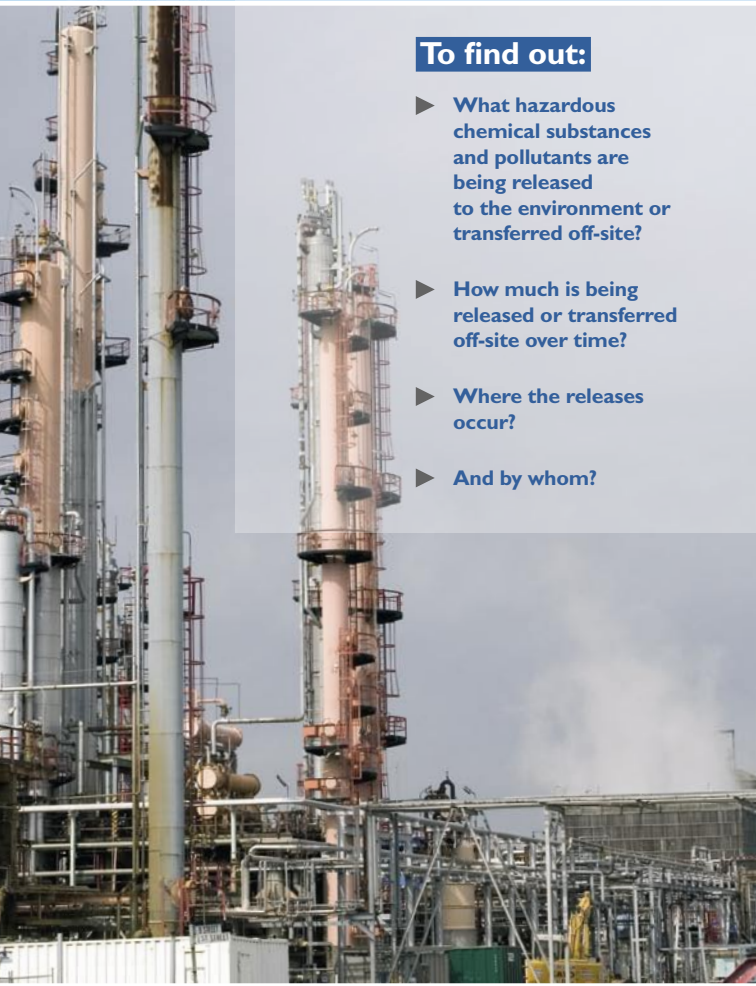


PRTTR

www.oecd.org/env/prtr
www.prtr.net

To find out:

- ▶ What hazardous chemical substances and pollutants are being released to the environment or transferred off-site?
- ▶ How much is being released or transferred off-site over time?
- ▶ Where the releases occur?
- ▶ And by whom?





WHAT IS A PRTR?

A Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is a national or regional environmental database or inventory of hazardous chemical substances and pollutants released to air, water and soil, and transferred off-site for treatment or disposal.

- The industrial or business facilities quantify and report the amounts of substances released to each environmental medium (air, water, soil) or transferred off-site for waste management or wastewater treatment.
- Some PRTRs also include estimates of releases from diffuse sources, such as agriculture and transport, and from the end use of products. These data are normally compiled by environmental authorities.

PRTR data are made available to the public in published documents, in annual reports, on the Internet, or on CD-ROMs.

- PRTR data may be presented geographically, either in a fixed form or interactively on Internet.
- PRTR data may be presented by industry sectors, by facility, by a pollutant, chemical substance or groups of substances.
- Additional information is often provided to help better understand the PRTR data.
- National PRTRs may vary in terms of the chemical substances and pollutants reported, industry or business categories that must report, and destination of releases.

ROLE OF INDUSTRY

Individual facilities determine, collect and report their releases and transfers to a national PRTR. Industry can also benefit from PRTR data, as they can verify their own data by comparing it with others engaged in the same business activity. PRTR reporting may also contribute to industry identifying leaks, reducing waste and thereby saving money. Trade associations and other business groups assess PRTR data to identify more effective chemical management practices and improvements to processes.

ROLE OF THE PUBLIC, NGO'S AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Publicly available PRTRs provide access to environmental information according to the public right-to-know principle and can stimulate interested or potentially affected parties to ask questions and to seek improvements to human health and environmental well-being. Non-governmental organisations can both use and disseminate PRTR data to reflect their individual purposes and goals, as well as those of their constituencies. Researchers and academics can use PRTR data for modelling or other studies, and the financial sector for the evaluation of investment proposals or for considering insurance or sustainability issues.





ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The development and implementation of a PRTR system adapted to national needs assists governments to track the generation, release and fate of emissions of hazardous chemical substances and pollutants over time, to examine progress in reducing emissions and to set priorities for reducing or even eliminating the most potentially damaging releases and transfers.






OECD AND PRTRs

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) began work on PRTRs in response to Agenda 21, the result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Agenda 21 calls for governments to implement and improve databases about chemicals including inventories of emissions, with the co-operation of industry and the public.

In 1996 the OECD Council adopted a Recommendation on Implementing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers [C(96)41/Final], as amended in 2003 [C(2003)87], which calls for Member countries to establish a PRTR.

In 2007, 17 OECD countries had an operational PRTR and many more were in a process of developing such a system.

OECD work on PRTRs is a part of the Environment, Health and Safety Programme including:

- Development of practical tools and guidance to help member countries implement a PRTR;
 - Outreach activities to non-member economies, including the provision of information and technical support; and
 - Promotion of communication and a close working relationship between the OECD Task Force on PRTRs and relevant organisations.
- 



OECD products related to PRTRs

- **Guidance material and Council Acts**
- **Material and tools to support** development and implementation of PRTRs
- **Publications** on PRTR release estimation techniques (RETs) for the use of industry and authorities
- **PRTR.net** providing a global portal to PRTR information and activities from countries and organisations around the world
www.prtr.net
- **Resource Centre for Release Estimation Techniques** providing information on available release estimation techniques, overarching documents and general information
www.oecd.org/env/prtr/rc
- **Centre for PRTR Data** presenting national PRTR data at one Internet location
www.oecd.org/env/prtr/data/

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Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources:

- Qenos petrochemical plant, Altona by John Baker.
- Monitoring, Toyota vehicle manufacturing plant by John Baker.
- Molonglo water treatment plant by David Vernon.

SYKEphoto:

- Waste collection bins by Erno Forsström.

OECD Environment Directorate:

- Waste dump by Soizick de Tilly.
- Smoke stack by Soizick de Tilly.
- Wastewater discharge by Soizick de Tilly.