

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable

2025 Safer Chemistry Challenge Program



Steps to Participating in the Challenge Program

Companies can successfully eliminate or reduce their targeted chemicals by following this Seven Step program:

Step 1. Make the commitment

- Develop and communicate a corporate policy statement indicating management commitment to eliminate or reduce the use of targeted chemicals and to substitute safer alternatives.
- Form a team with an identified team leader to direct the project and communicate implications for the business.

Step 2. Conduct an assessment

- Develop an understanding and inventory of the chemicals used in processes and products at the facility.
- Ask suppliers for data on chemical ingredients of products. Assess the hazardous constituents of the chemicals used.
- Categorize chemicals into categories of high, moderate, low or unknown concern/use
- Utilize NPPR's member technical assistance program resources.

Step 3. Set performance goals

- Create a list of targeted chemicals specific to facility operations.
- Prioritize chemicals for elimination or reduction, taking into account volume of use, toxicity, potential for exposure, public and/or governmental concern, and customer demand.
- Publicly share the list of priority chemicals.
- Establish elimination/reduction goals and schedules for the targeted chemicals list .
- Describe achievements to date.

Step 4. Create an action plan

- Identify and select alternatives for targeted chemicals.
 - Conduct alternatives assessments for the target list of chemicals.
 - Assess hazards and effectiveness of potential alternatives.
 - Identify elimination/reduction opportunities, taking into account technical and cost considerations.
- Focus initial elimination/reduction efforts on target list of chemicals for which safer alternatives are readily available.
- For each targeted chemical, create a workplan with action steps, roles, and timelines.

Step 5. Implement the action plan

- Utilize NPPR's member state technical assistance programs
- Utilize internal team to implement needed tasks

Step 6. Evaluate progress

- Establish a metrics system to track elimination and reduction efforts
- Measure and document results
- Publicly report annually on progress in achieving performance objectives
- Update goals and plan as necessary

Step 7. Recognize and communicate achievements

- Promote new and existing members (website, brochure, newsletter)
- Keep employees informed and publicize accomplishments
- Apply to NPPR MVP2 program
- Make use of state recognition programs
- Develop NPPR web profile, case studies, and success stories
- Develop a press release, including notification of legislators
- Use the SCCP logo that designates the company as a Challenge Program participant
- Attend and present information at the National Environmental Sustainability Summit or other NPPR sponsored conference

Sample Work Plan

Chemical	Reduction Goal	Achievements to Date	Action Steps	Timeline	Metrics	Alternative Assessment Tools Used
Example: Methylene Chloride	100%	Have begun to research alternatives	Identify alternative Test alternative Convert to alternative solvent	December 2011 March 2012 May 2012	Lb/yr	Green Screen; EPA