

# How Can You Better Safeguard the Environment, Protect Public Health AND Save Money???

TRY THE

## GREEN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT

The "Green Municipal Government Project" is designed to promote "green" purchasing and safe practices by local governments. The project is being run by two of the state's leading environmental organizations, MASSPIRG ( Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group) and the Toxics Action Center. The project has been funded by the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute, based at UMass Lowell, and is supported by MMA.

The idea behind the project is that municipalities, as consumers of products and providers of services, regularly use large quantities of toxic chemicals in everything from pesticides to PVC piping. By reducing their use of products containing toxic chemicals, communities can:

- Save money
- Reduce the potential for toxic exposures to employees and residents
- Stimulate markets for safer products
- Set an example for businesses and citizens to follow

### THE PROJECT:

MASSPIRG and the Toxics Action Center can provide interested municipal officials with information and assistance in reducing the use of toxic chemicals in three areas:

- Pest management services
- Cleaning products
- PVC (polyvinyl chloride) building, packaging and other products

The organizations can also offer more direct assistance to municipalities, including an evaluation of opportunities for policy improvement, information about safer alternatives and model policies, and a bibliography of helpful contacts and other resources.

### REWARDS:

In addition to reducing public health and environmental threats due to toxic exposures, and potentially saving money in the process, cities and towns that demonstrate a commitment to greener products and services will be candidates for an official public commendation by MASSPIRG and the Toxics Action Center. This is a tremendous "win-win" opportunity.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about the project or how to become involved, contact Paul Burns at MASSPIRG (617) 292-4800 or Eric Weltman at the Toxics Action Center (617) 292-4821.