

Indiana SGP

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What is SGP?

It is a cooperative and voluntary effort of the U.S. EPA, the American Electroplaters and Surface Finishing Society (AESF), the National Association of Metal Finishers (NAMF), and the Metal Finishing Suppliers Association (MFSA) to test new common sense ideas for better environmental protection within the metal finishing industry. The goal is to find “cleaner, cheaper, and smarter” ways to improve the environmental performance of metal finishing companies in the United States.

How does SGP operate?

It operates through voluntary commitments by the industry to go beyond regulatory compliance, substantially reducing pollution in their operations. It calls for an eighty percent participation rate of all firms within the industry and includes an “exit strategy” for those out-dated or chronic non-compliance firms.

Within five years, participating companies pledge to become:

CLEANER ...

By reducing hazardous emissions

- ◆ 90% reduction in organic Toxic Release Inventory emissions
- ◆ 50% reduction in metals emissions to air and water
- ◆ 50% reduction in hazardous sludge generation
- ◆ Reduced worker and community exposure

CHEAPER ...

By saving money and providing economic advantages

- ◆ 50% reduction in costs of unnecessary reporting, permitting, and monitoring
- ◆ Reduced long-term liability

SMARTER ...

By conserving resources

- ◆ 98% metals utilization on products
- ◆ 50% reduction in water use
- ◆ 25% reduction in energy use

What are the benefits of SGP?

1. SGP demonstrates that metal finishers are environmental leaders who are concerned with public health in their communities.
2. SGP can lead to operational flexibility, a benefit that can help firms become more responsive to changing marketing demands and increase overall competitiveness.
3. SGP offers the opportunity to change the regulatory system in which metal finishers operate.

Why Join SGP?

SGP is a joint effort of industry, regulatory and non-profit environmental organizations. The program is the result of three years of meetings that created a program that benefits the environment by rewarding the top performers in the industry through the various local regulatory agencies. This program was launched during AESF Week in January 1998 and has been steadily progressing. Committees have been meeting in Indiana for the past sixteen months to establish the program structure for the state of Indiana.

As of the end of October, the state of Indiana, thirteen metal finishing companies, and eight Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW's) have signed onto Indiana's program. Recruitment efforts are underway to enroll additional metal finishers and POTW's in the program. The organization phase is nearly complete, and the program structure is taking shape.

EVERY METAL FINISHER WHO HAS EVER WANTED TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY IN THE REGULATORY WORLD SHOULD JOIN THE PROGRAM. EPA AND IDEM HAVE PROVIDED THE TOOL TO ALLOW METAL FINISHERS TO PROVE THAT THEY CAN CONTROL THEIR OWN EFFLUENTS WITHOUT BURDENSOME REGULATIONS. METAL FINISHERS NEED TO RESPOND BY SIGNING ONTO THE PROGRAM AND PARTICIPATING IN THE EFFORTS TO ADVANCE SGP.

What Happens When I Sign On?

Metal Finishers: Contact Robert McDowell (ph: 716-425-7500, fax: 716-425-7501, e-mail: mcdowell@strategicgoals.org) of Surface Finishing Industry Council to sign on. He will mail or fax you a sign-up sheet that you will return to him. Your company will then be listed on the national SGP website as an Indiana participant. After signing on as a SGP participant, you will be asked to provide baseline information so that it can be determined how close you are to achieving the SGP goals. The baseline data are gathered from 1992 emissions and usage data. A form will be provided to make this task as easy as possible, and the Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute (CMTI) will gladly assist you in filling out the form. After establishing your baseline emissions and usage, you will be asked to provide current data to establish your facility's position relative to achieving the SGP goals.

As an Indiana participant, your company will be added to the list of Indiana facilities striving to go beyond compliance in their quest to achieve the SGP goals. This list is published on the Indiana SGP website, IDEM's publications and in this newsletter. You will also have the opportunity to submit a press release to your local newspaper concerning your participation in this nation-wide program. There is plenty of opportunity to generate positive publicity for your facility. Additionally, CMTI offers the following for facilities that sign on to the SGP program:

1. CMTI will serve as the initial contact for Indiana metal finishers who have signed on to the SGP. CMTI will welcome the metal finisher to the SGP and offer aid in completing the forms required to obtain baseline information and additional information for past years in order to determine the metal finisher's progress in achieving the SGP goals
2. CMTI will perform a confidential multimedia environmental assessment to determine whether or not the metal finisher is in regulatory compliance
3. CMTI will help the metal finisher achieve compliance and the SGP goals by providing technical assistance

As you progress towards achieving the SGP goals, you will receive additional positive publicity. The Indiana SGP Recognition Workgroup is assembling a recognition packet that is based upon IDEM's Five Star Program for Drycleaners. As you reach each to-be-determined level in attempting to attain the SGP goals, a star will be awarded. A fifth star will be awarded when a company achieves 100% of the SGP goals.

Participation in the goals program is voluntary, and a company may withdraw at any time. However, metal finisher participation is important because it not only gives the industry positive publicity for striving for, and reaching, "beyond compliance" status, but it also gives metal finishers a voice in controlling their own destiny regarding environmental regulations. The kick-off meeting (two years ago at the AESF conference in Orlando) showed that metal finishers and the EPA were willing to develop a trusting, working relationship; however, these pioneers need other metal finishers to join in. Please become an SGP participant to demonstrate to the EPA and the nation that metal finishers will strive towards SGP goals and will seriously attempt to achieve "beyond compliance" status.

POTWs: The easiest way to sign on is to access the Indiana website at www.state.in.us/idem/strategicgoals. Click on "Joining the SGP", and download the form for POTW's. After completing the form, simply fax it to Scott Dosick, U.S. EPA 202-260-8662. The form reads:

"Statement of Commitment As a Participant POTW Strategic Goals Program Metal Fining Sector.

The National Strategic Goals Program is the result of a unique cooperative effort between representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the metal finishing industry, state and local governments, environmental organizations, organized labor, and other non-governmental organizations. The Program is designed to promote cleaner, cheaper, and smarter environmental protection by the metal finishing industry. This POTW is proud to be a participating POTW in the Strategic Goals Program. We will support the Strategic Goals Program for metal finishing facilities by implementing the appropriate components of the Program's Action Plan while working in cooperation with our EPA Region and State partners and other interested stakeholder groups. We agree that the Strategic Goals Program is a voluntary effort, and that participants, including metal finishing facilities and POTWs, have the option to exit the Program at any time."

For more information concerning POTW participation in SGP, please contact Claudio Ternieden of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (phone: 317-233-9556, e-mail: cternied@dem.state.in.us)

What is Happening to Promote SGP in Indiana?

IDEM hosted a kick-off meeting on November 19, 1998, that allowed the original ten Indiana metal finishers to discuss with their POTWs possible incentives available to the metal finishers that meet the SGP goals. Prior to the joint meeting, the POTWs met with IDEM and EPA representatives so that they might learn more about SGP and how the POTWs could benefit from its success. IDEM realizes that in order to get more Indiana metal finishers to sign up for SGP, there should be some incentive to obtain the goals, and that the best incentives can come from local POTWs. To convince more POTWs to sign on to SGP, IDEM hosted meetings throughout the state to educate the POTWs about the program and its potential benefits.

The Indiana SGP Workgroup met for the second time on March 31, 1999. This meeting was co-hosted by IDEM and CMTI and was held at Purdue University. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of four sub-groups that would work on different aspects of SGP in Indiana and would report progress achieved at the quarterly workgroup meetings. These four sub-groups are RCRA Issues, POTW Issues, Financial and Technical Assistance, and Recognition.

The third Indiana SGP Workgroup meeting was held on May 27, 1999, in South Bend. The individual sub-groups reported on their progress and a draft implementation plan for SGP in Indiana was developed. This draft was distributed to the workgroup members for comments during the summer of 1999.

The fourth Indiana SGP Workgroup meeting was held on August 25, 1999, in Indianapolis. The participants in the Indiana SGP were recognized with a plaque, and each sub-group gave updates. This meeting resulted in a fifth sub-group, Recruitment. The next Indiana SGP Workgroup meeting will be in Indianapolis on December 9, 1999. The meetings are open to anyone interested in the SGP program, and if you would like to attend, contact Shayla Barrett or Alice Smith at CMTI (765-463-4749) or Debra Dubenetzky at IDEM (317-233-5747).

How Can I Get More Information About SGP?

To obtain information on a national level, access www.strategicgoals.org. If you would like to see what is happening in the state of Indiana, access the state website at www.state.in.us/idem/strategicgoals. If you want to speak with someone in person about the SGP program, please call Debra Dubenetzky at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (317-233-5747) or Shayla Barrett at the Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute, Purdue University (765-463-4749).

Upcoming Issues of Indiana SGP Newsletter

The Indiana SGP newsletter will be published by CMTI on a quarterly basis. Upcoming issues will report on what Indiana SGP participants are doing to attain the SGP goals. Topics to be covered include segregation of waste streams, stream-lining RCRA F006 waste delisting, energy audits, and technology transfer of pollution prevention techniques that will help in attaining the SGP goals. The upcoming issues will also keep you updated on the Indiana SGP Workgroup meetings. Updates on proposed and actual incentives provided to metal finishers who sign on as an SGP participant, and who are progressing towards attaining the goals, will also be included in upcoming issues. If there is anything that you are interested in seeing in the newsletter concerning SGP in Indiana, please contact Shayla Barrett at CMTI (765-463-4749).

Indiana Participants as of November 1999

Metal Finishers

1. Ampcor II
2. Baycote Metal Finishing
3. Certified Metal Finishers
4. Commercial Plating Inc
5. Electrochemical Coatings Inc
6. Franke Plating Works Inc
7. Imagineering Enterprises Inc
8. Indiana Automotive Fastners, Inc
9. McDowell Enterprises Inc
10. Metal Plate Polishing Inc
11. Seleco Inc

Metal Finishers continued

- 12 Triplex Plating Inc
- 13 H. H. Sumco Inc.

Publicly-Owned Treatment Works

- 1 City of Goshen
- 2 City of Muncie
- 3 City of Elkhart
- 4 City of Michigan City
- 5 City of Indianapolis
- 6 City of Fort Wayne
- 7 City of Terre Haute
- 8 City of LaPorte