



Be a Chemical Footprint Project Signatory Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



FAQs

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1. Who are the current signatories?

Signatories include investors, retailers, institutional purchasers, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Among the Signatories are:

Investors

Australian Ethical Investment
 Aviva Investors
 Boston Common Asset Management
 BNP Paribas Investment Partners
 Calvert Investments
 First Affirmative Financial Network
 Miller/Howard Investments
 Pax World Funds
 The Sustainability Group at Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge
 Trillium Asset Management
 Zevin Asset Management

Purchasers & Retailers

Dignity Health
 Hackensack University Medical Center
 Kaiser Permanente
 Mercy Health
 Premier, Inc.
 San Francisco Department of the Environment
 Staples, Inc.
 St. Joseph Health
 Trinity Health

For a complete list of Signatories see www.chemicalfootprint.org.

2. What are the benefits of being a Chemical Footprint Project Signatory?

- Public recognition of your organization's commitment to engaging companies on chemical risks and opportunities.
- A dedicated newsletter for signatories to learn the latest insights from CFP and best corporate practices in chemicals management across the globe.
- Access to CFP staff to help integrate chemical footprint data into your decision analytics.
- Early invitations to CFP events including webinars and stakeholder roundtables.

3. What are Signatories agreeing to do?

- Encourage companies in your sphere of influence to participate in the Chemical Footprint Project.
- Be listed on the Chemical Footprint Project website.
- Provide feedback on how to improve implementation of the Chemical Footprint Project.

4. Who are Signatories asking to participate in the Chemical Footprint Project?

Similar to carbon footprinting, chemical footprinting applies to all business sectors. Initially the Chemical Footprint Project will focus on the following business sectors:

- Apparel, footwear, and textiles
- Automotive
- Building products, including interior furniture and furnishings
- Consumer packaged goods, including cleaning and beauty and personal care products
- Electronics and information technology
- Medical devices
- Toys

5. What must companies do to participate in the Chemical Footprint Project?

Participating companies will answer the 20 questions that comprise the Assessment Tool to measure their overall chemical management performance. Companies that answer the 20 questions are called "Responders." The Assessment Tool measures company performance in managing chemicals beyond regulatory compliance in four areas:

- Management Strategy
- Chemical Inventory
- Footprint Measurement
- Public Disclosure

6. How long will it take companies ("Responders") to answer the questions in the CFP Assessment Tool?

The time to answer the questions will depend on the existing systems a company has in place to manage chemicals in products and supply chains beyond regulatory compliance. Companies with comprehensive systems in place will be able to more rapidly answer the questions than those that have data in silos spread across the organization. In the first year of participation companies may not have the data in-hand to answer all of the questions. The Assessment Tool is designed as a continuous improvement tool. Year one data will provide a base level of performance for a company.

7. What is the cost of participating in the Chemical Footprint Project?

There is no cost to participate in the Chemical Footprint Project for either a Signatory or a Responder.

8. What does the Chemical Footprint Project do with a Responder's answers in the Assessment Tool?

The Assessment Tool will score a Responder on a scale of 0 (lowest score) to 100 (highest score). Responders have the option of making their answers and scores publicly available or holding them privately. The Chemical Footprint Project will publicly recognize companies that show leadership in chemicals management overall, in each of the four chemicals management areas, and within an industry sector.

9. Where will a Signatory find a Responder's Chemical Footprint Project score and answers?

Signatories will find a Responder's score and answers by either: 1) going to the Chemical Footprint Project website or 2) directly asking the Responder for their answers (if the Responder chooses to not make the information publicly available).

10. How does the Chemical Footprint Project ensure the accuracy of a Responder's answers?

The Chemical Footprint Project will review answers based on: consistency with documentation provided, comparisons with similar suppliers, and a review of related publicly available data. Although third party verification is not a requirement for participation, Responders receive additional points if their answers are independently validated.

11. How does the Chemical Footprint Project relate to other tools such as the Health Product Declaration, SIN List, and the GreenScreen?

The Chemical Footprint Project does not compete with tools that identify and evaluate chemicals of concern in products. Rather, these tools support the implementation of chemical management programs assessed in the Chemical Footprint Project. Companies using tools such as Health Product Declaration or GreenScreen will be better prepared to answer the questions in the Assessment Tool and are likely to score better than those that do not. Additionally, the Chemical Footprint Project does not specify or recommend any tool or database for use in a company's chemical management program. Tool and database selection are left to the discretion of each Responder.

12. What are the benefits for Responders?

- Access to a system for evaluating, measuring, and communicating corporate chemical management performance.
- Toolkit for tracking progress, benchmarking performance and setting goals for improvement.
- Gain overall internal alignment in development and implementation of chemical management policies and practices.
- Opportunity to receive recognition for leadership in corporate chemicals management and reducing chemicals of concern.
- Opportunity for business growth based on third party recognition of corporate-wide performance.

13. Which companies participated in the Chemical Footprint Project pilot in 2014?

Eleven companies, from small to very large, participated in the 2014 pilot of the Assessment Tool. The following industry sectors were represented: electronics, cleaning, beauty and personal care, medical devices, building products (specifically interior products and furnishings), and toys. Eight companies chose to publicly disclose their participation: Hewlett-Packard (information technology), Seagate Technology (information technology), Naturepedic (consumer discretionary), Beautycounter (household & personal care products), California Baby (household & personal care products), GOJO Industries (household & personal care products), Humanscale (health care furnishings), and Seventh Generation (household & personal care products).

14. What value did companies derive from the 2014 pilot?

Participating companies in pilot of the Assessment Tool provided the following valuable feedback:

- “The Chemical Footprint Project gives companies across all industries tools to evaluate their progress in reducing Chemicals of High Concern and proactively identify opportunities for further action,” highlighted Joyce Taylor of the **Hewlett-Packard Company**. “For HP, the footprint tool uses a standardized scoring methodology that gives our customers another way to engage with us and our products and enables HP to continue to create solutions that reduce environmental impact.”
- “We need metrics for reporting and benchmarking overall corporate performance on chemicals management,” emphasized Annie Schmidt of **Seagate Technology, LLC**. “CFP is a publicly developed standard which could allow us to benchmark, track and report our overall corporate chemical management performance going forward. We look forward to its launch in 2015.”
- “**Beautycounter**'s mission is to get safe products into everyone's hands, so carefully evaluating potential ingredients and materials are core to our business and our purpose,” explained Mia Davis. “We look forward to helping to advance CFP as a measure for improving business decisions, supply chain transparency, and ultimately, as a way to ensure people have access to safer products.”
- “The Chemical Footprint Project provides an independent, third party assessment tool that will help companies to think about how to fully integrate their policies into procedures and vice-versa,” said Jane Abernethy of **Humanscale**.
- “CFP provides the definitive tool for measuring overall corporate chemical management performance,” noted Barry Cik of **Naturepedic**. “We look forward to its widespread use in the furnishings sector where a credible, third party benchmarking of chemical performance is missing, yet needed.”
- “A company's chemical footprint is more than just the mass of chemicals used, it is how a company selects the chemicals it uses, protects workers, and communicates with suppliers and customers,” explained Martin Wolf of **Seventh Generation**. “The Chemical Footprint Project's assessment tool systematically explores each of these aspects of a company's chemical footprint.”

- “Participating in the Chemical Footprint Project pilot led us to develop a formal chemical policy that will be included on our website,” said Jessica Iclisoy of **California Baby**. “Our chemicals policy and its successful implementation is the very heart of our company philosophy.”

15. What are the benefits for Signatories?

- Fills a critical missing gap in sustainability data: the CFP will enable investors, purchasers, and retailers to evaluate companies on all of their key sustainability metrics, including chemicals management and reduction of chemicals of high concern.
 - Empowers brands, purchasers, and retailers to request chemical footprint data from their suppliers.
 - Identifies opportunities for improving supplier performance: purchaser requests for chemical footprint data can prompt suppliers to improve their chemical management policies and practices.
- Enables purchasers and retailers to recognize and reward suppliers for doing well.
 - Provides easy-to-use results that readily enable comparisons of companies on their corporate-wide chemical footprint.
 - Measures baseline performance and progress in chemicals management. The CFP results arise from an in-depth assessment of a company’s:
 - Management Strategy: corporate policies for chemicals management.
 - Chemical Inventory: what suppliers know about chemicals in their products and manufacturing processes.
 - Footprint Measurement: how suppliers assess chemicals, whether they select safer alternatives, and their overall progress in reducing toxic chemical use.
 - Public Disclosure: how much information suppliers release to the public about chemicals in their products and their overall chemicals management practices.

The Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) is a project of Clean Production Action. The founding organizations of the CFP are Clean Production Action, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Pure Strategies.

Clean Production Action is an environmental organization that advances safer alternatives to toxic chemicals through its GreenScreen® and BizNGO programs. BizNGO is a unique collaboration of businesses and NGOs working together to promote safer chemicals and drive innovation into and across supply chains and government regulations.
www.cleanproduction.org



The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production is a research institute that works collaboratively with citizens, workers, businesses, and governments to create healthy work environments, viable businesses, and thriving communities that support sustainable production and consumption.
www.sustainableproduction.org



Pure Strategies is a leading sustainability consultancy that helps companies improve environmental and social performance through green product design and production, sustainable materials, strong community relationships, and transparent measures of progress.
www.purestrategies.com

