

# POLLUTION PREVENTION (P2) PROGRAM

## ISSUE SUMMARY:

The P2 Program is authorized from the [Pollution Prevention Act of 1990](#). Pollution prevention, also known as P2 or source reduction, is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. Preventing pollution at the source rather than managing waste afterwards is an important way to support American business' efforts to reduce costs, while protecting communities from exposure to toxic chemicals and conserving natural resources. These practices are essential for protecting health, improving environmental conditions—including in and around disadvantaged communities—and preserving natural resources like wetlands, groundwater sources, and other critical ecosystems. The principal components of the Program include the P2 grant program and the Safer Choice program.

### P2 Grants:

The P2 Grant Program funds grants to state and tribal programs or institutions (e.g., colleges or universities) to provide technical assistance to American businesses to learn about, develop and adopt approaches to prevent pollution at the source before it is generated. Through these grants, businesses can learn to reduce the use or release of hazardous materials and the use of resources (e.g., water, energy, and other raw materials), while also lowering costs. This protects human health and the environment and saves businesses money. For more information about the P2 Grant Program, visit <https://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-grants-overview>.

### Safer Choice:

Safer Choice is a voluntary EPA program that certifies cleaning and other formulated chemical products made with safer ingredients for people and the planet without sacrificing performance. The Safer Choice program helps companies demonstrate their green chemistry work and differentiate their products with the Safer Choice label. The label in turn helps consumers and institutional buyers find cleaning products made with safer ingredients. Similarly, the Design for the Environment (DfE) logo helps people find antimicrobial products, like disinfectants, that meet high standards for human health and the environment.

The Safer Choice program impacts over 2 billion pounds of products each year and certifies nearly 2,000 products under Safer Choice and 50 antimicrobials under DfE. For more information about the Safer Choice program, visit [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice).

## UPCOMING MILESTONES:

### P2 Grants:

- Awardees from the FY 24-25 P2 grant solicitation will be selected for approximately \$24 million in grants by the end of FY 24, with those grants being awarded in November 2024.
- The solicitation for over \$23 million in P2 Grants is expected to be posted in February 2025. The awardees for those grants will be selected by the end of FY 25.

### Safer Choice:

- The 10-year anniversary of the Safer Choice label will be in March 2025.

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## BACKGROUND:

### P2 Grants:

- P2 Grants are required by 42 U.S.C §13104 (also known as §6605) of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 and funded through a recurring annual appropriation by Congress of approximately \$4.7 million.
- The P2 Grant Program was expanded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which provides an additional \$13.9 million per year through FY 26.
- EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program issued 549 assistance grants between 2011-2022, which helped American businesses identify, develop, and adopt P2 approaches resulting in 1 billion pounds of hazardous materials and pollutants reduced, 52 billion gallons of water saved, 20.8 million metric tons of greenhouse gases eliminated, 31.9 billion kilowatt hours in energy savings, and \$2.3 billion in savings for businesses.

### Safer Choice:

- 2015: EPA rebranded the program as "Safer Choice" with a new label that has a modern look to help purchasers easily recognize products with safer ingredients. The original DfE logo continued to be used for certified antimicrobial products.
- 2021: A coalition of industry, NGO, and state and local organizations urged Congress to maintain the Safer Choice program; Congress has noted support for the program in report language.
- 2022: EPA—in coordination with industry and NGO stakeholders—modernized the DfE logo for antimicrobial products in response to engagement from consumers and institutional purchasers.
- 2024: Federal agencies are required to procure environmentally preferable products, including Safer Choice-certified products, to the maximum extent practicable.

## KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

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|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Media | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Federal Agency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Academia, health professionals</u> |  |   |  |

## MOVING FORWARD:

### P2 Grants:

Leadership may wish to consider expanding efforts to widely share the lessons learned through the grants to further replicate the P2 approaches developed and results obtained through these grants.

### Safer Choice:

Leadership may wish to consider product categories the Safer Choice program could expand to certify and to leverage strong industry partnerships, especially given the upcoming 10-year label anniversary.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: OCSPP    OTHER KEY OFFICES/REGIONS: OGC, OECA, REGIONS