

P2 West 2026 Breakout Session Descriptions

Day 1 Sept. 23rd

P2 Track

10am P2 through internship programs

This panel brings together leaders from five long running pollution prevention internship programs—MNTAP, OASIS, BCGC, WASI, and MTP2—to explore what makes P2 internship models succeed in practice. Rather than offering individual program overviews, the session will focus on shared lessons learned from years of on-the-ground experience working with businesses and students. Panelists will discuss how effective outreach and business recruitment happen, including strategies for identifying the right host sites, setting clear expectations, and sustaining participation over time.

Emerging Issues Track

10am A Systems Look at Microplastic Pollution

The science of microplastics pollution is rapidly evolving. And global production and releases are expected to expand even faster. This session will offer an integrated systems perspective for microplastics and related chemical pollution. It will provide an overview spanning food production, ecosystem stresses, including connections across environmental media of air water and soil health, monitoring challenges, and exposure routes affecting human health.

P2 Track

11am Outcomes

Tracking and documenting P2 outcomes can be time consuming and confusing. This session will feature best practices for technical assistance program management and tracking client outcomes.

Emerging Issues Track

11am Managing the Toxic Impacts of 6PPDQ

6PPDQ, the chemical found to shed from tires, wash into streams, and kill coho salmon and harm other aquatic life, requires a multi-pronged response effort at multiple levels of government. This session will explore how Washington's Department of Ecology is taking a coordinated, agency-wide approach to researching 6PPD alternatives, mapping, and monitoring priority areas, improving tire disposal, and recycling, and studying the effectiveness of stormwater best management practices to remove 6PPDQ. In addition, the City of Seattle will share how they are proactively installing stormwater treatment solutions and pursuing state legislation to achieve true source control of 6PPD.

P2 Track

1:30 EPA R8-10 grantee program reports

Nine EPA grantees each share one or two of the most important lessons they have learned and how they learned it/them. Come listen and learn what they have learned as P2 grantees and leaders.

Emerging Issue Track

1:30 Wastewater contaminants of concern

In 2025, the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ORACWA) completed an EPA grant project that produced resources, tools, and data to help local wastewater utilities reduce **PFAS and phthalates** at the source. This presentation will highlight the wide range of online resources that are now publicly available, including those focused on P2 public outreach and business assistance, government purchasing, identification of industrial pollutant sources, and wastewater monitoring findings.

This presentation provides an overview of pollution prevention strategies that can be applied to data center water use. By understanding and optimizing cooling processes, pollutants can be reduced at the source, rather than being treated downstream. Utilities and data centers must manage the balance of improving source reduction and meeting the needs of the industry.

P2 Track

2:30 Tribal P2 actions

This presentation will share key findings and offer insights applicable to tribal P2 programs nationwide by sharing the strategy for the assessments, outcomes from implemented P2 activities, and lessons learned from scaling the model across multiple tribes offering insights applicable to tribal P2 programs nationwide.

Emerging Issues Track

2:30pm Safer Alternatives: current policy, funding & research

Safer chemistry has come a long way since the publication of the *12 Principles of Green Chemistry* in 1998. This session will describe current policy and regulatory incentives, industry and philanthropic funding, and cutting-edge research focused on getting safer chemicals and materials into the stuff of our daily lives. Dr. Blake will provide updates on California's Safer Consumer Products Program and describe models for innovative, safer chemistry investment. In addition, she will present key case studies from the UC Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry's partnerships with companies, government and non-profits interested in adopting more sustainable chemistry.

From Policy to Procurement: Making Safer Choices

Buildings don't clean themselves. Yet safer chemistry policies mean little if procurement decision-makers do not know the label exists. Research from 941 interviews finds that safety is the number one priority among facility managers — yet fewer than 8% could identify the EPA Safer Choice label. In this session, Dr. Macgregor-Skinner presents the Center for Evidence-Based Cleaning, a collaborative initiative of ISSA, Penn State College of Medicine, and CUNY School of Medicine that translates research and transforms cleaning from a set of tasks into an accountable, health-protective practice across the built environment.

P2 Track

3:45 Toxic-free IVs

B. Braun, a leading medical device manufacturer and BCPP partner, will discuss their shift toward DEHP-free IV products. Legacy Health, a Pacific Northwest health system, will share their supply chain experience navigating the transition to safer alternatives. Together, the panel will offer a rare cross-sector view of what pollution prevention looks like inside the healthcare industry — from advocacy and legislation to procurement and implementation. Attendees will leave with an understanding of the health and environmental case for toxic-free medical devices, the policy landscape, and actionable strategies for encouraging P2 adoption in hospital and healthcare settings.

Emerging Issues Track

3:45pm Reuse Programs in Western States

Presenters will speak about the challenges and successful of their reuse programs in California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona and how EPR regulations are influencing their program implementations.

Day 2 Sept. 24th

P2 Track

10am Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies are rapidly reshaping how products, packaging, and materials are managed across the United States. For states, local governments, businesses, and pollution prevention professionals, EPR represents both a significant systems change and a major opportunity to reduce waste upstream. In this session, Jon Smieja will provide a clear, practical overview of what participants need to know about EPR right now. Drawing on real-world experience working at the intersection of policy, waste systems, and producer responsibility, Jon will demystify how EPR works, what problems it is designed to solve, and how it is being implemented across different states.

Small Business P2 Track

10am Healthy Workers, Healthy Neighborhoods: Portland's Electric Landscaping Initiative
PPRC has worked with small landscapers on sustainable practices for several years in the Portland area. Recently, PPRC was awarded a grant from the City of Portland's Portland Clean Energy Community Fund (PCEF) to create a program to train very small landscapers (less than 5 employees) on the benefits of switching to electric leaf blowers, and to reimburse them for the purchase of a new leaf blower and batteries. This presentation will cover the development of this project and how it is going so far, as well as information from the city on how the new ordinance was developed and promoted to the community.

P2 Track

11am P2 Opportunities in the Brewing Industry

Craft breweries are everywhere in states like Colorado and Oregon, bringing a strong culture of sustainability but also hidden, cumulative environmental impacts from high water use, energy-intensive production, and hard-to-recycle packaging. This joint presentation will share practical, low-barrier pollution prevention strategies for the craft brewing industry, such as reusing rinse water, capturing waste carbon dioxide, and upgrading to high-efficiency boilers. Attendees will discover how to advise on overcoming common implementation barriers like cost and staff time by establishing simple utility tracking programs. This will empower brewers to measure their footprint, prove the return on investment for efficiency upgrades, and brew a greener bottom line.

Small Business P2 Track

11am Automotive P2 through Partnerships & Technical Assistance Programs

City of Kirkland, in partnership with Department of Ecology Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA), Lake Washington Institute of Technology (LWTech), BEA Environmental, and local auto shops, piloted a community-focused program to help residents identify vehicle leaks and financially assist with repairs. The goals of this program are to reduce the negative impacts to local streams, wetlands, and lakes caused by leaking vehicles, encourage Kirkland residents to take action to fix leaking vehicles, promote pollution prevention messaging with Kirkland residents, and coordinate with and support local education programs and businesses. Working with automotive businesses presents a variety of challenges. This presentation will discuss working with this type of small business, barriers to adopting P2 strategies, and case studies of successful partnerships.

P2 Track

1:30pm Lowering refrigerant emissions in convenience stores

BRING will introduce grant-funded work with the City of Eugene to support three convenience stores with energy efficiency improvements and refrigerant replacement strategies to replace high Global Warming Potential refrigerants with next-generation refrigerants. Reviewing historical interventions nationwide, we present an innovative approach through an Urban Sustainability Directors Network to support business owners to completion. We introduce a model for other jurisdictions on the significant greenhouse gas potential savings, and benefits to underserved businesses through this unique partnership.

Small Business P2 Track

1:15pm South Coast AQMD VOC Limits and Safer Alternative Spray Gun Cleaners

This session will focus on phasing out perchlorobenzotrifluoride (pCBtF) which is classified as a carcinogen and a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) in Southern California. A localized example to be discussed includes efforts taken by South Coast AQMD to phase out the use of pCBtF and tert-butyl acetate (t-BAC) in the automotive refinishing industry. The session will also involve a presentation on a new spray gun cleaner for autobody shops that can serve as a safer alternative to pCBtF and other toxic spray gun cleaners.

P2 Track

2:15pm Industry Field Trip Options

- Tour of an EcoBiz Automotive facility – 15 minute walk, meet by front doors by 2:20pm
- Overview of Hotel sustainability Practice in the Laurelhurst Room

Irvington Room

2:15 Swap Events to provide safer household products to community members

Zero Waste Washington and partners are hosting very successful public swap events to provide safer household products such as old nonstick pots and pans, plastic kitchenware, fishing gear, etc. for high-quality, safer alternatives such as stainless-steel cookware or lead-free fishing gear to community members in Snohomish, Kitsap, Pierce, and King counties. The project includes product research, messaging testing, educational outreach to the public, and educational outreach to thrift shops (to not accept certain items for donation).

3:15 pm – Informal Networking in the Laurelhurst Room

Gather one last time with your P2 colleagues, provide constructive feedback about the 2026 P2 West Conference, and help us plan for 2027.