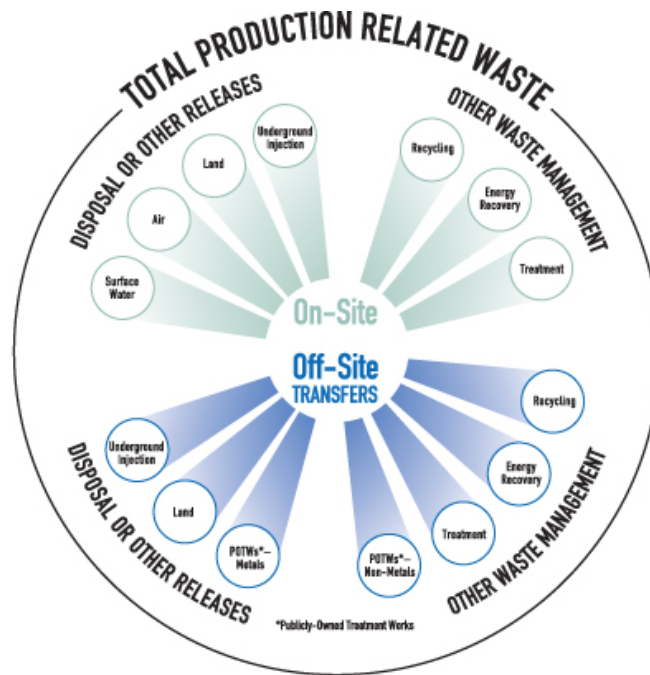


Background on TRI Data Collection

What Kinds of Data Do Facilities Report under TRI?

Figure 2 below provides a graphical representation of the kinds of data that facilities report under TRI. EPA collects data addressing both on-site and off-site disposal or other releases comprised of disposal in landfills surface impoundments, waste piles, point source and fugitive air emissions and discharges to surface water and publicly owned treatment works. EPA also collects data on other types of waste management, such as recycling, treatment, and burning for energy recovery.

Figure 1. Information Collected Under TRI





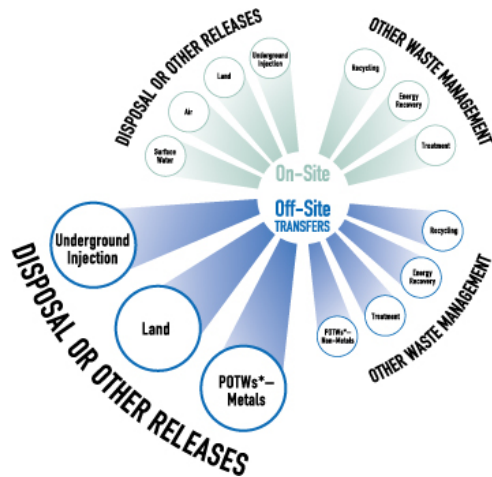
On-site disposal or other releases:

On-site disposal or other releases include emissions to the air, discharges to bodies of water, disposal at the facility to land, and disposal in underground injection wells. Disposal or other releases are reported to TRI by media type. Air releases are separately reported for fugitive and point source releases. Disposal to land is separately reported as disposal in RCRA Subtitle C (hazardous waste) and other landfills, in RCRA Subtitle C (hazardous waste) surface impoundments and other surface impoundments, as land treatment and as other land disposal (such as waste piles, spills or leaks). Injection into underground wells is separately reported for Class I wells (hazardous waste) and

Class II-V wells. (On-site disposal or other releases are reported in Section 5 of the TRI Reporting Form R.) Some types of disposal are controlled to limit potential for human exposures and environmental contamination.

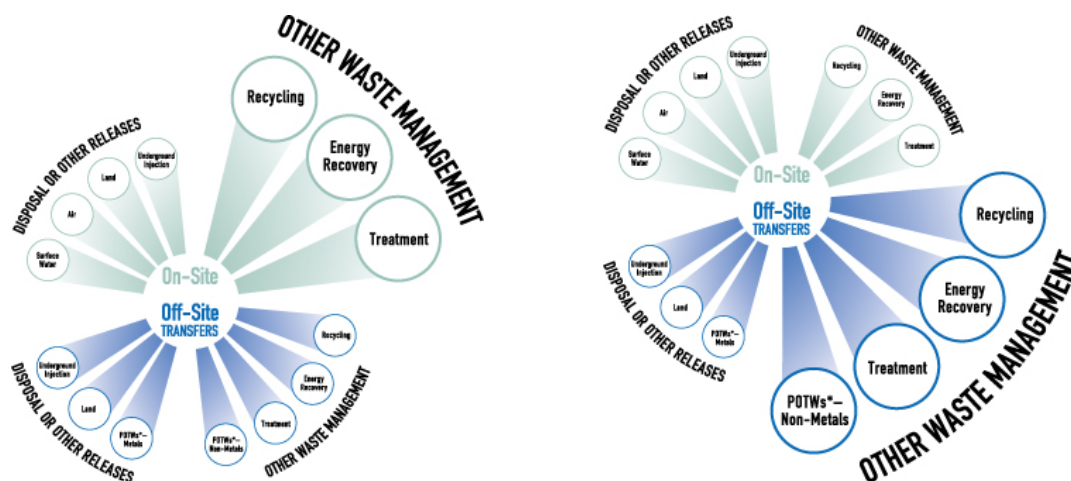
Off-site disposal or other releases (transfers off-site to disposal or other releases):

Off-site disposal or other release is a discharge of a chemical to the environment that occurs as a result of a facility’s transferring a waste containing a TRI chemical to another location (i.e., off-site) for disposal or other release (reported in Section 6 of the TRI Reporting Form R). These types of transfers are categorized as off-site disposal or other release because, except for location, the outcome of transferring the chemical off-site is the same as disposing of it or releasing it on-site. For each transfer, the amount of the chemical in the waste, type of management activity (chosen from a list of codes referred to as “M” codes) undertaken by the receiving facility, and the address of the receiving site are reported.



Total on- and off-site disposal or other releases: sum of on-site disposal or other releases and off-site disposal or other releases.

Other waste management of TRI chemicals: As discussed above, on- and off-site information about facilities' management of TRI chemicals includes amounts of the chemicals recycled, burned for energy recovery, and treated, as reported in Section 8 of the TRI Reporting Form R.



What are the time periods used for presenting TRI data?

To ensure comparable data are used when representing data trends, several different time periods for data are presented. The data included in each time period differ because the reporting requirements have changed over time. Chemicals that have been removed from the TRI list are excluded from all analyses. Time periods used for the Public Data Release include:

2001-2006: includes all chemicals and all industries reporting for 2001 through 2006. This time period includes information on all chemicals currently subject to reporting from all facilities currently subject to reporting.

2000-2006: excludes lead and lead compounds because reporting thresholds for lead were lowered beginning with the 2001 reporting year.

1998-2006: excludes all Persistent, Bioaccumulative, Toxic (PBT) chemicals and vanadium and vanadium compounds. Some PBT chemicals were added and reporting thresholds were lowered for others beginning with the 2000 reporting year. The reporting definition for vanadium was changed and vanadium compounds were added to the list for 2000, however vanadium and its compounds are not classified as a PBT chemical.

1988-2006: excludes aluminum oxide, ammonia, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, PBT chemicals, vanadium and vanadium compounds. These chemicals have had changes to reporting requirements or have been added to the TRI chemical list since 1988. Also, excludes chemicals added to the list in 1990, 1994 and 1995. Also, excludes reporting from industries added to the reporting requirements beginning with the 1998 reporting year (these industries are metal mining, coal mining, electrical utilities, chemical wholesale distributors, petroleum bulk terminals/bulk storage, hazardous waste treatment facilities and solvent recovery facilities).