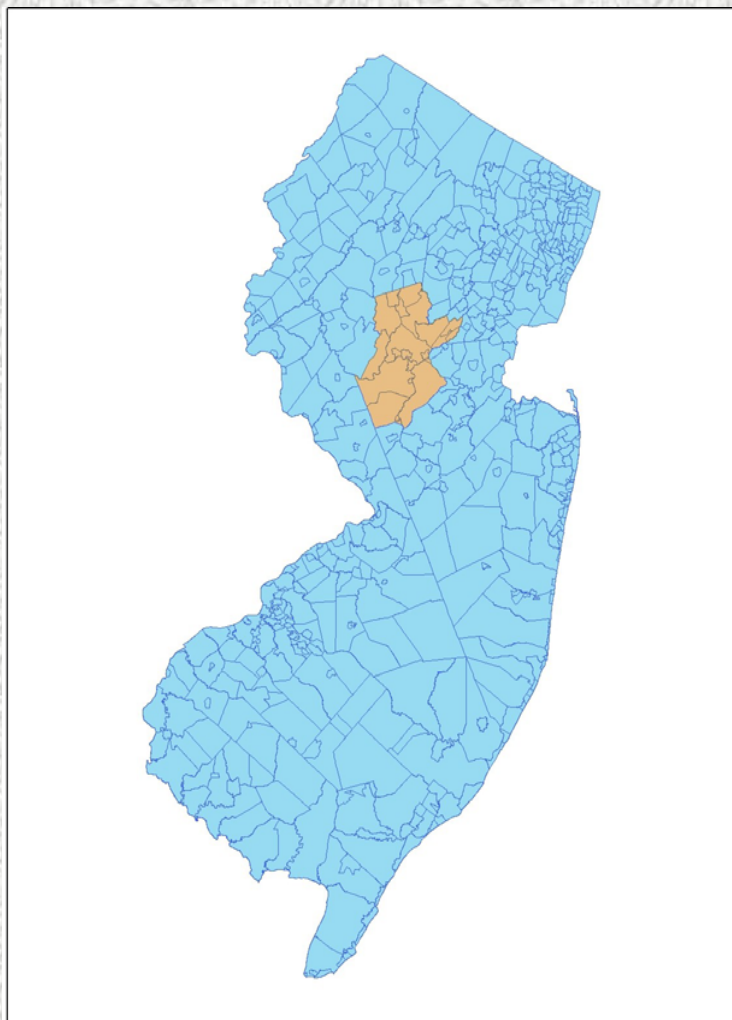


Development of a Comprehensive Educational Program to Increase Compliance Among Dry Cleaners



Dawn Marie Prandi, REHS
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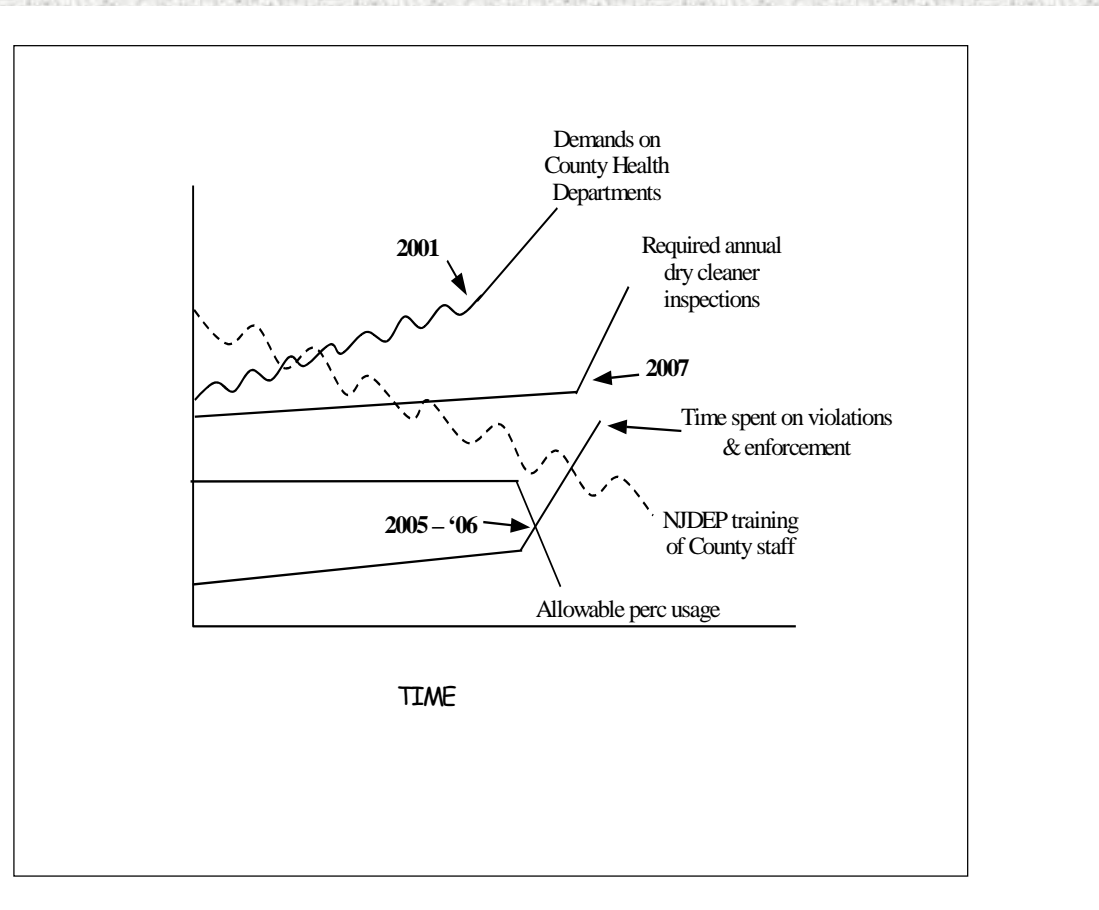


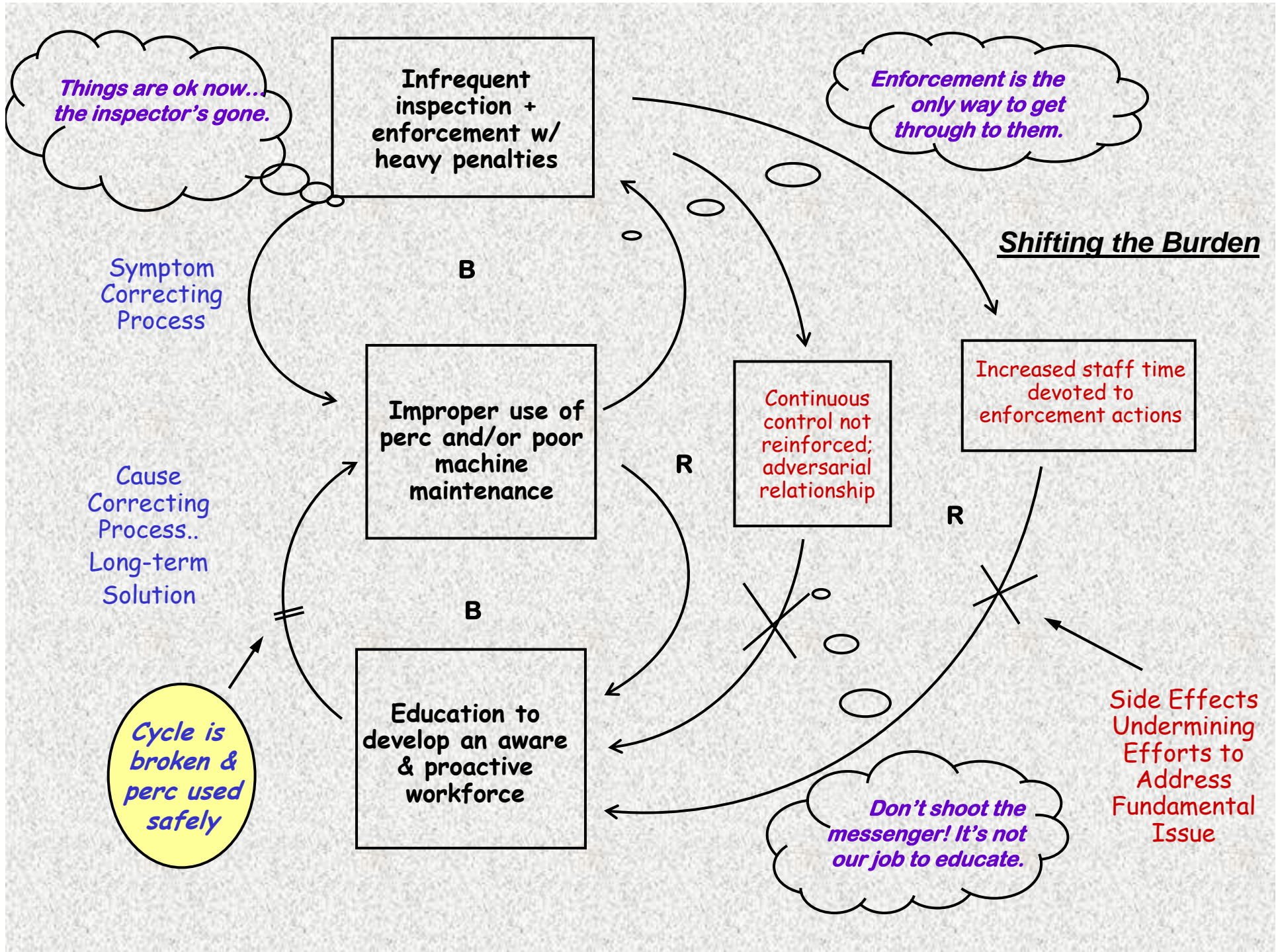
Problem Statement

Perchloroethylene solvent (perc) in the dry cleaning industry is being used in a manner inconsistent with applicable regulations, posing potential environmental, occupational and public health risks.

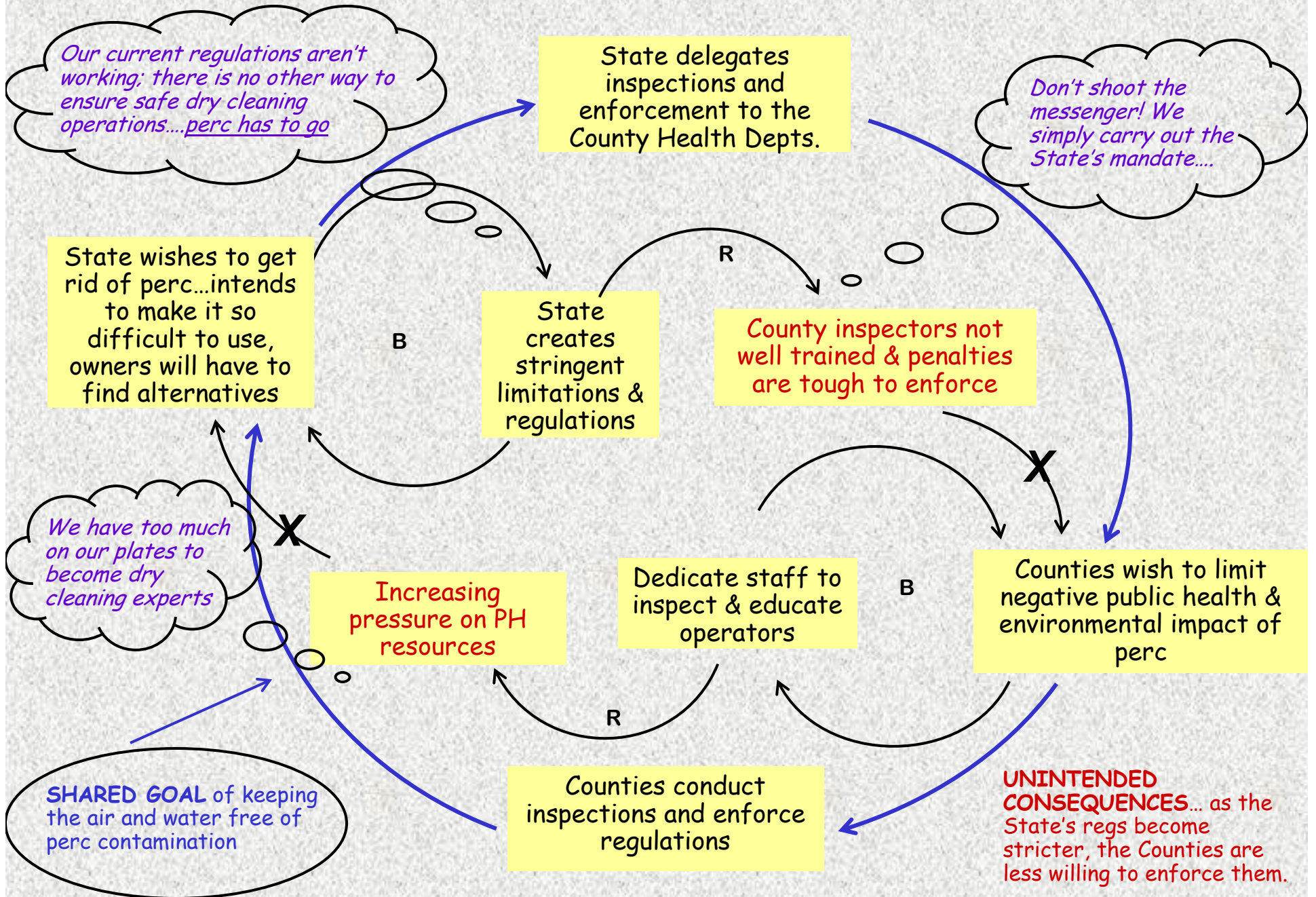
Contributing Factors

- *Business owners do not view perc exposure as a problem*
- *Public health resources are stretched....low frequency of inspections*
- *Lack of training opportunities*
- *Lack of public demand for alternatives*
- *Industry bias in favor of perc*
- *Conflicting scientific data*
- *Lack of funding for small business owners to switch to 'greener' alternatives*





Accidental Adversaries – State vs. Local Public Health



Program Goals

The use of perc as a dry cleaning solvent poses risks to air and water quality. Excess exposure may increase the risk of developing cancer. Efforts to strictly regulate through air permitting programs & inspections have not improved operator awareness or compliance.

1. Increase the compliance rates of Somerset County dry cleaners currently using perc.
2. Increase the percentage of dry cleaners in the County using non-perc alternatives.

Outcome Objectives

1. By June 30, 2007, 75% of Somerset County dry cleaners inspected will be operating in substantial compliance with the regulations.
 - *By January 31, 2007, at least 35 dry cleaners in Somerset County will have attended an educational session to include: basic awareness of current and upcoming regulations, environmental & public health impacts of perc, proper maintenance of machinery to reduce perc emissions, and options for converting their business to a non-perc facility. By February 15, 2007, all known dry cleaners within the County (~84) will have received a mailing containing information about perc, non-perc options, and resources for compliance assistance.*
2. By June 30, 2008, 10 dry cleaners within the County will operate using alternatives to perchloroethylene.

Events & Activities

- Collaborate with stakeholders from industry associations, regulatory agencies, and small businesses
- Develop outreach seminar and educational materials
- Develop knowledge assessment/survey
- Follow-up with mailings to all County dry cleaners (compliance assistance resources and non-perc alternatives)
- Conduct inspections and monitor indoor perc exposures
- Develop database of green alternatives
- Evaluate impact of educational outreach on compliance rates
- Present results to key regulatory stakeholders and other EH officials

Get it Clean – Keep it Green

Free Training

Tuesday, January 9, 2007
6:45pm – 8:45pm

Your customers demand environmental safety.
Stand out from the competition!

Keep your dry cleaning business in compliance with the law. Learn how to improve your business while operating safely for your health, your workers, your customers and the environment.

Presented By:

Ky Asral – NJDEP Small Business Assistance Program
Dawn Prandi – Environmental Coordinator, Somerset County Dept. of Health
Paul Malarcher – Somerset County Right-to-Know Coordinator
Timothy Maxwell – President, Green Earth Cleaning

Translation Services Provided By:

The Korean Cleaners Association of NJ
Mr. Yong Sun Baek, President
Mr. Sung Il Kim, Environmental Advisor

Hosted by the Somerset County Department of Health

Location: Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy, Hillsborough
– Directions Enclosed –

Questions? Call (908) 231-7155

Register Today – Fax or Mail this form before 12-31-2006

Company Name: _____ Number Attending: _____

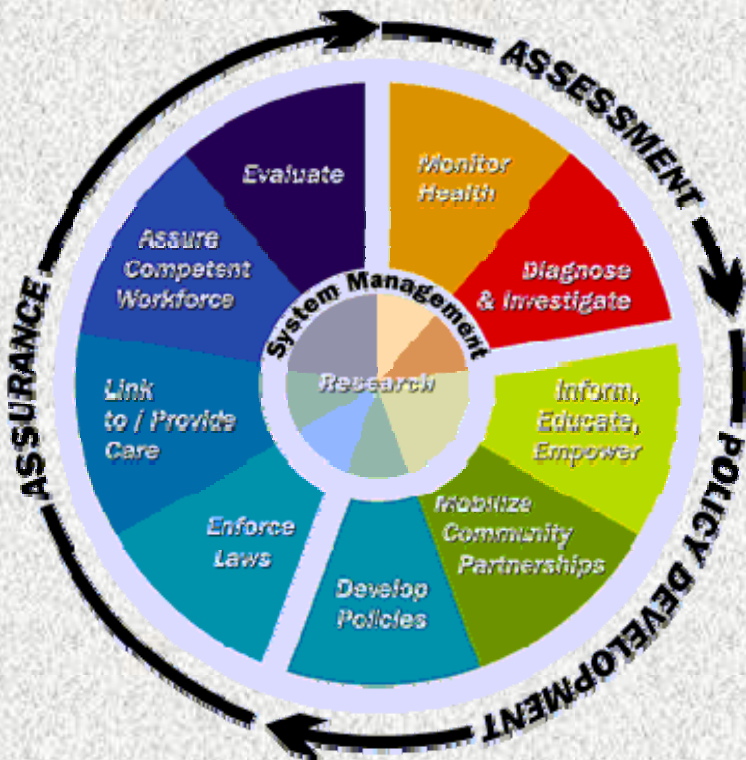
Address: _____

Phone# _____ Fax# _____ E-mail Address: _____

FAX TO: (908) 704-8042 or MAIL TO: Somerset County Health Dept.
PO Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876

Status & Next Steps

- *SCDOH hosted a comprehensive educational seminar for area dry cleaners on 1/9/07*
- *Almost 40% of Somerset County dry cleaning businesses attended the program*
- *Follow-up resources will be mailed to all stores*
- *SCDOH will 'ramp up' compliance inspections in 2007 and evaluate outcomes*
- *SCDOH will encourage consumers and business owners to evaluate non-perc options*
- *SCDOH will continue to offer education and compliance assistance, going beyond an enforcement-only mandate*



Seminar Feedback

- *2/3 of attendees had never attended a similar training*
- *88% of attendees would recommend the training to others*
- *Post-training, 81% correctly answered that a 4th generation machine can only use 150 gallons of perc annually*
- *Post-training, 62% correctly answered that their NJDEP air permit must be renewed every 5 years.*

Acknowledgments

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Joyce Gaufin, BS

Executive Director, Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute

John Horensky, MS

Director of Public Health; Somerset County Department of Health

Mark Roskein

Sr. CEHA Investigator; Somerset County Department of Health

***For more information on this project, please contact me directly at:
prandi@co.somerset.nj.us***