

# Ecology Center of Ann Arbor

---

417 Detroit Street • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (313) 761-3186

## Pesticide Management Taskforce

Growing out of a concern for the health and environmental effects of pesticide use, a group of interested citizens has formed to assess the use of pesticides in Washtenaw County and the adequacy of the management and protection required in their use. The Pesticides Management Taskforce of the Ecology Center will be meeting on a regular basis throughout the winter to develop strategies and educational material for the management and use of chemical pesticides and herbicides in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County.

Some of the questions the group will be researching are: What are the possible health effects of commercially used pesticides? What are the possible effects of the use of household pesticides? What are the alternative products and practices? Should citizens be informed of the type, effects, and location of pesticide applications in their neighborhoods? Is the inspection program to ensure that food is free of pesticide residue adequate?

There are several projects that have been identified which will require research and development of appropriate materials. Some of these projects are:

- \* The development of a fact sheet on public chemical spraying.
- \* The development of educational programs for the public.
- \* The research of laws and regulations that have been developed in other communities and states on pesticide spraying in public areas.
- \* The development of a management strategy on pesticide use in Washtenaw County.

The taskforce would like to have some information and practical suggestions developed by the early spring before the growing season begins. If you are interested in participating in any of these projects or if you have any ideas on other topics related to the use of pesticides, please contact project coordinator Joan Martin at 761-3220 (before 10 p.m.) or Environmental Issues Coordinator David Stead at the Ecology Center at 761-3186.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the Ecology Center, 417 Detroit Street.