Tools for Successful IPM Implementation in Schools and Childcares

Perspectives from Indiana and Illinois

Presented by
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Who We Are: IKE & MPAC

• Midwest Pesticide Action Center
  1. Midwest (IL, WI, MI, IN) but mostly IL
  2. Pesticide reduction only
  3. Entity focused:
     a. Childcares/Schools, Housing, Parks, etc.
  4. Child health focused but not exclusive
  5. Environmental focus:
     a. Water quality, air quality, climate change

• Improving Kids Environment
  1. Indiana only
  2. All environmental health issues
  3. Child health focused:
     a. Childcares/Schools
  4. Child health, only
  5. Environmental focus:
     a. Water quality as it relates to child health.
Home State Legislative Atmosphere

**Illinois**
- State laws in effect for both indoor and outdoor use of pesticides in schools and cc.
- Notification rules, required
- Adoption and implementation, optional
- Training requirements for staff

**Indiana**
- State laws requiring licensing of anyone applying pesticides in schools.
Partnerships

• Moving the message forward
  o Similar but different approaches in IL and IN based on laws

  Illinois
  • Education on laws.
  • Technical assistance
  • Partners
    o Policy makers/enforcement
      – Government
      – Extension services
      – Licensing bodies
      – Professional associations
      – Continuing education bodies
      – District staff
      – Other IPM advocates

  Indiana
  • Education on impacts.
  • Technical assistance
  • Partners
    o Indiana Health Schools Coalition
      – Government
      – Educational associations
      – Facility manager certification
      – Healthy schools certification
      – Biannual workshops
      – Other IPM advocates
Challenges

• Same challenges
  o Lack of adequate legislation
  o IPM is in competition with many other school/childcare issues.
  o Seen as another burden/duty
  o Misperception that the costs are prohibitive
  o Lack of uniformity of implementation even when adopted as district/facility policy

• Key players such as pest control providers are often left out of the education process
  o Often seen as adversaries
Sustaining IPM

It is unrealistic to think that school facility managers can or will give IPM alone the attention and focus current programs deem necessary given:

- The relatively low status of pest management on the list of tasks for a facility manager
- The fact that most school systems contract out indoor pest management services

A comprehensive green and healthy school program that incorporates IPM has a more realistic chance of attracting and sustaining the attention and focus of the facility managers and the school district as a whole for the long term.
Solutions

• Integrate IPM into a single a unified set of building maintenance practices with clear guidelines for how and when pesticides can be used.

• Stronger legislation requiring the use of IPM.
  o Training/Certification required of PCO’s to do IPM in schools and childcares
  o Training/Certification required of Building Maintenance staff in IPM strategies
  o Restrictions on the use of pesticides in schools and childcares
  o Better enforcement of current laws/policies
Where we are today

- Patchwork of various laws and policies across district by district, State by State.
- Confusion over who is responsible for IPM implementation and what that implementation means.

Where we’d like to be

- Uniformity of laws - at a minimum required training and certification to apply pesticides in schools or on school grounds + IPM training for school staff responsible for pest control.