

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did you know?

- Flies and cockroaches may spread disease.
- Cockroaches can cause allergies and asthma attacks.
- Yellow jacket stings can be life-threatening to those with allergies.
- Mice may contaminate food, trigger asthma attacks and cause structural damage.
- Termites cause structural damage.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

IPM is an approach to pest management based on:

- Regular monitoring and recordkeeping to determine if and when to use pesticides
- Eliminating conditions that allow pests to thrive
- Using the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment

Learn More

For more information, please visit:
www.epa.gov/pestwise/pestp



Environmental Pest Management Project

The Environmental Pest Management Project, sponsored by EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP), is a partnership program that promotes the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and practices to reduce the risk of pests and pesticides. PESP helps organizations:

- Reduce human health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use
- Increase awareness of alternatives to using pesticides
- Share new approaches for meeting pest management challenges
- Educate people about their role in preventing pests

Goals of the Environmental Pest Management Project

- Reduce pests and limit exposure to potentially harmful pesticides
- Adopt IPM practices as an effective strategy for pest management
- Educate students about their role in eliminating pests
- Support your school in applying for membership in PESP

If You're Interested In:

- Working with the facilities staff on your campus
- Collecting data about pesticide alternatives
- Developing an IPM strategy and identifying measures to track progress
- Designing public health messages
- Motivating students to change their behavior

... then the Environmental Pest Management Project is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for the Environmental Pest Management Project.



Students Taking Action

Several universities are active PESP members. To help you get started, visit www.epa.gov/pestwise/pestp/members and review PESP strategies provided by university partners. Each strategy, about 2 to 4 pages long, identifies short-term goals and activities. PESP strategies are available for:

- University of Arizona - Maricopa Agricultural Center
- University of Maryland - Department of Residential Facilities
- University of Wisconsin Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
- University of Wisconsin Environmental Resource Center

The Environmental Pest Management Project is ideal for students pursuing degrees in agriculture, biology, environmental science, and public policy.

Checklist for the Environmental Pest Management Project

Follow the steps below to implement an IPM project to reduce pests and exposure to pesticides on your campus.

☐ 1. Find out what's being done on your campus now to treat pests.

Talk with the facilities team at your school to find out:

- (1) what kinds of pests are on your campus
- (2) what kind of chemicals (pesticides) are being used
- (3) when and how are the pesticides applied
- (4) if alternative treatments are being considered
- (5) if your school has a bed bug problem

Make a list of potential alternatives to the pesticides currently being used and collect information about the alternatives so that you are prepared to discuss them with school administrators. The information you collect will help to identify potential locations at which an IPM approach could be tested.

☐ 2. Update your school administrators.

Use the data collected in Step 1 to prepare for your next meeting with school administrators. Share what you've learned about how an IPM approach could reduce pests and limit student and faculty exposure to potentially harmful pesticides.

☐ 3. Develop an IPM strategy.

Work with the facilities team to develop an IPM strategy that identifies how an IPM approach to pest management will take place on campus. Include specific measures that define what actions will be taken, and describe how the measures will be tracked. The strategy should address a 5-year time period. Take advantage of the many sample IPM strategies and measures available on the PESP website.

☐ 4. Submit an application to PESP.

Apply for membership in EPA's PESP program. You'll be required to complete a membership application and include the IPM strategy developed in Step 3. EPA will review the application and strategy to determine the membership level of your school. Submit the application at www.epa.gov/pestwise/pesp/application_form.html.

☐ 5. Design education messages for students.

Hold a kick-off event to promote the program and to encourage students to participate. Check out the tips for scheduling events on the right. Take advantage of opportunities to explain what the program is about and how an IPM approach will reduce the risks of pests and pesticides on campus. Consider how to make the connection between food and garbage and pests. Design and distribute eye-catching messages that students will pay attention to. Give students specific suggestions for how they can eliminate the conditions that lead to pests and pest infestations. Include information about the potential risks of exposure to pesticides to their health.

☐ 6. Track and report your progress.

PESP member are required to submit an annual report to EPA. Help your administration use this annual reporting as an opportunity to share successes on your campus and identify lessons learned for other schools and universities. Meet with environmental groups on campus to share information about what you did. PESP uses the annual reporting information to determine membership levels and to promote the achievements of its members.

Resources

Help for PESP Partners

As a PESP partner, you have access to:

- technical guidance
- tools and resources
- educational outreach tools
- subscription to PESP newsletter

PESP Member Handbook

The PESP handbook provides useful information to prospective members about how the program works and assistance in applying for membership. The handbook can be downloaded from:

www.epa.gov/pestwise/pesp



Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook ad.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a summary of the event.

EPA Contact Info

PESP Helpline

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EPA OnCampus Team

EPAOnCampus@epa.gov

EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at

www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus



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