

TURI Grants for Businesses:

Helping companies reduce hazards in their workplace

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) supports Massachusetts businesses to successfully implement projects that protect their workers, communities and the environment by reducing use of toxic chemicals. TURI offers grants to help Massachusetts businesses research, evaluate, and/or adopt safer alternatives to toxic chemicals.

Eligibility

TURI has grant funding available to any for-profit business in Massachusetts that:

- Proposes process or product changes to reduce their use of toxics;
- Is considering a change that is relevant to other businesses; and
- Reduces the use of toxic chemical(s) covered by TURI's strategic priorities (see below) or other toxic chemicals listed in the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA).¹

For the 2024-25 business grant cycle, TURI especially encourages applications on the following strategic priority issues:

- Reducing or eliminating the following halogenated solvents:
 - Trichloroethylene (TCE),
 - Perchloroethylene (perc),
 - Dichloromethane (DCM), also known as methylene chloride,
 - n-Propyl bromide (nPB), and
 - trans-Dichloroethane (tDCE).
- Supporting businesses to adopt PFAS-free products or processes, such as:
 - Metal finishing,
 - Textiles and apparel,
 - Refrigeration and cooling,
 - Food packaging,
 - Firefighting equipment, and
 - Consumer products, particularly for children and other vulnerable groups.
- Supporting facilities to reduce the use of toxic flame retardants, including:
 - Child gyms and other play spaces that adopt foam cubes/padding free of toxic flame-retardants, and
 - Facilities that seek to eliminate the use of organohalogen flame retardants (OFR) in their current processes or products.
- Safer sanitizing/disinfecting practices that reduce/eliminate the use of quaternary ammonium compounds in the:
 - Food/beverage sector;
 - Gyms and child-care facilities; and/or
 - Other businesses with employees or patrons at elevated risk.

¹<https://www.mass.gov/doc/complete-list-of-tura-chemicals>

Criteria for success

The successful project proposal will:

- Demonstrate quantifiable reductions in the amount of toxic chemical(s) used;
- Address ongoing adverse impacts on environmental justice communities or other underserved groups, including workers;²
- Have a clear plan to complete project implementation within twelve months;
- Be relevant to other companies or sectors; and
- Have the strong support of upper management.

How to apply

The application process is intended to be simple yet competitive. It begins with the submission of a brief [online application](#) that requests basic information about the proposed project. Following receipt of the initial application, a selection committee will evaluate proposals and may request additional information from potential awardees before making a final decision. This may include an on-site visit to better understand the proposed project and its potential benefits.

Applicants seeking larger award amounts (greater than \$20,000) are required to complete a secondary form that provides more in-depth information on the proposed process.

To apply for a business grant online, go to www.turi.org/grants. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. For more information, please contact info@turi.org. We anticipate notifying awardees around mid-September.

Demonstrating success

Because the overarching goal of this program is to disseminate information about successful examples of toxics use reduction widely throughout the Massachusetts manufacturing universe, facilities that receive a grant are encouraged to demonstrate their processes and share information about project elements that contributed to their success.

TURI will support grantees in developing and disseminating information about their project. We will work with grantees to determine the optimal method of sharing information about the project and its success broadly. Typically, we will use one or more of the following methods:

- Crafting a written case study that presents information about the project's goals, challenges, and outcomes. Case studies are designed by TURI, using company information gathered over the course of the project in collaboration with the grantee, and are published in downloadable format on our website (www.turi.org) and featured in social media posts.
- Creating a video that describes the project and its achievement, featuring footage of relevant processes and interviews with key personnel that describe the changes implemented and the outcomes of that effort. Video production is performed or contracted by TURI and filmed on site³ at a mutually agreed upon time.
- Conducting an on-site demonstration of the changes made. TURI will lead outreach efforts to invite interested company personnel, consultants and, if appropriate, legislators, high-level environmental officials, and other dignitaries to tour the grantee operation, learning about the

² Massachusetts describes environmental justice here: <https://www.mass.gov/environmental-justice>

³ Hosts have the right to restrict access to sensitive areas of their facility.

implementation process in real time. Grantees will host the tour⁴ and answer questions about their experience.

Applicants must be willing to demonstrate project success to be considered for funding.

Award amounts

Typical business grants are within the range of **\$15,000 to \$35,000**. Larger amounts can be negotiated depending on the impact of the project and other criteria described above. Smaller proposals are welcome. Grant funding is limited, and awards are contingent on funding received by TURI from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.