



## MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

# 2016 Right-To-Know Chemical Information: A summary of Toxic Release Inventory and Pollution Prevention Reports

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## **What is a Toxic Pollution Prevention Plan?**

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and the Minnesota Toxic Pollution Prevention Act require annual reports on toxic chemicals from certain industries. Those industries include manufacturing, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste treatment and other industrial sector facilities.

Each facility reporting toxic chemical releases and transfers in Minnesota is required to develop a pollution prevention plan. The plan must include goals for eliminating or reducing the generation or release of each toxic pollutant at the facility. Facilities must also submit an annual progress report to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS). In 2016, DPS received progress reports from 411 facilities.

## **What is the Toxic Release Inventory?**

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) is a database of toxic chemical reports. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has managed the state TRI since the 1988 reporting year. The state TRI contains reports from more than 400 facilities required to report on more than 600 listed toxic chemicals released into the environment, transferred off-site for treatment, recycled, used for energy recovery, disposed and managed on-site at the facilities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manages a national TRI containing data from thousands of facilities.

It is important to note that release of a TRI chemical does not indicate a violation of federal, state or local environmental laws. In addition, the types and amounts of chemicals released directly to air, water and land do not necessarily indicate human and environmental exposure.

The TRI data in this summary report covers submittals for the 2016 reporting year. Facilities may estimate the reported data using engineering calculations, material balance calculations or published emission factors.

## **How is TRI data used?**

TRI data establishes a baseline measurement that facilities, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and communities can use to assess pollution prevention and waste reduction efforts:

- Reporting facilities can identify trends and evaluate the effectiveness of chemical management processes.
- MPCA can crosscheck TRI data with environmental discharge permits and hazardous waste disclosure reports. The data is also useful for prioritizing environmental regulatory and education efforts.

- Communities can increase awareness of chemical management activities by identifying industries and reportable chemicals in the vicinity. The data can be used as a risk screening tool to delineate areas requiring additional health assessments.

TRI data provides important information about the industrial sources of toxic chemical environmental releases. While it may be used to identify areas of concern, the data has limitations. TRI data covers only a portion of toxic chemical emissions. The data are in amounts or volumes of annual emissions, not quantities emitted per day; releases may be continuous or intermittent.

### **How can the public get information about TRI and pollution prevention?**

The public may access Pollution Prevention Progress Reports via the Department of Public Safety [EPCRA Website](#). Select Toxic Release Inventory / Pollution Prevention from the menu.

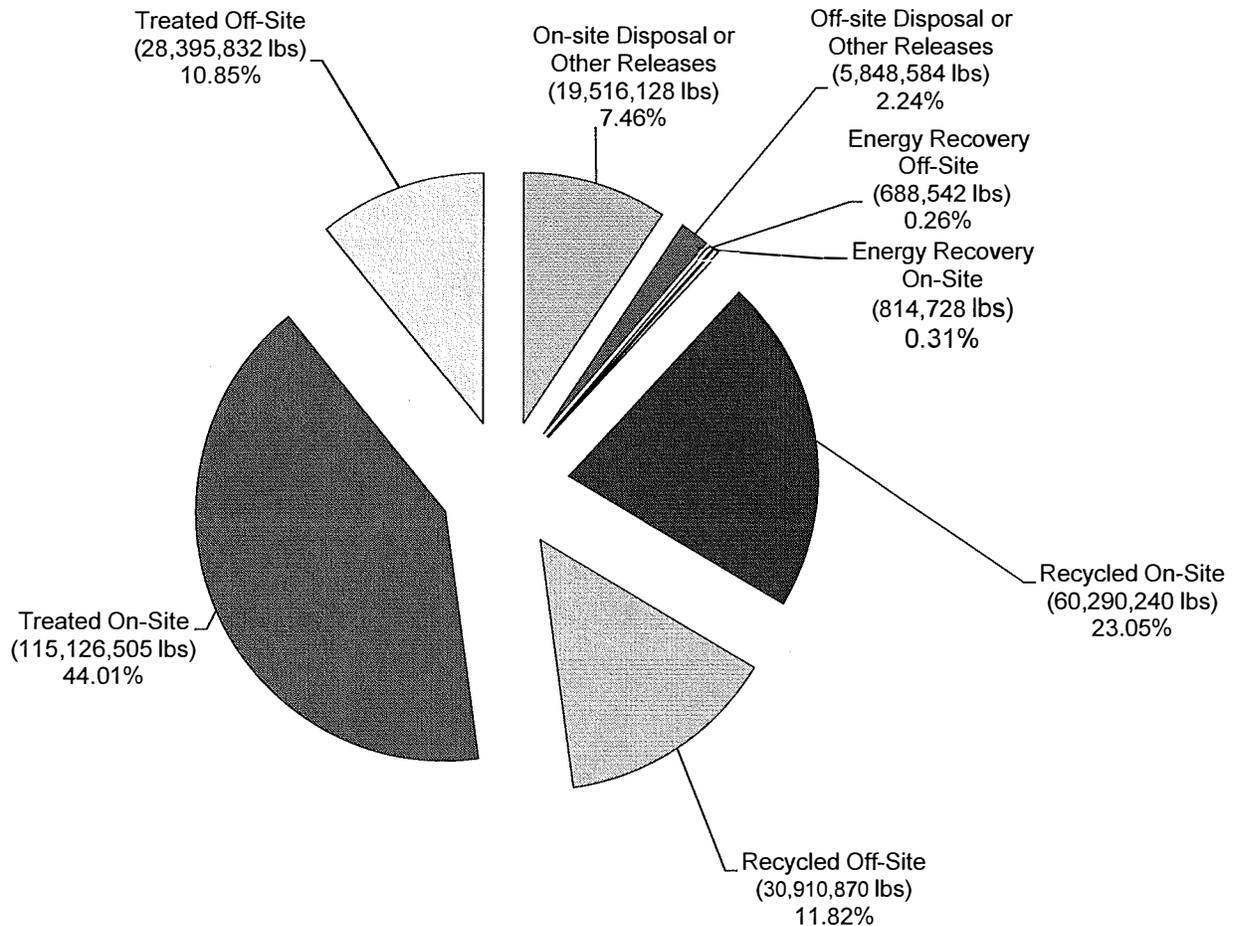
Minnesota and national data can be obtained from the U.S. EPA [TRI Program Website](#).

For Minnesota specific questions, call (651) 201-7417. Call 1-800-424-9346 with questions relating to national TRI information.

Additional resources are available online:

- MPCA [What's in My Neighborhood](#)
- MPCA [Preventing waste and pollution](#)
- [Minnesota Technical Assistance Program \(MnTAP\)](#)
- EPA [Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators \(RSEI\)](#)
- New Jersey Department of Health [Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets](#)

## Reporting Year 2016 TRI Data



| <i>(Amounts in Pounds)</i>               | <b>2015</b>        | <b>2016</b>        | <b>Change</b> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Number of reporting facilities           | 447                | 450                | 0.67%         |
| On-site disposal or other releases       | 21,508,063         | 19,516,128         | -9.26%        |
| Off-site disposal or other releases      | 6,075,952          | 5,848,584          | -3.74%        |
| On-site energy recovery                  | 943,110            | 815,728            | -13.51%       |
| Off-site energy recovery                 | 656,179            | 688,542            | 4.93%         |
| On-site recycling                        | 52,316,744         | 60,290,240         | 15.24%        |
| Off-site recycling                       | 32,034,832         | 30,910,870         | -3.51%        |
| On-site treatment                        | 112,108,355        | 115,126,505        | 2.69%         |
| Off-site treatment                       | 29,078,548         | 28,395,832         | -2.35%        |
| <b>Total (both on-site and off-site)</b> | <b>254,721,785</b> | <b>261,592,432</b> | <b>2.70%</b>  |