



Department of Environmental Quality

# POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK

## Director's Message



The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is committed to protecting and enhancing Michigan's environment and public health. A crucial element to this commitment involves education and outreach to foster environmental awareness and stewardship. Pollution Prevention provides useful tools for achieving these goals, such as elimination of toxics and wastes; energy efficiency; and recycling among others. These tools can be used by individuals and governments as well as businesses and industry, to address environmental issues they're facing in their community. These tools also help our businesses save money and become stronger and communities be healthy and become vibrant.

[P2 Week Web site](#)

To promote pollution prevention, Michigan has celebrated national "Pollution Prevention (P2) Week" since its inception in 1996.

[DEQ P2 Week Poster](#)

As stated in the Governor's P2 Week Proclamations, "Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity for government to join forces with business, industry, environmental groups, community organizations, and the citizens of Michigan to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future."

[National P2 Week Poster](#)

On the P2 Week website, there are P2 activities for home, work, and school. There are links to Michigan groups practicing P2 and resources to help those wanting to begin. P2 Week also gives us an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments and contemplate the challenges that need to be addressed, in order to continue to improve our quality of life while sustaining the environment and economy.

[P2 General Website](#)

Please join us in celebrating [Pollution Prevention Week](#) and help Michigan foster a prosperous and sustainable future.

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**Sustainability is generally defined as:** *"development that meets the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* (Brundtland Commission 1987) Sustainability incorporates all of the key elements of P2 which are: elimination of pollution at the source, reduction, reuse, and recycling. It ensures that almost any process can be made more efficient, while protecting the environment and reducing the cost of doing business in Michigan. These elements are also needed to achieve resource and energy conservation and enhancement of residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial properties alike. Sustainable development enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which our people and economy depend.