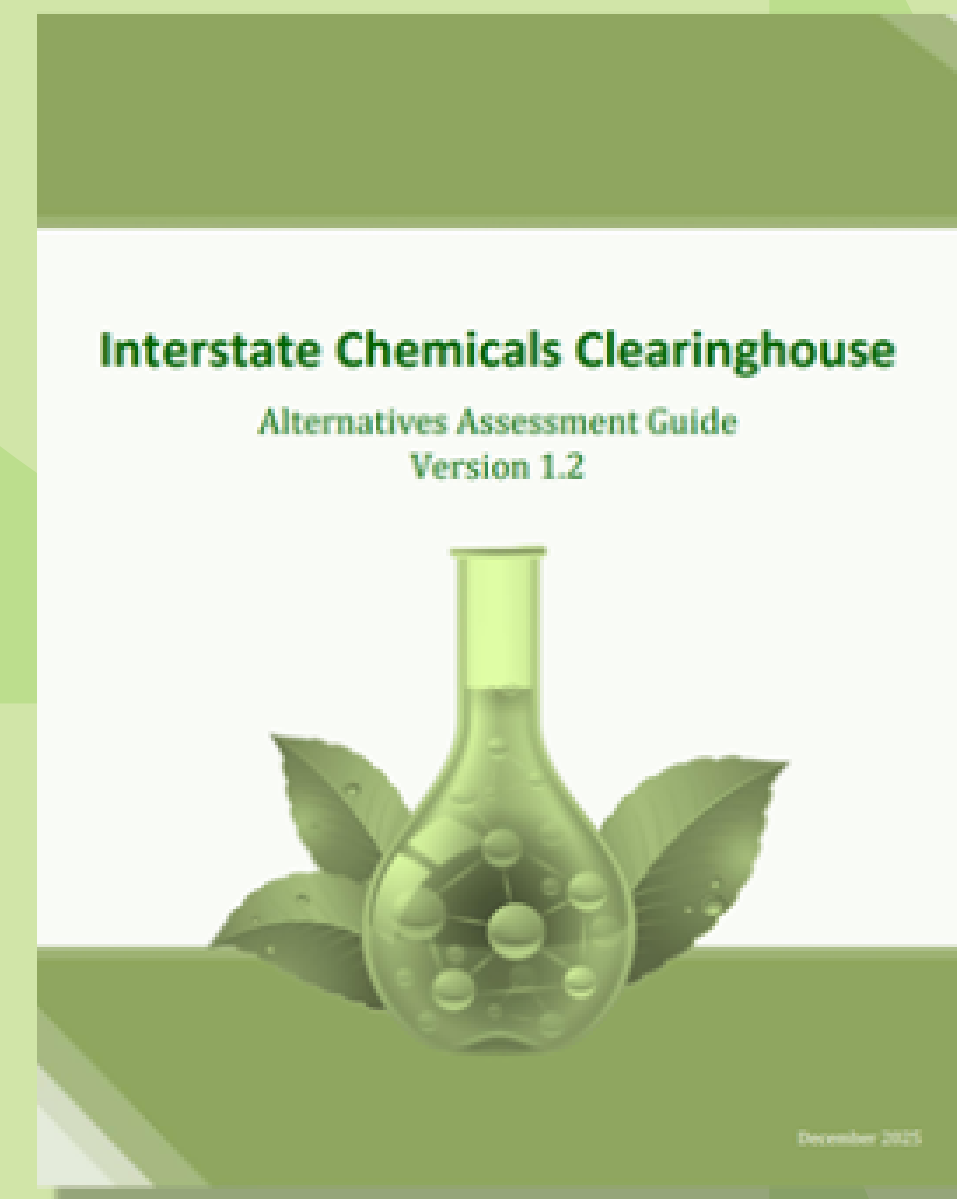


IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide v1.2 Overview & Updates

Mikalah Bailey, IC2 Project Manager



What is the IC2?

The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) is an association of state, local, and tribal governments that promotes a clean environment, healthy communities, and a vital economy through the development and use of safer chemicals and products

The goals of the IC2 are to:

1. Avoid duplication and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of agency initiatives on chemicals through collaboration and coordination
2. Build governmental capacity to identify and promote safer chemicals and products
3. Ensure that agencies, businesses, and the public have ready access to high quality and authoritative chemicals in products, information, and alternatives assessment methods



IC2 AA Guide

Alternatives assessment (AA) is a structured process used to identify and compare safer substitutes for hazardous chemicals in products and processes

The IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide provides a shared framework that allows agencies, businesses, or researchers to conduct assessments in a consistent and transparent way

This consistency helps reduce duplication and bring credibility to the process, while still allowing flexibility depending on the context

WHY ?

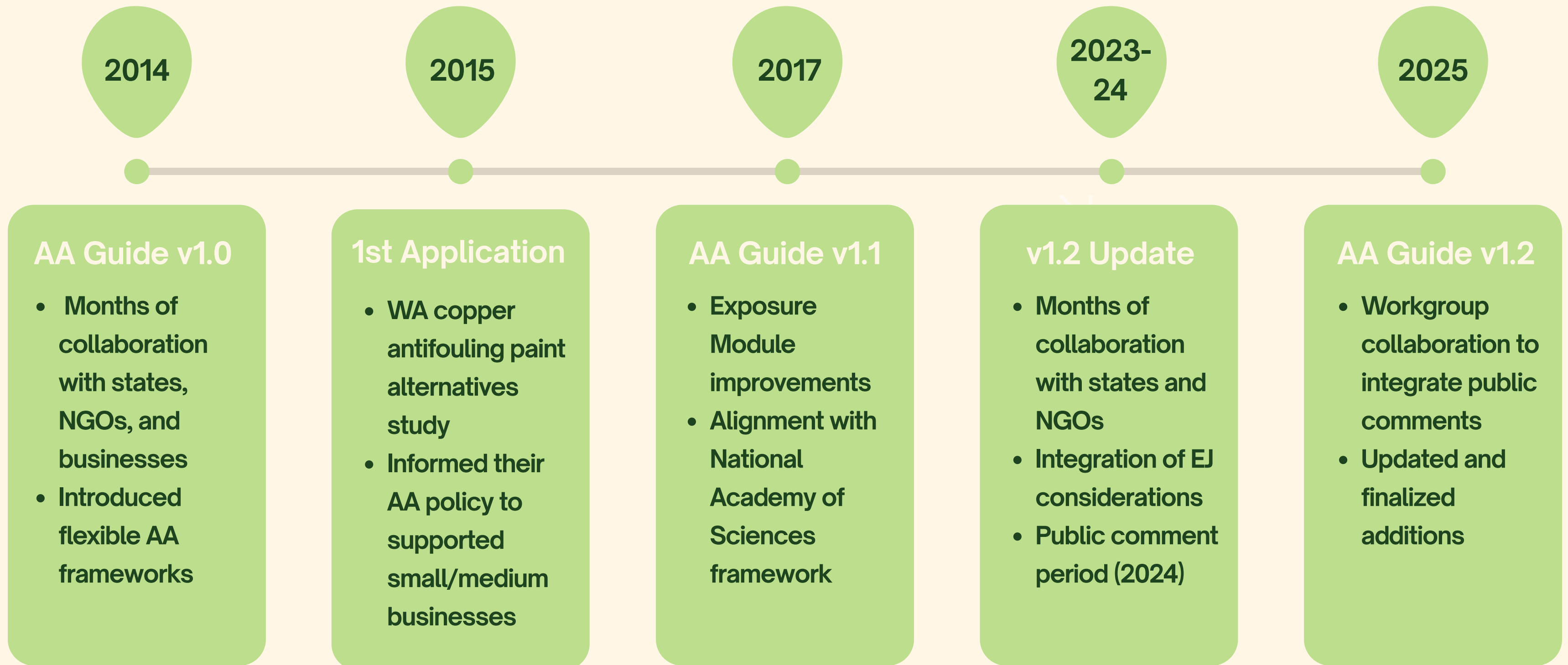
- Provide a standardized and flexible AA framework
- Replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives
- Reduce duplication and enable consistency
- Support safer chemical viability and innovation

WHO ?

- Governments, businesses, NGOs
- Manufacturers, partnerships, consultants
- Academics

The Evolution of the AA Guide

The IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide has evolved through collaborative development and stakeholder input over more than a decade. Each version reflects growing scientific understanding and emerging priorities in chemical safety



Golden Rule & Principles



The objective of an alternatives assessment is to replace chemicals of concern with inherently safer alternative chemicals, products, or processes, thereby protecting and enhancing human health and the environment.

Core Principles

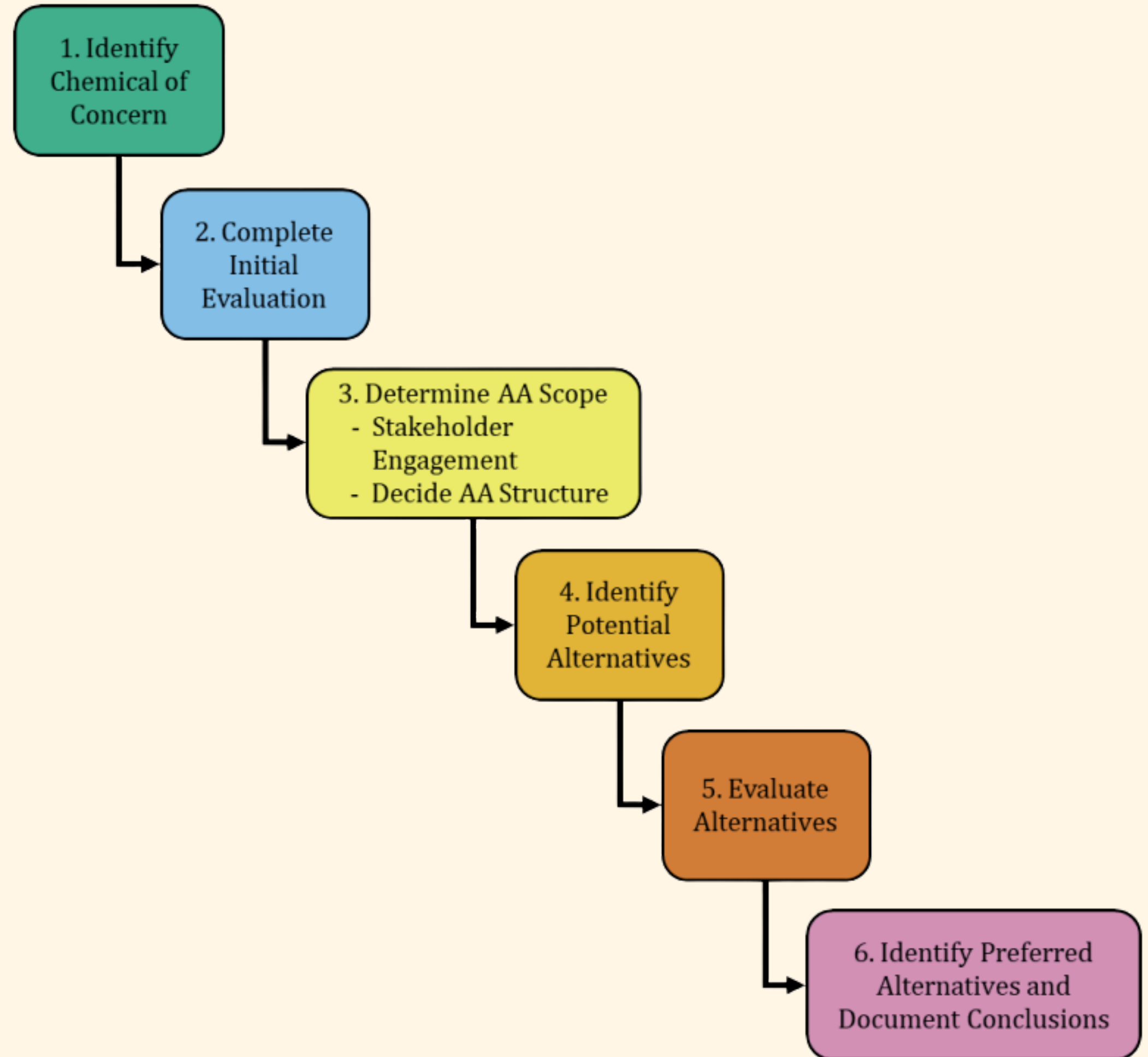
- Transparency
- Flexibility
- Life cycle thinking
- Continuous improvement
- Consider uncertainty



Recommended Implementation of the Guide

The Guide follows a clear six-step process from defining the problem to making a decision

Figure 1: The Six AA Steps.



What's New in v1.2?

↘ EJ + Equity Prompts

New environmental justice, climate change, and equity considerations integrated

↘ Updated Best Practices

Reflects stakeholder and public comment period input

↘ Stronger Hazard Methods

Enhanced hazard assessment approaches

On the IC2 website under AA Guide:

Alternatives Assessment Guide (v1.2)

An alternatives assessment is a set of tools that manufacturers, product designers, businesses, governments, and other interested parties can use to make better, more informed decisions about the use of toxic chemicals in their products or processes. During 2023, the IC2 began updating the Alternatives Assessment (AA) Guide to develop version 1.2, incorporating current best practices to address chemical hazards and the availability of safer alternatives. The update also aimed to identify and integrate environmental justice and climate change considerations into the AA process. As part of this effort, a task was established to incorporate relevant resources or text edits into the Guide when materials related to alternative hazards and availability were identified. All work was completed in consultation with the IC2 AA Guide Update Group. To facilitate progress, the IC2 Alternatives Assessment Workgroup formed a smaller subgroup, led by Rae Eaton, to focus on a set of high-priority revisions that reflected current needs and evolving best practices. Following Eaton's departure in FY 2024, the update process was temporarily paused until the appointment of Tom Bruton as the new AA Workgroup Chair.

Version 1.2 of the IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide was published in FY 2025. Below, you can access a clean copy, a version showing the changes that were made, and responses to comments received during the 2024 review period:

- [IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide Version 1.2](#)
- [IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide Version 1.2 Changes Made](#)
- [Responses to 2024 comment period](#)

EJ & Equity Prompts



EJ + Equity Prompts

New environmental justice, climate change, and equity considerations integrated



Updated Best Practices

Reflects stakeholder and public comment period input



Stronger Hazard Methods

Enhanced hazard assessment approaches



How have you addressed equity and environmental justice?

This inset provides working definitions used in the Guide; applicable regulations or policies may create different definitions in specific AAs.

In the Guide, “disadvantaged and/or vulnerable populations” include those that:

- have been overburdened and disproportionately impacted by exposure to toxic chemicals and/or;
- are more susceptible to adverse health effects from exposure to toxic chemicals, given the accumulation of an array of risk factors associated with being underserved and marginalized populations.

The term “at-risk populations,” is also used by those who prefer the connotations of at-risk over disadvantaged. Both terms typically apply to a group defined by one or more specific characteristic, such as race, age, relative income, disability or immigration status, or relative proximity to extraction, manufacturing or disposal sites, which indicate greater impact from or susceptibility to toxic chemicals. These populations are often excluded from the processes and decisions that affect them.

The Guide also uses the term environmental justice community. An environmental justice community is a group of individuals that are geographically or culturally linked together. Members of these communities often are among one or more at-risk populations.

The alternatives assessment process allows for going beyond safer to considering not just the reduction of harm but also the benefits, including access to safer alternatives or products or jobs and economic benefit to communities. Insets like this one are included throughout the guide to help assessors better incorporate environmental justice

Stakeholder Input



EJ + Equity Prompts

New environmental justice, climate change, and equity considerations integrated



Updated Best Practices

Reflects stakeholder and public comment period input



Stronger Hazard Methods

Enhanced hazard assessment approaches



IC2 AA Workgroup Collaboration

Reflects the work and contributions from IC2 members



Public Comment Period

Ensured transparency and proper review



Diverse Feedback

Internal and external input integrated into hazard assessments

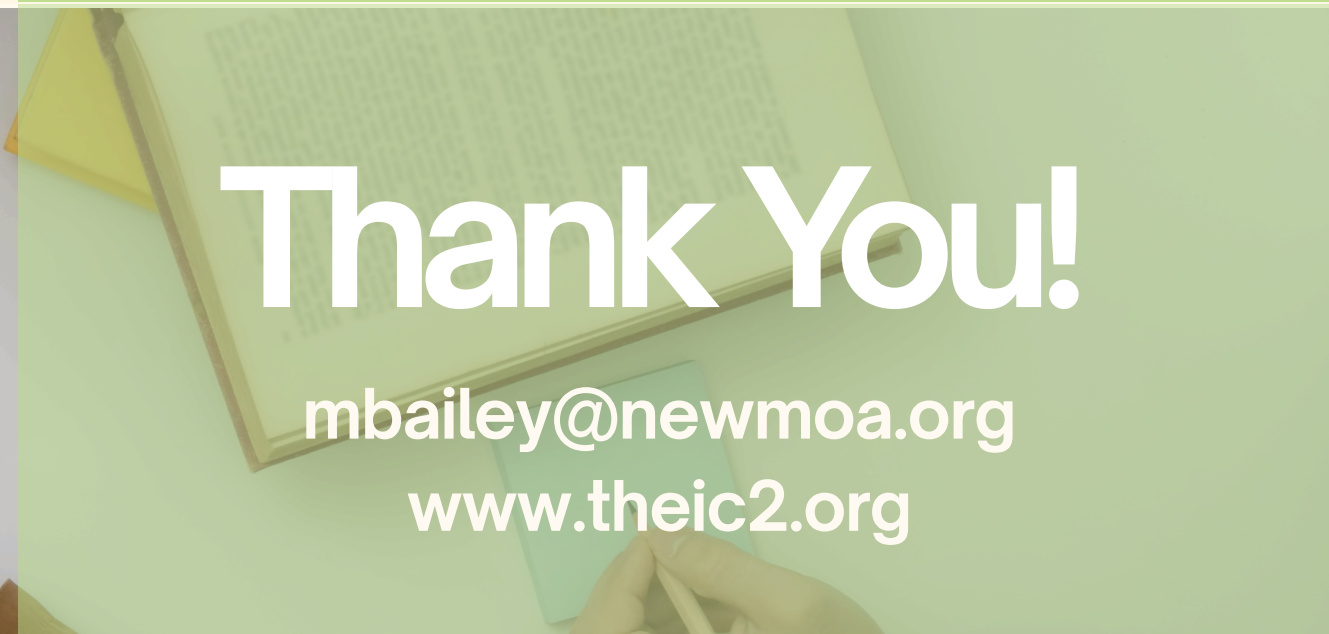
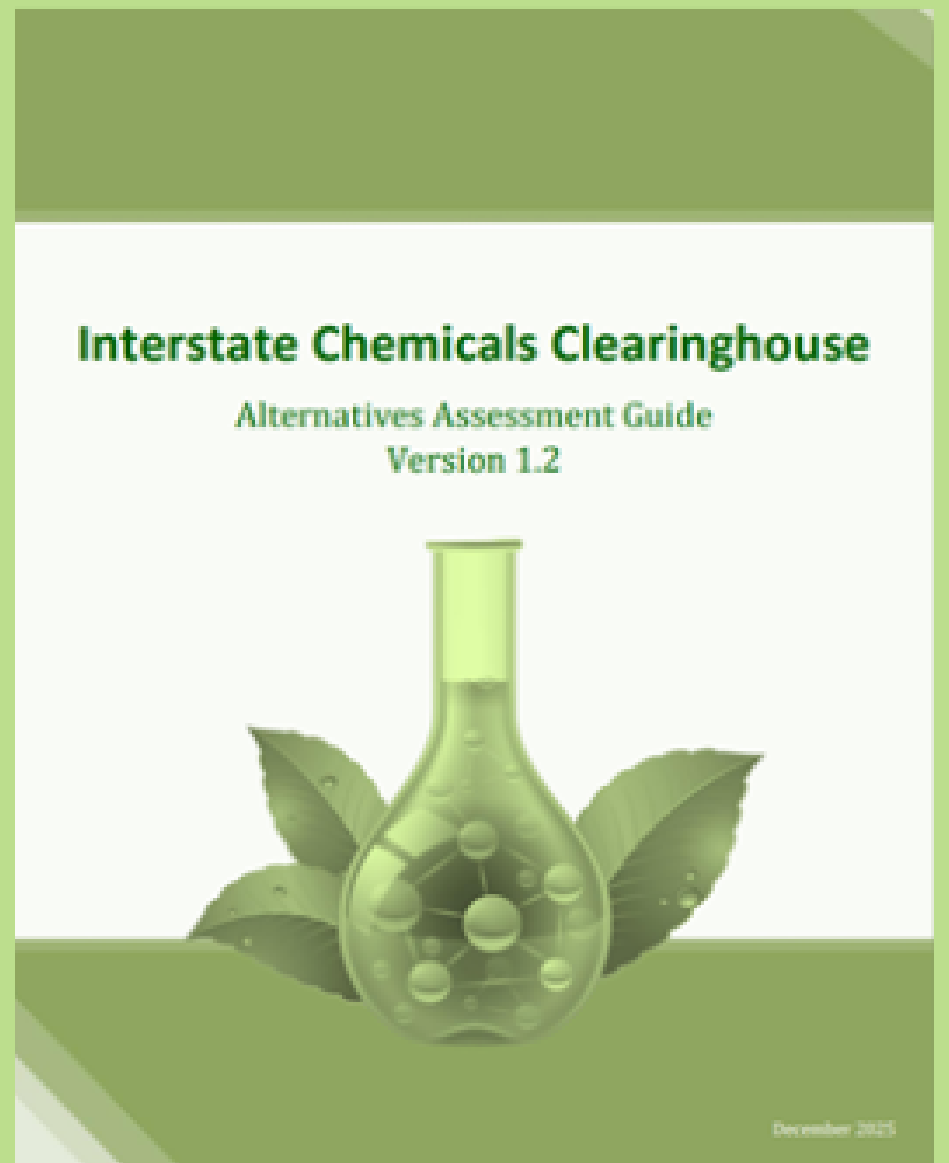
Looking Ahead

Partnerships

- Potential academic partnerships
- Use in teaching, projects, or research

Key Takeaways from the IC2 AA Guide

- Standardized and flexible framework
- Reduces duplication of work
- Supports safer chemical viability and innovation



Thank You!

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