

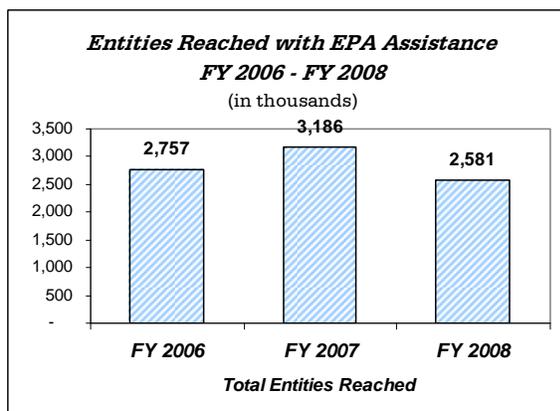


Increasing Understanding of Environmental Requirements is the Heart of EPA Assistance (FY 2008)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides assistance to help educate businesses and governments on how to comply with new environmental requirements that apply to them. When widespread areas of non-compliance or misunderstandings of existing requirements occur within a business or government sector, EPA may also offer sector-focused compliance assistance (CA).

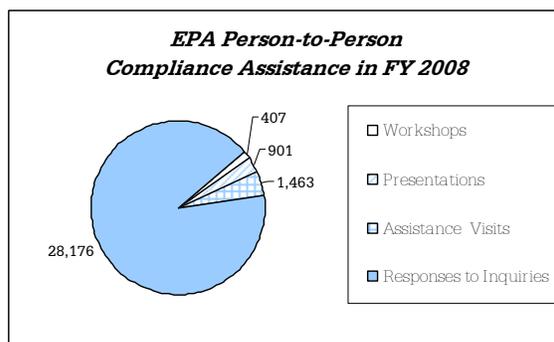
EPA reached 2.6 million regulated entities and assistance providers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008.

EPA reached schools, hospitals, colleges and universities, construction sites, auto body shops, dry cleaners, ports, municipal wastewater treatment plants, industrial facilities, and many others with compliance guides, fact sheets, checklists, and other helpful materials designed to increase understanding of environmental requirements, improve environmental management practices and help facilities reduce, treat or eliminate pollution in their operations.



In FY 2008, EPA workshops, assistance visits, and presentations helped regulated entities on a person-to-person basis. EPA conducted over four hundred compliance assistance workshops, i educational Webinars in FY08. Workshops can help EPA to reach a broad range of facilities within a particular sector. For example, in just one year, EPA's Collision Repair Campaign Team trained over 1,000 people, representing over

500 repair shops, in how to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from paint stripping and coating operations. Of the shops that participated in the trainings, EPA estimates that 50 percent have adopted best practices. This has saved an estimated 59 tons of material, which translates to a \$1.1 million cost savings for these small businesses; and reduced hazardous air emissions by an estimated 40 tons of harmful particulate matter and 31 tons of volatile organic compounds.



EPA helped owners and operators to comply, during nearly fifteen hundred compliance assistance visits in FY 2008.

Through these on-site visits, facilities are often able to improve the environmental impact of their operations. For example, EPA Region 8 successfully removed over 24,000 pounds of hazardous chemicals from thirty-five Indian country schools, making these schools safer for 7,620 Native American school children, teachers, and administrators.

EPA staff also offered over 900 compliance assistance presentations, and responded to more than 28,000 individual telephone and e-mail inquiries about how to comply with EPA requirements.

In addition, in FY 2008 EPA provided compliance assistance information to regulated facilities during more than 13,500 compliance inspections/evaluations under federal clean air, clean water, pesticides, toxic substances and hazardous waste laws.

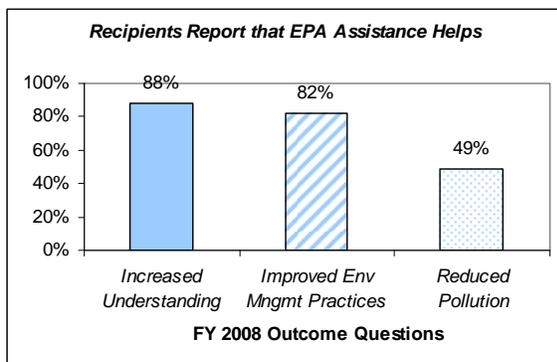
EPA extends its reach through sector-specific Web-based Centers.



Sixteen Centers represent unique partnerships between EPA, industry and third party, non-profit organizations. They provide web-based compliance information and educational opportunities tailored to the operations of specific sectors such as auto repair, auto recycling, chemical, healthcare, printing, transportation, metal finishing, printed wiring boards, local and tribal governments, and others. The Colleges and Universities Center came on-line in FY 2008, and a new Food Processing Center will come on-line in FY 2009. (<http://www.assistancecenters.net/>)

Feedback in FY 2008 indicates that EPA compliance assistance helps recipients.¹

Surveys are one way EPA gets feedback about how helpful our compliance assistance is. Consistent with prior years' survey questions, 82% of respondents reported that they improved their environmental management practices (EMPs). Actions included conducting a self-audit of their environmental performance, complying with a new or existing environmental requirement, improving a material or waste recycling system, or installing new process equipment, e.g., pollution control/waste treatment system.



EPA integrates assistance with inspections and enforcement to improve compliance and environmental performance.

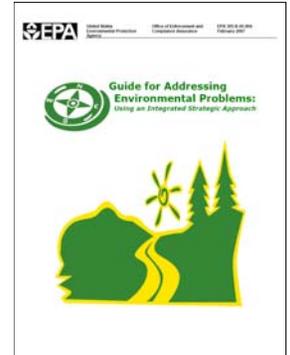
For any given compliance strategy, EPA considers which tool or combination of tools will best address the non-compliance issues. By integrating and combining compliance assistance with incentives, inspections and

other enforcement approaches, we maximize the effectiveness of our reach because we have planned for which approaches best suit the particular problem at hand. The goal is to identify the best tool or combination of tools that will address the environmental problem and influence behavior change so that the businesses return to compliance.

EPA's Guide for Addressing Environmental Problems: Using an Integrated Strategic Approach

provides advice and clear, step-by-step guidelines for developing an integrated strategy to address environmental problems.

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/assistance/strategicguide.pdf>.



For example, EPA Region 4 previously partnered with Florida and North Carolina in a multi-year initiative at auto salvage facilities using a combination of compliance assistance, inspections and enforcement by EPA and the states. As a result, more recyclers are aware of the requirements related to stormwater and know how to use best practices to manage oil, refrigerants, tires, mercury, batteries, and other wastes. See *Auto Recycling Initiatives*: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/newletters/assistance/cacompassvol4no1.pdf>

Compliance and Enforcement Annual Results: FY 2008 Compliance Assistance Highlights,

describes other EPA Regional initiatives.

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/reports/endofyear/eoy2008/2008compliancehighlights.html>

For more information, contact: Ms. Rebecca A. (Becky) Barclay, Program Analyst, U.S. EPA, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), Office of Compliance (OC), 202 564-7063, barclay.rebecca@epa.gov.

¹ Who responded to surveys? EPA did not collect these outcome data from a representative sample of the regulated entity universe.

Rather, the percentages are based, in part on the number of regulated entities that answered "Yes" to EPA questions on voluntary surveys. The percentages do not account for the number of survey respondents who either chose not to answer these questions or did not respond to the survey.