The Benefits of Pollution Prevention

Pollution Prevention (P2), also known as "source reduction," is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents the creation of pollution and its release into the environment or a waste stream prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal.

Strengthens Facility Finances

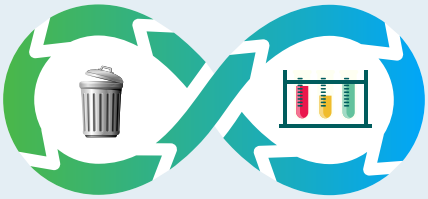
- Often yields **cost-effective changes** in raw material, resource, and energy use.
- **Reduces generation of chemical waste** and costs of control, treatment, and disposal.
- Decreases operating, regulatory, and liability costs **strengthening economic growth**.

Protects Surrounding Community Environment and Health

- Conserves and protects **natural resources**.
- Reduces potential hazards to **employees, communities, and consumers**.
- Improves public perception and enhances partnership **with the surrounding community**.

Often, it's more economical to prevent pollution at its source than to have to manage pollution generated.

Before a chemical product becomes waste, it goes through a **full life cycle**, each stage of which has various associated costs.



Implementing **source reduction activities** reduces costs associated with the full life cycle of chemicals.

Reduces Industrial, Environmental, and Health Costs

Example Costs and Savings

On average… Waste travels **244 miles** and costs **$2.09/pound** to be treated or disposed of.*

Pollution prevention activities implemented by U.S. facilities** saved an estimated **$1.9 billion** and reduced hazardous materials by **706 million pounds** from 2011 to 2019.

**Based on EPA's P2 cost calculator **Refers to facilities working with P2 technical assistance providers funded by EPA.*

Consider using the **P2 Calculators**, such as P2 Cost and P2 Greenhouse Gas Calculators, to quantify reduced chemical and energy costs as well as amount of hazardous waste **not** generated and **not** adding burden to communities.

Access P2 Calculators at:
www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-tools-and-calculators

P2 Cost Calculator

Assess reductions associated with changes to hazardous inputs and handling of hazardous waste as well as reductions in air emissions, water pollution, and water and energy usage.

P2 Greenhouse Gas Calculator

Calculates GHG emission reductions from electricity conservation, green energy, fuel and chemical substitutions, water conservation, and improved materials management.

Resources

If considering a pollution prevention project and evaluating available finance opportunities, refer to EPA's **P2 finance resources** at www.epa.gov/p2/p2-financing.

If interested in **technical assistance** for your state, refer to the search tool at www.epa.gov/p2/p2-resources-business#tech.

The Pollution Prevention Program: www.epa.gov/p2

The Toxics Release Inventory Program: www.epa.gov/tri