

## **Environmental Protection Agency Summary of Performance by Strategic Objective**

### ***Goal 4: Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution.***

*Reduce the risk and increase the safety of chemicals and prevent pollution at the source.*

***Objective 2: Promote Pollution Prevention.*** *Conserve and protect natural resources by promoting pollution prevention and the adoption of other sustainability practices by companies, communities, governmental organizations, and individuals.*

### **Selection from EPA's FY 2017 Annual Performance Plan**

#### **FY 2017 Activities**

In FY 2017, the EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) program (EPM and STAG combined) is funded at \$18.7 million. Preventing pollution at the source is the most cost effective technique for reducing human and environmental exposure to contaminants and associated risks. The P2 program is one of the EPA's primary tools for advancing environmental stewardship and sustainability by federal, state and tribal governments, businesses, communities and individuals. The P2 program seeks to alleviate environmental problems by achieving significant reductions in the generation and use of hazardous materials; reductions in the generation of greenhouse gases; and reductions in the use of water. At the same time, the P2 Program helps businesses and others reduce costs as a result of implementing these preventative approaches. The P2 program's efforts advance the agency's priorities to pursue sustainability, take action on climate change, make a visible difference in communities, and ensure chemical safety.

The P2 program accomplishes its mission by fostering the development of solutions to environmental problems that are designed to eliminate or reduce pollution, waste and risks at the source, such as: cleaner production processes and technologies; safer, "greener" chemicals, materials and products; and improved practices. The program also promotes the increased use of those solutions through such activities as providing technical assistance and demonstrating the benefits of P2 solutions. For example, the P2 program works with a diverse set of stakeholders to develop voluntary consensus standards for greener products, such as computers, televisions and imaging equipment, and to increase the use of these products in the federal government through federal green purchasing requirements, leading to significant environmental benefits from the reduction of hazardous materials in these products, increased product lifespan and improved energy efficiency. These efforts also support the Cross-Agency Priority Goal on federal actions to address climate change and Executive Order (EO) 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*.

In FY 2017, the EPA will continue to implement the Safer Choice Program, a product labeling initiative that identifies products that meet rigorous human health and environmental criteria. The Safer Choice Program's label was redesigned in FY 2015 based on an analysis showing that the improved label will more clearly communicate to purchasers the benefits of those products and chemicals. This analysis supports the agency strategy to advance the use of evidence in decision-making by providing consumers with improved information. The new label is currently used on more than 2,000 consumer and institutional products. The P2 Program also will continue to implement the Economy, Energy, and Environment (E3) Partnership and the Green Suppliers Network (GSN), which are collaborations

including five other federal agencies, to identify environmental improvements and cost savings and to help manufacturers consider sustainable changes to their business practices.

In FY 2017, the EPA will continue to work with other federal agencies to streamline, modernize, and improve the NEPA process by encouraging early involvement in the project scoping process and promoting approaches for working collaboratively with federal, state, local and Tribal partners on project proposals. The agency will continue to participate in the effort to implement the May 2014 Interagency “Implementation Plan for the Presidential Memorandum on Modernizing Infrastructure Permitting” to meet the goal of reducing permitting and review timelines, while improving environmental and community outcomes. This will include participating in coordinated reviews, developing innovative mitigation approaches (including accounting for and addressing climate change impacts), and promoting the use of IT tools. As a component of this effort, the program will continue to use and promote *NEPAssist*, a geographic information system (GIS) tool developed to assist users (the EPA, other federal agencies, and the public) with environmental reviews. In FY 2017, the proposed budget for NEPA is \$17.8 million.

In addition, the EPA will work with agencies as they implement the requirements of FAST-41, which sets out new requirements to streamline infrastructure permitting project reviews. The program will devote resources to participating in additional early permit/NEPA reviews, developing innovative mitigation approaches, and promoting the use of IT tools. The program has been successful at working with other federal agencies to ensure that project proposals are designed in a manner that protects environmental and community resources. E3 Initiative and GSN are expected to grow to include more than 35 state partners.

### ***International Priorities***

To achieve our domestic environmental and human health goals, international partnerships are essential, including those with the business community, entrepreneurs and other members of society. Pollution is often carried by wind and water across national boundaries, posing risks to human health and ecosystems many hundreds and thousands of miles away.

Through these partnerships, the EPA will maintain focus on several priorities. In FY 2017, the EPA will work with other nations to build strong environmental institutions and legal structures with the goal of combating climate change by limiting pollutants and improving air quality in the U.S. and around the world. The EPA will work to expand access to clean water, and protect vulnerable communities from toxic pollution that impacts North America and nations worldwide. Through joint efforts with partners from around the world, the EPA is working to facilitate commerce, promote chemical safety, further sustainable development, protect vulnerable populations and engage in environmental issues, such as reducing risks from exposure to mercury and lead-based paint. The agency’s international priorities will guide collaboration with the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and all international partners.

In FY 2017, the EPA will enhance sustainability principles through expanded partnership efforts in multilateral forums and in key bilateral relationships. In addition, we will strengthen existing and build new international partnerships to encourage increased international commitment to sustainability goals and to promote a new era of global environmental stewardship based on common interests, shared values, and mutual respect. And finally, the EPA will continue to focus on technical and policy support

for global and regional efforts such as strengthening the EPA leadership in the Arctic Council and with other governments to improve policies and implement cooperative projects that address climate change and reduce contamination of the arctic.

**Major FY 2017 Changes**

In FY 2017, the Pollution Prevention Program will increase efforts to promote the adoption of the Safer Choice label by product manufacturers and to increase the demand and use of Safer Choice labeled products by retailers, industrial and commercial purchasers, and the public. Additional resources will allow the Safer Choice program to expand its initiative into schools, expand into new product categories and classes, and conduct additional outreach to stakeholders, including manufacturers, retailers, and the public.

**Selection from EPA’s FY 2015 Annual Performance Report and Eight-Year Array  
of Performance**

**Objective 2 - Promote Pollution Prevention:** Conserve and protect natural resources by promoting pollution prevention and the adoption of other sustainability practices by companies, communities, governmental organizations, and individuals

**Summary of progress towards strategic objective:**

The EPA has continued to make progress in pollution prevention, increasing the number of chemicals on the Safer Chemical Ingredients List and the number of products recognized through the Safer Choice program. The EPA has also drafted and piloted federal procurement guidelines with the goal of creating a transparent, fair, consistent and results-oriented approach to selecting products that meet environmental performance and ecolabeling standards. The program continues to expand the number of assessments conducted through the Energy, Economy, and Environment (E3) Initiative and the Green Suppliers Network (GSN), aimed at reducing costs to business and industry, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving productivity and efficiency. The Presidential Green Chemistry Award Program has spurred over 1,500 nominations over its lifetime, and winning technologies have yielded significant environmental and cost savings.

Despite the successes, the P2 program continues to face challenges with data collection. For example, while the strategy with P2 grants is to collect useful performance data, grantees often report their results at an aggregated or partially-aggregated level, without a breakout of specific P2 practices and corresponding environmental and economic benefits. This has complicated the program’s efforts to validate and understand P2 grant results. To address this challenge, the P2 grant applicants are now required to report facility-level results to increase transparency, and the program has developed a grant results tracking database to specifically address some of these concerns.

Program Area	Performance Measures and Data									
<b>(1) Promote Pollution Prevention</b>	<b>Strategic Measure:</b> By 2018, reduce 600 million pounds of hazardous materials cumulatively through pollution prevention. (Baseline is 578 million pounds reduced from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing 626 million pounds in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to atypical results, and increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients.)									
	<b>(PM 264) Pounds of hazardous materials reduced through pollution prevention.</b>									
		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Unit
	Target	188.1	199.6	88.7	71.6	23.4	204.2	214.2	214.2	Pounds (Millions)
Actual	200.3	154.8	214.9	231.5	190.3	Data Avail 10/2016				

**Explanation of Results:** Adjustments to prior year results (FY 2010 – FY 2013) were made to 1) remove results attributable to the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award Program in accordance with recommendations made in a September 2015 IG report, and 2) to correct for a broken formula in the excel-based Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (EEBC). The recently launched web-based EEBC corrects this issue going forward. FY 2014 Results significantly exceed an outdated target that was based on results prior to correction.

**Additional Information:** There is a 1-year data lag. Baseline is 1,437 million pounds reduced from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing 626 million pounds in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to: 1) atypical results, and 2) increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients. For FY 2014, the Pollution Prevention Program reported "recurring results" of an additional 57 Million Pounds of Hazardous Materials reduced, highlighting the ongoing benefits of Pollution Prevention Program activities. "Recurring results" are environmental benefits produced in prior years that continue to deliver environmental benefits over multiple years. By presenting solely new annual results for GPRA performance targets and results, the targets and results show a clearer alignment to the actual budget request and enacted levels. Within the Pollution Prevention Program, there is not a fixed standard number of years that environmental benefit results will recur; rather, each P2 activity has a recurring results formula specific to the type of results and activities.

**Strategic Measure:** By 2018, reduce 7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>Eq.) cumulatively through pollution prevention. (Baseline is 7 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>Eq. reduced from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing 3.5 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>Eq in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to atypical results, and increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients. The data from this measure are also calculated into the Agency's overall GHG measure under Goal 1.)

**(PM 297) Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>Eq) reduced or offset through pollution prevention.**

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Unit
<b>Target</b>	2.11	2.19	1.74	1.46	1.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	MTCO <sub>2</sub> Eq (Millions)
<b>Actual</b>	2.8	2.8	3.9	3.4	3.0	Data Avail 10/2016			

**Explanation of Results:** Adjustments to prior year results (FY 2010 – FY 2013) were made to 1) remove results attributable to the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award Program in accordance with recommendations made in a September 2015 IG report, and 2) to correct for a broken formula in the excel-based Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (EEBC). The recently launched web-based EEBC corrects this issue going forward. FY 2014 Results significantly exceed an outdated target that was based on results prior to correction.

**Additional Information:** Normal 1-year data lag. Baseline is 11.1 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>Eq. reduced from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing 3.5 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>Eq in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to: 1) atypical results, and 2) increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients. For FY 2014, the Pollution Prevention Program reported "recurring results" of an additional 2.8 Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent reduced, highlighting the ongoing benefits of Pollution Prevention Program activities. "Recurring results" are environmental benefits produced in prior years that continue to deliver environmental benefits over multiple years. By presenting solely new annual results for GPRA performance targets and results, the targets and results show a clearer alignment to the actual budget request and enacted levels. Within the Pollution Prevention Program, there is not a fixed standard number of years that environmental benefit results will recur; rather, each P2 activity has a recurring results formula specific to the type of results and activities.

**Strategic Measure:** By 2018, reduce 6.9 billion gallons of water use cumulatively through pollution prevention. (Baseline is 6.9 billion gallons reduced from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing 24 billion gallons in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to atypical results, and increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients.)

**(PM 262) Gallons of water reduced through pollution prevention.**

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Unit
<b>Target</b>	781	783	785	771	932	1,156	1,390	1,390	Gallons (Millions)
<b>Actual</b>	1,472	1,397	1,175	936	1,618	Data Avail 10/2016			

**Explanation of Results:** FY 2014 increase in Water Savings results is attributable to 1) an increase in environmental benefits results stemming from the implementation of E3 recommendations, and 2) an increase in results from Regional STAG, SRA, and Direct results. The FY 2014 Target was based on a downward trend of Water Savings Results from FY 2010 – FY 2013 that indicated lower performance trend for Water Savings. The FY 2015 – 2017 targets reflect modest incremental annual increases in performance over the FY 2014 target that will be revisited when FY 2015 results become available (10/2016) and the results indicate that the higher FY 2014 performance level should be expected to continue. The program will continue to promote the implementation of E3 recommendations and this may continue to increase the level of water savings results in the coming years. However, it is difficult to predict the level of performance for this program as the identified environmental savings from E3 recommendations may vary significantly from facility to facility.

**Additional Information:** There is a 1-year data lag. Baseline is 6.9 billion gallons reduced from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing 24 billion gallons in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to: 1) atypical results, and 2) increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients. For FY 2014, the Pollution Prevention Program is reporting "recurring results" of an additional 3.5 Billion Gallons of Water reduced, highlighting the ongoing benefits of Pollution Prevention Program activities. "Recurring results" are environmental benefits produced in prior years that continue to deliver environmental benefits over multiple years. By presenting solely new annual results for GPRA performance targets and results, the targets and results show a clearer alignment to the actual budget request and enacted levels. Within the Pollution Prevention Program, there is not a fixed standard number of years that environmental benefit results will recur; rather, each P2 activity has a recurring results formula specific to the type of results and activities.

**Strategic Measure:** By 2018, save \$ 1.3 billion in business, institutional, and government costs cumulatively through pollution prevention improvements. (Baseline is \$1.33 billion saved from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing \$231 million in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to atypical results, and increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients.)

**(PM 263) Business, institutional and government costs reduced through pollution prevention.**

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Unit
<b>Target</b>	253.9	268.5	196.9	195.6	133.3	362.6	445.6	445.6	Dollars Saved (Millions)
<b>Actual</b>	435.5	533.7	737.4	594.9	587.5	Data Avail 10/2016			

**Explanation of Results:** Adjustments to prior year results (FY 2010 – FY 2013) were made to 1) remove results attributable to the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award Program in accordance with recommendations made in a September 2015 IG report, and 2) to correct for a broken formula in the excel-based Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (EEBC). The recently launched web-based EEBC corrects this issue going forward. FY 2014 Results significantly exceed an outdated target that was based on results prior to correction.

**Additional Information:** There is a 1-year data lag. Baseline is \$1.85 billion saved from FY 2008 through FY 2012, after removing \$231 million in reported results that should not be expected to continue in future years due to: 1) atypical results, and 2) increased quality assurance standards for the results that come from states and other grant recipients. For FY 2014, the Pollution Prevention Program reported "recurring results" of an additional \$420 Million Dollars saved, highlighting the ongoing benefits of Pollution Prevention Program activities. "Recurring results" are environmental benefits produced in prior years that continue to deliver environmental benefits over multiple years. By presenting solely new annual results for GPRA performance targets and results, the targets and results show a clearer alignment to the actual budget request and enacted levels. Within the Pollution Prevention Program, there is not a fixed standard number of years that environmental benefit results will recur; rather, each P2 activity has a recurring results formula specific to the type of results and activities.

**Strategic Measure:** By 2018, increase the number of safer chemicals and safer chemical products cumulatively by 1,900. (Baseline is 600 safer chemicals and 2,500 safer chemical products recognized in 2013 by the Design for the Environment program.)

**(PM P2X) Annual Number of Additional Products Recognized by the Safer Choice program**

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Unit
Target						375	100	125	Product
Actual						101			

**Explanation of Results:** FY 2015 results are 101 Safer Choice Products recognized and 77 chemicals listed on the Safer Chemical Ingredients List. Meeting this target has been affected by the program's recent, important focus on a variety of activities (redesigning and implementing the new Safer Choice logo, developing a new Salesforce data system, bringing existing partners into compliance, etc.) that are critical to making Safer Choice, in the long run, a model of environmental leadership.

**Additional Information:** Baseline is approximately 2,500 safer chemical products recognized in 2013 by the Safer Choice Program. More information about the Safer Choice program, including currently recognized products and the criteria manufacturers must meet to be recognized, is available at [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice). The list of products on the Safer Choice Products list is 171 in FY 2014 and 101 in FY 2015. P26 reported on the total of safer chemicals and safer chemical products and is replaced by measures P2X and P2Y, which report separately on safer chemicals and safer chemical products.

**(PM P2Y) Annual Number of Additional Chemicals Added to the Safer Chemical Ingredients List**

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Unit
Target						100	100	100	Chemicals
Actual						77			

**Explanation of Results:** FY 2015 results are 101 Safer Choice Products recognized and 77 chemicals listed on the Safer Chemical Ingredients List. Meeting this target has been affected by the program's recent, important focus on a variety of activities (redesigning and implementing the new Safer Choice logo, developing a new Salesforce data system, bringing existing partners into compliance, etc.) that are critical to making Safer Choice, in the long run, a model of environmental leadership.

**Additional Information:** Baseline is approximately 600 chemicals listed on the Safer Chemical Ingredients List in 2013 by the Safer Choice Program. More information about the Safer Chemical Ingredients List, including currently listed chemicals and criteria for listing, is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients>. The list of products on the Safer Chemicals Ingredient List is 49 in FY 2014 and 77 in FY 2015. P26 reported on the total of safer chemicals and safer chemical products and is replaced by measures P2X and P2Y, which report separately on safer chemicals and safer chemical products.