

**DEQ Toxics Reduction Strategy:
Priority actions for short-term implementation, 2012-13**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has identified five actions of the Toxics Reduction Strategy as priorities for short-term implementation. These priorities were selected based on existing opportunities and support that can lead to significant reductions of toxics in Oregon's environment. The five actions are:

1. Integrating technical assistance across programs to advance green chemistry in two industry sectors

- Executive Order 12-05 directs DEQ to identify two industries in Oregon where green chemistry should be applied to reduce the use and generation of priority toxics (e.g., those on DEQ's Toxics Focus List). The joint technical assistance efforts of DEQ's Air Quality and Hazardous Waste/Toxics Use Reduction Programs, as well as interested local government partners, will help identify and assess alternatives to priority toxics in those industries and identify needs for green chemistry research where viable alternatives do not exist. This effort will be supported by interstate alternatives assessment resources.

2. Develop and implement pesticide waste collection strategy

- A diverse coalition of agencies and organizations has developed a plan to secure resources for, and conduct, four to five pesticide collections around Oregon in the next two years, while also pursuing longer-term funding strategies. The focus will be on areas with large numbers of agricultural producers and commercial pesticide applicators that don't have access to convenient low-cost collection services. DEQ retains a hazardous waste management contractor that can be used to provide the collection and disposal service. Implementation of this strategy has begun, with three collection events conducted in the past six months.

3. Expand and enhance Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program

- The Toxics Reduction Strategy outlines how the watershed-based Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships would expand from a series of individual projects to becoming an established statewide program under the direction of the inter-agency Water Quality Pesticide Management Team. These partnerships use water quality data to focus best practices and existing technical assistance resources, and to measure the success of those activities in improving water quality.

4. Develop and implement low toxicity state purchasing and procurement guidelines

- The Toxics Reduction Strategy and the Executive Order 12-05 advocate the use of the state's purchasing power to strengthen demand for lower toxicity products. DEQ is working closely with the Department of Administrative Services to revise purchasing guidelines to ensure these low toxicity products are obtained through suppliers, especially when there are opportunities to reduce Focus List chemicals in various product categories. The initial pilot project will address cleaning and janitorial supplies.

5. Work with consumer product retailers to reduce toxics in products

- DEQ can use its experiences with DAS in implementing new low toxicity purchasing guidelines to partner with product retailers in reducing priority toxics in their supply chains, as well as identifying ways of increasing the demand for lower toxicity alternatives including the use of credible third-party product certifications. Some retailers have developed priority chemical lists (similar to DEQ's Focus List) and goals for transitioning to safer chemicals in products, thus providing an opportunity for Oregon to collaborate on achieving common goals.