

Summer 2003

ANACOSTIA RIVER BUSINESS COALITION UPDATE

C/O ICPRB

6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 300

Rockville, MD 20852

Mentor Networks Aid Businesses Interested in Reducing their Environmental Impact

Do you worry about how your business affects the land and water? Do you want to make a difference but not know how? Do you lack the time and resources to research environmentally friendly alternatives to your current business practices? Or are you already an expert on reducing business-produced pollution and want to pass on your knowledge to others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, a business mentoring network can help you!

What is a Mentor?

A mentor is a person who is willing to voluntarily provide assistance and experienced insight to another entity on pollution prevention subjects and related environmental issues. Mentors provide free assistance and insight on various environmental topics, such as pollution prevention, environmental management systems, or regulatory issues. The level of mentoring is up to the mentor and the company in need of assistance. Mentors can help interested businesses in many ways including:

- ◆ Answering environmental questions;
- ◆ Determining need for environmental permits;
- ◆ Assisting with permit applications;
- ◆ Determining options for compliance with environmental regulations;
- ◆ Resolving Notices of Violation;
- ◆ Identifying other sources of environmental information; and
- ◆ Identifying opportunities for pollution prevention and environmental management systems.

What is a mentor network?

A mentor network is a group of volunteers from various industries that donate their time and knowledge of environmental regulations and techniques to businesses who are searching for information on reducing their environmental impacts. Peer-to-peer, business-to-business mentoring networks provide in a non-confrontational, non-regulatory environment. The benefits of a mentor network is that it links you with professionals and experts that provide free assistance to you and your business!



The Washington Navy Yard - A B4B Member

Currently there are three mentoring networks in this area:

The Anacostia River Business Coalition (ARBC):

Provides free and confidential evaluations of your business' property and procedures in an effort to reduce non-point source pollution in the Anacostia River. If you are interested in having someone from ARBC come out and visit your business contact Steve Saari at (301) 984-1908x103 or ssaari@icprb.org or visit www.arbcinfo.org.

Business for the Bay (B4B):

Is a voluntary team of forward-looking businesses, industries, government facilities and other organizations

within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

They are committed to implementing pollution prevention in their daily operations and reducing our releases of chemical contaminants and other wastes to the Chesapeake Bay. One of the services provided by B4B is a mentoring program. For more information, contact Mary Lynn Wilhere at 1-800-YOUR-BAYx719 or marylynn@epa.gov or visit www.chesapeakebay.net/b4bay.htm



The Virginia Mentoring Network:

Is made up of for-profit businesses, government and non-profit organizations active in Virginia. Although the Anacostia Basin is outside of this area, the network does have a searchable database of mentors from throughout this region. For information on the Virginia Mentoring Network, contact Jennifer Comfort at 804-698-4235 or jkomfort@deg.state.va.us or visit www.deq.state.va.us/vmn/vmnindex.htm.

Upcoming Events

Workshop on Landscaping your Business for a Better Anacostia - Will take place August 14 from 1-5 at the Washington Navy Yard. For more information, contact Steve Saari at 301-984-1908x103 or visit www.arbcinfo.org.

How Do I Use a Mentor Network?

The first step is to contact the mentor network. The organization running the network will then give you the contact information for one or several mentors. They can search through their database to find mentors that have expertise in certain topics, or they can find mentors that are located in your area. After you are given the contact information for a mentor it is up to you to make contact. It is difficult to say exactly what happens next because it is up to you! The extent of "mentoring" that takes place is up to the individual mentor and the protigee - depending upon their individual needs, abilities, and time commitments. Mentoring can be as simple as answering a few questions on a given topic, or, depending on the individuals, much more involved.

How Do I Become a Mentor?

If you have experience and expertise that you would like to share with other businesses, you can easily do so. Simply get in contact with one of the networks described here and giving them some basic information about yourself and your expertise.