# Pollution Prevention (P2) Program & Resources for Communities

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Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Conference September 21, 2022













#### The Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) of 1990

- Established the national policy that pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible
- "(T)here are significant opportunities for industry to reduce or prevent pollution at the source through cost-effective changes in production, operation, and raw materials use. Such changes offer industry substantial savings in reduced raw material, pollution control, and liability costs as well as help protect the environment and reduce risks to worker health and safety."
- "...businesses need information and technical assistance to overcome institutional barriers to the adoption of source reduction practices"

## What is Pollution Prevention (P2)?

P2 (also called "source reduction") – is any practice which reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering a waste stream or released into the environment prior to recycling of discarded material, treatment, or disposal; and reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of those substances, pollutants, or contaminants. (PPA Sec. 6603. Definitions).

## **Examples of P2 Practices**

- Equipment or technology modifications, process or procedure modifications, reformulation or redesign of products, substitution of raw materials, and improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training, or inventory control.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also interpreted P2 as including practices that increase efficient use of water, energy, raw materials, or other resources, or that may protect natural resources through conservation methods.

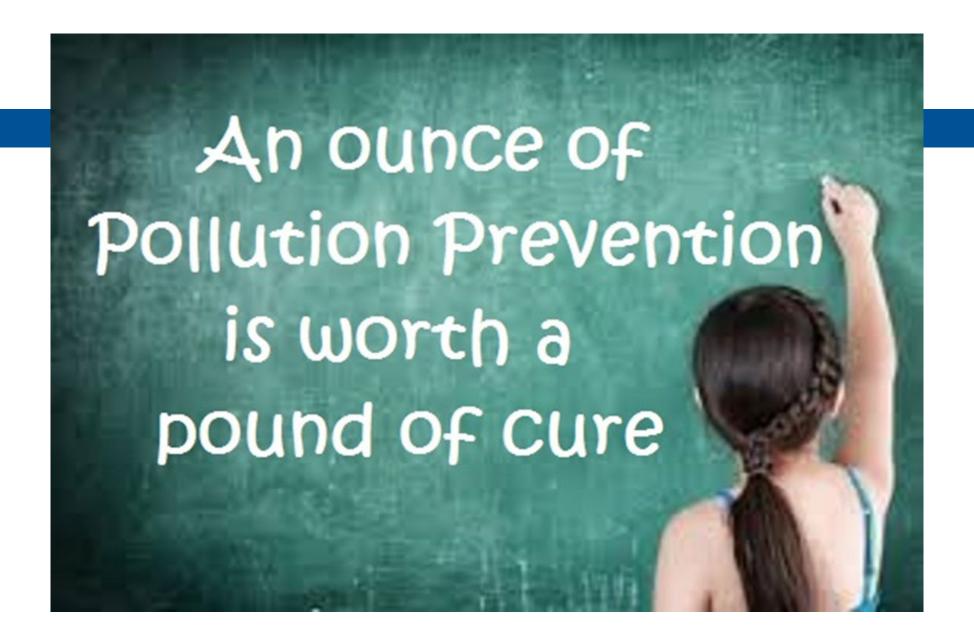
#### P2 as the Preferred Approach



- Pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible;
- Pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner whenever feasible;.
- Pollution that cannot be prevented or recycled should be treated in an environmentally safe manner; and
- Disposal or other release into the environment should be employed only as a last resort and should be conducted in an environmentally safe manner.

## P2 Saves Money

- While P2 is an efficient and effective way to protect human health and the environment, this approach can also help businesses save money.
- All forms of waste represent inefficient expenditures. If a business can reduce or eliminate such expenditures, that translates to the bottomline by reducing operating, regulatory, and liability costs.
- The P2 Program operates on a simple and powerful truth: that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – it's often cheaper to prevent pollution from being created than to clean it up afterwards or pay for control, treatment, and disposal of waste products.



#### What We Do

- Work with businesses, states, and other partners to encourage and facilitate adoption of P2 approaches through:
  - development and delivery of P2 information and tools; technical assistance;
  - funding & facilitation of P2 technical assistance and innovations;
  - sharing and amplification of those innovations so that others can replicate approaches and outcomes.
- Help markets function by providing information to manufacturers, suppliers, and purchasers on environmental performance of products across sectors.

#### **P2 Grants**

- Grants to states and tribes to provide P2 technical assistance to businesses to help them develop and adopt source reduction practices (mandated by the P2 Act).
  - New emphasis on using P2 to address human health and environmental issues in disadvantaged communities (environmental justice, or EJ).
  - Programs expanded with \$100 million over 5 years from the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
    - Developing two new P2 grant programs to address EJ and making safer and more sustainable products available in disadvantaged communities.
- Grants to states, tribes and others (e.g., local governments, private universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) to support research, demonstration, education and training on source reduction.

#### **Our P2 Grants Deliver Results**

Between 2011-2020, EPA's P2 Program issued 504 grants for \$54.1 million with state matches that achieved the following *rolling four-year* results\*:

New measures in Fiscal Year 22 to capture our work in EJ communities.



<sup>\*</sup> Calculated over a 4-year rolling period to account for the reoccurring benefits the P2 actions provide.

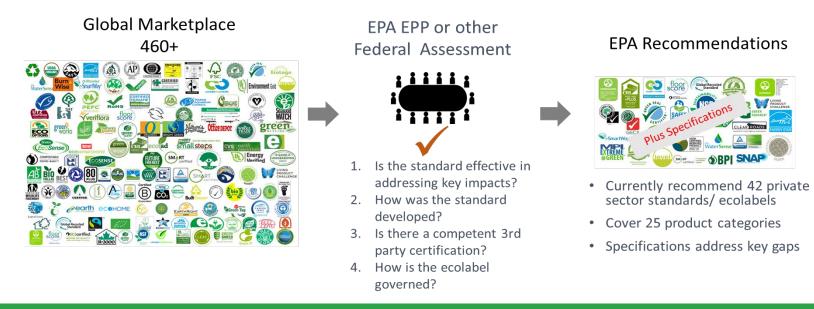
#### **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)**

- Assists feds (and others) in buying environmentally preferable products and services.
  - We use a lifecycle, multi-attribute approach to defining "environmentally preferable".
    - Lifecycle looks at the RESOURCES that go into the manufacture of the product, the MANUFACTURE PROCESS, USE and DISPOSAL.
    - Multi-attribute not just one end-point or approach, i.e., recyclability or energy.
  - Assesses and recommends standards & ecolabels for federal purchasers
    - This information can be useful for procurement for others (e.g., state, local, institutions ...).
- Assists small businesses in selling their greener products and services to the federal government.



## **EPA Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels**

- Provides information to federal purchasers <u>and others</u> on how to identify environmentally sustainable products that conform to credible non-federal standards and ecolabels.
  - Simplifies the task of determining which private sector standards are appropriate and effective in meeting Federal procurement goals and mandates.
- EPA Recommendations and assessment framework are available on our website.



#### Resources

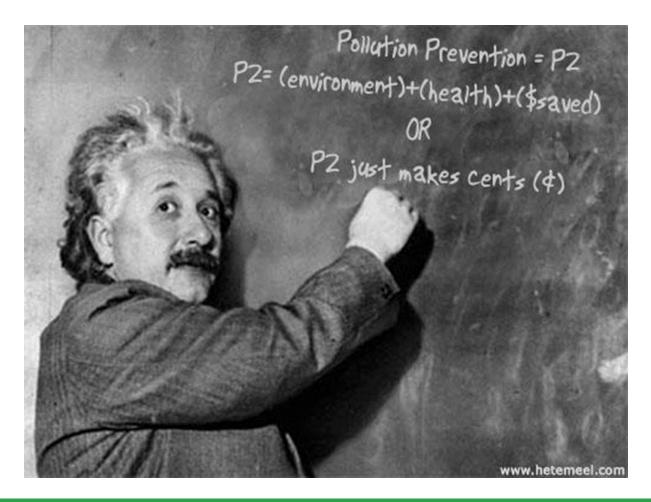
- EPA P2 Website (<a href="https://epa.gov/P2">https://epa.gov/P2</a>) info on all EPA P2 Programs:
  - P2 Resources Search Tool easily search and access P2 info, case studies, tools.
    - https://www.epa.gov/p2/p2-resources-search
    - https://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-case-studies
  - P2 Resources for Citizens
    - https://www.epa.gov/p2/what-you-can-do-about-pollution-prevention
  - P2 Environmental Justice (EJ) Facility Mapping Tool identify industrial facilities that have reported toxic releases that are located in or adjacent to communities with EJ concerns.
    - https://www.epa.gov/p2/p2-ej-facility-mapping-tool
  - EPA Recommendations of Standards and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing (can be useful for others):
    - <a href="https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/recommendations-specifications-standards-and-ecolabels-federal-purchasing">https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/recommendations-specifications-standards-and-ecolabels-federal-purchasing</a>



#### Resources (continued)

- P2 Technical Assistance Providers (funded by EPA grants) can help businesses identify and develop P2 approaches:
  - https://www.epa.gov/p2/p2-technical-assistance-resources
- P2 Hub Develops and delivers P2 information, research, analysis, training, and tools. Provides an information resource for businesses and other interested public stakeholders.
  - https://www.epa.gov/p2/forms/contact-us-about-pollutionprevention#helpline

## P2 Just Makes ¢ent\$!



## **QUESTIONS?**



