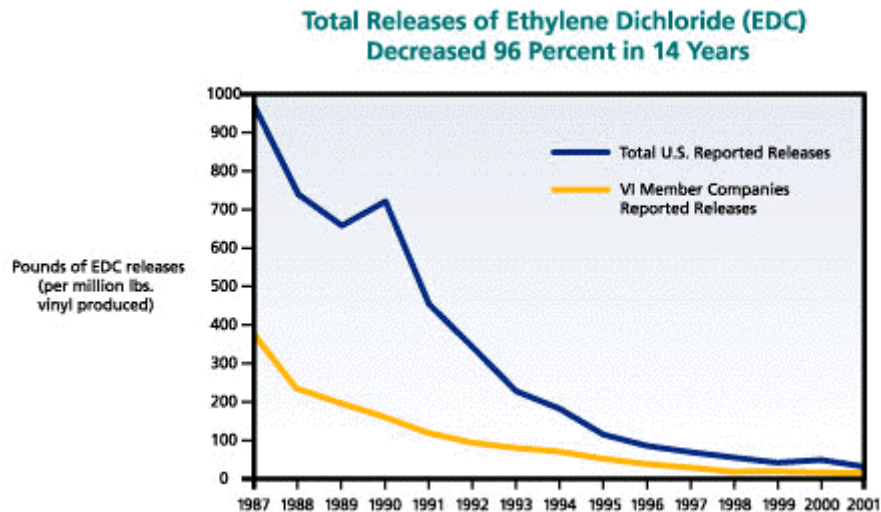


## Progress in Pollution Prevention: Reductions in EDC and VCM Releases 1987-2001

Since 1987, emissions of certain chemicals to air, water and soil, as well as off-site transfers for further management, are reported annually to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act. One chemical subject to this reporting requirement is ethylene dichloride (EDC), which is used in the production of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM).

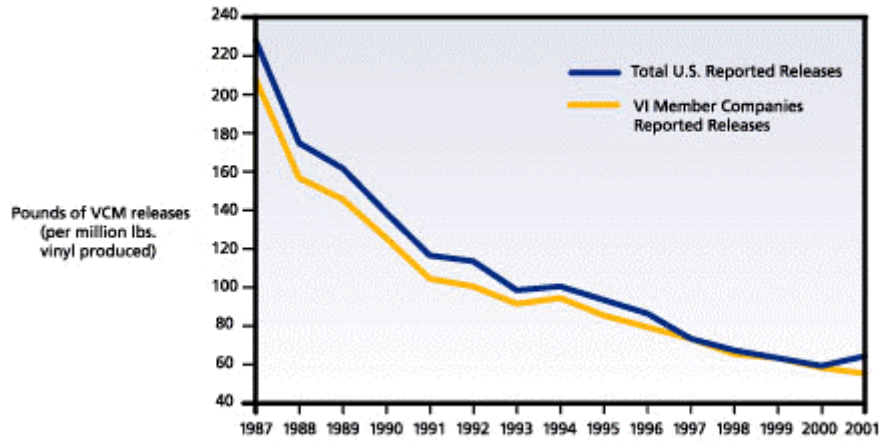
From 1987 through 2001, facilities operated by VI member companies reduced their reported releases of EDC – per one million pounds of vinyl produced – by a significant 95 percent. In the same period, total reported EDC releases in the United States decreased by 96 percent. Over the 14 years, U.S. vinyl production increased about 65 percent, from nearly 4 million tons to more than 6.5 million tons. To compare performance, EDC releases are presented in the graph for the vinyl industry as well as all covered U.S. industries.



EDC is heated and “cracked” to produce VCM, the chemical that is polymerized into vinyl resin. The vast majority of VCM manufactured in the United States is used by VI member companies for this purpose.

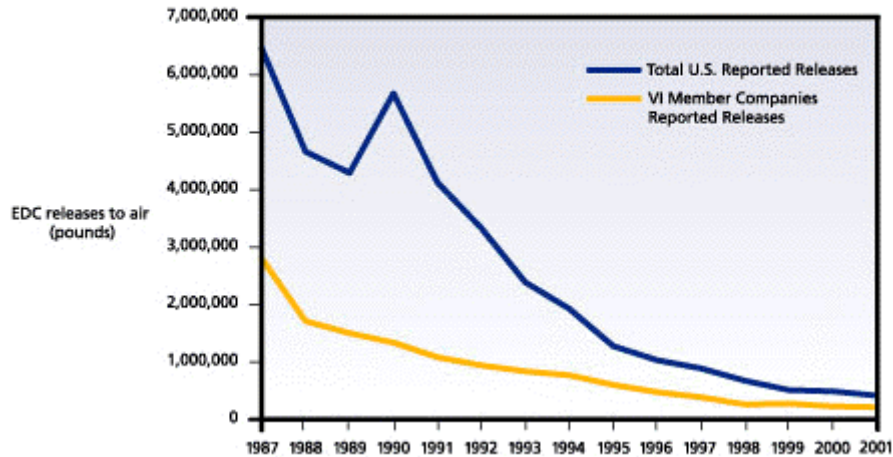
From 1987 to 2001, facilities of VI member companies reduced their reported releases of VCM – per one million pounds of vinyl produced – by 74 percent. Total reported VCM releases in the United States decreased by 82 percent in the same period.

**Total Releases of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM)  
Decreased 82 Percent in 14 Years**



Since 1987, a 91-percent reduction in air emissions of EDC from VI member company sites has been achieved. In the same period, total industry EDC emissions to air decreased 93 percent. The pollution prevention efforts of vinyl production facilities to decrease EDC air emissions are reflected in the major reductions from about 1,400 tons in 1987 to about 124 tons in 2001.

**Total Releases of Ethylene Dichloride (EDC)  
to Air Decreased 93 Percent in 14 Years**



Although vinyl production increased about 65 percent from 1987 to 2001, air emissions of VCM from VI member company sites have decreased about 56 percent during this time. Total industry VCM releases decreased 60 percent over the same period. In 2001, about 356 tons of VCM were reported emitted to the air from VI member company sites as compared with more than 817 tons in 1987.

### Total Releases of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) to Air Decreased 60 Percent in 14 Years

