

For more than 30 years, the American Chemistry Council's Responsible Care® Program has been, and continues to be, a leading Environmental, Health, Safety and Security (EHS&S) program for the chemical industry.

A key element of this successful program is the Responsible Care Partner program, which extends the Responsible Care ethic and its key principles to companies in the chemical supply chain. By committing to Responsible Care and its key principles, Responsible Care Partner companies extend the program's core ethic beyond traditional chemical manufacturing sites.

The ACC Responsible Care Partner program consists of 10 Partner sectors that represent a variety of supply chain industry segments, including bulk motor carriers, warehouses, terminals, railroads and third-party logistics providers. All participating companies are held to the same obligations as ACC manufacturing member companies. The ACC Responsible Care Partner program differs from many other associations or groups in that after joining, there is an ongoing obligation to implement and maintain programs to demonstrate EHS&S operational programs through third-party certification and performance metrics reporting.



The Responsible Care Partner program offers participating companies a set of unique value proposition opportunities different from their memberships in traditional industry-centric trade groups, providing commercial, operational and performance value as described below:

Commercial Value

Access: Partner companies are positioned to make connections with a broad chemical industry group through participation and engagement in ACC Responsible Care meetings, conferences and work groups. Value to each Partner is limited only by their desired level of engagement and ability to leverage these relationships beyond the Responsible Care ethic to commercial success.

Visibility: ACC's Responsible Care program makes significant efforts to include and recognize Partner companies, and provides a high level of visibility through annual Partner awards, speaking opportunities (including highlighting of a company's chemical focus), website listing, and publication and distribution of an annual Partner Guide that is shared widely throughout the ACC member community.

Branding: Responsible Care Partners that have completed third-party certification of their operations against the Responsible Care program requirements have access to, and rights to display the Responsible Care name and logo in company internal and external marketing and customer-focused materials. The Responsible Care "Hands and Molecule" logo is recognized across the chemical industry as a commitment to EHS&S values and performance as demonstrated through fulfillment of program obligations, including annual metrics reporting and third-party certification audits.



Recognition: Responsible Care Partners enjoy the benefit and value of a recognized third-party certification process by members, as well as key stakeholder groups, such as:

- Customers
- Local government elected officials and staff
- Local influencers and NGO leaders
- Insurance carriers

These groups know the commitment of the ACC membership to safe operations and product stewardship. Companies share this recognition when they participate in the Partner program.

Operational and Performance Value



Improvements in safety performance: At the core of Responsible Care® is the ethic of continual improvement. Translated into concrete results, this means a commitment to reducing employee injuries, preventing spills and reducing the overall accident and incident costs in the supply chain. Improved performance can help contribute to lower operating costs for Partner companies. Historic data collected by ACC confirms that Responsible Care Partners have achieved improved safety performance over time.



Focused and sustained emphasis on safety: Identifying emerging hazards and reducing risk can be an ongoing challenge for many industries. Sustaining an organizational focus on safety is important for an organization to remain effective at driving progress and maintaining excellence. Through implementation of the Responsible Care Management System and Codes of Management Practices, companies establish and maintain management systems to help drive improvement and implement corrective action processes when needed. Partner companies' continued commitments are regularly reviewed as part of the Responsible Care third-party certification process. This provides an external stimulus to improve operational processes and maintain a focus on safety.



Networking and exposure to a diversity of perspectives: The Responsible Care program enables sharing of excellent practices and promotes knowledge transfer among companies and across industries and business sectors. The Partner program amplifies this transfer of knowledge and gives sector EHS&S professionals access to a wider and more diverse professional network than a single sector networking approach can typically provide. This allows participating companies to benefit from different perspectives, approaches and ideas, with the overall goal of improving the safety of chemical products across the value and supply chains.



Technical Resources: Many trade associations have safety improvement programs. Within the ACC Responsible Care Partner program, the traditional industry-centric approach is modified to address the needs of a broad and diverse membership. The chemical handling and safety issues faced by our Partners and members are often common or multifaceted. Bringing representation from multiple sectors together to share common issues often results in more effective and comprehensive solutions, and can increase future collaboration opportunities. ACC maintains a library of resources filled with technical resources developed using a collaborative approach to serve both Partners and members in working together to achieve their EHS&S objectives.



Benchmarking: Reporting of performance metrics specific to Partner sector groups allows ACC to analyze potential sector trends and to share performance data with membership in a manner not typically available in other trade organizations. Responsible Care Partners report improved safety performance over time, and a demonstrated performance improvement record can be beneficial for companies in making the business case for increased collaboration.



Issue-Focused Action: ACC provides opportunities for members and Partners to work together to address specific issues and risks of common concern. ACC routinely assembles work groups staffed by member and Partner representatives to develop excellent practice examples and tools that are made available to members and Partners who face similar issues and challenges. These work groups have the added advantage of engaging a wider pool of expertise and viewpoints than working with a single customer or shipper. The benefit of the breadth of thought can help produce better solutions with wider impacts.



Operational Costs and Efficiency: Beyond the ethical benefits of preventing injuries and environmental harm, improvement efforts can also result in lower direct and indirect accident costs, reduced litigation exposure and overall improved community perception and opinion.

For more information about the ACC Responsible Care Partner program, please contact us at:
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