

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PART I. VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO COMPANIES AND FACILITIES

***Programs Related to Air Quality, Energy
Efficiency, and Global Climate Change***

BEST WORKPLACES FOR COMMUTERS



Established by EPA and DOT, Best Workplaces for CommutersSM (BWC) is a business-government partnership that advocates employee commuter benefits and provides support to employers who implement commuter-friendly programs. Specialty-batch chemical companies can participate in BWC by offering benefits to encourage environmentally-responsible commuting by employees. In return, companies receive technical assistance and recognition through EPA and DOT as a Best Workplace for CommutersSM Employer.

Goals

Help businesses improve their bottom line while bettering the quality of life for their employees and the communities in which they live.

Requirements for Participation

- Offer one primary benefit (e.g., tax-free transit or vanpool passes) and three supporting benefits (e.g., ridesharing, preferred carpool parking, compressed work schedule).
- Implement an Emergency Ride Home policy, which provides a ride to employees who need an emergency ride home due to special circumstances.

Benefits of Participation

- National recognition as a Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Employer.
- Technical assistance for implementing commuter benefits, forums for exchanging ideas, and access to information about emerging trends/opportunities in commuter benefits.
- Reduced demand for limited or expensive parking.
- Diminished parking expenses, facility costs, and payroll taxes.
- Potential to improve employee recruitment/retention and increase job satisfaction.
- BWC estimates that an average company with 1,000 employees may take 175 cars off the road, saving 44,000 gallons of gasoline and 420 tons of carbon dioxide pollution annually.

NOTE: Trade associations can participate as BWC Supporters by promoting the program among their membership. BWC Supporters enjoy recognition from EPA, DOT, and a network of local and national partners.

Contact

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CLIMATE LEADERS

Climate Leaders is an industry-government partnership that encourages companies to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Climate Leaders program was launched in February 2002 and is a key component of the Bush administration's climate change policy. Specialty-batch chemical companies can participate in Climate Leaders by developing comprehensive climate change strategies and committing to company-wide reductions in greenhouse gases.



Goals

Mitigate partners' climate footprint over the long-term through reductions in GHG emissions.

Requirements for Participation

- Conduct an inventory of six major GHGs (Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, Sulfur hexafluoride).
- Set emission reduction goals.
- Report annually on progress made toward attaining those goals.
- Publicize company participation in Climate Leaders, the GHG reduction pledge, and progress made toward meeting program goals.

Benefits of Participation

- Opportunities for recognition through EPA websites, press events, and public service announcements in business publications.
- The potential to manage all voluntary climate change activities under Climate Leaders (i.e., other voluntary programs such as ENERGY STAR and Green Power Partnership can be components of a Climate Leaders long-term plan).
- Technical assistance in completing a GHG inventory and developing an inventory management plan.
- An EPA-endorsed GHG reporting mechanism.

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COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PARTNERSHIP



Combined Heat and Power (CHP), or cogeneration, is the sequential production of power (electricity or shaft work) and thermal energy from a single fuel source. CHP is a more efficient, cleaner, and reliable alternative to conventional generation. EPA established the Combined Heat and Power Partnership to encourage greater CHP use in the industrial, institutional and commercial sectors. At present, the CHP Partnership counts over 116 partners, including energy users, energy service companies, consultants and others. Specialty-batch chemical companies can join the CHP Partnership by recognizing CHP opportunities and promoting CHP development at their facilities.

Goals

Reduce the environmental impact of the energy supply sector by engaging industry, state and local governments, and other stakeholders in cooperative relationships to expand the use of clean, efficient CHP.

Requirements for Participation

Elements for participation vary depending on the type of partner. For industry partners, elements include:

- Work with EPA to assess the potential for additional CHP development at partner facilities.
- Provide EPA with limited operational data to enable EPA to evaluate the Partnership's success at increasing the use of CHP in the United States.

Benefits of Participation

- Clean, reliable, cost-effective, self-generated power, heating and/or cooling.
- Public recognition through EPA websites, press releases, and awards.
- Technical assistance and permitting assistance for CHP users.
- Networking with qualified CHP professionals.

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ENERGY STAR



EPA's ENERGY STAR program delivers technical information and tools to help organizations and consumers choose energy-efficient solutions and best management practices. In addition to energy efficient solutions for consumers, buildings, and homes, ENERGY STAR partners with manufacturing companies to improve energy performance; the program currently counts over 500 partners in the manufacturing sector. Specialty-batch chemical companies can join ENERGY STAR by committing to continuous improvements in energy efficiency across their facilities.

Goals

Help businesses protect the environment through increased energy efficiency.

Requirements for Participation

- Institute a corporate policy for continuous improvement of energy performance.
- Develop and implement an energy management program, including performance targets; ENERGY STAR provides Guidelines for Energy Management to assist companies in developing their energy management program.
- Measure, track, and benchmark energy performance across facilities.
- Educate staff and the public about the company's partnership and achievements.

Benefits of Participation

- Reduced energy costs.
- Diminished environmental impacts.
- Strengthened energy management practices.
- Networking opportunities to share best practices and success stories.
- Public recognition for improved environmental performance.

Contact

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GREEN POWER PARTNERSHIP

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program working to standardize green power procurement as part of best-practice environmental management. Specialty-batch chemical companies and facilities can join the Green Power Partnership by committing to use renewable energy for a portion of their electricity needs. In



return, EPA provides technical assistance and public recognition. The Partnership includes over 200 leading organizations, including 12 Fortune 500 companies, 17 higher education institutions, 11 cities, 14 counties, 4 states, 19 nonprofit organizations, and 21 federal entities.

Goals

Reduce the environmental impact of electricity generation by increasing demand for green power.

Requirements for Participation

- Sign a one-page Partnership Letter of Intent.
- Within one year, procure/generate an amount of renewable energy that is proportional to annual electricity use. This ranges from two percent for Partners with annual electricity usage of greater than 100 million kWh, to 15 percent for Partners with annual usage of under 100,000 kWh. Partners can meet their green power commitment through any combination of grid-connected green power, on-site renewable generation, and renewable energy certificates.
- Review and report green power use at participating facilities annually to EPA.

Benefits of Participation

- Technical assistance including information on green power options, case studies and a green power procurement guide.
- Peer exchange with other Green Power Partners and related local and national environmental organizations.
- Communications assistance including public recognition through the EPA website, press releases, and awards.
- Use of the Green Power Partnership logo for media materials.

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LANDFILL METHANE OUTREACH PROGRAM



The Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) is a voluntary assistance and partnership initiative that promotes the use of landfill gas (LFG) as a renewable energy source. To date, the program has over 345 Partners and Endorsers, and has assisted in the development of over 230 LFG utilization projects. Specialty-batch chemical companies and facilities can improve the environment and their bottom line by taking steps to power their operations with LFG energy. While becoming an Energy Partner is encouraged, it is not a pre-requisite to receiving assistance from LMOP.

Goals

Facilitate the development of environmentally and economically sound LFG projects through partnerships between states, industry, energy service providers, energy users, local communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Requirements for Participation as an "Energy Partner"

- Appoint a Coordinator for LMOP.
- Complete and annually update a profile that describes current LFG projects.
- Submit annually a statement of LFG energy recovery options being considered or implemented.

Benefits of Participation

- Identification of candidate landfills.
- Technical and financial feasibility assessments.
- Technical assistance in planning the LFG recovery effort and demonstrating its success.
- Prototype marketing and communication materials.
- Public recognition through EPA websites and press releases.
- EPA LMOP Liaison.

NOTE: Trade associations can participate as LMOP Endorsers by promoting LFG use among their membership. EPA supplies LMOP Endorsers with promotional and technical materials, and recognizes Endorser efforts on a national scale.

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Waste Management Programs

NATIONAL WASTE MINIMIZATION PARTNERSHIP

The National Waste Minimization Partnership encourages and publicly recognizes voluntary industry efforts to reduce the generation of hazardous chemicals. The program focuses on waste streams containing any of 30 Waste Minimization Priority Chemicals, but also includes other hazardous chemicals with waste minimization potential. Specialty-batch chemical companies and facilities can join the Partnership by committing to reduce their hazardous chemical generation through source reduction and/or recycling.



Goals

By 2005, reduce the generation of Waste Minimization Priority Chemicals by 50 percent, compared to amounts generated in 1991.

Requirements for Participation

- Review hazardous waste generation records to identify which waste streams may contain chemicals with waste minimization potential.
- Work with purchasing, operations, sales, environmental management and maintenance departments to identify possible reduction and/or recycling opportunities.
- Develop a source reduction and/or recycling goal and project timeline for each of the chemicals identified for reduction (online enrollment available).

Benefits of Participation

- Public recognition through EPA websites, press releases, plaques, and awards.
- Use of the National Waste Minimization Partnership logo.
- Web-based information exchange with other partners.
- Technical and environmental training assistance referrals.

Contact

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WASTEWISE

WasteWise is a voluntary EPA program through which organizations eliminate costly municipal solid waste, benefiting their bottom line and the environment. Since its inception in 1994, the program has grown to more than 1,100 corporations, government agencies, universities and other organizations, including 50 partners from the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. Specialty-batch chemical companies and facilities can join WasteWise by committing to reductions in solid waste generation.



Goals

Help partners cut costs and conserve natural resources through municipal solid waste reduction.

Requirements for Participation

- Make a three-year commitment to implementing a comprehensive solid waste reduction program.
- Conduct facility waste assessment prior to establishing reduction goals.
- Establish goals in waste prevention, recycling and the purchasing or manufacturing of recycled products.
- Track progress toward goals and report results to EPA.

Benefits of Participation

- WasteWise Helpline for answering program-specific and technical questions.
- Free technical assistance in designing and implementing a waste reduction program.
- Public recognition through EPA websites, publications, press releases, and WasteWise Awards.
- Limited use of the WasteWise logo for internal and external communications.
- Partner networking through a member list-serve, workshops, and forums.
- Technical resource library with information on established waste reduction strategies.

NOTE: Trade associations can participate as WasteWise Endorsers by promoting WasteWise as a means of achieving reductions in solid waste among their membership. EPA recognizes these efforts by featuring endorsers in publications and press releases, as well as through the Endorser of the Year Awards Program.

Contact

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Programs Related to Water Conservation

ADOPT YOUR WATERSHED

Adopt Your Watershed is an EPA program that challenges citizens and organizations to protect and restore rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, ground water, and estuaries. Specialty-batch chemical companies and facilities can participate by organizing stream cleanups, conducting water quality monitoring or testing, designating wildlife habitat at facilities, or sponsoring activities that raise community awareness of watershed issues.

Goals

Encourage stewardship of the nation's water resources by promoting opportunities for organizations and individuals to get involved.

Responsibilities of Participation

- Undertake activities as part of an ongoing commitment to watershed protection or restoration.

Benefits of Participation

- EPA Certificates of Appreciation to recognize excellence.

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Programs to Improve Chemical Safety

HIGH PRODUCTION VOLUME CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge program aims to increase data availability for a set of industrial chemicals. HPV chemicals are those manufactured or imported into the U.S. in annual volumes of 1 million pounds or more. Since the HPV Challenge Program was announced in late 1998, over 330 companies have committed to make screening level health and environmental hazard data available on approximately 2,200 chemicals by 2005. Although the sign-up period for the program has ended, companies may still voluntarily sponsor chemicals following certain guidelines. These guidelines are posted on the HPV website (www.epa.gov/chemRTK/volchall.htm).

Goals

Ensure the availability of a complete set of baseline health and environmental effects data for all HPV chemicals.

Guidelines for Participation

- Sponsor one or more HPV chemical.
- Perform an initial assessment of data adequacy.
- Conduct additional testing as necessary.
- Make new and existing test results publicly available.

Benefits of Participation

- Public recognition through EPA websites and publications.
- An active product stewardship program.
- Flexibility in the tests conducted and level of study detail.

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SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Under the Sustainable Futures (SF) pilot project EPA works with companies to develop safer new chemicals. Under Sustainable Futures EPA offers companies:

1. Computerized chemical risk screening methods developed by EPA to screen new chemical submissions under TSCA,
2. Training and detailed technical assistance in the use and interpretation of these risk screening methods,
3. Regulatory relief and business certainty for qualifying new chemical submissions, and
4. A small business assistance program.

EPA grants expedited review of qualifying SF PreManufacture Notices (PMNs) under TSCA §5 for new chemicals developed using acceptable risk screening methods / models. Specialty-batch chemical companies can participate in this project by demonstrating their experience and competence with risk screening tools and the extent to which these tools informed decision-making during chemical product development.

Goals

Encourage development of environmentally preferable chemical products / processes.

Requirements for Participation

When submitting a SF PMN to EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), participating companies must:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the scope, applicability, interpretation, and limitations of chemical hazard and exposure screening tools. EPA offers software, training workshops, and presentations to educate industry professionals.
- Briefly describe how hazard and exposure screening tools informed decision-making during product development.
- Submit 5-10 successful (i.e., not regulated) PMNs or PMN exemption notices developed using chemical screening tools, along with other related documentation.

Benefits of Participation

- Regulatory flexibility (expedited review period for qualifying submissions) reducing the time to market from 90 to 45 days, and
- Business certainty in better understanding of potential concerns EPA may have with the chemical.

Contact

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Regulatory Innovation Programs

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK

The National Environmental Performance Track (Performance Track) is a partnership program that recognizes top environmental performance among participating facilities of all types, sizes, and complexity -

both public and private. Currently, the program has approximately 300 members located throughout the U.S. Specialty-batch chemical facilities can join Performance Track if they have consistently met their legal requirements, implemented a qualifying environmental management system, and demonstrated environmental leadership in other ways.



Goals

Encourage, recognize, and reward private and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements.

Requirements for Participation

- Adopt and implement a high quality environmental management system.
- Demonstrate past environmental achievements and make specific commitments to continued improvement in environmental performance.
- Commit to public outreach and performance reporting.
- Maintain a record of sustained compliance with environmental requirements.

Benefits of Participation

- Cooperative relationship with EPA.
- Low priority for routine EPA inspections.
- Recognition through EPA websites, press releases, and case studies.
- Networking opportunities through Performance Track peer exchanges and workshops.
- Regulatory and administrative incentives.
- Use of the Performance Track logo.

NOTE: Trade associations can participate as Performance Track Network Partners by promoting the program to top environmental performers among their membership. EPA supplies Network Partners with promotional and technical materials, convenes roundtable events to facilitate information exchange, and recognizes Network Partner efforts through publications and member events.

Contact

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