

The Environmental Results Program (ERP) approach is an evidence-based compliance strategy that uses tools that have been proven to:

- **E**fficiently and strategically use government resources
- **R**educe pollution and improve compliance across business sectors
- **P**roduce results that inform priority setting and decision-making

## ERP is Efficient

Traditional compliance inspections produce a great deal of information about individual facilities. However, the compliance status of a single facility cannot be generalized to other facilities, even those with similar operations. An ERP approach is designed to provide an understanding of the compliance problems within an entire industry sector and provide data for targeting future inspection, assistance, and enforcement activities. As government resources available for regulatory inspection programs come under increased pressure, ERP and similar approaches are needed to ensure that they are used strategically.

An ERP approach is most relevant when a government agency needs to understand the compliance characteristics of a large group, such as a business sector comprised of many small facilities. The performance of such groups should be understood and improved because:

- The cumulative human health and environmental impact of many small facilities can be significant
- Localized impacts from smaller facilities can be of concern to a community
- Small businesses may not understand the requirements for managing hazardous materials, wastes, discharges, and emissions and they may be in noncompliance

State environmental agencies have used the ERP methodology to address a number of business sectors:

Dry cleaners	Auto body shops
Auto repair shops	Gas Stations
Printers	Auto salvage yards

ERP has also been used to address a wide range of regulated activities that occur at different types of facilities, such as:

Small quantity generators of hazardous waste
Stormwater discharges
Underground injection control wells
Underground storage tanks

## ERP is Reliable & Evidence-Based

The ERP process is outlined in the accompanying figure. Compliance inspections and enforcement are integral components of ERP. **Compliance is determined from data gathered during agency site inspections – not facility-reported data.** To achieve improved compliance for any selected group, ERP uses a unique combination of:

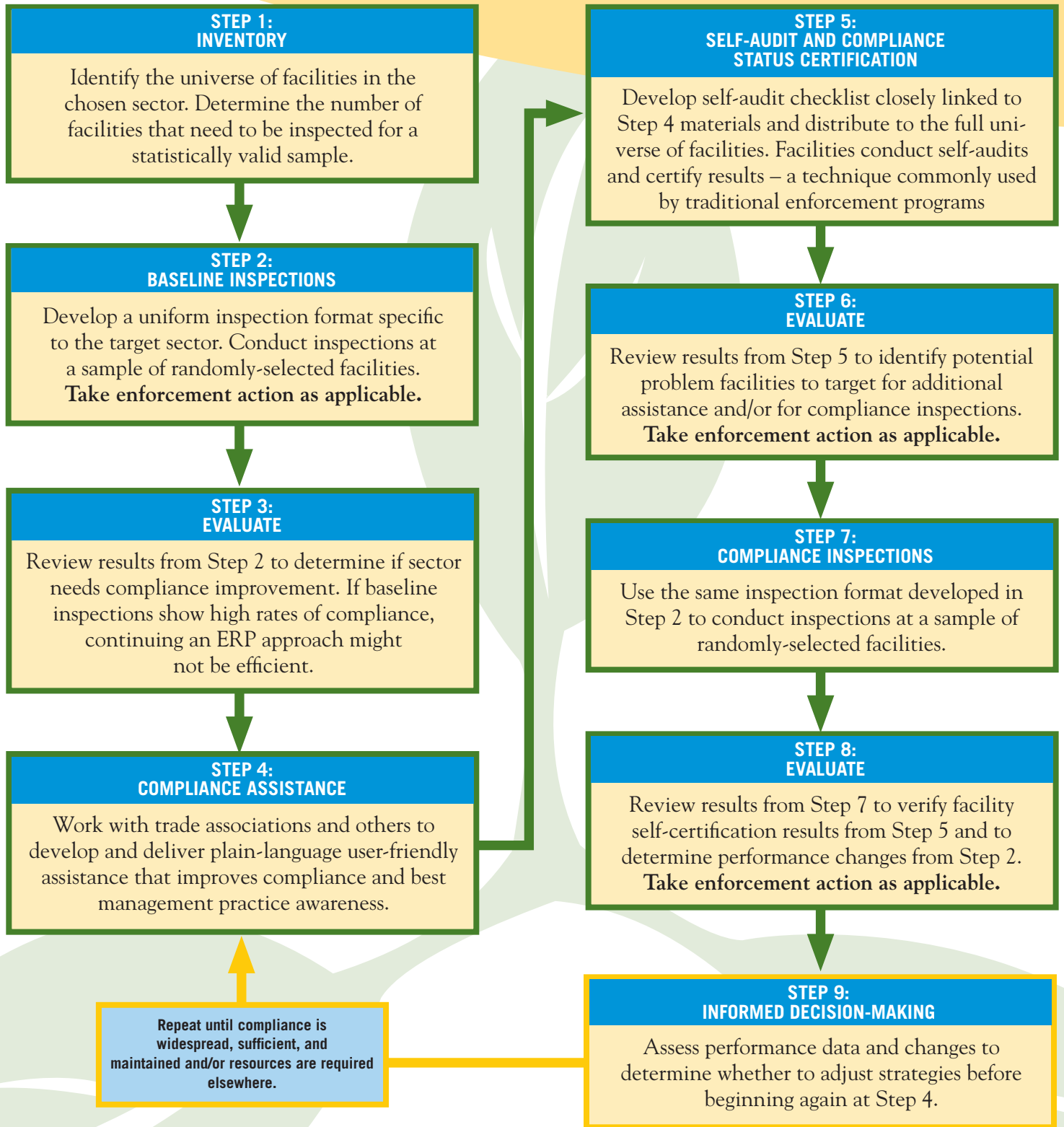
- Compliance assistance outreach, including developing plain language assistance tools that promote compliance and adoption of “beyond compliance” practices
- Facility self-audits and submittal of compliance status certifications to regulatory agencies
- **Verification through strategic compliance inspections and enforcement activities**
- Evidence-based statistical analysis to measure changes in performance

## ERP is Productive

After creating ERP tools for a sector, implementing an ERP approach can **use up to 50 percent fewer agency resources to achieve the same compliance results** as traditional inspections. An ERP strategy can produce **average compliance improvements of 5-30 percent or more** across a group for many important indicators. Other benefits of ERP include:

- A more level playing field for all facilities in the targeted sector
- Clear explanations for facilities about their regulatory requirements and beyond compliance opportunities
- Evidence-based information on sector performance and compliance and environmental improvements

# Typical ERP Cycle



Data cited from the “ERP States Produce Results” report available at: [www.epa.gov/erp/files/2007reportfull.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/erp/files/2007reportfull.pdf)

To learn more about ERP, visit the States ERP Consortium website at [www.erpstates.org](http://www.erpstates.org)



The States ERP Consortium and the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association developed this publication [www.newmoa.org](http://www.newmoa.org)



Efficient



Reliable



Productive