinars, whether they are receiving recognition, whether they have a policy or plan, whether they have received any information from Extension, IHS, EPA, and more.
- Over 75 WA school districts have been reached through IPM Star, WSU and WA Dept of Health events, IHS school IPM walkthroughs, and EPA webinars



## Documenting Progress - Tracking

- WSU is also surveying WA districts about IPM such as whether a district has a policy or IPM coordinator.
- Will integrate the survey results with information collected through this project.
- Do the results indicate the efforts over the past few years have had an impact?



#### Section III. Pest Problems

List up to three of your district's top pest problems INSIDE buildings.

Indoor Pests	Districts reporting problems	
Small ants	104	76.5%
Mice	81	59.6%
Spiders	41	30.1%
Flies	33	24.3%
Rats	26	19.1%
Carpenter ants	17	12.5%
Cockroaches	5	3.6%
Fleas	1	0.7%
Termites	1	0.7%

List up to three of your district's top pest problems OUTSIDE buildings

Outdoor Pests	Districts reporting problems				
Yellowjackets	110	80.9%			
Weeds	106	77.9%			
Moles	42	30.9%			
Pigeons	19	14%			
Insect/disease on shrubs/trees	16	11.8%			
Gophers	13	9.6%			
Bats	9	6.6%			

### Documenting Progress – Lessons Learned

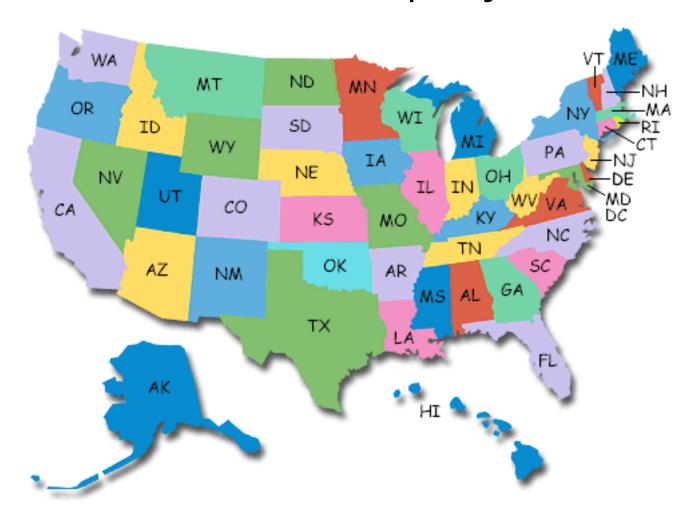
- Partnerships matter. Connect with your department of education and department of health to increase reach.
- Consider school workload schedule when timing training events.
- Don't forget about the small school districts and rural school districts. They can be change agents.
- School districts may equate a walkthrough from a regulatory agency with an inspection and a fee or fine.
- On a state scale, outputs are easy to track (e.g. attendance at events). Outcomes are hard (e.g. decrease in pest complaints).

Continue to build on past success and structure to create synergy.

(secret ingredients: patience, persistence, passion)



A nationwide webinar will be held to share lessons learned from the project.



### **Next Steps**

- Continuing to build our network of school districts and partner organizations
  - Working with districts interested in recognition or technical assistance
  - Contacting more partner organizations
  - Speaking with administrators
- Planning and promoting upcoming events
  - Rodent Academy
  - Recognition Event
- Continuing to track success and lessons learned



## Thank you for your support!

