



Fact Sheet

Waste Minimization and Source Reduction

Temple University is committed to reducing both the amount and/or toxicity of chemical waste that is sent off-site for disposal through [waste minimization](#) and waste prevention. Benefits include conservation of energy and natural resources, reduced pollution, and cost-savings for the university.

WHY?

- Environmental stewardship
- Compliance with federal and state regulations
- Cost savings for the University

HOW?

- [Chemical Redistribution](#)
 - Redistribute unused chemicals to other labs.
 - EHRS stores surplus chemicals received in good condition and offers them free of charge to the university community.
- [Mercury Thermometer Exchange](#)
 - Mercury-containing thermometers (intact) are exchanged for less hazardous alternatives.
 - Helps eliminate mercury and its associated health and environmental hazards.
- [Chemical Recycling](#)
 - Chemicals (e.g. acetone) are recycled by EHRS and offered for re-use within Temple.
 - Helps reduce the volume of solvents that are sent off site for disposal as hazardous waste and the associated impact on the environment.
- [Solvent Recovery](#)
 - Solvent-laden absorbent rags are laundered to recover solvent.
 - Laundered rags can be reused.
 - Hazardous waste volume is decreased and recovered solvent is reused in industry.

Quick Take

- Reduce/prevent hazardous waste
- Redistribute unwanted/unnecessary chemicals
- Help protect the environment
- Save the University \$\$\$\$

Levels of Waste Minimization

Most preferable option

Avoid

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recover

Dispose

Least preferable option



3307 N. Broad St.
Room B-49
Philadelphia, PA 19140

215-707-2520
ehrs@temple.edu
<https://www.temple.edu/ehrs>