

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Environmental Stewardship Program

Environmental Performance Table

The Environmental Performance Table (EPT) contains the set of environmental indicators and measurement units that ESP applicants and members use as the basis for creating environmental performance commitments.

Organization and terminology

The EPT is organized into a hierarchy of groupings:

- **Life-cycle stages** reflect where in the life cycle of a facility's process a specific environmental impact occurs. The **upstream stage** contains those environmental impacts that occur before a facility's processes begin. Indicators within this stage's categories describe the environmental characteristics of the materials that you purchase from your suppliers or the environmental improvements that you caused in your suppliers' environmental performance. The **input stage** encompasses the impacts from resources (materials, energy, and water) that are added to processes at your facility. The **non-product output stage** includes the impacts from the outputs of your facility's processes, except for product and product-related materials such as packaging. The **downstream stage** includes the impacts from your facility's activities and decisions that occur after your processes. Indicators within this stage address the environmental characteristics of your products.
- **Categories** are groups of indicators related to a specific environmental impact.
- **Indicators** are the specific measurements of individual impacts that can be used to track and demonstrate improvement in that area. Each indicator is accompanied by one or more **measurement units** that may be used as the basis of reporting performance with respect to the specific indicator.

Selection Considerations

When developing your set of environmental performance commitments, please follow these criteria for selection, measurement, and reporting:

- a. Select commitments from a minimum of two different categories, with a maximum of two indicators per category.
- b. Use the indicators and the measurement units provided in this table. These indicators and measurements were chosen because they are common to widely-used reporting protocols. Additionally, standardized measures allow ESP to report on the progress of ESP participants as a group.
- c. All commitments should reflect facility-wide measurements. For example, while a facility may focus its efforts to reduce solvent usage on one particular process, the reported measurement should be of the solvent's usage across the entire facility. Facility-wide measurements demonstrate that the facility is aware of its performance for this indicator across all of its activities and is therefore in the best position to identify the greatest opportunities to improve on this indicator. Facility-wide measurements also provide necessary context for the public.

- d. If the EPT includes the parenthetical “(total or specific),” you may choose to focus your commitment on a specific subset of that indicator. For example, for VOCs, you might choose to report on all (the total amount of) VOC emissions at your facility, or you might instead choose to report only on ethane. If the “total or specific” option is not noted for the particular indicator, then please provide total amounts.
- e. If you select an indicator that is currently regulated, then your commitment must go beyond regulatory requirements.
- f. As a general rule, commitments should relate to the life cycle of the facility’s products or services. (The facility’s administration, utilities, and grounds are considered part of this life cycle.) Some indicators do allow for projects that are outside of the facility’s normal operations, i.e., indicators in the Land and Habitat category. A facility’s set of commitments is limited to one commitment that is not related to the life cycle of its products or services.
- g. Ensure that there is no redundancy (“double-counting”) among the indicators that you have selected. In other words, avoid including the same performance information in more than one measurement. For example:
 - If you make a commitment to reduce materials use and are considering the possibility of a commitment to reduce solid waste, please determine whether the materials being considered for reduction are a significant component of the solid waste stream. If so, any reductions in the use of the material will result in reductions in solid waste, thus leading to double-counting. In that case, please avoid the selection of the solid waste commitment in favor of another environmental category.
 - If you make a commitment to reduce Total Materials Use, it would be redundant to also make a commitment to reduce a specific material.
 - Since greenhouse gas emissions are largely the result of energy choices, in most cases the selection of commitments to reduce energy use and to reduce greenhouse gases would lead to double-counting.

Abbreviations. The following abbreviations are used in the table:

Btu	= British thermal units	MMBtu	= Million metric British thermal units
BOD	= Biological oxygen demand	MPN	= Most probable number
CFC	= Chlorofluorocarbons	MTCO ₂ E	= Metric tons of CO ₂ equivalents
CFU	= Colony forming units	MWh	= Megawatt hours
CO	= Carbon monoxide	N	= Nitrogen
COD	= Chemical oxygen demand	NO _x	= Nitrous oxides
dBA	= Decibels adjusted to measure human response to sound	P	= Phosphorus
GHG	= Greenhouse gases	PM	= Particulate matter
kWh	= Kilowatt hours	SO _x	= Sulfur oxides
		VOC	= Volatile organic compounds

Category	Indicator	Units
Stage: Upstream		
Material Procurement	Recycled content (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Hazardous/toxic components (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
Suppliers' Environmental Performance	Any relevant indicators from the Inputs or Nonproduct Outputs stages	As specified for the particular indicator
Stage: Inputs		
Material Use	Materials used (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Hazardous materials used (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Ozone depleting substances used (Total or specific)	CFC-11 equivalent tons, CFC-11 equivalent pounds
	Total packaging materials used	Pounds, tons
Water Use	Total water used	Gallons
Energy Use	Total (non-transportation) energy use by fuel type	kWh/MWh or Btu/MMBtu
	Transportation energy use (Total or specific)	kWh/MWh, gallons, cubic feet
Land and Habitat	Land and habitat conservation	Square feet, acres
	Community land revitalization	Square feet, acres
Stage: Nonproduct Outputs		
Air Emissions	Total GHGs	MTCO ₂ E
	VOCs (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	NO _x	Pounds, tons
	SO _x	Pounds, tons
	PM _{2.5}	Pounds, tons
	PM ₁₀	Pounds, tons
	CO	Pounds, tons
Air Emissions	Air toxics (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Odor	European Odour Units
	Radiation	Curies, Becquerels
	Dust	Pounds, tons
Discharges to Water	COD	Pounds, tons
	BOD	Pounds, tons
	Toxics (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Total suspended solids	Pounds, tons
	Nutrients (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons of Total N or P
	Sediment from runoff	Pounds, tons
Waste	Pathogens (Total or specific)	MPN/ml, CFU/ml
	Non-hazardous waste generation, broken down by management method (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Hazardous waste generation, broken down by management method (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
Noise	Noise	dBA
Vibration	Vibration	Inches per second
Stage: Downstream		
Products	Expected lifetime energy use (Total or specific)	kWh/MWh or Btu/MMBtu
	Expected lifetime water use (Total or specific)	Gallons
	Expected lifetime waste (to air, water, land) from product use (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons
	Waste to air, water, land from disposal or recovery (Total or specific)	Pounds, tons