

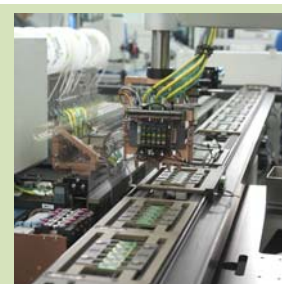


Working to Make Massachusetts Safer for Everyone

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at the University of Massachusetts Lowell provides resources and tools to help make the Commonwealth a safer and more sustainable place to live and work. Established by the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) of 1989, TURI collaborates with businesses, community organizations and government agencies to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, protect public health and the environment, and increase competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses.

TURI PROGRAMS HELP COMPANIES & COMMUNITIES REDUCE TOXICS

- **Training:** Education and workshops including a 48-hour course that trains professionals to become state-certified Toxics Use Reduction Planners (over 975 graduates to date). TURI training provides companies with the tools and technical information they need to reduce toxics at their facilities.
- **Grant Programs:** Each year, TURI provides grants to promote innovative approaches to toxics use reduction. These include:
 - **Industry grants:** Support for companies to help them adopt and showcase innovative approaches to toxics use reduction. Grant funds can be used for purchase of new equipment or to host a demonstration site.
 - **Community grants:** Grants for municipal agencies, community organizations, and small business groups to help them reduce the use of toxic chemicals in cities and towns. TURI staff members provide grantees with extensive support in research, project design, implementation and outreach.
 - **University research grants:** Support for researchers within the University of Massachusetts system. Grants are provided to researchers to identify and test safer alternatives to toxic chemicals, with a particular focus on R&D needs identified by Massachusetts companies.
- **Business working groups:** TURI convenes workshops, peer mentoring groups, and other collaborative projects to help Massachusetts businesses meet environmental challenges. For example, the Lead-Free Electronics Consortium, led by TURI, is working to eliminate lead in electronics, helping to keep the state's high-tech sector competitive in the global economy.
- **TURI Laboratory:** One-on-one support to help companies identify safer alternatives to cleaning solvents that pose health and environmental hazards. The TURI Laboratory works with large and small businesses, product formulators and municipalities to identify and test the performance of safer cleaning products.
- **Policy Research and Analysis:** TURI develops policy analyses to support regulatory decision-making within the TURA program, and provides information and analysis on state and national toxics policy issues that are relevant to Massachusetts companies and communities.
- **TURI Library:** The TURI Library, part of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), is one of the only libraries in the U.S. that focuses on information related to toxics use reduction. It provides resources and research services by a professional librarian to students and faculty, businesses, communities, government agencies and individuals, on an international basis. Its collection includes more than 14,000 items.



Over the period 1990 to 2005, Massachusetts companies reduced toxic chemical use by 40% and releases by 91%. A recent survey found that these companies saved \$4.5 million annually by implementing toxics use reduction projects.



Quick Facts

The fees paid by businesses under TURA support program services.

The TURI Matching Grant program has awarded more than \$500,000 to companies to implement toxics use reduction projects.

The TURI Community Grant program has awarded more than \$750,000 to Massachusetts community and municipal organizations to raise awareness of safer alternatives within neighborhoods.

IMPROVING WORKER AND PUBLIC HEALTH

TURI's work to reduce the use of toxic chemicals protects public health and the environment.

- Studies show that childhood and worker exposures to solvents, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals increase the likelihood of developing certain cancers.
- Lead exposure in infants and children is associated with attention deficit problems, increased aggression, and reduced IQ.
- A 2002 Tufts University study estimated the cost of environmentally attributable illnesses in Massachusetts children at \$1.1 to \$1.6 billion per year.

ABOUT THE TOXICS USE REDUCTION ACT PROGRAM

Twenty years ago, the Massachusetts legislature passed landmark legislation – the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA). Today, the TURA Program is considered a model environmental policy by other states and countries. Among industries subject to reporting since 1990 (and adjusted for changes in production), chemical use has been reduced by 40%, byproducts by 71%, and releases onsite by 91%.

The TURA program is administered by TURI, the Office of Technical Assistance & Technology (OTA), and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). These three agencies have provided training, grants, technical assistance, certification and support to help companies advance sustainability by reducing toxic chemical use and costs, improving health and safety, and establishing new green markets.



For more information visit www.turi.org, or call 978-934-3275.

Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute

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"Companies have come a long way from the days when profits and environmental stewardship were thought of as opposing forces. We are proof that what's good for the environment can most definitely be good for the bottom line."

Richard Robbins, Facilities and Environmental Health and Safety Manager
Mersen of Newburyport (Recognized as a "TURA 20th Anniversary Leader" in 2010)