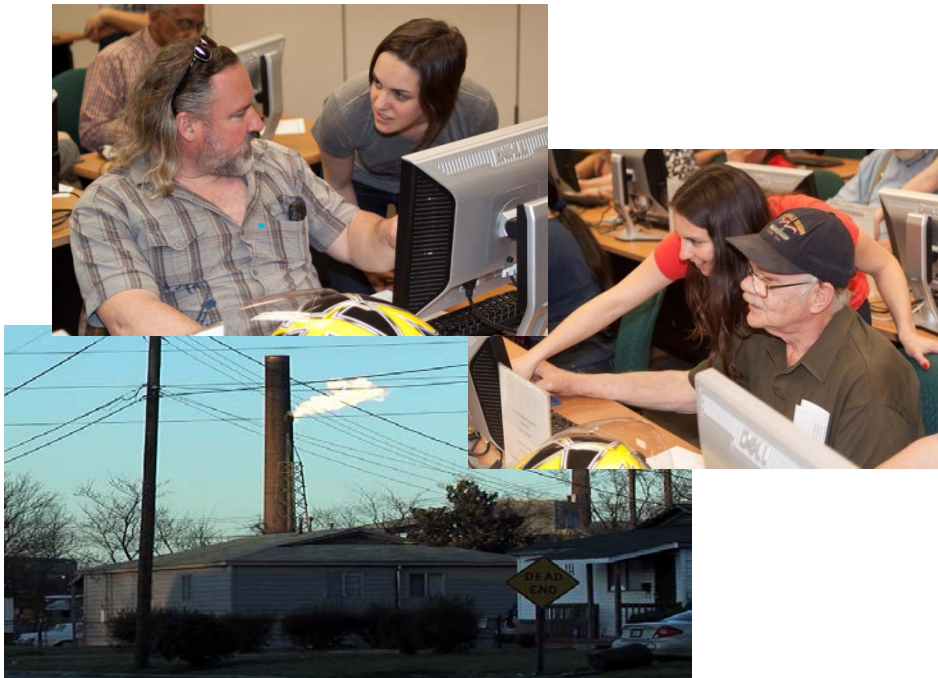




# TRI Community Engagement: Four New EPA Pilot Projects Challenge Us to Communicate More Effectively with Communities



*For Conference/Training Purposes Only*



# TRI Community Engagement Pilot Projects Initiative

- Goal: To test out new community-oriented approaches to help communities access, use and understand TRI
- Four Pilots Projects:
  - Tonawanda, NY
  - South Philadelphia, PA
  - North Birmingham, AL
  - Jurupa Valley, CA
- Educational workshops held in each of the four pilot communities
- Special project developed for each of the four pilots





# TRI Community Engagement Pilot Workshops in 2012



“This is the first time in all the many months of holding community meetings that we got concrete, useful information that I could understand and use.”

“I had no idea I could do this myself.”  
*(i.e., access and use online TRI data tools)*

“This makes me want to investigate environmental problems further.”





# Created New Outreach/Educational Materials Through TRI Community Engagement Initiative

## “Introduction to TRI for Communities” for community-based trainings

It's your **Right to Know** about the **Toxic Chemicals** in your community

Introduction to the **Toxics Release Inventory**

[www.epa.gov/tri](http://www.epa.gov/tri)

## TRI Community Engagement Poster (Displayed at EPA's 2013 Community Involvement Conference and 2014 TRI National Conference)

**EPA Find Out What's Happening in Your Neighborhood Through EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)**

*Do nearby industrial facilities release toxic chemicals?  
What kinds of toxic chemicals are they releasing?  
Are toxic releases increasing or decreasing?  
Are facilities complying with environmental regulations?*

**TRI can help you find answers!**

TRI can identify:

- ▶ The location of industrial facilities that release TRI chemicals
- ▶ Whether facilities are reducing toxic emissions
- ▶ Potential health impacts associated with toxic chemicals released in your community
- ▶ Pollution prevention activities that can reduce toxic releases (e.g., substituting toxic chemicals with safer "green chemicals")

**myRTK - easy access to TRI data**  
[myrtk.epa.gov/info](http://myrtk.epa.gov/info)

**EPA is Engaging with Communities**

EPA's TRI Community Engagement Pilots created new community-oriented TRI outreach and training materials. These materials will:

- ▶ Build community-level expertise
- ▶ Provide community members with concrete environmental data
- ▶ Allow residents to work more effectively with local government officials, industry representatives and others on local environmental challenges

**Find Pollution Prevention (P2) Opportunities with EPA's TRI P2 Search Tool**

- ▶ Identify nearby facilities implementing P2 or waste management activities
- ▶ Compare the environmental performance of facilities in your neighborhood with similar facilities located elsewhere
- ▶ Highlight local facility P2 successes
- ▶ Encourage community leaders to foster further P2 achievements

[www.epa.gov/tri](http://www.epa.gov/tri) [www.epa.gov/tri/P2](http://www.epa.gov/tri/P2)



# TRI Pilot "Community Snapshots"

## Example Pilot "Community Snapshot" for Tonawanda, NY

**EPA**
**Toxic Chemical Releases** in Tonawanda, NY

**It's Your Right to Know!**

U.S. EPA requires certain industrial facilities across the country to report annually about the toxic chemicals they release\* and what they're doing to prevent or reduce pollution. EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) tracks chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Possible health impacts depend on many factors, including the toxicity of the chemical, and the amount and duration of exposure. You can find a lot of information about facilities in Tonawanda that report releases to TRI, but TRI doesn't track all sources of pollution. To learn more about TRI — what it can and can't tell you — visit [www.epa.gov/tri/communities/](http://www.epa.gov/tri/communities/).

\*A "release" is an emission or discharge to the air, water, and/or land.

**How many facilities in Tonawanda report toxic chemical releases to TRI? Where are they?**

Facilities that reported to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) for 2011.  
Facilities that did not report to TRI but have other EPA records.

All data used in this fact sheet are based on the lighter area above. Facility locations are taken from <https://myri.epa.gov>

**Did toxic chemical releases in Tonawanda go up or down over the past 11 years?**

Total on-site releases of TRI chemicals, Tonawanda, 2001-2011

On-site TRI releases in Tonawanda have declined since 2001. The total number of TRI reporting facilities has also declined.

**Which six TRI reporting facilities in Tonawanda reported the largest on-site toxic releases in 2011?**

Facility Name	On-Site Releases in Pounds
3M Company	387,000 pounds
DuPont Verkes Plant	236,373 pounds
Huntley Generating Station	75,134 pounds
Sugar Kake Cookie, Inc.	23,990 pounds
FMC Corp. Tonawanda Plant	13,491 pounds
Tonawanda Coke Corp.	11,959 pounds

**TRI Community Snapshot: Tonawanda, NY**  
**TRI Community Engagement Pilot Project**

**EPA**
**Toxic Chemical Releases** in Tonawanda, NY

**What portion of toxic chemicals were released on-site to air vs. water vs. land in Tonawanda in 2011?**

756,600 pounds of toxic chemicals were released on-site by Tonawanda facilities in 2011. The vast majority of on-site TRI releases in Tonawanda were released into the air.

**Which chemicals account for most of the releases in Tonawanda in 2011?**

In 2011, carbon disulfide and methyl methacrylate accounted for over 75% of on-site TRI releases.

**Did TRI facilities release cancer-causing chemicals in Tonawanda in 2011? If so, which types were released?**

Total on-site TRI releases (percentage of the TRI cancer-causing chemicals vs. all other TRI chemicals):

6.5% of on-site TRI releases in Tonawanda in 2011 were cancer-causing chemicals.

Highest releases of cancer-causing chemicals by percentage:

Vinyl fluoride accounted for the majority of on-site cancer-causing TRI listed chemicals in Tonawanda in 2011.

Note: Many of the releases from TRI reporting facilities are regulated under various EPA programs and requirements designed to limit harm to people's health and the environment.

**TRI questions? Contact:**

- U.S. EPA Region 2 TRI Coordinator, Nora Lopez, at 732-906-6890 or [lopez.nora@epa.gov](mailto:lopez.nora@epa.gov)
- TRI Information Center at 1-800-424-6346 (select menu option 3)
- TRI Communities website at <http://www.epa.gov/tri/communities>

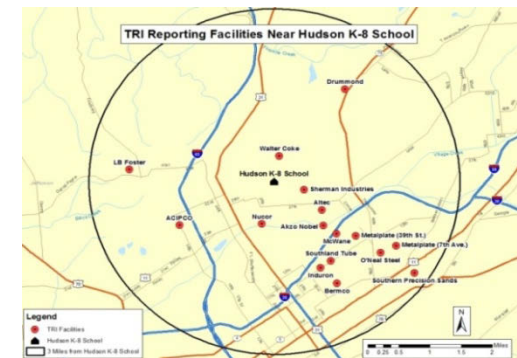
**TRI Community Snapshot: Tonawanda, NY**  
**TRI Community Engagement Pilot Project**

# North Birmingham, Alabama Pilot Project: Analysis of Pollution Prevention (P2) and Waste Management Activities

Comparison of P2/waste management activities by TRI facilities in top three N. Birmingham industry sectors with other TRI facilities elsewhere in similar sectors

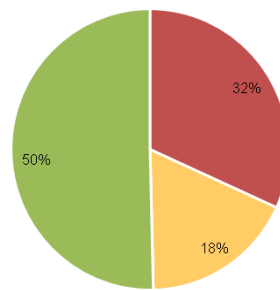
Opportunities for Reducing Toxic Chemical Releases in North Birmingham, Alabama

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Toxics Release Inventory Program

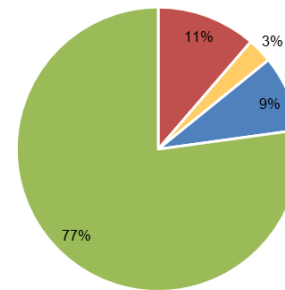


## Comparison of Local vs. National TRI Waste Management Data for Reporting Year 2011

Facilities in Northern Birmingham



Similar Facilities in U.S.



Released Treated Energy Recovery Recycled



# Jurupa Valley, California Pilot Project: “Fotonovela”

Spanish-language comic book-style introduction to TRI





# South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Pilot Project: TRI Community-Scale Mapping Project

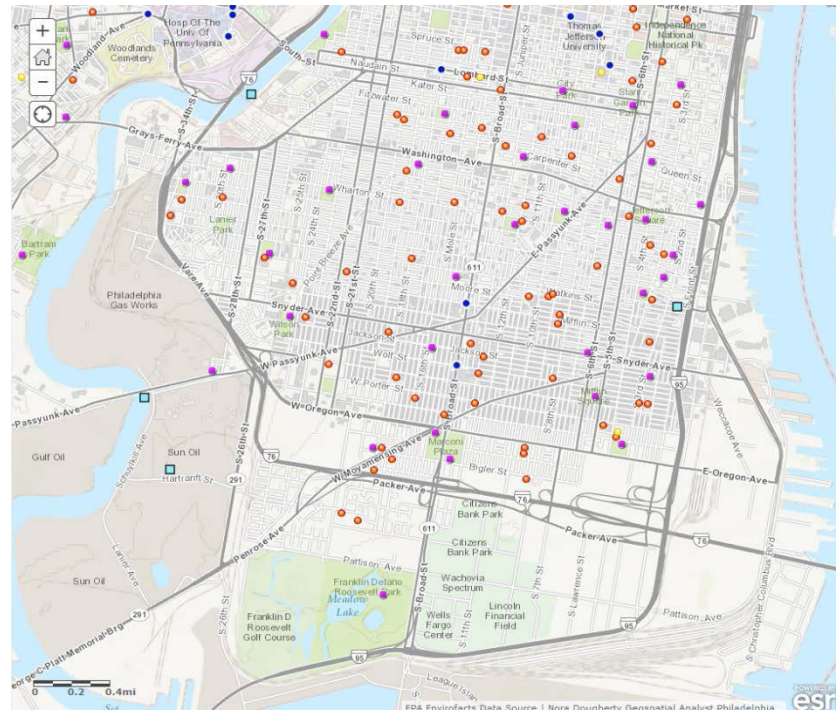
- Raises awareness of TRI at the community level
- Illustrates how TRI data can be visualized in a map
- Shows communities how they can combine EPA data with other publicly available data sources
- Demonstrates geospatial relationship between EPA-regulated facilities and where youth and aging adults congregate (e.g., schools, nursing homes, parks, hospitals)
- Displays locational information (not information pertaining to public health or potential environmental health hazards)



# TRI Community-Scale Mapping Project

## EPA-Regulated Facilities

- 2012 TRI Facilities
- TRI Facilities (Historical)
- Air Permitted Facilities
- Water Discharge Permitted Facilities
- Identified Brownfield Activities
- Hazardous Waste Management Sites
- Superfund Sites



## Community Points of Interest

- Older Adult Centers
- Nursing Homes
- Schools
- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Hospitals
- Health Centers
- PAL (Police Athletic League) Centers for Youth
- Recreation Centers

Web-based, non-static map allows users to turn on and off any layer of interest, and drill down with clicks to get more information about a particular point of interest.

Light Blue Squares = 2012 TRI Facilities  
 Yellow Circles = Nursing Homes  
 Orange Circles = Schools  
 Purple Circles = Playgrounds  
 Blue Circles = Hospitals



# TRI Community-Scale Mapping Project Live Demo



# EPA's Web-based Geospatial Analytical Tools

- Envirofacts
- EJView
- Enviromapper
- EnviroAtlas
- My Environment
- NEPAassist
- For more, visit [www.epa.gov/geospatial/tools.html](http://www.epa.gov/geospatial/tools.html)



# Follow-up to TRI Community Engagement Pilot Projects Initiative in South Philadelphia

- EPA Region 3 has incorporated TRI into region's "Innovation Warriors Project"
  - Building cross-divisional collaboration working with communities on topics of interest to them while working toward a sustainable future
- City of Philadelphia to expand upon S. Philly TRI pilot project:
  - "TRI Snapshots" provide a template for other Philadelphia neighborhoods
  - S. Philadelphia TRI community-scale mapping project can be used for additional community engagement efforts throughout Philadelphia
    - Excited about Web-based, non-static mapping aspect that allows users to turn on and off various layers of interest to communicate with specific communities
    - Useful for identifying various environmental locational data



# TRI Pilot Projects Initiative Highlights and Lessons Learned

- TRI can be used to help communities:
  - Assess and target local environmental problems
  - Highlight and increase local P2 activities
  - Address local zoning issues
- TRI can open the eyes of communities to possible toxic chemical hazards of which they were unaware
- Communities want more:
  - Community-oriented TRI outreach/educational materials
    - More visual and storytelling-oriented
    - Hardcopy handouts, not just online tools (digital divide still persists)
  - Spanish and other foreign language materials
  - Community-scale visualization tools



## Contact Information

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and Innovation Warriors Project:

Carol Ann Gross-Davis – [gross-davis.carolann@epa.gov](mailto:gross-davis.carolann@epa.gov)