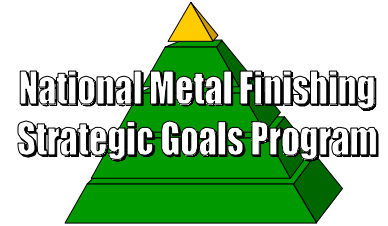


EPA National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program: An Industry's Voluntary Commitment to a Cleaner Environment



Introduction

The National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program (SGP) is one of the first industry-specific, EPA programs focused on working as partners to protect the environment. This voluntary program encourages metal finishers to meet environmental targets by 2002 by providing incentives, creating assistance tools, and removing regulatory and policy barriers to accomplishing these goals.

The SGP establishes a set of voluntary National Performance Goals for metal finishers that represent tougher standards for environmental protection than the law requires. These ambitious targets will conserve water, energy and metals, reduce hazardous emissions, improve economic paybacks, and reduce some of the unnecessary costs of compliance. At the heart of the SGP environmental targets is a commitment by the metal finishing industry to continually look for ways to conserve resources and reduce pollution.

The Program also includes industry-wide goals for achieving full compliance with all regulations, working with EPA, states and local agencies to enforce against willful non-compliers, and reducing the potential for Brownfield sites.

Metal Finishing Performance Goals

Facility-Based Performance Goals:

- (1) Improved Resource Utilization (98% metals utilized on product, 50% reduction in water use reduction, and 25% reduction in energy use)
- (2) Reduced Hazardous Emissions and Exposures (90% reduction in organic TRI, 50% reduction in metals emissions to air and water, 50% reduction in hazardous sludge disposal and generation, and reduced worker/community exposure to toxic materials)
- (3) Improved Economic Performance and Reduction of "Unnecessary" Compliance Costs

Sector-Performance Goals:

- (4) 80% of Facilities Achieve Goals 1-3
- (5) Compliance Across Industry, Enforcement of Chronic Non-Compliers, and "Brownfield Prevention" Assistance for Site-Transition

Who Created the Program?

The SGP was developed by a group of stakeholders brought together by EPA, representing the metal finishing industry, state and local governments, including municipal wastewater treatment plants or Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), environmental, labor, and public interest groups, as well as EPA headquarters and regional offices.

How the Program Works

While the SGP is a national program, the core elements are implemented by groups of stakeholders at the local level. Each local SGP group is designed to forge a closer, more equal partnership among stakeholders who then tailor their local programs to help the metal finishers meet the performance goals.

SGP Core Elements:

- ▲ All seven **Environmental Goals** must be included at the center of all local programs.
- ▲ The target year for achievement is **2002**.
- ▲ **1992** is the baseline year for measuring progress.
- ▲ A **multi-stakeholder group** must be established to oversee local programs.
- ▲ Local discretion is promoted but changes to the core elements require a **consideration of the program impact**.

How Your Company Can Get Started

To sign-up, contact the industry representative at (716) 425-7500. Upon enrolling in the program, you will receive a "Welcome Aboard Kit" containing information that will help your organization participate in the program. Facilities will receive performance worksheets to report baseline (1992) data and current year performance data. A state or local government SGP participant will contact you with information about your local program.



How Companies Show Progress

Companies submit annual performance worksheets plus their baseline data to demonstrate progress toward meeting the goals. This information is stored and progress analyzed by an industry consultant under a grant from EPA. Facility identification is removed before data are made publicly available.

Helping Metal Finishers

Each participant has a role to play in making the SGP a success. A broad set of commitments made by all stakeholder groups supports the metal finishers' efforts. These commitments include stakeholder outreach and involvement, user-friendly compliance assistance, working within the existing laws to provide greater flexibility to achieve better environmental results, and making regulatory and permit reforms.

SGP Success Depends on a Multi-stakeholder Effort: Sample Commitments Under the Program

Stakeholder Group	Sample Commitments	Example Achievements
Metal Finishing Industry	▲ Provide firms education and technical assistance.	▲ Compliance assistance tools available through training and web.
EPA HQ and Regions	▲ Identify opportunities to improve regulations.	▲ Proposed RCRA 90-day rule change in February 1999.
States and POTW	▲ Provide benefits to companies making progress toward meeting goals.	▲ States and POTWs identifying possible benefits and criteria for receiving them.
NGOs	▲ Support efforts to bring new technology to facilities.	▲ Barrio Planners helped develop pilot loan program in So. California

What's In It For You?

For metal finishers, possible SGP benefits could include:

- ▲ **Operational Flexibility:** Ease implementation of new technologies, and reduce compliance costs from less frequent monitoring or reporting.
- ▲ **Regulatory System Changes:** Reduced monitoring for substances not used in process; extension of the RCRA 90-Day Accumulation Rule.
- ▲ **Financial Resources:** Southern California pilot loan program making funds available for participants wishing to make improvements; the goal is to establish a national program!
- ▲ **Compliance Assistance:** Many states and localities are offering free, non-enforcement environmental audits and assistance to identify ways to reduce pollution.
- ▲ **Research & Technology Development:** New environmental technologies are being tested and participating firms are invited to test technologies through pilot programs.
- ▲ **Cooperative Working Relationships:** Metal finishers sit at the decision making table with regulators and policy makers, building trust and common goals with representatives from local NGOs.
- ▲ **Positive Public Recognition:** Participating firms receive national recognition through the SGP Website (www.strategicgoals.org), as well as recognition by states and POTWs.

For regulators benefits could include:

- ▲ **Reduced Paperwork, Monitoring, Inspections, and System Disruptions:** Increasing the number of top environmental performers translates into reduced paperwork and the likelihood of fewer “surprises”.
- ▲ **Targeted Enforcement Efforts:** Local regulators may concentrate their assistance and inspection efforts on firms with poor compliance records.
- ▲ **Voice at State, Regional, and National Levels:** Representatives can sit at the decision making table on local implementation of SGP and can help shape the direction of the national program.
- ▲ **Local Collaboration:** State and local agencies can work together to address their own goals and objectives under the SGP — coordinating their programs and compliance assistance.
- ▲ **National Networking:** Participation in the program brings regulators into a nation-wide network of agencies that are aggressively pursuing strategies to improve environmental performance.

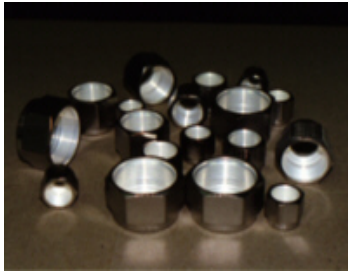
How Could the SGP Benefit My Company Now?

- Free, non-regulatory environmental audits
 - Direct access to Federal, State and local agencies
 - Receipt of benefits based on improvements in environmental performance since 1992
 - Technical assistance and program evaluation
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How Can You Find Out More About SGP?

Information on SGP progress, achievements, and issues is readily available through EPA's Sustainable Industry Program homepage at www.epa.gov/sustainableindustry, as well as through the EPA-funded Strategic Goals web site at www.strategicgoals.org:



- ▲ Goals-at-a-Glance, a monthly newsletter reporting current events, information, and news pertinent to the metal finishing industry is available via the Internet, through monthly emails, or by fax.
- ▲ An interactive, web-based Tracking System is accessible via the Internet at www.strategicgoals.org/tracking/trkkm.htm. The Tracking System allows viewers to see the activities and commitments of the participating stakeholders, as well as find contacts for each project and government agency.

For Additional Information about National Policy Issues Related to the Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program, Contact Mindy Gampel at (202) 260-2748 or at gampel.mindy@epa.gov. For Regional Implementation, Contact Scott Dosick at (202) 260-9211 or at dosick.scott@epa.gov



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