



What is SP?

The Suppliers Partnership for the Environment (SP) is an innovative partnership between automobile original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and their suppliers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SP's members work together to improve environmental performance while providing value throughout the automobile supply chain. SP provides a forum for small, mid-sized and large automotive and vehicle suppliers to learn from each other and share environmental best practices.

How Does SP Provide Value?

1. Provides a common auto sector approach to greening the supply chain.
2. Provides a forum for companies to work together to share “good practices” through work groups to address specific issues identified by SP members.
3. Provides facility-specific technical assistance workshops through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEPs).
4. Supports four member led workgroups that address issues identified by the membership.
5. Quarterly meetings of SP provide opportunities for members to network, to learn about issues and activities impacting the environment and the automobile supply chain and identify areas for action by SP.
6. SP is constantly working to identify new and more environmentally efficient and creative ways to provide services to enhance the viability and competitiveness of the automobile industry through the supply chain.

SP's Work Groups

Chemical Issues Management - Created Materials Health & Environmental Assessment Strategy (MAS) to develop a common screening process for OEMs and their suppliers.

Energy - Addressing ways for SP companies to reduce their energy consumption and optimize their energy efficiency thereby reducing their carbon footprint utilizing more efficient technologies, practices and services.

Materials Efficiency - Finding creative relationships and technologies that will reduce packaging by-product environmental impacts and creating multi-tiered environmental approaches to managing packaging by -products.

Technology and Networking - Developing a SP Technology Roadmap to connect suppliers that have unique, environmentally responsible technologies with OEMs and Tier I Suppliers.

How is SP Funded?

Activities of the association are funded by contributions from the membership of the association based on annual sales of the member company as note on the SP Membership Application.

Who May Become a Member of SP?

Membership is open to any company that supplies goods or services to an automotive manufacturer or parts supplier. Also, a non-profit organization having an established commercial relationship with the automotive industry may be considered for an “associate” membership.

What is EPA's Role in SP?

SP is working in partnership with EPA. EPA provides topics for special projects, information, tools and resources. In addition, EPA brings SP additional opportunities and resources within other federal agencies such as making professionals from the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEPs) available to conduct workshops addressing issues consistent with SP's objectives.

Savings

SP creates opportunities for members to improve the environment and save and make money.

- **General Oil:** Based on knowledge gained from the SP Energy Work Group reduced water consumption by 40% and identified \$250,000 of associated savings.
- **Federal-Mogul:** Developed Quiet Shield G Project, a process, with other SP members, to convert Asian/U.S. cardboard and recycled fibers into a non-woven substrate for use as an acoustic material in a 2010 commercially available automobile.
- **ChemicoMays:** Reduced lead by 51% and saved a large sum of money through SP initiated business opportunities.

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