

- Install sediment traps in parking lots
- Use reusable absorbents to clean up an oil spill; never use water to wash leaks away
- Train staff on the proper handling of hazardous wastes
- Purchase dumpsters with locks to discourage wildlife visitors

Water Resources

Snowmaking

- Consider water resources when choosing a snowmaking system
- Inspect and monitor snowmaking systems for water leaks and fix corroded underground pipes, faulty piping and pipe installation
- Use storage ponds, reservoirs and weirs to ease demand on water supplies
- Funnel run-off into containment areas for landscaping and snowmaking
- Maintain minimum stream flows when drawing from natural water sources during times of low or reduced flow (such as in the winter)

Facility Operations

- Install low-flow taps in kitchens and low-flow and infrared-activated fixtures in your restrooms
- Fix leaky or dripping faucets
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator, not in water; check pumps in dishwashers for water leaks and run only fully loaded machines
- Use oil/water separators in maintenance areas and garages

Landscaping

- Incorporate water efficiency BMPs in planning and design
- Use native and drought-tolerant plants in landscaped areas
- Mix compost into soil to increase water retention and reduce watering

Phone Numbers

DEC Pollution Prevention Unit (518) 402-9469
 DEC Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials (518) 402-8612
 DEC Division of Water, Stormwater Management (518) 402-8111

Other References

Many of the principles in the video are adapted from and further explained in the National Ski Areas Association's "Sustainable Slopes Program" of which DEC is a partnering organization. You can find out more about this program and pollution prevention resources by visiting their website at <http://www.nsaa.org>

For more information on pollution prevention, go to <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ppu/ski/index.html>



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Pollution Prevention at New York State Ski Areas



*Doing
Your Part*



Pollution Prevention is a way to eliminate or reduce pollution at its source, before it creates harm and needs to be cleaned up. This can be done by using less hazardous materials, preventing spills, and maintaining equipment in top condition. And, it's cost-effective! Here are four areas where pollution prevention can have a dramatic effect on the operation of your ski area:

- Energy Conservation and Use
- Waste Management
- Habitat Protection
- Water Resources

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 George E. Pataki, Governor Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner

Energy Conservation and Use

Snowmaking

- Routinely monitor snowmaking systems to find and fix leaks
- Use new, energy-efficient snow guns

Transportation

- Use buses and shuttles to move people to and around your ski area
- Promote car pooling by offering discounts or preferred parking
- Provide employee benefits that include bus passes or discounts, van pools, and ride-share programs
- Provide electric bus hook-ups for your buses to reduce idling
- Schedule regular maintenance for fleet vehicles
- Choose energy-efficient vehicles such as hybrid electric cars and 4-cycle snowmobiles

Facility Operations

- Audit energy use, and target areas for reduction
- Retrofit exit signs with low-wattage bulbs
- Use energy-efficient lamps, timers and occupancy sensors
- Program and calibrate thermostats

Habitat Protection

Design and Construction

- Inventory and monitor fish, wildlife and vegetation, particularly for protected and rare species, during pre-planning
- Consider seasonal wildlife patterns and growing seasons when planning activities or construction
- Use strict erosion and sediment control; use water bars, and replant
- Work quickly to keep soil in place and minimize run-off
- Install retaining walls around steep banks, head walls around culverts, and silt fencing around disturbed areas
- Establish buffers and setbacks from sensitive habitat and vegetation, as well as riparian and wetland areas
- Assess visual quality and scenic values, and complement the natural setting: minimize ridge line development, plant trees and vegetation, design lifts and buildings to blend with the natural backdrop, and construct trails to appear as natural openings

Landscaping and Trail Maintenance

- Maintain trees and vegetation to protect habitat, improve filtration, control erosion, and prevent stream sedimentation
- Carefully control traffic from hikers, skiers, snowmobilers and ATVs or trucks
- Restrict snowmaking and grooming equipment from sensitive habitats and vegetation areas, wetlands, and riparian areas, if snow cover is inadequate to protect them
- Revegetate unused roads and disturbed areas with native plants and grasses, recognizing that faster growing, non-native species may be best to address erosion
- Revegetate disturbed areas quickly to improve habitat, water quality and to control dust
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or other non-toxic practices to control weeds

Waste Management

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Audit waste production and target areas for reduction
- Order in bulk or look for reduced packaging
- With careful consideration of your water resources, use washable or compostable tableware and silverware
- Encourage guests to reuse trail maps; provide collection bins for reuse
- Compost food wastes, grass clippings, and woody debris for use in landscaping and revegetation

Potentially Hazardous Wastes

- Safely store and properly dispose of potentially hazardous materials including: solvents, cleaning materials, paints, waste oil, used oil filters, lead-acid batteries, spent fluorescent bulbs and antifreeze
- Use up open containers of paint, solvents and other materials
- Use non-hazardous materials for cleaning and other operations
- Have a preventative maintenance plan for the hydraulic lines on grooming equipment, an emergency oil spill plan, staff that are properly trained to contain and clean up spills, and inspect and replace lines on a routine schedule
- Place compressors on cement slabs to help identify and properly clean up leaks