

Use EPA's *Source Reduction Program Potential Manual* and *ReduceIt* software to find out!

What Is Source Reduction?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), source reduction (also known as waste prevention) consists of activities designed to reduce the volume or toxicity of waste generated.

Why Is It Important?

Widely hailed as the new solid waste management ethic, source reduction tops the list of ways to address solid waste problems. Reducing waste before it's generated is a logical way to save both money and natural resources. It cuts municipal and commercial costs involved in waste collection and disposal, improves productivity by targeting wasteful processes and products, and helps to preserve the local environment.

“Having the manual and the software will give me the ammunition to get a source reduction program off the ground.”

— Jennifer Foley, Recycling Coordinator, Greenbelt, Maryland

What is the *Source Reduction Program Potential Manual* ?

As a solid waste manager, you can use this manual to evaluate the potential impact of various source reduction options. Applying national waste stream data, the manual examines the program potential for six common source reduction options including three residential activities (grasscycling, home composting, and clothing reuse) and three commercial, industrial, or institutional activities (office paper reduction, converting to multiuse pallets, and paper towel reduction). In addition, the manual includes example scenarios and worksheets, enabling you to calculate program potential locally by using your own data.



What Does *ReduceIt* do?

A companion to the manual, *ReduceIt* is an electronic version of the program potential worksheets that is a Windows-based (3.1 or later) application. In addition to providing national default data, *ReduceIt* develops program potential scenarios for your locality, helping you:

- Calculate waste generation data
- Calculate program potential factors
- Generate estimates of net savings
- Estimate source reduction program potential
- Determine waste composition

What is Program Potential?

It refers to the portion of a waste stream that could be targeted by a source reduction program. Understanding program potential helps you determine whether a specific source reduction program makes sense for your community. Often, this depends on whether a program can reduce a significant portion of the waste stream in a cost-effective manner.



What if I Have Questions About Installing or Using *ReduceIt*?

For technical questions or training opportunities, contact the Technical Support Helpline at 888 249-8883.

How Do I Order These FREE EPA Tools?

To order the *Source Reduction Program Potential Manual* and *ReduceIt* software (EPA530-E97-001) at no charge, contact the RCRA Hotline at 800 424-9346. Or, if you have Internet access, you can download *ReduceIt* from EPA's Office of Solid Waste Web site at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/reduceit/index.htm>. Alternatively, if you want to order a hard copy online, you can do so at EPA's Web site <www.epa.gov/ncepihom/orderpub.html>

Reap the Benefits!

Use EPA's source reduction planning tools to:

- Make informed decisions about which materials or activities to target.
- Help meet waste reduction goals.
- Set priorities for source reduction funding, technical assistance, and staffing allocation.
- Educate decision-makers about the potential for cost and resource savings through source reduction.

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Will A Source Reduction Program Work in Your Community?

