

**TOXICS REDUCTION STRATEGY:  
SELECTION PROCESS FOR REDUCTION MEASURES**

Selection of recommend reduction actions for individual toxic chemicals or groups of toxic chemicals and pollutants will be based on the evaluation of potential reduction strategies through the process summarized below. This process will be a qualitative evaluation of potential reduction actions included in the Toxics Reduction Strategy. Reduction strategies and actions for each chemical or pollutant or family of chemicals and pollutants will depend upon the chemicals' profiles and sources, and the qualities of the potential reduction strategies. Because DEQ will give preference to existing efforts, DEQ will first evaluate existing DEQ programs to determine whether those programs would be a preferred reduction strategy.

1. Effective in Meeting Reduction Goals

The first and most important criterion for any strategy is that it must provide for actions that will meet the reduction goals identified for that particular chemical or family of chemicals. This will be depend in large measure on whether the action will address that specific chemical of family of chemicals, whether it will address them, at the appropriate point in the life cycle of the chemical, and whether the action will likely provide meaningful reductions. The degree of uncertainty that DEQ will accept regarding the effectiveness of any particular strategy will depend on several factors, most importantly the threat to human health and the environment posed by the chemical and the harm that might be caused if a strategy does not succeed. Strategies that DEQ determines will be effective will be evaluated according to the additional criteria below.

2. Implementable

DEQ will assess information from program-level experts in relevant sectors to evaluate whether specific strategies are capable of being implemented. Regulatory burden to implement will be considered in addition to other potential hurdles to implementation.

3. Build on existing efforts

Many effective pollution reduction efforts are underway. DEQ will give deference to strategies that build on programs currently implemented by government or non-government agencies where appropriate.

4. Address multiple goals

DEQ will place an emphasis on actions that address multiple priority pollutants and /or meet multiple environmental goals.

5. Reduction at the source (i.e., "upstream" focus)

One of the overall objectives for DEQ's Toxics Reduction Strategy is, to the extent possible, to implement actions that reduce toxic chemicals at the source. To meet this objective, DEQ will prioritize strategies that address persistent pollutants at their source rather than after they have been released into the environment.

6. Efficiency and strong business case

DEQ will prioritize strategies that are cost effective relative to the toxic reductions achieved. DEQ will consider implementation costs for state government, for the general public and for entities required to implement the actions. DEQ will also consider potential savings or costs associated with public health.

f. Reliability

Recommended actions must clearly show durability - of resources, participants, etc. - that will demonstrate to DEQ that the action will be a reliable means of reducing toxics over time.

g. Sustainability

DEQ will focus on strategies that are consistent with DEQ's commitment to sustainability.

h. Engaging Oregonians

DEQ will place an emphasis on actions that allow citizens to participate in the implementation of reduction actions through a meaningful public process or through their day-to-day behaviors, including making informed choices about product purchasing and management of toxic chemicals.

i. Flexibility

DEQ will prioritize actions that provide flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and information. Strategies that display a nimbleness for modification will be preferred over strategies that require long and complicated processes to make adjustments.