

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable 2025 Safer Chemistry Challenge Program



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the rationale for the 5 chemical minimum? Can you join the program with less than 5 chemicals?

You may join the SCCP with less than five chemicals, but you would need to provide rationale for less than five chemicals. Many companies are just getting started on their chemical reduction programs. New regulations will affect a number of chemicals in commerce in the future.

2. What is the list of chemical priorities?

You may choose any mix of chemicals from the states' priority list and/or your own chemical priorities that are of significance to your company.

The following list of chemical priorities for toxicity reduction were selected across the state priority chemicals lists: lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, perchloroethylene, specific long-chain perfluorinated compounds (including PFOS, PFHxS, PFAS, PFAC, PFOA), polybrominated diphenylethers (PBDEs), hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), phthalates, bisphenol A, short chain chlorinated paraffins, formaldehyde

3. Who funds the Safer Chemistry Challenge Program? What is the governance?

The Safer Chemistry Challenge Program is administered by the National P2 Roundtable. The EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will be funding the initial emphasis in the Great Lakes Region, but the program is open for anyone to join nationwide.

4. Who are the partners/supporters for the Safer Chemistry Challenge Program?

Current partners of the SCCP include the following:

[Clean Production Action](#) (CPA)

[Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable](#) (GLRPPR)

[P2Rx Centers](#) ([NEWMOA](#), [ESRC](#), [GLRPPR](#), [ZWN](#), [P2RIC](#), [Peaks to Prairies](#), [WSPPN](#), [PPRC](#))

[New York State Pollution Prevention Institute](#)

[Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center](#)

NPPR is also pursuing discussions with the following organizations regarding partnering on the SCCP: Stewardship Action Council, U.S. EPA, ECOS, American Chemistry Council, and other industry associations.

Partner expectations include the following activities:

- Conduct outreach, marketing and promotion to the business community
- Refer companies to the SCCP
- Complete the safer chemistry practices template to document activities
- Provide technical assistance, if appropriate

5. What criteria will be used to approve members? Consideration will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- a. Five chemical minimum (any mix of chemicals from states' priority list and company priorities)
- b. Strong commitment/action plan for reducing toxic chemicals
- c. Selection of chemicals that are persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic
- d. Addresses reduction of halogenated chemicals
- e. Impact on human health

6. Can anyone join or are you starting this in the Great Lakes region?

Anyone can join the program nationwide. NPPR currently has a special initiative in the Great Lakes region. The emphasis is on industry members, with an effort to reduce chemicals used in the production and consumption of manufactured goods. Participating members can include Organizational (industry, healthcare, universities) or Alliance members (government and non-profits).

7. Is this program taking the place of US EPA's NPEP?

EPA's NPEP program made significant strides in helping to achieve reduction of 42 million pounds of chemicals in partnership with more than 280 public and private organizations. NPPR continues to seek input from EPA on the design of this program.

8. What does it cost to join the program?

a. Organizational Member (industry, healthcare, university):

i. Individual facility (fee based on number of employees)

1. <100 employees: \$500
2. 101-499 employees: \$800
3. >500 employees: \$1500

i. Combined/Multiple facilities (fee based on number of facilities)

1. 2-5 facilities: \$2,000
2. 6-10 facilities: \$3,000
3. 11+ facilities: \$5,000

9. What is the scope for the five chemicals?

The five chemicals selected can include process chemicals, material chemistry, and/or maintenance chemicals. Toxic chemical reductions can be achieved in a number of ways including product reformulation, green chemistry, product redesign, and substitution of less toxic raw materials. Other practices such as process changes, operator training, and improved housekeeping can also have an impact on toxic chemical reduction.

10. Did industry provide input to the development of the challenge program?

Various members of the industrial community have provided input to the program via direct solicitation and a discussion group at the June 2011 Detroit National Sustainable Partnership Summit.

11. How does this work align with the alternative assessment work being done by groups such as the GC3 (Green Chemistry in Commerce Council)?

NPPR members currently have a partnership with GC3. GC3 members are welcome to become members of Safer Chemistry Challenge Program.

12. Are there specific industry sectors you are targeting?

There are currently no plans to target specific sectors, but NPPR would be pleased to form partnerships with associations or other organizations representing industry or government.

13. What process will be used to select safer alternatives?

To select safer chemistry alternatives, follow steps 1-6 on the application form including:

- Commit
- Assess
- Set goals
- Plan
- Implement
- Evaluate

14. Can you clarify how the state P2 Programs can help?

The state technical assistance programs (TAPs) are welcome to become Alliance members (if they are NPPR members) and will be instrumental with recruiting, promotion, and providing resources. Information sharing of case studies, success stories, recognition efforts, and general resources is welcome. It is expected that state and local agencies, programs, TAPs, etc would be able to provide technical assistance to company members in their service area. TAPs may want to target or prioritize their efforts on SCCP member companies. State programs can also participate in policy dialogue on chemicals in commerce issues at national meetings or as part of a NPPR workgroup.

15. Will you be incorporating the Green Screen into this process?

Green Screen will be offered as one of several tools to identify safer alternatives via workshops and webinars.

16. Are there required reduction targets?

The SCCP has three levels of reduction targets:

- 2015: 10%
- 2020: 20%
- 2025: 25%

17. What tools and resources are available to participants?

A number of tools and resources are available to SCCP members including:

- P2Rx Centers: www.P2Rx.org
- Green Screen for Safer Chemicals: www.cleanproduction.org/green/greenscreen.php
- Local or state TAP: <http://www.p2rx.org/programs/>
- EPA-DfE: www.epa.gov/dfE/alternative_assessments.html
- EPA Screening Tool for Exposures and Environmental Releases, ChemSTEER: www.epa.gov/opptintr/exposure/pubs/chemsteer.htm
- NPPR Great Lakes training and conferences: <http://www.p2.org/category/challenge/>

18. Can this program extend to overseas production or is it only for domestic production?

The program is provided as a resource for domestic facilities, but the hope is that these best practices will be transferred to all your facilities, including international facilities.

19. What are the elements of the recognition program?

There are a number of mechanisms to recognize successful safer chemistry programs and projects including:

- a. Participate in the NPPR MVP2 program and state recognition programs
- b. Post case studies/success stories on SCCP web page
- c. ECOS statement or “certificate” of accomplishment in reducing toxics in commerce
- d. EPA (regions and HQ) communication of appreciation for participating in the Challenge program and reducing toxics
- e. National Governor’s Association and regional affiliates
- f. Promote with Congressional reps via success stories and possible tours.
- g. Promote successes through associations such as ACC
- h. Send out press releases both nationally and within home states on local level—NPPR could partner with local program to send announcements to key papers
- i. NPPR recognition at the National Environmental Sustainability Summit recognition at the plenary and making a presentation at a technical session
- j. Use of SCCP name and logo

20. What is the process of choosing members of the Technical Advisory Committee?

We will be looking for individuals with industry expertise and the ability to commit time to the Advisory Committee.

21. What is the process to confirm if companies have achieved their goals?

It will be the responsibility of the company to provide accurate measurements and information to assess whether or not the company is achieving its goals. The process will utilize guidelines provided by the SCCP and a success story template will be completed for each achievement.

22. Will the Challenge Program participants be made public?

Yes, those companies joining the Challenge Program will be made public on www.p2.org/challenge.

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