

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Roundtable

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

## Meeting Summary

### Overview

On May 25, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention convened 29 representatives of 17 national school, health and pest management associations and federal government agencies in Washington, DC to discuss ideas for implementing a set of principles promoting the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in the nation's schools (see Appendix A for a full participant list and Appendix C for the principles document).

The participants in the School Integrated Pest Management Roundtable (Roundtable) discussed ways to promote the uptake of IPM in schools through communication and collaboration strategies and shared information on existing resources and needs. The goals of the Roundtable were the following:

- Launch the School IPM Initiative for national organizations who influence school district decision making
- Learn about the networks and communications channels participant organizations have available and what information and resources organizations would find helpful
- Share information and resources EPA and other participants have on IPM in schools
- Learn from experts about the experiences implementing IPM in schools

This summary contains the main points raised during the Roundtable discussion, as well as brief descriptions of the presentations by the expert speakers (see Appendix B for the meeting agenda). The PowerPoint slides for the presentations were included on the flash drives distributed to participants at the meeting.

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention at the U.S. EPA, welcomed the participants and thanked them for contributing to the effort to ensure that the nation's children have safe school environments. He observed that national goals like these are not achievable by one agency or entity alone, which is why EPA is keenly

interested in collaborating with organizations such as those represented at the Roundtable that have the knowledge, influence, and credibility to increase the adoption of IPM in schools. Such partnerships are critical to seeing IPM techniques implemented across the country.

Gail Bingham, the meeting facilitator, then invited the participants to introduce themselves and their organizations, as well as to share any relevant IPM resources they might have with the group.

## Participant Discussion

Meeting participants discussed communication channels for the dissemination of information about IPM in schools, potential target audiences with the ability to facilitate the adoption of IPM, and key messages to convey to those audiences. Attendees also identified tools and materials needed in order to promote IPM, existing IPM resources and ideas for collaboration.

### COMMUNICATION

**Communication Channels.** Participating organizations have a variety of communication channels for reaching out to their membership and/or stakeholders. They mentioned the use of electronic media and social platforms, including listservs, websites, and Twitter (some participants were tweeting with the hashtag #schoolIPM). One representative noted they had a website section restricted to members where the organization could post relevant articles and links. Others regularly distribute newsletters to their membership or publish quarterly magazines.

Participants also pointed to annual conferences as an opportunity to disseminate information on IPM. One organization had a successful experience with a virtual conference, which reached over 500 people across the country at no cost to attendees. Some organizations conduct trainings or workshops to share information and lessons learned with their peers. Another model that has been successful for one national organization is a mentoring program in which local members are paired up, allowing those with experience in a particular area to provide guidance and counseling to their counterparts. Finally, a participant noted that local health departments can share information with individual schools and day care centers during site visits.

**Target Audiences.** A participant asked who would be the most influential target for school IPM outreach efforts. In considering this question, participants highlighted the important role of school board members in providing the necessary leadership and the impetus for change in school districts. They also observed that superintendents can play a key role in disseminating information and bringing the issue before school boards. State and local health departments can also help initiate the conversation on IPM in schools.

Some participants indicated that engaging parents and the grassroots advocacy community on children's health issues can help drive the conversation toward the adoption of IPM at all levels. One attendee member observed that motivating parents and elected officials to act on their values and beliefs can be a powerful tool for change. In some states, the use of IPM in schools has been mandated by state law. Representatives from those states noted that getting legislation passed required a comprehensive, concerted effort, as well as approaching the goal from a variety of angles.

Early adopter schools can also create the necessary momentum to demonstrate that the goal is achievable.

**Messages.** Participants emphasized the need for clear and simple messages on IPM that are tailored to a variety of audiences. Key messages include:

- IPM 101 – What is IPM?
- The importance of prevention
- That most practices are simple, good maintenance that provide multiple benefits
- The link to improved academic outcomes
- Potential costs and savings involved, including professional development for staff
- The goal of having healthy students in the classroom who are ready to learn

A lesson learned in school districts where IPM policies or legislation have been adopted in-house is that it is important for proponents to communicate well and build good relationships with key stakeholders – including custodians, food service staff, administrators, and teachers - in order to support implementation. Some participants noted that custodians can be very effective leaders in IPM implementation. Effective messaging to custodians can focus on the opportunity to give back to the kids by keeping the school safe and clean, allowing kids to spend more quality time in school.

Finally, a participant noted that there is a current opportunity to disseminate an IPM prevention message with the ongoing public health efforts to combat the mosquito-borne Zika virus.

## INFORMATION AND RESOURCE NEEDS

Participants identified a need for informational materials to disseminate to their members and stakeholders. Some documents may be basic and others more advanced for specific stakeholders. For example, it would be useful to have a brief pamphlet on IPM basics for schools, pediatricians, and others to share with parents. Talking points on academic outcomes and potential IPM program costs and savings would be valuable when presenting IPM to superintendents or school boards. Information about IPM certification programs for school employees or pest management firms also would be helpful.

Finally, one participant asked if information is available about the interaction of pests and technology – for example, the potential for the heat generated by electronics to attract pests.

## EXISTING RESOURCES

A number of participating organizations had developed IPM resources or had knowledge of such resources, which they shared. These included options for certification programs for professional pest managers and schools; suggestions of organizations and networks that could provide guidance and assistance on establishing school IPM programs; and recommendations of print and online materials ranging from information brochures to webinars and online trainings. Links to and more in-depth descriptions of many of these resources, as well as additional resources, are available on the flash drives distributed at the Roundtable and on the EPA web site by contacting [school.ipm@epa.gov](mailto:school.ipm@epa.gov). In addition to the resources listed below, there is a recent study of school IPM laws that EPA plans to make available to participants.

### Certification Programs

- EcoWise Certified ([ecowisecertified.org/ecowise\\_find.html](http://ecowisecertified.org/ecowise_find.html)) – a third-party certification program for IPM service providers offered only in California
- GreenPro Certified ([www.whatisgreenpro.org](http://www.whatisgreenpro.org)) – a green certification program for pest management professionals offered by the National Pest Management Association
- Green Shield Certified ([www.greenshieldcertified.org/](http://www.greenshieldcertified.org/)) - an independent, non-profit certification program that promotes practitioners of effective, prevention-based pest control while minimizing the need to use pesticides, operated by the IPM Institute of North America

### Organizations/Networks

- Academic institutions and university agricultural extension programs
- EPA Center of Expertise for School IPM (physically located in Region 6 – Dallas, Texas)
- EPA regional offices
- National Pest Management Association
- School IPM 2020 ([http://ipminstitute.org/school\\_ipm\\_2020/](http://ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2020/)) – an IPM Institute network of experts aiming to educate stakeholders about the benefits of school IPM
- State departments of health

### Materials

- Annual notice sent to New Jersey parents (where IPM is mandatory) about IPM policies, procedures and plans
- EPA website ([epa.gov/managing-pests-schools](http://epa.gov/managing-pests-schools))

- iSchool Pest Manager ([ischoolpestmanager.org/](http://ischoolpestmanager.org/)) – online repository of IPM resources, with information tailored to those with different roles in promoting school IPM; mobile application also available
- Model pest management contract and guidance ([go.usa.gov/CTZ8z](http://go.usa.gov/CTZ8z))
- Model Pesticide Safety and IPM Guidance Policy for School Districts ([go.usa.gov/CTZX3](http://go.usa.gov/CTZX3))
- School IPM webinar series ([go.usa.gov/CTZX9](http://go.usa.gov/CTZX9))
- Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments ([epa.gov/children/sensible-steps-healthier-school-environments](http://epa.gov/children/sensible-steps-healthier-school-environments))
- Stop School Pests ([cals.arizona.edu/apmc/StopSchoolPests.html](http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/StopSchoolPests.html)) – University of Arizona training program for school stakeholders

## COLLABORATIONS

During the discussion, participants were invited to identify possible partnerships to advance IPM in schools. Local boards of health, local health departments, pediatricians, and state school nurse consultants were mentioned as potential partners with schools. (It was noted that the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants had endorsed the principles, but they were unable to send a representative to the Roundtable.)

## PRESENTATIONS

Several expert presenters were asked to share their experiences with school IPM and IPM resources. Their presentation slides were included on the Roundtable flash drives.

**Seth Miller**, superintendent of the Westville School District in Illinois, shared his experience and lessons learned from implementing an IPM program in his school district. He offered how-to guidance to others who may be interested in starting a program in their own districts.

**Raul Rivas**, director of facilities and security for the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township in Indiana, spoke about the reasons for implementing school IPM, some of the outcomes he had witnessed with his program, and effective practices for implementation.

**Ricardo Zubiato**, assistant director of facilities services for the Salt Lake City School District, shared the process for getting an IPM program established in his school district and the cost savings his district had realized. He also shared stories of the resonance that IPM has for custodial staff and how it can enhance their profession.

**Dawn Gouge**, associate professor at the University of Arizona, offered information on two projects that could be valuable resources to participants – Stop School Pests and the iSchool Pest Manager Collective.

**Frank Ellis**, branch chief of the EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, described available school IPM tools and resources, including the contents of the flash drives and backpacks distributed to attendees. He also offered EPA's assistance to participants, in particular through the EPA regional offices and the Center of Expertise for School IPM in Dallas.

## DISCUSSION

One of the themes emerging from the presentations and ensuing discussions was that school districts have experienced cost savings as a result of implementing IPM programs. While some cautioned this might not be the case for all schools, EPA staff indicated that the agency is funding a research project to look at the question of cost savings and will share the results.

Participants also noted the importance of recognition programs and celebrating the successes of IPM in schools as a way to sustain positive momentum for voluntary efforts. EPA staff mentioned that they are developing a national school IPM awards program that will offer the opportunity for schools with successful programs to share their experiences with others.

## Concluding Remarks

Robert McNally, director of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division at the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, thanked the attendees for their participation and invited them to take the knowledge and resources they had acquired during the Roundtable and put it to use, drawing on EPA as a resource. In conclusion, he shared EPA's hope that the next three years will see growth in the implementation of IPM in schools as a result of the collaborative efforts of participating organizations.

# Appendix A. Participant List

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Roundtable**

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

## *Participant List*

### **Allergy and Asthma Network**

Sally Schoessler,  
sschoessler@allergyasthmanetwork.org

### **American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology**

Renee Vandlik, rvandlik@aaaai.org

### **American Academy of Pediatrics**

James Roberts, robertsj@musc.edu  
*[chair, Children's Environmental Health Network]*

### **American Academy of Sanitarians**

Welford Roberts, welford@erols.com

### **Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America**

Heidi Bayer, heidi.bayer@numodo.com  
Cary Sennett, csennett@aafa.org

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health**

William Cibulas, wic1@cdc.gov  
Vincent Radke, ver2@cdc.gov

### **Children's Environmental Health Network**

Kristie Trousdale, kristiet@cehn.org

### **IPM Institute of North America**

Thomas Green, ipmworks@ipminstitute.org

### **National Association of City and County Health Officials**

Jennifer Li, jli@naccho.org  
Pieter Sheehan, pieter.sheehan@fairfaxcounty.gov

### **National Education Association**

Timothy Barchak, tbarchak@nea.org  
Matthew Powell, matthew.powell@graves.kyschools.us

### **National Environmental Health Association**

David Dyjack, ddyjack@neha.org  
Sandra Whitehead, swhitehead@neha.org  
Joanne Zurcher, jzurcher@neha.org

### **National Pest Management Association**

Andy Architect, aarchitect@pestworld.org  
Andrew Bray, abray@pestworld.org

### **National School Boards Association**

Kim Richey, krichey@nsba.org

### **National Association of School Nurses**

Shirley Schantz, sschantz@nasn.org

### **National School Plant Management Association**

John Bailey, john.bailey@cpschools.com  
Kimberly Keener, kkeener@robbinsville.k12.nj.us

### **Public Health Foundation**

Vanessa Lamers, vlamers@phf.org

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Jim Jones, jones.jim@epa.gov  
Jack Housenger, housenger.jack@epa.gov  
Robert McNally, mcnally.robert@epa.gov  
Frank Ellis, ellis.frank@epa.gov  
Sherry Glick, glick.sherry@epa.gov

***AASA: The School Superintendent's Association, Healthy Schools Network, and National Association of State School Nurse Consultants have endorsed the principles but were unable to participate in the Roundtable.***

***Speakers:***

**Metropolitan School District of Pike Township, Indiana**

Raul Rivas, rrivas@pike.k12.in.us

**Salt Lake City School District**

Ricardo Zubiata, ricardo.zubiata@slcschools.org

**University of Arizona**

Dawn Gouge, dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu

**Westville School District, Illinois**

Seth Miller, millers@gowestville.org



# Appendix B. Meeting Agenda

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Schools Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Roundtable**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

*William Jefferson Clinton East Building | Room 1153 | 1201 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC*

### **Agenda**

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- Launch the Schools IPM Initiative
- Learn about the networks and communications channels participant organizations have available and what information and resources organizations would find helpful
- Share information and resources EPA and other participants have on IPM in schools
- Discuss next steps

*Materials: School IPM Principles*

8:45 Gather for coffee/tea and informal conversation

*(Please bring [photo ID](#) and allow time to go through security.)*

9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. EPA

Participant Introductions

9:45 Participant Discussion: Outreach Mechanisms

*Objective: Learn about the networks and communication channels participant organizations have available and what information and resources organizations would find helpful.*

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Presentations and Discussion: Information Resources

*Objective: Share success stories and challenges to implementation and brainstorm effective ways to implement school IPM. Share information and resources that EPA and other participants have about IPM in schools.*

Presentations [60 min]

- *Seth Miller, Superintendent, Westville School District (Westville, IL)*
- *Raul Rivas, Director of Facilities and Security, Metropolitan School District of Pike Township (IN)*
- *Ricardo Zubiarte, Assistant Director Facilities Services, Salt Lake City School District*
- *Dawn Gouge, Associate Professor, University of Arizona*
- *Frank Ellis, Branch Chief, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. EPA*

Discussion [30 min]

12:15 Wrap Up and Next Steps

*Objective: Discuss plans for a follow-up meeting and other ways to share information and questions as participants engage in outreach to members.*

12:30 Adjourn

# Appendix C. Principles Document

## School Integrated Pest Management Initiative

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency convened the undersigned national organizations to pursue a voluntary effort to make Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices the standard in all schools over the next three years. These organizations met in May 2016 and will reconvene in a year to review progress toward this shared goal.

IPM is a science-based approach to pest management that seeks to control pest problems proactively, avoiding the unnecessary use of and exposure to pesticides while achieving acceptable control of pests indoors and outdoors.

### Principles of Agreement

- We understand that children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental hazards due to their developing systems and greater exposures
- We support and will promote and communicate making sound IPM practices the standard in all schools
- We will encourage implementation of school IPM policies and practices and will encourage our members to routinely re-evaluate and improve their practices, as needed

### Recommendations for Schools and School Districts

- Assess current pest management practices and recurring pest problems
- Designate and train an appropriate staff person to coordinate IPM activities
- Adopt and implement an IPM policy or plan to prevent and effectively address pest problems
- Conduct regular inspections and monitoring for pests and pest conducive conditions
- Adopt in-house IPM pest prevention and control practices indoors and outdoors and/or contract with pest management firms to perform IPM services
- Provide IPM education corresponding to the roles of those in the school community
- Visit [epa.gov/managing-pests-schools](http://epa.gov/managing-pests-schools) for free tools and information

### Participants



## How Can EPA Help?

EPA will provide information and tools to help schools implement IPM programs. EPA will not represent these materials as endorsed by participating organizations, but will make them available to anyone wishing to use them.

### The following information was available as of Spring 2016:

- Instructional Videos — [apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/managing\\_pests/video\\_series.cfm](https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/managing_pests/video_series.cfm)
- Training — [cals.arizona.edu/apmc/StopSchoolPests.html](https://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/StopSchoolPests.html)
- Webinars — [go.usa.gov/cTZX9](https://go.usa.gov/cTZX9)
- IPM Resources — [schoolpestmanager.org](https://schoolpestmanager.org)
- Sample Pest Management Contract — [go.usa.gov/cTZ8z](https://go.usa.gov/cTZ8z)
- Sample IPM Policy — [go.usa.gov/cTZX3](https://go.usa.gov/cTZX3)
- Assistance:
  - Center of Expertise for School IPM — [school.ipm@epa.gov](mailto:school.ipm@epa.gov); 844-EPA-SIPM
  - Regional School IPM Coordinators — [go.usa.gov/cZ6AQ](https://go.usa.gov/cZ6AQ)