

## Case Studies

Kimberly Nurseries, Twin Falls  
Converted to processing wood waste for resale as mulch and soil amendment products instead of burning it, saving approximately \$15,000 a year.

CH2M HILL, Boise  
Created a password-protected Web site for posting and reviewing draft reports, saving the business up to \$10,000 in printing costs.

Excalibur Auto Body Repair, Lewiston  
Converted from a solvent-based system to a waterbased paint system, reducing the generation of hazardous waste by 360 pounds per year. Uses recycled solution in its paint gun wash system, reducing solvent waste by 1,920 pounds per year and disposal costs by approximately \$1,440 per year.

Hewlett-Packard, Boise  
Instituted a computer shutdown campaign for its more than 4,000 computers, reducing energy consumption by 1.5% annually in 2002 and 2003.

Idaho State University, Pocatello  
Implemented xeriscape landscaping techniques by using native plants and organic mulch, reducing water use by over 2.5 million gallons per year.

INL Big Shop, Idaho Falls  
Eliminated 11.2 metric tons of hazardous waste by using soap and warm water parts washers, saving \$9,300 per year in disposal costs. Replaced disposable paper cleaning wipes with reusable cloth towels, saving \$21,000 a year in purchasing costs.

Visit the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention website!

[www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention)

## For More Information

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**For more information and technical assistance on how to prevent pollution at your business, contact:**

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# Pollution Prevention Solutions for Business



Courtesy of Idaho Tourism

*Reducing waste, energy use, and toxic chemicals in your business*



Idaho Department of  
Environmental Quality  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)



## What is Pollution Prevention?

Pollution prevention (P2) is any activity that reduces or eliminates the creation of pollutants at the source. Instead of focusing on how to dispose of waste, P2 focuses on not creating waste in the first place. P2 can include reductions in or elimination of materials, processes, or practices.

## Examples of Pollution Prevention

- Substituting a hazardous chemical used in a production process with a nontoxic alternative that achieves the same results.
- Removing raw materials from the production stream that do not provide any added value to the end product.
- Reducing energy consumption by installing energy efficient lighting fixtures or passive solar designs.
- Reducing defects in manufacturing to cut down on disposed products.
- In-process recycling in which raw materials or unfinished materials are remade into final goods.

## Benefits of Pollution Prevention

- Identify waste, which can save your company money.

The Department of Environmental Quality partnered with a semiconductor facility in Idaho to reduce waste in their production stream, saving them \$40,000 annually.

- Empower your employees, who are in a good position to identify potential inefficiencies in their work routine.

Informed employees can identify unnecessary redundancies in production streams or in general business operations, such as printing out forms that could be sent electronically.

- Help protect air quality, drinking water, and quality of life.

Removing hazardous chemicals from the waste stream has significant benefits, including benefits to human health, wildlife, and ecosystems.

- Boost your competitiveness.

Even small improvements can lead to significant increases in efficiency when aggregated.

UPS saves millions of dollars every year by eliminating left turns on delivery routes, thus reducing time and fuel spent idling in left-turn lanes.

- Reduce regulatory burdens.

Voluntarily reducing pollution can put your business ahead of potential changes in environmental regulation or reduce the current regulatory burdens of reporting on manufacturing-related pollution. Handling and disposing of hazardous waste can be costly and require specially permitted contractors.

- Reduce your liability.

Curbing toxic chemical use can reduce your company's liability and the higher costs associated with it.

## Areas to Target

- **Lighting**  
LED lights use only 8% of the energy of incandescent bulbs and 30% of the energy of fluorescents. LED lights also last up to ten times longer than fluorescent lamps.
- **Solvents**  
Many solvents are categorized as hazardous waste and are pegged with high disposal costs and strict regulatory rules. Replacing hazardous solvents with less-toxic solvents, or recycling solvents, can help reduce pollution and reduce costs.
- **Water**  
Simply replacing in-sink aerators with low-flow aerators can save thousands of gallons of water per year.
- **Compressed Air**  
Identifying and fixing air leaks can significantly reduce energy use. In some cases, most of the energy used to compress air can be lost to leaks, hurting performance and costing money.
- **Packaging**  
Reducing packaging can save thousands of tons of material used by large companies annually and can significantly cut down on costs.

