

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I am pleased to present the *2007-2008 Environmental Finance Program Report*, highlighting the successes of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB) and the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network.

The EFAB and EFC Network, key elements of the Agency's Environmental Finance Program, help individual communities, small businesses, and government agencies find ways to pay for and comply with environmental regulations. For some in the regulated community, these two entities are the "shot in the arm" that shows them the way to compliance, teaches them how to reach new goals, and ensures that they meet standards necessary to protect human health and the environment. Without this assistance, some of these regulated entities would continue to operate out of compliance, putting the community and environment at risk, simply because no other options were available or affordable.

I want to call attention specifically to the extremely valued volunteer time of those who serve on EFAB. These experts bring vast knowledge and experience from their professional lives and share it with the Agency for the benefit of the public. The level of our appreciation for this dedication and commitment is immeasurable.

I also wish to acknowledge the value of the EFCs. Because each EFC is university based, we — and the nation — benefit from the innovative and cutting-edge environment that a university community fosters. In addition to the expertise of each EFC's director, staff, and participating professors, we also reap the benefits of student participation, enthusiasm, and motivation; at the same time, students gain real-world experience solving the problems of paying for environmental programs. I congratulate each EFC for its leadership and facilitation of the next generation of leaders and problem-solvers.

EPA is grateful for the very important work that EFAB and the EFC Network accomplish year after year. This report, which provides a snapshot of the remarkable contributions of EFAB and each EFC, also provides a measure of inspiration and confidence for the future. I believe it shows the quality of environmental results that a small, dedicated group of people with a specific mission can achieve. Although much work remains to address environmental challenges, the Environmental Finance Program — along with many other Agency programs designed to address different needs — is a solid and ever more necessary service that will continue to advance environmental protection.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyons Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lyons Gray, Chief Financial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency