



School Environmental Health Resources



The organizations listed below help schools create healthy school environments and improve air quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently published reports on showing emerging evidence that illness, absences from school, and the decrease in student performance can, in part, be attributed to indoor pollution and environmental sources. The good news is that schools can prevent complaints and health problems. Call the Vermont Department of Health at 800-439-8550 or log on to www.learnenvision.org.

Indoor Air & Environmental Management Planning

Vermont Department of Health–ENVISION Program

Offers training, technical support, and referrals for schools developing plans and policies to improve air quality and reduce exposure to hazards. Register with the Health Department for training and find out how your school can earn the Vermont Certificate of Achievement for Environmental Health under the School Environmental Act 125.

800-439-8550 or www.learnenvision.org/

America Lung Association of Vermont–Education Program

Works with the ENVISION program to train schools in the use of Tools for Schools Action Kit that emphasizes low cost or no cost actions to reduce exposures and solve problems.

800-Lung-USA or www.lungusa.org/vermont/

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources–Environmental Assistance Division

Helps businesses to identify effective and economical ways to reduce waste at the source. Advice on recycling waste once it's generated to avoid waste treatment and disposal costs and to safeguard human and environmental health. Workshops, planning, technical assistance and waste assessments are available.

800-974-9559 or <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/index.htm>

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice–Green Flags Program

Focuses on four areas: 1) integrated pest management, 2) reduce, reuse, recycle, 3) non-toxic products, and; 4) indoor air quality.

703-237-2249 or www.greenflagschools.org/

Environmental Protection Agency

Hotline and website for indoor air questions and how to use the Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality Action Kit.

800-438-4318 (general questions) or 866-837-3721 or <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/>

Integrated Pest Management Program

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Advises schools on the proper use of pesticides, regulations, training, and technical assistance with using non-toxic measures to control the pest population.

802-828-3475 or www.vermontagriculture.com/pid.htm

University of Vermont–Vermont School integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program

Website includes protocols, technical assistance, and the “how to” guidelines to suppress pest populations without relying on pesticide use.

Plant and Soil Science Department, UVM 656-0493 or pss.uvm.edu/pd/schoolipm/

Vermont Public Interest Research Group–Healthy Schools Initiative

Conducted a 2002 school survey on pesticide use in schools. Seventy percent of Vermont schools responding used pesticides. VPIRG offers parents and schools advice on how to reduce exposure to pesticides and other chemicals. A follow-up survey is planned in 2004. Results of the 2002 survey are available on line at www.vpirg.org.

802-223-5221 or www.vpirg.org

Financial Resources

Vermont Department of Education–School Construction Program

Offers thirty percent cost share grants of state funds to school districts that demonstrate an urgent need for construction that cannot be reasonably addressed by other means. Additionally, schools incorporating renewable energy sources, such as woodchip, geothermal, wind or solar power, may be eligible for up to ninety percent state aid for costs exceeding those of fossil fuel energy sources.

802-828-5402 or http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/pgm_construction.html

Mercury and Chemical Clean Out Projects

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources–Department of Environmental Conservation Waste Management Division

Offers schools technical assistance with reducing the use of mercury and other chemicals and disposing of unused hazardous materials appropriately.

802-241-3455, 800-974-9559 or <http://www.mercvt.org>

Association of Vermont Recyclers

Assists schools with disposal of fluorescent and high intensity discharge bulbs that contain mercury. These bulbs are very energy efficient, last longer and help lower electric costs. Call for technical assistance and solid waste district information. AVR offers classroom education programs covering toxic chemical reduction, recycling and composting.

802-229-1833 or <http://www.vtrecyclers.org/>

No-Idling Project

- Join the **10% Challenge** and **American Lung Association of Vermont**, to promote “no idling” policies and procedures at your school. Schools receive signs to post and brochures on reducing diesel particulates and car exhaust that effect ventilation systems.
802-865-7375 or <http://www.10percentchallenge.org/>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Association of Vermont Recyclers–Youth Environmental Coalition**
Educates student environmental groups across the state as change agent for their high schools. Students become ambassadors of their recycling, composting, and reduce or reuse programs for students, faculty and staff, maintenance, and administration. Students leaders are likely candidates to work on a school committee to develop an environmental management and indoor air quality plan under the ENVISION program.
802-229-1833 or <http://www.vtrecyclers.org/>
- Vermont Solid Waste Districts**
Advice and cost savings programs to dispose of solid and hazardous materials.
802-241-3888 or <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/swmdlist.htm>

Safer Products

- Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services, Purchasing and Contract Administration**
Extends the pricing of the state’s environmentally preferred cleaning products to schools.
802-828-2217 or <http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/pca/polsub.htm>

In addition to preferred cleaning products, the lamp and ballast contract features low mercury and energy efficient products. It includes an option for recycling of spent (mercury containing) lamps and ballasts.
<http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/pca/lighting.htm#>

The paint contract features zero-VOC interior paints, as well as low-VOC exterior paints.
<http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/pca/purcont2.htm#6371>
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on the products used in schools are available at the websites:
<http://siri.uvm.edu/> and <http://msdsearch.com/>

School Crisis Response Procedures

- Schools can adopt the **Vermont School Boards Association** procedures that deal with hazardous materials and other emergency situations available through the website.
800-244-8722 or <http://www.vtvsba.org/download/download.htm>

