

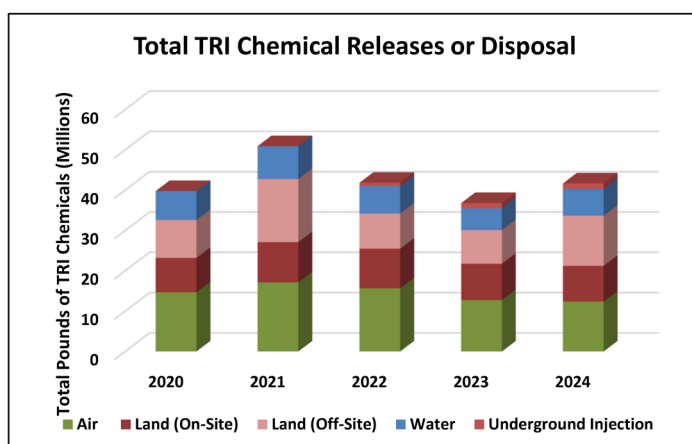
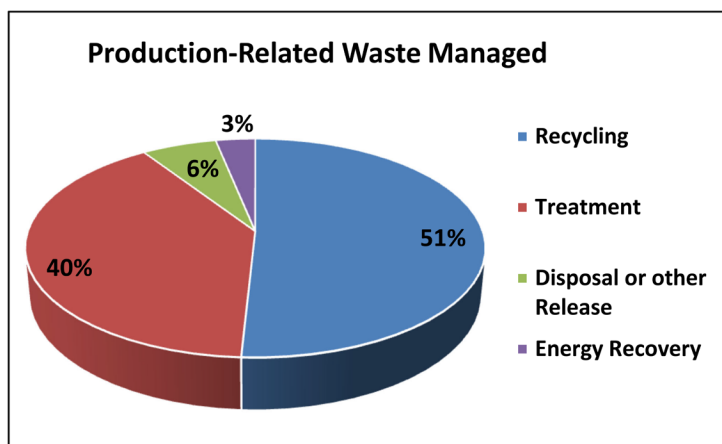
EPA TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY

Kentucky At-A-Glance—2024 Reporting Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) releases its annual [Toxic Release Inventory analysis](#) to help citizens stay informed of pollutants that may impact their communities and land, air and water resources. The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) includes data from over 20,000 facilities across the country and covers over 700 chemicals. TRI tracks information about on-site releases, transfers of chemical waste, chemical recycling, waste treatment, energy recovery and pollution prevention. This fact sheet provides highlights from Kentucky facilities. You can find more information about TRI, specific facilities and other reports at the

How many total pounds of TRI-tracked chemicals were managed in 2024?

In 2024, onsite releases and disposal, and offsite disposal reported for facilities in Kentucky increased. Total releases and disposal were higher when compared to the 2023 reporting year. The 404 TRI facilities managed 664.9 million pounds of production-related waste. Of that, 18,988,293 pounds were released to air or water under existing environmental permits issued to protect human health and the environment and 15,036,166 pounds were placed on-site or off-site in managed land disposal units. Total on-site and off-site releases increased in 2024.

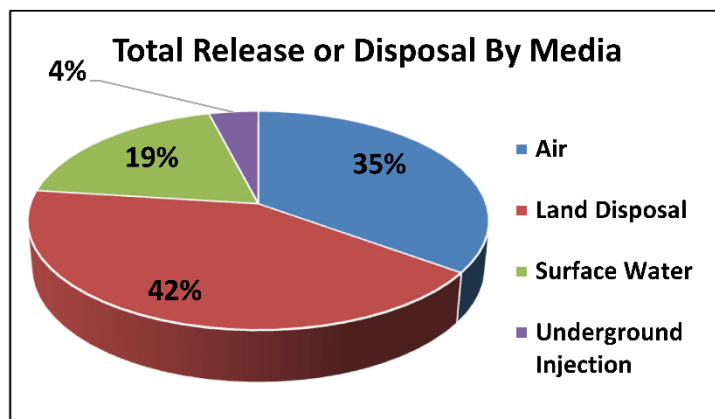


94% of the total chemicals managed by TRI facilities in 2024 ended up being recycled, treated or recovered for energy rather than being released to air, bodies of water or disposed on land.

The on-site designation means the chemical was treated, reused, disposed or released on the premises of the facility. Off-site means the chemical was treated, reused, disposed, or released outside of the facility.

What chemicals are most commonly released or disposed in Kentucky and where do they go?

Top 10 Chemicals Released or Disposed	
Chemical	Pounds
NITRATE COMPOUNDS	6,191,495
ZINC COMPOUNDS	4,097,972
METHANOL	3,825,817
BARIUM COMPOUNDS	3,252,181
MANGANESE COMPOUNDS	2,547,214
SULFURIC ACID	2,546,817
CHROMIUM COMPOUNDS	2,156,587
NICKEL COMPOUNDS	1,601,842
COPPER COMPOUNDS	1,447,965
LEAD COMPOUNDS	1,153,805

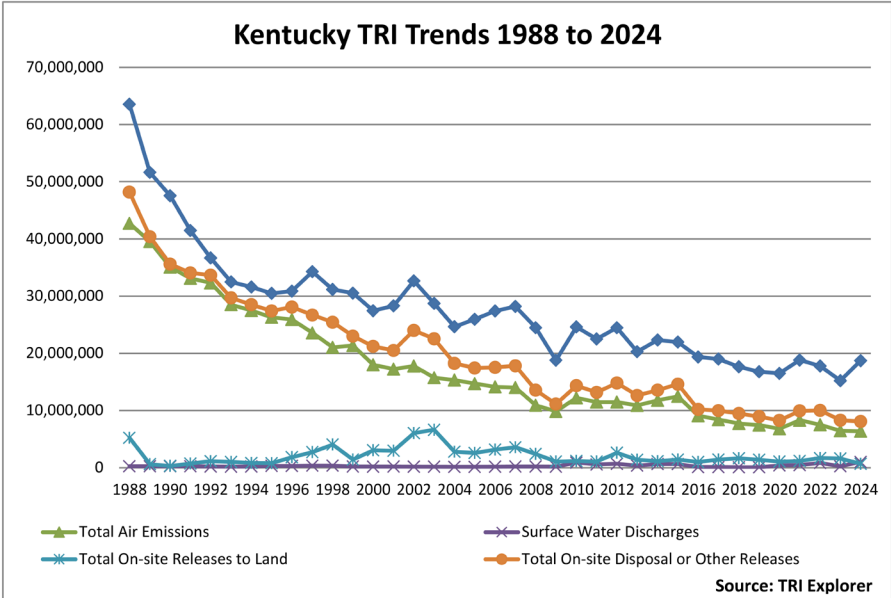


TRI chemicals can be released or managed on- or off-site of the facility. They can go to landfills, wastewater treatment facilities or be released into the air. This chart depicts the media where on- and off-site chemicals are released or disposed.

Which facilities released the most TRI chemicals in 2024?

Facility	Total Releases in Pounds
NORTH AMERICAN STAINLESS (CARROLL)	8,898,104
PHOENIX PAPER WICKLIFFE LLC (BALLARD)	2,448,392
U.S. TVA SHAWNEE FOSSIL PLANT (MCCRACKEN)	2,348,769
BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORP. WILSON STATION (OHIO)	2,004,885
KENTUCKY UTILITIES CO GHENT STATION (CARROLL)	1,697,197
SPURLOCK POWER STATION (MASON)	1,429,463
NUCOR STEEL GALLATIN LLC (GALLATIN)	1,236,768
LOUISVILLE GAS & ELECTRIC CO. - MILL CREEK STATION (JEFFERSON)	1,186,946
PERDUE FOODS LLC - CROMWELL PROCESSING PLANT (OHIO)	1,140,293
DOW SILICONES CORP (CARROLL)	987,237

What is the trend for TRI chemicals in Kentucky?



Through production efficiencies, regulatory changes and pollution prevention activities, the amount of toxic chemicals produced in Kentucky has continued on a downward trend. The above chart is an index of chemicals that have been tracked since the beginning to EPA’s Toxic Release Inventory in 1988. While more chemicals and facility sectors have been added to the tracking list, the pattern is indicative of the efforts of facilities and regulators to protect the environment.

What counties release the most TRI-tracked chemicals?

County	Releases in Pounds
Carroll	11,616,529
Jefferson	4,094,688
Ohio	3,157,158
Ballard	2,454,183
McCracken	2,434,887
Marshall	1,863,363
Mason	1,432,555
Gallatin	1,236,768
Daviess	1,043,326
Trimble	987,061

Counties that are home to electrical utilities tend to have had higher levels of TRI chemicals present within their borders because of the nature of their processes. Despite being substantial TRI contributors, total air emissions from power plants have decreased significantly since 2010. These reductions are due to a combination of changes in business practices or fuels, facility closures, and improvements in pollution control measures.

Emissions – Electrical Utilities	
Year	Total Air Emissions (Pounds)
2020	4,931,156
2021	5,544,275
2022	4,728,770
2023	3,477,851
2024	3,104,715