

MAKING A COMMITMENT

Is your company investing in the environment?

Are your facilities going beyond the requirements of existing regulations?

Have you discovered the benefits of practising pollution prevention?

Would you like to receive recognition for your environmental accomplishments?

Then the new Pollution Prevention Pledge Program will be of interest to you.

A number of facilities in the province voluntarily control their emissions to the environment to a greater extent than is required under existing laws and regulations. Many of these facilities have already started to reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants or wastes at their source. This enables them to build pollution prevention, a more effective way to protect the environment, into their planning process.

To acknowledge the achievements of Ontario industries in pollution prevention and emissions reduction, and to promote further improvements, the ministry has created a new voluntary program known as the **Pollution Prevention Pledge Program or P⁴**.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Pollution prevention—reducing or eliminating the creation of pollution at its source—produces economic benefits such as lower production and maintenance costs. It also improves a facility's relationship with the community. The Pollution Prevention Pledge Program presents an opportunity for a facility to receive recognition for its commitment to environ-

mental protection, often while improving the bottom line.

POLLUTION PREVENTION PLEDGE PROGRAM

The Pollution Prevention Pledge Program invites facilities to develop pollution reduction goals which exceed existing provincial, municipal or federal regulatory requirements and to share them with the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE). Program objectives include reducing releases of chemicals into the environment; lowering the use of toxic chemicals; and diminishing the generation or disposal of hazardous or liquid industrial wastes. The ministry will publicly recognize commitments and achievements under this voluntary program in a number of ways.

There are four levels of participation associated with the Pollution Prevention Pledge Program:

- ◆ P¹—registration and planning
- ◆ P²—reduction commitment or pledge
- ◆ P³—reduction achievement



◆ P¹-pollution prevention achievement

A company may enter the program at any of these four levels, depending on the stage it has reached in its environmental program. The ministry will recognize individual facilities for achievements at each level. At the program's highest level, P⁴, participating facilities become eligible for an environmental award.

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

P¹-Registration and planning

If a facility decides to become involved at the first level of the program, all it has to do is contact MOEE's Pollution Prevention Office and register its intent to:

- ◆ develop a plan showing where pollutants can be eliminated or greatly reduced and calling attention to inefficient processes which may be wasting raw materials or products;
- or
- ◆ make a commitment to reduce the quantity of pollutants released from the facility, the use of toxic chemicals, or the generation of hazardous or liquid industrial waste.

trial waste.

In many cases, facilities will want to develop pollution prevention plans before deciding what reduction commitments they are able to make. A useful reference is the *Pollution Prevention Planning Guidance Document and Workbook* which may be ordered from the ministry's Public Information Centre.

A facility may remain at P¹ for one year. Participation at this stage will be noted in the pollution prevention registry. If the facility is not able to make a reduction commitment after one year it may re-register with the program when it is ready to do so.

P²-Reduction commitment-Pledge

When a facility enters P², it makes a public commitment to reduce releases of specific pollutants into the environment, decrease the generation of hazardous or liquid industrial waste, or decrease the use of toxic chemicals. The commitment normally will include milestones and dates for anticipated results. Any certificates of approval required for specific reduction projects should be obtained at this time.

A facility may remain at P² for

up to two years or as long as it continues to make progress towards its commitment.

The ministry will record reduction commitments in its pollution prevention registry and issue the facility with a certificate of recognition. An annual program report will recognize all facilities participating at this level.

P³-Reduction achievement

A facility attains this level when it reaches 50 per cent of its stated reduction commitment or a 20 per cent absolute reduction in releases of pollutants, use of toxic chemicals or generation of hazardous or liquid industrial waste. Any approach, including recycling and pollution treatment, may be used to achieve these reductions. To remain at P³, facilities must be able to show progress every three years.

The ministry will record P³ achievements in its pollution prevention registry and present facilities with a certificate of reduction achievement. The program's annual report will highlight the facilities participating at this level.

Outstanding achievements will be featured in ministry newsletters and promotions.

