US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Promoting Successful, Sensible, and Sustainable Pest Management in Washington Schools





20 years of patience, persistence and project proposals to cultivate a school IPM culture in Washington.

The Urban Pesticide Education Strategy Team (UPEST) is an interagency committee focused on school and household IPM outreach.



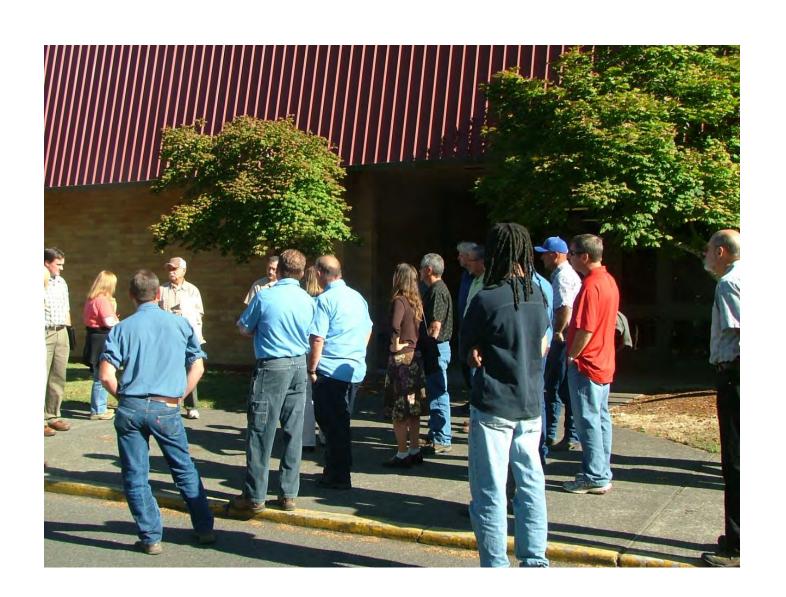
Bringing stakeholders together creates synergy.





We focus on IPM education and technical assistance.

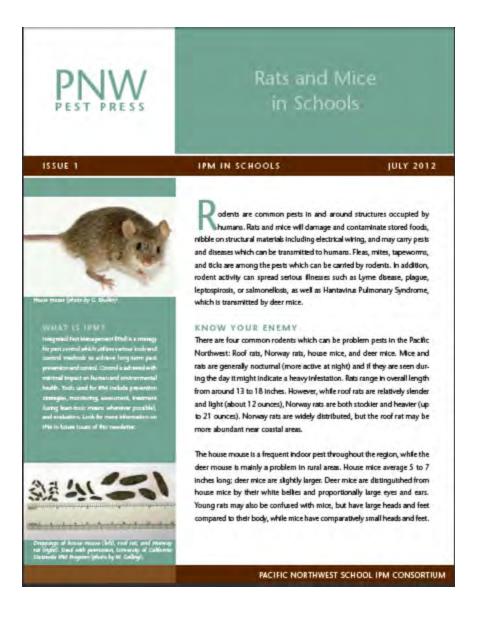
School districts want hands-on IPM training.



School facility directors and IPM coordinators are peer educators at coalition events.



IPM resources are available for all the school IPM team members...



...including the students.



The Goal of our work has been to increase verifiable IPM in Washington school districts.





Next steps?



Increase IPM implementation through campaigners, stakeholders, coalitions, and incentives.

School IPM Project in WA State

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&

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Resources

- Support from
 - PPDC IPM Workgroup
 - EPA's CoE & Regions
 - WA's UPEST

• Funds into WSDA cooperative agreement for coalition events

Goal – Create a Model for Statewide Diffusion of School IPM

Objectives:

Increase SIPM state partnerships

Increase SIPM implementation at K-12 public schools

Document what works and what doesn't, lessons learned

Mechanisms

- Create school district focus groups
 - Organize a "core of champions" from existing SIPM districts
 - Pilot different tools
 - Use as a coalition panel for peer-to-peer mentoring
 - Meet with districts at the annual Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators (WAMOA) meeting
 - Get input from these school districts on the most important resources and incentives we can provide schools
- Create a "Stop School Pests" Recognition Program
- Create new state partnerships

"What assistance from EPA or Extension would you find most useful for your school's pest management program?"

- Conducting a walkthrough at your school and free technical assistance (non-enforcement)
- Speaking to your school board about supporting pest monitoring and maintenance activities
- Awarding your pest management program
- Providing educational materials/training for your teachers
- Providing educational materials/training for your kitchen staff
- Providing free pocket guide(s) for pest ID and management (including weeds)
- Providing information on how to hire an integrated pest management contractor
- Providing a pest managment self-assessment package (w/ example action plans to improve your program)
- Providing an integrated pest management policy template
- Providing demonstrative pest management workshops/trainings
- Providing free pest management supplies- snap traps, insect sticky traps, plastic bins for decluttering and food storage, copper mesh, sealant, pest manual, etc.

"Stop School Pests" Recognition

- What's going to motivate people?
- Provide recognition for schools that are progressing along the spectrum
- Use existing tools to create standards
 - Indian Health Service guidance document
 - Texas A&M Cost Calculator
 - IPM Star and other environmental school health recognition programs
 - StopSchoolPests curriculum

Increase SIPM State Partnerships

Possible ways to increase SIPM In WA State?

- Increase IPM outreach to kitchen staff or other school staff through a partnership with WA Department of Health (ex. EPA R7)
- Create a letter of support in partnership with other state agencies to encourage/support recognition (ex. EPA R2)
- WSDA enhanced partnership continue to support UPEST, workshop meetings, and inspections at schools

Next Steps?

- Begin creating new partnerships
- Bring a core of school district IPM champions together

- Design a national recognition program
- Schedule WA state coalition meetings for next school year
- Begin documenting process