

Tools for Successful IPM Implementation in Schools and Childcares

Perspectives from Indiana and Illinois

Presented by

Ruth Kerzee MSPH, Executive Director
Midwest Pesticide Action Center



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

Illinois
The Prairie State

Indiana

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

Indiana
The Hoosier State



Partnerships

- Moving the message forward

- Similar but different approaches in IL and IN based on laws

Illinois

- Education on laws.
- Technical assistance
- Partners

- 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

- Indiana Health Schools Coalition

- Government
 - Educational associations
 - Facility manager certification
 - Healthy schools certification
 - Biannual workshops
 - Other IPM advocates



Challenges



- Same challenges
 - Lack of adequate legislation
 - IPM is in competition with many other school/childcare issues.
 - Seen as another burden/duty
 - Misperception that the costs are prohibitive
 - 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
 - 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.
 - Training/Certification required of PCO's to do IPM in schools and childcares
 - Training/Certification required of Building Maintenance staff in IPM strategies
 - Restrictions on the use of pesticides in schools and childcares
 - 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.

