

TURA Program News and Upcoming Opportunities

Toxics Use Reduction Grant Applications for FY19

A call for proposals is open for [industry, small business and community grants](#).

Upcoming Events and Workshops

- [Science Advisory Board](#) (4/11/18)
- [Spring TUR Planner CE Conference](#) (4/25/18)
 - Keynote speaker Laura Vandenberg discussing health effects of chemicals of concern
- [OTA Chemical Safety and Climate Change Preparedness Workshops](#) (4/12 and 4/26/18)
- [TURA/TRI Reporting Workshops](#) (5/10 Newburyport; 5/22 Worcester; 5/24 Greenfield; and 5/31/18 Fall River)
- [TURI Webinar: Safer Solutions for Methylene Chloride](#) (6/5/18)
- [Champions of Toxics Use Reduction](#) (6/12/18)

MassDEP Preparation for Reporting Year 2017

- [eDEP](#) is live for Reporting Year 2017 reports and plan summaries.
- Billing process has been revised so that 2017 Reporting Year TURA Fees will be invoiced to businesses after July 1st.
- Online Toxics Use Reduction Chemical List has been updated and revamped to make it easier to understand the reporting requirements related to particular listed substances
- [Online Planning and Reporting guidance documents](#) have been updated

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2017 Toxics Use Reduction Program Report to the Governor](#)

The final report is now available on mass.gov.

TURI Publications and News

[Toxics Use Reduction and Resource Conservation: Competitiveness Impacts for Massachusetts Businesses](#)

Many businesses are saving on their annual operating costs as a direct result of toxics use reduction or resource conservation efforts. There are also cases in which businesses choose to make changes that actually increase their annual operating costs. This document presents examples of both experiences, notes the individual business factors that have influenced their decisions, and considers the competitiveness benefits these businesses have experienced.

Also see article in GreenBiz: [“The Right Chemistry - A business prescription for reducing toxic chemical use”](#) by Rachel Massey, Oct 2017.

[Assessment of Safer and Effective Alternatives to Methylene Chloride for Paint Stripping Products](#)

This report provides the approach TURI took to finding a safer alternative to methylene chloride, the laboratory testing process, and the results and conclusions.

[Nanomaterials Fact Sheet](#)

This fact sheet focuses on nanomaterials that are intentionally designed, engineered and manufactured for use in commercial materials, devices and structures.

[Merrimack Ales Case Study and Video](#)

With the help of a TURI Small Business grant, Merrimack Ales in Lowell evaluated safer alternatives to caustic



sodium hydroxide. After testing various methods and solutions, the small business now uses brewers wash at a lower temperature and volume to clean and uses NADCC tablets to sanitize.

TURI has moved to Boott Mills!

TURI has moved into renovated space in The Offices at Boott Mills in Lowell, a short distance down river from Wannalancit Mills. TURI offices, the cleaning lab, library, and a training space are all now co-located at Boott Mills. The phone numbers are the same, however the mailing address and zip code have changed:

The Offices at Boott Mills West
126 John Street, Suite 14 (2nd Floor)
Lowell, MA 01852

OTA Projects and Technical Assistance

- [Chemical Safety and Climate Change Preparedness Workshops](#)
Through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S EPA), the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) is partnering with Regional Planning Agencies to conduct Chemical Safety and Climate Change Preparedness workshops. These workshops are designed to build awareness and educate Local and Regional Emergency Planning Committees, first responders, businesses and community stakeholders about toxic chemicals in their communities.
- [Massachusetts Nanomaterials Survey](#)
The Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance & Technology (OTA) and the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) are conducting a short survey to develop a better understanding of the use of nanomaterials in Massachusetts. Nanotechnology is a growing and important industry sector in the Commonwealth. This information will be used to better inform and target program resources.
- **Technical Assistance**
So far in Fiscal Year 2018, OTA staff have made 43 visits to 33 Massachusetts companies to provide technical assistance with a variety of toxics use reduction, compliance, and resource conservation topics.

MassDEP Compliance Assurance Activities Since April 2017

- 468 Reporting Year 2016 Filers including 8 “new” facilities

Routine report review resulted in:

- 7 enforcement actions for reporting after the deadline
- 28 Requests for Information (RFI) for apparent failure to file for one or more chemicals based on report review leading to 1 enforcement action for a missing report

Desk audits (new this year) resulted in:

- 5 Requests for Information (RFI) sent out to suspected non-filers based on data from other regulatory programs. 1 RFI recipient confirmed to owe a report. Research is ongoing at 2 other facilities.

Regional inspections:

- 58 regional inspections of current or former TURA filers and 164 regional multi-media inspections of facilities that had never filed TURA reports resulted in 7 enforcement actions for failure to submit all required reports.