

~ EPA's Sustainable Futures Initiative ~

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT/EPA) Sustainable Futures Initiative encourages pollution prevention in new chemical development and in the identification of safer substitute chemicals through the transfer of EPA/OPPT's chemical risk screening models and methods to the chemical industry and other stakeholders. Identification of potential hazard and risk concerns as early as possible in the research and development process has been proven to save resources and help reduce pollution. Industry response to Sustainable Futures has been very strong and equally positive. Hundreds of chemical companies and other stakeholders have taken Sustainable Futures hands-on training and OPPT has seen a significant increase in the percentage of PMNs submitted containing predictions from Sustainable Futures chemical risk screening methods. The Sustainable Futures web site <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/sf> has detailed information on how to participate, possible benefits, the models and methods, training opportunities, publications, and frequent questions.

Participation in Sustainable Futures is open to all. Companies subject to TSCA §5 reporting who participate in Sustainable Futures can graduate and become eligible for expedited review of subsequent prescreened low hazard / low risk new chemical notices. Sustainable Futures participants take the following steps to graduate:

1. Take training to become competent in the proper use of chemical risk screening models,
2. Use chemical risk screening models, such as the Sustainable Futures models, to evaluate new chemicals at R&D,
3. Submit 5 Sustainable Futures PMNs that include risk screening information AND are not regulated by EPA, and
4. Tell EPA you are ready to graduate and become eligible for Expedited Review of subsequent prescreened low hazard/low risk PMNs.

Graduates include **PPG Industries, Eastman Kodak, Cytec Industries, Clariant, and International Flavors and Fragrances**. Other Sustainable Futures participants have submitted enough prescreened PMNs to meet the graduation criteria and, as a result, the number of Sustainable Futures graduates is expected to increase.

Benefits and Cost Savings Available to Sustainable Futures graduates include expedited review of their subsequent prescreened low hazard / low risk PMNs, and reduced uncertainty by identification of potential problems early in the Research and Development process. Avoiding problem chemicals and the potential high costs associated with those chemicals, sometimes called "chemicals left on the cutting room floor", may well be the source of the greatest cost savings to companies participating in Sustainable Futures. This is Pollution Prevention in its purest form. The ultimate identification and commercialization of safer chemicals benefits the participant, as well as the general public and the environment.

Publications available include The P2 Framework Manual which describes OPPT's chemical risk screening models and methods, Interpretive Assistance Documents, and Case Studies and Articles showing applications of the Sustainable Futures models and methods. These publications are available for downloading on the Sustainable Futures web site.

Models and Methods include EPI Suite™, ECOSAR, OncoLogic™, NonCancer Screening Protocol, PBT Profiler, E-FAST, and ChemSTEER. EPA has developed a new tool, the Analog Identification Methodology (AIM), which identifies close analogs that have measured data, and points to sources where those data can be found. AIM, like the PBT Profiler, is Web-based and will be publicly available in the future.

For more information on Sustainable Futures check <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/sf> or contact:

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The screenshot shows the EPA Sustainable Futures website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EPA logo and the text "U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY". Below this is the "Sustainable Futures" title. A search bar is present with a "Go" button. A breadcrumb trail reads: "You are here: EPA Home » Prevention, Pesticides & Toxic Substances » Pollution Prevention & Toxics » Sustainable Futures". The main content area is divided into three columns: "Basic Information", "Models & Methods", and "Highlights". The "Basic Information" column includes links for "Training", "Four Steps to Graduation", and "Take Training". The "Models & Methods" column lists tools like "EPI Suite™", "ECOSAR", "PBT Profiler", "OncoLogic™", "NonCancer Screening Protocol", "E-FAST", and "ChemSTEER". The "Highlights" column features "Training Transitioning to Fee-for-Service" and "Analog Identification Methodology (AIM)". A sidebar on the left contains a menu with items like "Sustainable Futures Home", "Basic Information", "Training", "Four Steps to Graduation", "Benefits to Graduates", "Models & Methods", "Importance & Sources of Measured Data", "Publications", "Frequent Questions", and "Related Links". A small image of colorful flowers is visible on the right side of the main content area.