

Project Overview

Small Business Assistance Intern: Jeff Thiele
Major: Civil Engineering
School: University of Nebraska – Lincoln



Summer Projects

The 2006 summer project included three new assessments and three reassessments of small businesses in Eastern Nebraska. Reassessments were performed for Lancaster County Extension Office, an agricultural implement dealership, and an auto dealership and service shop. Public education projects were also given and pollution prevention articles were written for a newspaper. Part of the project consisted of working at several events for the Extension office. Finally, a large part of the summer project consisted of assistance with an annual dry weather runoff monitoring project for the City of Lincoln.

Waste Assessments

Three small businesses were assessed, including a recreational vehicle campground, a lighting store, and an agricultural implement dealership. Although these waste assessments focused primarily on reducing electricity consumption, water usage, solid waste disposal, and release prevention were also investigated.

Education

The 2006 summer project included writing three articles for the Lancaster County Extension NebLine newspaper, which is distributed to approximately 33,000 persons, and giving three public education presentations. One presentation was given at the UNL Honors Colloquium to Nebraska high school seniors about groundwater preservation in Nebraska. The other presentations were given during the 2006 Bright Lights youth camp, and introduced children to the concept of sustainability. Approximately 55 people learned about pollution prevention through these three presentations.

Pollution Prevention Benefits and Results

Various pollution prevention opportunities were identified for the small businesses assessed. These opportunities have the potential to save the businesses money by reducing electricity and water consumption, and to divert waste from the landfill through recycling. Pollution prevention opportunities were identified to prevent oil from being released and to prevent employees from being exposed to harmful chemicals. Combined results of the other pollution prevention opportunities identified are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Summary of Pollution Prevention Benefits

Cost Savings	Electricity Saved (kWh)	Water Conserved (gal)	Solid Waste Diverted from Landfill (lbs)
\$12,830	188,960	72,200	720