



PESTICIDE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM STRATEGY SUBMISSION FORM



Organization: Eco-Pest

Describe Your Organization's Five-Year Goals Related to Pesticide Risk Reduction:

(Where do you want your organization to be in five years as it relates to the major pest/pesticide issues facing your industry?)

The pest management industry is faced with the challenge of providing effective insect pest management services while at the same time reducing the amount of pesticide that is introduced into the environment. This is a challenge since, for decades, the accepted method of controlling insect pests has been the broad use of pesticides applied to kill unwanted insects. While pesticides continue to be an essential part of pest management, they are not the only part.

Our goal is twofold. First, we aim to reduce the amount of pesticide introduced into the environment by applying the principles of Integrated Pest Management to every account we service. As pesticides are needed, we will use only botanical insecticides, inorganic insecticides, or baits, and these will be applied as crack and crevice treatments, which will provide the maximum control with the minimum use of product. Second, we aim to educate the public in our service area on the benefits of IPM practices and the benefits of using reduced risk insecticides.

Eco-Pest will be a leader in offering environmentally responsible services, and will take the lead in educating the public on these issues. We will be known as the expert in our service area where the public can turn for advice and assistance.

What do you envision doing (broadly) to try to resolve your major issues? Address whether practical, acceptable solutions are available for the major pest, pesticide, or sustainability issues facing your organization.

Some major issues facing our industry are (1) a lack of knowledge in the public of the real benefits and availability of IPM services, and (2) the desire of PMP's to actually provide those services. IPM services are offered by many PMP's, but in actual daily operation, experience has shown that many take the easier approach of pesticide application over IPM strategies, which involve more work.

Eco-Pest chooses to never use pesticides if there is another alternative available. As such, a practical solution is to equip all of our vehicles with the tools necessary to perform IPM services, and to train all of our staff in the proper inspection, physical removal, habitat modification, exclusion, and sanitation techniques required to manage pest populations. Our services will be documented in order for us to keep records of how pest populations are managed and whether or not pesticides are applied.



Goal 1 & Tactics

(Describe your first goal and the tactics you will use to attain it. What might EPA be able to do or facilitate to help resolve these issues? How you will determine whether or not you have been successful in achieving your intended results? Are there objective, economically-feasible measures of success that you can utilize to evaluate the success of your efforts?)

Goal 1: Implement IPM programs for every service. We will develop IPM strategies for controlling pest problems that rely heavily on the principles of IPM: inspection, physical removal, habitat modification, exclusion, and sanitation techniques. Our record keeping will be developed to document that a "prescriptive" approach is taken on every service.

Our success will be measured by tracking the types of services and amount of pesticides that are applied on each service.

Goal 2 & Tactics

(Describe your second goal and the tactics you will use to attain it. What might EPA be able to do or facilitate to help resolve these issues? How you will determine whether or not you have been successful in achieving your intended results? Are there objective, economically-feasible measures of success that you can utilize to evaluate the success of your efforts?)

Goal 2: Educate the public on the benefits of IPM programs and the benefits of reduced risk pesticides. This will be accomplished through the use of press releases to local news media outlets and through classes offered by Eco-Pest. These will expose the local public to the benefits of IPM. It is our belief that the more the public understands and comprehends the benefits of IPM and reduced risk products, the less they will rely on pesticide applications to solve pest problems.

Through our efforts, Eco-Pest will offer a voluntary program for individuals and businesses to become Friends of IPM. These will be published on our website, which will enable us to evaluate our success in this area, and document our movement toward this goal.



Goal 3 & Tactics

(Describe your third goal and the tactics you will use to attain it. What might EPA be able to do or facilitate to help resolve these issues? How you will determine whether or not you have been successful in achieving your intended results? Are there objective, economically-feasible measures of success that you can utilize to evaluate the success of your efforts?)

Goal 3: Working toward Green Shield certification.

Green Shield Certified is an independent, non-profit certification program that promotes practitioners of effective, prevention-based pest control while minimizing the need to use pesticides. Green Shield Certification is available to qualifying pest control professionals where their standards are attained.

Eco-Pest will model our IPM programs after Green Shield standards. This will help us improve our IPM services and make us more consistent in providing effective, environmentally responsible pest management services to all of our customers.

Success will be clear when we achieve certification.

Goal 4 & Tactics

(Describe your fourth goal and the tactics you will use to attain it. What might EPA be able to do or facilitate to help resolve these issues? How you will determine whether or not you have been successful in achieving your intended results? Are there objective, economically-feasible measures of success that you can utilize to evaluate the success of your efforts?)

Goal 4: Educate local school districts on the benefits of IPM programs. Through letters to and meetings with school district officials, Eco-Pest will work to educate them on the ideas behind IPM and the benefits to both students and staff. We will develop a marketing program specifically for school districts that will assist us in educating school officials on the dangers inherent to regular pesticide applications and the benefits of risk reduction through IPM program implementation.

Success will be determined by the number of local districts that implement IPM programs for their districts.

