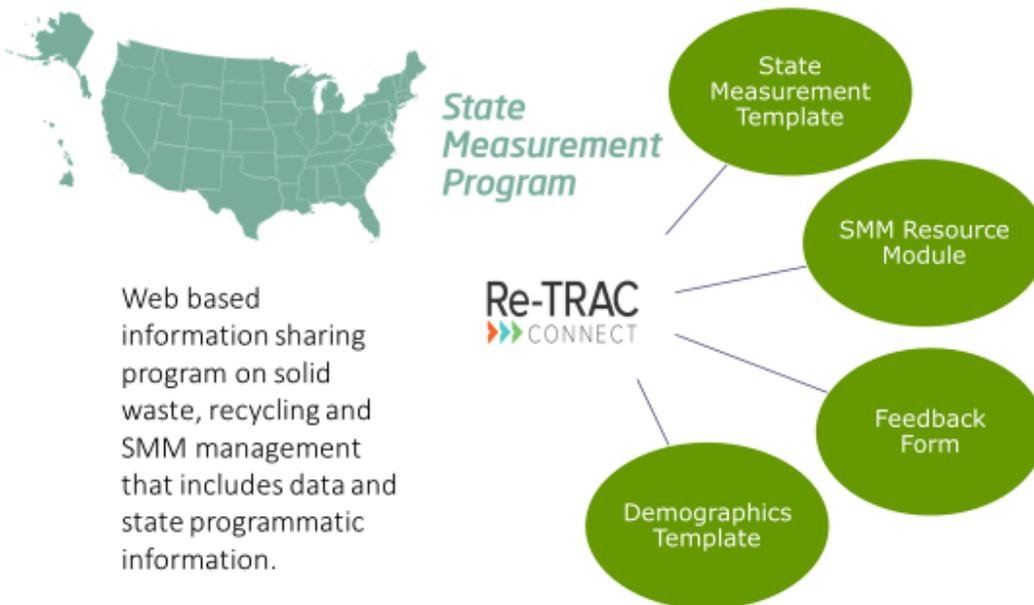




SMP Four-year Review

Overview/Highlights

The [State Measurement Program](#) (SMP) is an on-line reporting and measurement system facilitated and funded by the EPA using the Re-TRAC Connect data management platform. This system allows States to share a multitude of information about their waste and recycling programs.



The [Template](#), (consisting of fifteen questions), is for quantitative information, such as annual tonnage data (waste, recycling and composting, etc.), tipping fees, and staffing and funding details. The program is based upon a [material pathway](#) and consensus [definitions](#). The [Resource Module](#) allows for qualitative information related to programs, policies and goals. After the data has been entered, State governments (and the EPA) can generate a series of analytical reports that summarize, aggregate, and present the data on a state, regional, and national level.



The program started in 2007 in Tennessee, as an EPA Region 4 pilot and the Template went national in 2012. Since 2012, forty-one states (plus DC) have participated in the Template at least once (Only these states have not entered data into Template: Alaska, Idaho, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Utah, Wyoming) (see [SMP Reporting Trends 2012 to 2015 attachment](#))

As of June, 2017, 152 users from forty-eight states have credentials to the SMP, with another 50 EPA staff having access. Also, 5 third party organizations with read only accounts are in the system.

Since 2013, thirteen nation-wide webinars have been held on the SMP, with over 400 individual participants and another thirty plus regional state webinars (including one-on-one webinars) were conducted.

Fifty-three unique analytical reports have been developed for EPA program managers with thirty-nine of them configured for state users. From January 2014 to June 2017, state users generated reports over 1,800 times, EPA program managers generated reports over 8,100 times.

The summer of 2016 marks the first time, snapshots of reports (ten in total) are shared on public URL: recyclesearch.com

The 2015 Summary results with 32 states and the District of Columbia:

| Disposed | Recycled | Composted |
|--|--|--|
| 269.2 million tons with 225 million tons MSW | 85 million tons | 12 million tons |
| (32 states+ DC) 237 million people | (22 states + DC) 171 million people | (23 states + DC) 150 million people |



Governance

An Implementation Team (iTeam) coordinates this project, which is comprised of representation from three states and EPA personnel from DC and regions. The iTeam works collaboratively with EPA regional offices and states. Additional state participation on the iTeam is always welcome.

Policy and process for changing Template

To make it easy for states to submit comments or question about the program or any of the terminology contained in the program, a State Feedback Form is available. Additionally, all questions in the Template have comment boxes.

Every year these comments are vetted by the iTeam to recommend changes to the Template for the next reporting year. If states in a region feel very strongly about adding new questions but a consensus is not reached with the rest of states, an EPA regional office with a paid subscription can request that a separate reporting Template be added to the program and made available only to states in that region. A set number of hours to support this activity are included with each subscription fee. Complex projects requiring significant amounts of time to setup and implement may require additional funds.

However, with such a large and complex program, future additions will need a strong majority consensus with more than twenty states actively collecting data of interest.



Quality assurance and reliability of data

The reporting period runs from September 1 to December 31 every year, however the Template and Resource Module is usually open until March. In reality, the program is never closed, so states are still encouraged to enter data at any time.

EPA regions review the data for accuracy. Missing data and obvious errors are noted and the Template is marked as verified once corrections have been made. Each year a guide is developed for EPA regions to assist in the quality assurance process.

Caveats are placed on all analytical reports as a footnote and reads as follows:

Report reflects best available data shared by participating individual states. This is a voluntary sharing of information amongst the states where some submit totals only, others submit detailed information while others submit partial data. Please direct specific data questions to the state agency responsible for the data.

Disclaimers of SMP (by EPA)

With respect to this software and the State Measurement Program template(s), neither the United States Government nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights.

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Copies of most of the SMP materials and supporting documentation can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/resources-participating-us-state-data-measurement-sharing-program>

The first national [Measurement Matters Summit](#) will be held February 28- March 1, 2018 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.