

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAM EVALUATION CASE STUDY

Background

TU/WRAP (Toxic Use and Hazardous Waste Reduction) Program

Oregon's Toxics Use Reduction and Hazardous Waste Reduction Act

In 1989, Oregon passed the Oregon's Toxics Use Reduction and Hazardous Waste Reduction Act (TUHWRA) to enact a collaborative approach between DEQ and business to reduce (or eliminate) the use of toxic chemicals and the generation of hazardous wastes. TUHWRA requires large users of toxic chemicals (LTUs), large quantity generators of hazardous waste (LQGs), and small quantity generators of hazardous waste to evaluate their chemical use and waste generation by developing Reduction Plans, monitor their progress towards in house goals, and report toxic substance use to the DEQ (only LQG and LTUs report).

TUHWRA requires DEQ to provide technical assistance to businesses, coordinate its business assistance efforts with trade associations and local colleges, follow-up with toxics users who receive business assistance, and coordinate and work with local agencies. TUHWRA prohibits DEQ from conducting inspections or taking enforcement actions when doing this business assistance unless there is a clear and immediate danger to public health or the environment.

Toxic Use and Hazardous Waste Reduction Assistance Program

Program Purpose:

DEQ's Toxics Use/Waste Reduction Assistance Program (TU/WRAP) provides technical assistance to businesses and other organizations throughout Oregon to help facilities reduce their use of toxic chemicals and their generation of hazardous waste. The Program also offers suggestions to help facilities come into compliance with TURHWRA and state and federal hazardous waste regulations. TU/WRAP is designed to deliver a continuum of results ranging from increased compliance rates to improved (and less expensive) environmental management to reductions in hazardous waste generated and toxic chemicals used.

Target Audience:

Large Quantity Generator's (LQGs), Small Quantity Generators (SQGs), Conditionally Exempt Generators (CEGs), and TRI reporters.

Program Activities:

The program is enacted through a combination of the following activities:

- Direct, on-site technical assistance to facilities that use toxic chemicals or generate hazardous waste (priority given to facilities implementing a Toxic Use Reduction and Hazardous Waste Reduction Plan)
- Telephone assistance
- Fact sheets and other educational documents, some of which are available on the Web
- Training workshops
- Development of a system to measure effectiveness of reduction measures

Evaluation Purpose:

Identify ways to improve documentation of TU/WRAP effectiveness and to align TU/WRAP both with EPA Strategic Plan's performance measures and with an overall compliance assurance strategy for DEQ's authorized hazardous waste program.