

Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

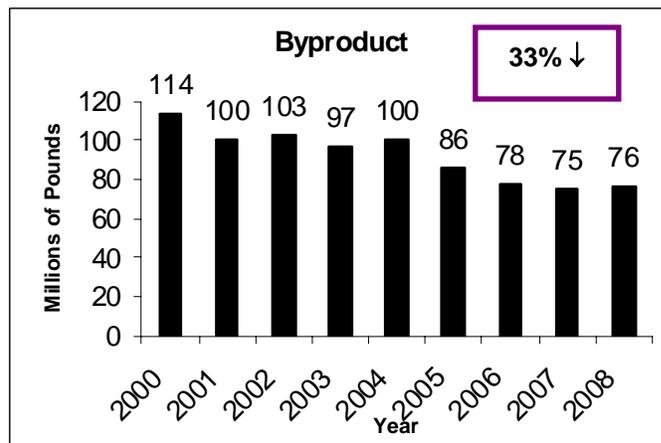
fact sheet

2008 Toxics Use Reduction Information Release

Each year, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issues an annual report on the use of toxic chemicals in Massachusetts reported under the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA). TURA progress is measured by using reported data (excluding trade secret data¹) normalized for changes in production and using a consistent set of chemicals and industries subject to reporting over a given period of time (referred to as a "Core Group").

In 2008, the total amount of toxic chemicals reported used (excluding trade secret data) was 778 million pounds. In 2008, the 2000 Core Group (industry categories and chemicals subject to reporting in 2000 and 2008) used 632 million pounds, or 81% of the toxic chemicals reported used. Adjusting the data to account for a 21% decrease in production from 2000 to 2008, over that eight-year period, the 2000 Core Group facilities reduced:

- toxic chemical use by 20%,
- toxic byproducts by 33%,
- toxics shipped in product by 19%,
- on-site releases of toxics to the environment by 52%, and
- transfers of toxics off-site for further waste management by 39%.



In 2008, a total of 530 facilities reported under TURA. They used 147 listed toxic substances at or above reporting thresholds. Including trade secret data, these facilities reported:

- 956 million pounds of toxic substances used (down from 1,020 million pounds in 2007),
- 78 million pounds of toxic byproduct (or waste) generated (down from 81 million pounds in 2007),
- 322 million pounds of toxics shipped in or as products (down from 334 million pounds in 2007),
- 5 million pounds of toxics released to the environment (down from 6 million pounds in 2007), and
- 30 million pounds of toxics transferred off-site for further waste management (the same as 30 million pounds in 2007).

¹ Facility-specific data for the Core Group is shared among TURA program agencies; therefore, trade secret data is excluded to protect its confidentiality.

TURA defines three types of toxics use: manufacturing (i.e., producing a toxic), processing (i.e., incorporating a toxic into a product), and "otherwise use" (i.e., all other uses). The reported data show that little chemical manufacturing occurred in Massachusetts (only 8% of total use). Most of the reported chemicals used (about 76%) were processed or incorporated into a product (such as plastics, paints, automotive parts, etc.). About 16% of chemical use was "otherwise use" attributed to uses ancillary to production processes, such as parts cleaning and waste treatment.

TURA requires reporting facilities to develop toxics use reduction plans that identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce the use of toxics and the generation of toxic byproducts. These plans must be updated every two years and approved by a state-certified toxics use reduction planner. Facilities that have completed a TUR plan and two plan updates may elect to develop a resource conservation plan or implement an environmental management system instead of a TUR plan, subject to certain conditions. For more information on TURA planning options, see <http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/tura/planning.htm>.

In addition to MassDEP's administration of reporting and planning requirements, the TURA program is supported by the [Office of Technical Assistance and Technology](#) (OTA) and the [Toxics Use Reduction Institute](#) (TURI) at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. OTA provides non-regulatory technical assistance to facilities seeking to reduce the use of toxics, develops fact sheets and other technical guidance documents, supports the development of technology solutions by leveraging state and federal funding, and creates market-based incentives for qualifying TURA filers. TURI provides toxics use reduction education, training, and library services; supports research on cleaner materials and processes; and operates a laboratory for testing non-toxic or less-toxic cleaning alternatives.

The 2008 Toxics Use Reduction Information Release contains important chemical information from larger regulated industrial sources that is useful to the public, government, and industry. However, it is important to note that this information does not present the whole picture of chemical use in society, including emissions from cars and trucks, pesticides and fertilizers, and consumer use of products containing toxic chemicals.

MassDEP's 2008 Toxics Use Reduction Information Release is available on the [MassDEP web page](#). TURI also makes TURA data available on its website in a user-friendly way that is searchable by community, chemical, or company. See www.turi.org/turadata. For further information, please visit the web sites listed here, or call the MassDEP TURA program at 617-292-5711.

Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
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