

SRRTTF Education and Outreach

VISION

The Vision/Goal of Task Force education and outreach is ultimately a literate public that is an active partner in Toxics prevention in the Spokane River. A literate public can:

- describe what PCBs are;
- explain what the sources of PCBs are, including legacy sources and inadvertent sources;
- recognize pathways for PCB contamination to the Spokane River;
- recognize how their personal behavior may contribute to PCB sources to the Spokane River and demonstrate what they can do to reduce or eliminate PCB sources to the Spokane River (stormwater, waste stream etc);
- articulate the risks associated with PCBs in the environment and in the food chain (fish advisories);
- identify the purpose of the Task Force and articulate what the Task Force is doing with its direct to implementation approach to toxics;
- recall that there are cutting edge technologies available to mitigate PCB presence (i.e. fungi and mushrooms, castor oil and black walnut shells, Xenon filtration etc);
- point out that while there is still a long way to go there have been significant strides made to clean up point and non-point sources of PCBs and other toxics. (trends in cleanup over time)
- demonstrate that they are an active partner in prevention of toxics substances such as PCBs from entering the Spokane River through stormwater runoff, waste streams and other pathways.

Current/Past PCB Education and Outreach (Task Force members): the Team will keep a running list of all education and outreach activities.

Task Force:

- Task Force Posters (3 panels. Panel 1 “The Challenge of PCBs in the Spokane River”; Panel 2 “Members of the Community, Stewards of the River” (about the Task Force, vision, timeline etc); Panel 3 “Task Force Activities”.
- Editorial: “Practical approach needed to keep PCBs out of Spokane River” April 10, 2015 <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2015/apr/10/editorial-practical-approach-needed-to-keep-pcbs/>
- Pullman High School video interviews. Interviews need to be turned into ~5 minute YouTube clips.

City of Spokane:

- New page added to the City’s web site in the last two weeks on PCBs and wastewater/stormwater: <https://my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/wastewater/pcbs/>. This page also links to the Task Force website (srrttf.org) and includes links to the new PCB product testing and the City’s current adaptive management plan.
- The City has starting planning for a short video piece on PCBs for City Cable 5 that will also shared via the web and social media.

Spokane County:

- The County has created a PCB informational poster which has been well received by members of the Task Force that have seen it.
- Included a PCB informational insert in sewer bills to ~45,000 customers.
- Sent letters to their pretreatment customers requesting a 30-minute meeting with each to review concerns of PCBs in the Spokane River and offer ideas for how they might proactively evaluate their facilities and processes. (what has the response been to these letters?)
- Planning to have two 20-minute presentations titled "What is the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force?" at our Saturday May 16 Open House at the Water Resource Center.
 - Adriane Borgias has agreed to do the presentation. The presentation will be mentioned at an April Task Force meeting. This short presentation will provide a test run for local community outreach about the Task Force. The presentation will be simple -- how did SRRTTF come to be, what is its purpose, what has it been doing? (With the recent ruling impacting the future of PCB loads in the Spokane River, how will the future path and purpose of the Task Force be impacted?)

Ecology:

- ECOconnect "Tackling Toxics: PCBs in common products are a concern in Spokane – and across Washington" http://ecologywa.blogspot.com/2015/04/pcbs-in-common-products-are-concern-in-9.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Ecoconnect+%28ECOconnect%29

Innovation and Research: (could be highlighted in education and outreach)

City of Spokane

- Proceeding with projects included in the City's Integrated Clean Water Plan that will continue to reduce PCBs going to the River.
 - Broke ground on a 900,000 gallon tank on NW Blvd last month to capture combined sewer overflow from CSO Basin 6 in the Shadle area. They also have 2 other tanks that are nearing completion, and a third that is midway through construction on Sprague Ave.
- Testing two membrane technologies as part of the City's efforts to add an additional level of treatment at the wastewater treatment facility. Here's a recent blog post on that effort: <https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2015/03/24/testing-technology-at-the-treatment-plant/>
- Evaluating how to replace products that the City uses that tested high for PCB concentrations.

Other Resources

Puget Sound Toolkit: http://www.psp.wa.gov/econet_PSSH.php. This site contains numerous open source public outreach materials designed to foster behavior changes in the Puget Sound related to stormwater. Some of these materials, with some alterations, may meet Task Force needs.

Priority Actions

1. Collect historical information and a list of efforts by all task force members

- a. State of the River: Where were we and where are we now. Need accurate comparable data.
 - b. Documenting what is already being done by all involved groups, document existing education and outreach.
2. Defining who has responsibility for coordinating all of the outreach pieces.
3. Update Task Force Posters
4. Update Task Force PowerPoint presentation (include accomplishments etc)
5. Highlight the “top three actions” Task Force members organizations have completed.
6. Facebook page/Blog/Twitter (need to run this by the full Task Force). What would be posted, how would it be “vetted”, perhaps posts are restricted to innovative technologies and BMPs and only approved Task Force materials.
7. Utilize video interviews completed by Pullman High School Students in small “5 min” information videos.