The Waste Powder-Paint User Group (WPUG) was organized through the Green Manufacturing Initiative at Western Michigan University as a way to focus industry and university resources on solving the complex problem of powder paint waste. A survey of companies using powder paint in southwestern Michigan alone shows that over one million pounds of powder is turned to waste each year costing over five million dollars annually.

Current research includes attempting to optimize the powder painting process and creating ways to re-use or recycle waste powder and is being worked on collaboratively by members of industry representing suppliers and users as well as University professors and students from multiple disciplines. The group is currently facilitated by the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – West (MMTC-West).