

THE ENVIRONMENT AND UTILITIES

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

2023's Theme

During 2021, these flyers explored exciting innovations in technology that related to eco-friendly advancements. The past year was dedicated to simple swaps you could make to reduce your daily waste. For 2023, we turn our focus to a broad range of topics that focus on the intersection of environmental responsibility and utilities, with a focus on the various industry best practices, governmental policies, and investor-driven trends that affect the industry.

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

The Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) was established in 1994 in order to reduce the need for pesticides and spread awareness of the risks associated with their application within and beyond agricultural use. (EPA) Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the removal of target pests via biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties, has been a large focus of this initiative.

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is a related process relevant to utilities. While the traditional approach to vegetation management on rights-of-way is to trim and mow vegetation and apply herbicide year after year, IVM reduces the need for mechanical or chemical regulation largely by implementing native, shrubby plants. This low-growing vegetation doesn't pose a risk to power lines and blocks the encroachment of larger species.

The EPA has encouraged the implementation of IVM since 2006, when the original memorandum was signed. "As part of [the PESP], IVM is being promoted given that it reduces the need for pesticides. 'In 2016, EPA was a signatory to a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Edison Electric Institute, Utility Arborist Association, U.S. Department of Interior (National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service).'" (EPA) The goal of this memorandum is to promote IVM best practices and facilitate it as the industry standard for managing vegetation.

Works Consulted

EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/pesp/integrated-vegetation-management-ivm-practices-around-utility-rights-way>.

"Utility Vegetation Management Best Practices." The Utility Expo, <https://www.theutilityexpo.com/news/utility-vegetation-management-best-practices>.

"What Is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?" *What Is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? / UC Statewide IPM Program (UC IPM)*, <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/what-is-ipm/>.

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