

Pesticide Reduction Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury

Sudbury Pesticide Reduction
Partnership

June 2006

Sudbury Pesticide Reduction Partnership

- City of Greater Sudbury
- Sudbury & District Health Unit
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment

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Purpose and Scope

- To develop a local collaborative support network related to the issue of cosmetic pesticide use in the City of Greater Sudbury.
- To promote a better understanding of the environmental and human health risks associated with the cosmetic use of pesticides in the City of Greater Sudbury.
- To identify, evaluate and prioritize potential strategies for the reduction of cosmetic pesticide use within the City of Greater Sudbury.
- To promote implementation of those strategies deemed to be of priority.

Cosmetic Pesticide Use:

“The use of man-made chemicals to improve or maintain the aesthetic appeal of lawns and gardens”

Context

- Pesticide registration for use in Canada is administered by the Federal government. Pesticides approved for use in Canada have been through an elaborate approval process.
- The Province regulates the sale, transportation, storage and disposal of pesticides as well as the licensing of commercial applicators.

Context

- Public awareness and education campaigns are necessary whether or not a municipal pesticide by-law is enacted.

Context

Survey by Crop Life Canada and the Urban Pest Management Council of Canada

(as quoted in Basrur 2002)

- 96% of pesticides sold in Canada are for non-urban use.
- 3.2% used by urban professional applicators.
- 0.8% used by homeowners.

Context

- No pesticides detected in City of Greater Sudbury municipal drinking water, either before or after treatment.

GENERAL FINDINGS

- Majority of studies reveal no association between pesticides and health effects.
- Minority of studies reveal weak positive associations between pesticide exposure and some health effects.

As a whole, the scientific evidence remains inconclusive on the topic of pesticides and health.

The Precautionary Principle

- *“Where an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically”*

Recommendations

- That the City adopt a public position in favour of a reduction in the cosmetic use of lawn and garden pesticides on all properties to a level that is as low as is reasonably achievable.

Recommendations

- That the City establish community targets for that reduction and a timeline for their achievement.

Recommendations

- That the City develop and implement a plan to reduce the cosmetic use of lawn and garden pesticides on all municipally-owned properties.

Recommendations

- That the City employ targeted education and/or advocacy to promote reduced cosmetic pesticide use on properties used primarily by susceptible populations (i.e., day-care centres, schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities).

Recommendations

- That a community outreach and education campaign be conducted with the purpose of increasing the proportion of property owners who choose to care for their lawn and gardens using low-risk alternatives to pesticides.

Recommendations

- That the City continue to monitor the experiences and lessons learned in other jurisdictions related to this issue, especially those pertaining to the effectiveness of various pesticide reduction methods.

Recommendations

- That the City continue to monitor Federal and Provincial legislation changes related to the regulation of pesticides.

Recommendations

- That \$30,000 be approved in the 2007 budget and the 2008 budget for implementing the pesticide reduction strategy.

Thank you