

MERCURY AND DIOXIN ELIMINATION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

It is a goal of the City of Palo Alto to eliminate the creation of dioxin and its subsequent release to the environment and to eliminate the use of mercury and its subsequent release to the environment. To achieve this goal, the City will evaluate pollution prevention opportunities to eliminate mercury and dioxin sources from municipal, commercial, industrial and residential activities. Scheduling of specific actions will focus on the most cost-effective and preventable sources first.

PROCEDURES

The mercury elimination strategy will focus on products that contain mercury as an intentional ingredient; laboratory, medical, and manufacturing processes that use mercury; and the combustion of mercury-containing fuels or wastes. The dioxin elimination strategy will focus on products that contain dioxin, manufacturing processes that create dioxin as a by-product, and combustion of fuels or wastes that contain dioxin precursors.

It is recognized that it may not be possible to totally eliminate mercury and dioxin releases due to technological or economic factors. However, significant progress can be achieved by working toward elimination through regulatory and voluntary pollution prevention programs.