

Summaries of the FY 23–24 P2 EJ Grant Selections

Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities

For state and tribal programs to provide P2 technical assistance to businesses to improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities.

[University of Massachusetts Lowell](#)

[U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources](#)

[Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey](#)

[West Virginia University](#)

[East Carolina University](#)

[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)

[Board of Trustees, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#)

[Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#)

[Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center](#)

[Curators of the University of Missouri](#)

[Kansas State University](#)

[California Department of Public Health](#)

University of Massachusetts Lowell

- Massachusetts
- Grant: \$1,186,077

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute's proposed project will provide technical assistance to manufacturing facilities to increase the availability and use of safer products in the pipe cement/primer and paint removal product categories. Technical assistance will include taking inventory of currently available products, providing technical P2 and financial assistance to manufacturers, conducting ASTM-based performance tests to demonstrate viability, and evaluating hazards of product ingredients. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by minimizing the use of toxic solvents at the source, reducing emissions of hazardous chemicals by product manufacturers, and significantly reducing risks to manufacturing workers and product users in communities in several states across the country.

U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources

- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Grant: \$699,004

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources' proposed project will provide technical assistance to VI businesses in the food service industry (including restaurants, bars, food trucks, concessions, marinas, charter boats, and distributors) by expanding on the existing VI Clean Coasts program, which focuses on significantly reducing the use and disposal of single-use plastics, polystyrene foam, and other pollution. Technical assistance will include on-site assessments, creating and enacting a source reduction plan, evaluating facility results, engaging stakeholders and gathering community input, and conducting a literature review of tourism and food service P2 activities. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing exposure to harmful chemicals, pollution, and waste in historically marginalized, underserved, and overburdened VI communities.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

- New Jersey
- Grant: \$787,527

Rutgers University's proposed project will provide technical assistance to small businesses for whom lack of information and resources impedes their ability to implement source reduction of hazardous substances. Technical assistance will include establishing a Project Working Group, which will provide on-site assistance led by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and community assistance led by community-based collaboratives that will receive financial support. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing hazards from facilities' use and release of hazardous substances in overburdened and communities near areas of high climate change impacts identified using EPA's P2 EJ Mapping Tool and Rutgers' NJADAPT suite of data tools.

West Virginia University

- West Virginia
- Grant: \$800,000

West Virginia University's proposed project will provide technical assistance to industrial facilities in disadvantaged communities in West Virginia to encourage businesses to promote source reduction activities such as updating procedures, processes, and equipment. Technical assistance will include on-site and remote assessments and assistance with P2 recommendations, training, and development of P2 best practices, toolkits, training videos, self-guided modules, and interactive media. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by improving energy efficiency, minimizing waste streams, and reducing air pollution and the facilities' carbon footprint in communities identified using EPA's EJ Facility Mapping Tool.

East Carolina University

- North Carolina
- Grant: \$563,932

The Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering's proposed project will provide technical assistance to suitable manufacturing facilities in disadvantaged communities to reduce the use and release of hazardous substances and increase water and energy efficiency. Technical assistance will include on-site general and targeted technical assessments, industry roundtable discussions, training courses (on-site and via webinar), and public outreach. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing the release of pollutants and contaminants in North Carolina communities characterized by low-income and minority populations.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- Minnesota
- Grant: \$413,480

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's project will provide technical assistance to approximately 20 Twin Cities metro area businesses to increase boiler efficiency. Technical assistance will include defining the P2 impacts of boiler efficiency strategies, creating a toolkit with instructions and best practices for boiler tune-ups, and on-site advanced boiler tune-ups by certified professionals. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing criteria air pollutants PM_{2.5} and NO_x, greenhouse gases, and conserving energy in communities in the Twin Cities metro area identified through community organizations and existing connections with the Center for Energy and Environment.

Board of Trustees, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Illinois
- Grant: \$1,126,972

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's proposed multi-state project with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Office of Pollution Prevention Services and Missouri State University will provide technical assistance to 30 manufacturing and processing facilities across multiple business sectors to reduce water consumption, wastewater generation, energy consumption, hazardous materials/wastes, and costs. Technical assistance will include pollution prevention and energy efficiency (P2E2) assessments, support in adopting P2 recommendations, P2 monitoring support, and on-site technology demonstrations. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by improving energy efficiency, reducing reliance on fossil fuel energy sources, and eliminating or reducing greenhouse gas emissions in EJ communities primarily located in the Mississippi River geographic corridor.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

- Indiana
- Grant: \$325,000

Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) proposed project will provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in Indiana, especially those located within or impacting disadvantaged communities, to implement small-scale efforts such as identifying and repairing compressor leaks, proper cleanout of barrels, rag and glove management, and other P2 techniques. Technical assistance will include developing and implementing a diverse menu of P2-focused training (including training videos), peer mentoring, five or more toolkit topics, and environmental management systems planning. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by identifying and reducing the use of hazardous chemicals, water, and energy in communities identified using EPA's Target Facilities Mapping Tool and IDEM's analysis of communities that meet the requirements of its Environmental Stakeholder Inclusion program.

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

- Louisiana
- Grant: \$796,428

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's proposed project will provide technical assistance to manufacturing clusters located within East Baton Rouge and New Orleans East to increase P2 implementation rates (for example, promoting safer chemical substitutions). Technical assistance will include on-site water quality assessments and workshops that offer practical solutions to reduce the amount of hazardous substances released to aquifers, such as leveraging EPA's Safer Choice program. Additionally, the project includes a place-based approach to assess and empower communities to identify, track, and recognize the most impactful solutions that curb hazardous discharge to bodies of water and air. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by improving clean water and clean air outcomes in East Baton Rouge and New Orleans East, two historically disinvested regions.

Curators of the University of Missouri

- Missouri
- Grant: \$857,744

Missouri University of Science and Technology will undertake a multi-state project with University of Alaska Fairbanks. The project will provide technical assistance to the critical minerals mining industry to

prevent dust generation, enhance mining efficiency, and reduce the generation of mine waste. Technical assistance will include on-site assistance, training materials, three themed workshops, and two P2 case studies. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing air pollution and mining wastes in communities affected by significant mining-intensive activities in Missouri and Alaska.

Kansas State University

- Kansas
- Grant: \$547,771

Kansas State University Pollution Prevention Institute's proposed project will provide technical assistance to industries and institutions, whose lack of information impedes source reduction, to identify ways clients can change the material, process, or technology to reduce waste at the source (including chemical substitution). Technical assistance will include on- and off-site P2 assistance and assessments, provision and implementation of P2 recommendations, training, public technical assistance seminars, case study development, and development of a virtual reality P2 gaming product with versatile applications for innovative P2 technical training. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by conserving natural resources and preventing hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants from entering waste streams or from being released in communities identified using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and EPA's P2 EJ Facility Mapping Tool.

California Department of Public Health

- California
- Grant: \$776,636

The California Department of Public Health's proposed project will provide voluntary outreach for technical assistance to general aviation airports in California located in disadvantaged communities to support the reduction or elimination of leaded aviation gasoline. Technical assistance will include voluntary business roundtable discussions, training, and developing educational materials and case studies. The proposed project aims to improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing harmful lead emissions in communities from pollution sources identified through CalEnviroScreen.

[Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products](#)

For state and tribal programs to provide P2 technical assistance to businesses to improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by increasing the supply, demand, and use of safer and more sustainable products, such as those certified by the [EPA's Safer Choice label](#) or those that conform to the [EPA's Recommendations for Specifications, Standards and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing \(EPA Recommendations\)](#)

[Vermont Department of Health](#)

[Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center](#)

[Maryland Department of the Environment](#)

[District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment](#)

[Clemson University](#)

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[The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles](#)

[Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

[Portland State University](#)

Vermont Department of Health

- Vermont
- Grant: \$420,297

Vermont Department of Health's proposed project will provide technical assistance to childcare providers serving immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers/asylees to reduce the use of conventional cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products and increase access to and use of safer, more sustainable products. Technical assistance will include reaching out to and working with community partners to identify childcare providers and training childcare providers on health issues associated with conventional cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products. During technical assistance visits, in-person product demonstrations will promote the use of safer and more sustainable products. Additionally, communities' language access needs will be met by customizing the EPA resource *Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Toolkit for Early Care and Education*. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by improving indoor air quality and reducing hazardous exposures at childcare facilities in the Burlington–Winooski area, one of the more polluted areas in Vermont.

Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center

- Pennsylvania
- Grant: \$1,199,108

Penn State College of Medicine's proposed project will provide technical assistance to business sectors within disadvantaged communities in Pennsylvania and New York to develop a university–trade association–stakeholder partnership that increases the knowledge, demand, and use of 1,900 Safer Choice labeled products. Technical assistance will include conducting focus groups and stakeholder interviews, designing community-based solutions (packaged in “tool-kits”), and offering Safer Choice training to businesses and end-users. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing human exposure to conventional cleaning chemicals in Pennsylvania and New York communities identified with EPA EJScreen and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

Maryland Department of the Environment

- Maryland
- Grant: \$425,000

Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE's) proposed project will provide technical assistance to environmental services and maintenance staff working in nursing homes and senior living settings to equitably increase the use of Safer Choice–certified products in disadvantaged communities. Technical assistance will include developing and implementing replicable workforce training programs, as well as audit tools focused on caustic and toxic chemical source reduction. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing caustic cleaning chemicals and improving indoor air quality in nursing homes and senior living settings within disadvantaged communities identified using EPA and MDE environmental justice screening tools.

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

- District of Columbia
- Grant: \$500,000

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment's proposed project will provide technical assistance to District cleaning service providers to transition to Safer Choice– and eco-certified cleaning products. Technical assistance will include conducting P2 assessments, providing participant support costs to cover expenses related to transitioning to eco-label cleaning products, and training on sustainable cleaning practices and procurement requirements for cleaning products and janitorial services. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing waste, workplace exposure to hazardous chemicals for cleaning personnel, the release of harmful substances, and resource consumption in Wards 5, 7, and 8 of the District of Columbia.

Clemson University

- South Carolina
- Grant: \$768,950

Clemson University's proposed project will provide technical assistance to mid-sized businesses in the Greenville, South Carolina ("Upstate, SC") area to transition to safer packaging products identified by EPA's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels. Technical assistance will include creating a comprehensive educational and community engagement plan with educational materials for business stakeholders, in-person training, webinars, and case studies to help businesses create sustainable transition plans for packaging. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by lowering the amount of toxic and persistent plastic waste that accumulates in the environment in businesses located in or adjacent to disadvantaged areas identified using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool, the P2 EJ Facility Screening tool, and EJScreen.

Board of Trustees, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Illinois
- Grant: \$800,000

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's proposed project will provide technical assistance to food service businesses (including restaurants, churches, soup kitchens, etc.) to increase the use of safer, more sustainable foodware by supporting purchasing programs for food contact materials that do not contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Technical assistance will include developing criteria and tools to identify and purchase PFAS-free foodware products; on-site assessments for 30 food businesses located in disadvantaged communities; and trainings on safer, more sustainable PFAS-free foodware purchasing for 115 businesses. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing harmful chemical exposures and human health impacts for food service employees and their customers, reducing drinking water contamination and soil pollution, and decreasing the amount of PFAS-containing products entering landfills or compost facilities.

Regents of the University of Minnesota

- Minnesota
- Grant: \$663,475

University of Minnesota's proposed project will provide technical assistance to immigrant-owned nail salon businesses and local nail salon suppliers to encourage the use of safer products (including Safer Choice products) and other indoor air P2 practices. Technical assistance will be offered in multiple languages. It will include developing a Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program, case studies, webinars, and manuscripts tailored to different audiences (community, P2 technical providers, academics). The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by increasing the awareness and use of safer nail products in the local supply chains and reducing the environmental impact of toxic nail products in immigrant-owned nail salon businesses and suppliers (with an emphasis on Vietnamese and Somali communities).

University of Illinois Chicago, Office of Business and Financial Services

- Illinois
- Grant: \$683,836

University of Illinois Chicago's proposed project will provide technical assistance to Minority-Serving Institutions and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)-led restaurants to transition to reusable and compostable food contact materials that do not contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Technical assistance will include developing and piloting an interactive, data-informed, and field-tested implementation framework; executing an education and awareness campaign; and offering direct technical support and incentives to institutions and restaurants. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing plastic waste, promoting landfill diversion, reducing contamination in composting, and promoting consumer-driven sustainability in communities in Michigan, Illinois, and northern Indiana, with some outreach activities reaching a broader scale.

University of Hawai'i

- Hawai'i
- Grant: \$622,992

University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program's proposed project will provide technical assistance to businesses that make or serve food in Hilo, Hawai'i, to establish a safe, affordable, community-wide reusable foodware system. Technical assistance will include support for on-site assessments, the provision of written materials and online training, and outreach and engagement to businesses and members of the community. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by decreasing plastic waste and reducing human exposure to chemicals of concern in Hilo, Hawai'i (focusing on serving intergenerational families, the unhoused, and Native Hawaiians).

The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles

- California
- Grant: \$800,000

The UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program will partner with the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and Black Women for Wellness to provide technical assistance to nail and hair salons to promote the adoption of safer products, P2, and overall environmental stewardship. Technical assistance will include outreach and training, environmental sampling, and pilot projects that track safer product use and impacts over time. The proposed project will improve human health and the

environment in disadvantaged communities by lowering workers' exposure to chemicals linked to chronic and acute illnesses, respiratory and skin issues, memory loss, cancer, and reproductive harm in California nail salons that are primarily owned and operated by Vietnamese migrants, and in hair salons that are primarily owned and operated by Black individuals.

Washington State Department of Ecology

- Washington
- Grant: \$412,327

Washington State Department of Ecology's proposed project will provide technical assistance by engaging with Hispanic/Latino community members and forty convenience stores located in central Washington to encourage the supply, demand, and/or use of safer products in the marketplace by creating an effective marketing campaign and developing on-site technical assistance. This project will be in partnership with the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. Technical assistance will include developing and facilitating community connection sessions to understand the current market of Safer Choice products at convenience stores, develop an outreach toolkit designed to help community-based organizations (CBOs) provide direct technical assistance to convenience stores, and develop an outreach toolkit designed to assist convenience stores with their Safer Choice product marketing. Direct technical assistance will include workshop trainings for CBOs to understand how to use the outreach toolkits and on-site technical assistance to convenience stores from CBOs. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing the risk of exposure to toxic chemicals for Hispanic/Latino communities in central Washington.

Portland State University

- Oregon
- Grant: \$716,494

This project, a partnership between Portland State University's (PSU's) Community Environmental Services unit, PSU's Institute on Tribal Governance, the Northwest Native American Chamber of Commerce, and the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, will provide technical assistance to Native-owned/-serving businesses to promote sustainable purchasing plans incorporating chemical reduction, best practices for improving workplace environmental health, and increasing the use of EPA-preferred products (including Safer Choice-certified products). Technical assistance will include co-creating a culturally relevant sustainable product and procurement policy curriculum, providing industry-specific procurement resources, offering coaching support for implementing new technologies, and holding remote trainings (live webinars) for businesses. The proposed project will improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities by reducing pollution and exposure to toxins in Tribal communities across Oregon.