



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Annual Toxic Release Inventory Shows Decrease in Overall Releases

There was a 2.5 percent decrease in the amount of toxic releases to Ohio's environment in 2002, according to the 16th annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report from Ohio EPA, marking the fifth consecutive year of decreases.

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires the annual TRI reports regarding the release of toxic chemicals within a community. Ohio EPA received nearly 6,400 reports from almost 1,700 facilities for 2002.

Notable changes in releases between 2001 and 2002 include:

- 23.4 percent decrease in transfers off-site of waste for disposal and treatment;
- 11.25 percent increase in releases to air;
- 7.5 percent decrease in releases to water;
- 29 percent increase in energy recovery on-site;
- 7.5 percent decrease in deepwell injection;
- 6.5 percent increase in treatment on-site;
- 5 percent decrease in discharges to publicly owned treatment works; and
- 10 percent decrease in total releases of mercury and its compounds.

A total of 667 separate chemicals and chemical categories must be reported. Each year, regulated facilities must report to Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA the amount of toxic substances they release to the environment, treat or otherwise manage on-site or transfer off-site for treatment, disposal or other management.

The TRI report is a compilation of raw data. It does not indicate the degree to which people may be exposed to these substances nor is it a health study or risk assessment. Some forms of treatment or disposal render toxic substances less hazardous or contain them to prevent exposure. Not all material that is released to the environment results in exposure to people. Permits issued to industrial and utility facilities by Ohio EPA regulate the amount of toxic releases allowed in order to protect the environment and public health.

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The complete 2002 Ohio TRI Report and additional county-specific data, as well as the TRI reports for all previous years, are available on Ohio EPA's Web site at: www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/tri/tri.html. The reports can be reviewed in person at Ohio EPA's Central Office by first calling (614) 644-4830 for an appointment. Printed copies of the report, data copies and computerized summaries are available by writing to: Ohio EPA, DAPC/TRI, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.

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<http://www.epa.state.oh.us>