

Water Stewardship Principles

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Water is vital for life and essential in manufacturing products that sustain our society and the global economy. As water scarcity and quality issues impact local watersheds and global supply chains, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) members are addressing these challenges head-on.

Through Responsible Care® and exemplary water stewardship practices, ACC members track, report, and manage water use. ACC's [Water Stewardship Program](#) enhances water efficiency at facilities, protects community water quality, engages with local stakeholders, and drives innovation in clean water technologies globally.



Effective Water Management Practices

Effective water management is fundamental to facility operations, including compliance with permits, laws and regulations, understanding water usage, and working to mitigate water-related risk. Facilities integrate water stewardship into continuous improvement processes, like Responsible Care, to foster a culture of sound water management practices and operational excellence. ACC members operate with a focus on reducing freshwater use by fostering circular water practices throughout their operations.



Water: A Shared Resource

Water and watersheds are shared resources crucial to the chemical industry, communities, and stakeholders. Engaging stakeholders on water sources stewardship, prioritizing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in local communities, and enhancing water accessibility and quality are crucial for thriving populations and businesses.



Accountability and Transparency

Chemical manufacturers use transparent methodologies to report on water issues, such as water consumption, withdrawn, discharge and reuse. ACC members seek opportunities to incorporate local watershed concerns into risk assessments to identify water-related risks, mitigation activities, and stewardship opportunities.



Collective Action

Collaboration with external stakeholders is key to mitigating water risks across the value chain and enhancing long-term resilience. ACC members lead by supporting initiatives to reduce stress on shared water resources and improving water quantity and quality in their facilities and communities.

The chemical industry has a vital role to play in advancing priorities that help make our world cleaner, safer and more efficient. ACC's Board of Directors approves Principles that provide a foundation for ACC member progress and action in priority areas. Principles do not set requirements or standards for individual companies. Rather they provide a framework members may consider, taking into account the economic, environmental and other impacts of specific actions.