

Integrated Toxics Reduction Strategy

December 2018

Purpose

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 2018 Integrated Toxics Reduction Strategy describes actions for reducing toxic chemicals in the environment over the next five years. The strategy complements and supports ongoing efforts in DEQ programs by improving integration, sharing best practices and filling any identified gaps.

DEQ released its first Toxics Reduction Strategy in 2012. The 2018 strategy builds on and updates the 2012 actions.

What is DEQ including in the 2018 update?

The Strategy describes 14 toxics reduction and assessment actions that are organized into activities that are ready for implementation, and those needing evaluation and research to identify the best path forward. Resources have been secured and necessary conditions are in place to begin the first phases of work on the "implementation-ready" actions. The actions needing additional evaluation require the collection and analysis of more information to determine how to most effectively address the identified toxics concern and resources would also need to be obtained to fully implement possible recommended solutions.

DEQ developed guiding principles to assist with implementation of the strategy actions. These principles include an enhanced focus on environmental justice and recommendations for engaging communities who may experience disproportionate impacts from toxics in the environment. Other principles are enhancing collaboration between DEQ programs and external partners, developing and using metrics to measure and report on progress, and building on the advances made through the 2012 strategy actions.

I. Implementation-Ready Actions

1. *Update DEQ's "Toxics Focus List" of priority chemicals:* The focus list protects public health and the environment by identifying the highest priority chemicals or classes of chemicals.
2. *Monitor for priority toxics in all environmental media:* After the focus list is updated, DEQ's Laboratory and Environmental Assessment Program will add the chemicals identified as missing to its current air, land and water monitoring activities.
3. *Reduce environmental and human exposure to toxics in the built environment:* A wide array of toxic chemicals is used in building materials. DEQ aims to minimize these toxics in the design, construction, use and demolition of buildings, in partnership with interested stakeholders.
4. *Build demand for clean diesel vehicles and equipment in public works projects:* DEQ partners are building a marketplace demand for clean diesel equipment and engines. DEQ will share and build technical expertise related to emissions reduction technologies.
5. *Partner with product manufacturers, vendors and users to more fully evaluate, disclose and/or label toxic ingredients:* Providing consumers with complete and transparent information on toxic ingredients allows them to make informed purchasing decisions and serves as an incentive to manufacturers to reduce the number and quantity of toxic chemicals in products.



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Quality

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www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Program Update



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6. *Expand government procurement of low toxicity products and materials:* In 2012, Governor's Executive Order 12-05 aimed to increase government acquisition of low toxicity products to stimulate market demand for products with safer chemical ingredients. DEQ will explore accelerating these state and local government procurement efforts, and broadening the range of products and materials.
7. *Accelerate safer chemicals alternatives assessments:* Collaborate with other states and regional research entities to advance safer chemistry. State agencies, including DEQ, now have more opportunities to increase research and training activities to help businesses and consumers make informed choices for safer alternatives.
8. *Develop and implement a metals manufacturing, coating and finishing outreach pollution prevention program:* Metals manufacturing, finishing and coating businesses use toxic materials that can generate pollutants in populated areas. These are mostly small and medium-sized businesses, and may need additional resources for comprehensively assessing and implementing toxics pollution prevention measures.

II. Program Evaluation and Research Actions

9. *Assess fate and transport of priority toxics from consumer products:* Knowing how toxic chemicals in consumer products enter the environment can help DEQ and others effectively conduct outreach and pollution prevention actions. Identifying and addressing data gaps for wastewater and solid waste pathways is a key step in this process.
10. *Assess and characterize diesel emissions impacts:* Diesel is a source of many priority toxic pollutants in the air that adversely affect public health and contribute to land and water contamination. A long-term strategy for evaluating the range of diesel impacts will support effective reduction efforts.
11. *Evaluate effectiveness of existing mercury reduction programs in Oregon to determine gaps and opportunities:* Several regulatory and non-regulatory mercury reduction initiatives have been implemented over the past 25 years in DEQ's air, land and water programs. The evaluation will determine their effectiveness and any gaps that should be addressed.
12. *Evaluate DEQ's toxics use regulation and program:* Evaluate Oregon's Toxic Use and Hazardous Waste Reduction Act and program to identify opportunities to further reduce toxics use and modernize the program. The Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework serves as the guiding framework for future recommendations.
13. *Enhance the pesticide stewardship partnership program to include environmental justice communities:* The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program has successfully used water monitoring data to drive voluntary actions to improve water quality. DEQ will expand the program to include monitoring, stewardship technical assistance and waste collection in areas with disproportionately impacted populations and deliver services directly to those communities.
14. *Provide toxics reduction technical assistance to all DEQ programs:* Identify and formalize a cross-program technical assistance team to provide toxics information, support, tools, training and other resources to DEQ programs and partners.

Summary

Updating the strategy provides an opportunity to look holistically at issues impacting our air, land and water and identify actions to improve conditions for our environment and communities. The updated strategy will set measurable goals and create a framework of accountability for this important work.

Program Update

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



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