EPA Open Government Progress Report: FY2010 – 4th Quarter

Contents and Highlights

Addressed in this document/update to EPA's Open Government Plan Version 1.1:

- Improvements identified since the June 2010 update of our plan:
  - Green Rating 🟢 OMB's scorecard updated to reflect EPA's progress
  - OMB Awarded EPA 2 Open Government Leading Practices Awards
  - External organizations updated their review/evaluation of plans (OMB Watch: Openthegovernment.org) and cite EPA as one of 3 agencies that meet all requirements of the Open Government Directive
  - Our Community Engagement Flagship efforts continue to evolve; please visit http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/flagship-progress2010Q4.pdf to see what's new and upcoming
  - Executive Oversight update (included below)
  - Strategic Data Action Plan update (included below)
  - EPA Data news (included below)
  - Open Government performance and measures update (included below)
  - Employee Engagement update (included below)
  - Public Participation update (included below)

Current Challenges

- Challenge.gov is a new online platform encouraging the public and US Government to bring the best ideas and talent to bear on pressing issues facing our nation
- EPA currently has 5 challenges posted
  - Green Power Community Challenge
  - National Radon Poster Contest
  - Game Day Challenge
  - Help Fight Environmental Crime Art Contest
  - It's My Environment Video Project

Transparency, Participation and Collaboration Actions/Opportunities:

- Over the past quarter EPA offered many opportunities; examples include:
  - 3 Public meetings for the Hydraulic Fracturing Study
  - 1 BP Oil Spill town hall meeting
  - 4 Administrator Jackson transcripts posted
  - 1 Webcast with BP and EPA experts, including Q&A
  - 2 Green Power Partnership Webinars
  - 3 Local Climate and Energy Webcasts
  - 10 Audio Podcasts
- Please visit our open site (http://www.epa.gov/open/) for upcoming events

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Executive Oversight

Institutionalizing Open Government within the Agency:

- To ensure Open Government becomes a part of normal agency operations, the executive oversight function was transferred to an existing executive body, the Quality and Information Council (QIC)
- From the QIC Charter:
  - "The purpose of the QIC is to advise and assist the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information/Chief Information Officer (CIO) in developing and implementing the Agency's quality and information goals and polices. The QIC provides the mechanism through which senior Agency officials raise and debate strategic information issues facing the Agency. It offers the CIO direct access to those officials to obtain their counsel on, and commitment to, quality and information strategies and polices."

Enhances/updates Section I.D.2 of the OpenGov Plan V1.1

Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP)

Developing a Plan for Greater Accessibility to EPA's Data and Information:

- The primary purpose of the Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP) is to standardize and streamline the process of prioritizing and publishing high-value information for public consumption
- Over the last quarter EPA has taken the following actions in support of the SDAP:
  - Formed a project team
  - Defined the scope of the SDAP effort
  - Created an annotated outline of the SDAP with anticipated products, milestones and dates
  - The SDAP Annotated Outline is currently under executive review, and we anticipate it will be published and available to the public in the coming weeks

Enhances/updates Section II.B.1 of the OpenGov Plan V1.1

EPA Data News

EPA's GeoData Gateway Goes Public!

- EPA's geospatial data and metadata is now available via our GeoData Gateway (GDG) at http://geogateway.epa.gov

Bringing More Data to the Public this Quarter:

- We more than doubled the number of datasets/tools/geodata on Data.gov (From nearly 600 to 1700)
- Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) datasets are widely used by many stakeholders, and now all current and historical TRI datasets are available; this quarter we:
  - Released initial 2009 TRI data quickly
  - Published remaining historical TRI datasets (1987 to 2004) to complete easy access to data from all TRI data years
- Visit our updated Data.gov Inventory at http://www.epa.gov/open/data-gov-inventory2010Q4.xls

Enhances/updates Section II.B of the OpenGov Plan V1.1

OpenGov Performance and Measures

Objectives:
- Seek to measure outcomes, not just outputs
- Leverage current performance measures that support EPA's mission and OpenGov principles

Overall Approach:
- EPA is taking an iterative approach in developing performance, measures and metrics to track the effectiveness of actions taken to support the Agency's strategic goals through use of OpenGov principles
- First and foremost, we have met (or have plans in place to meet) the requirements in the Open Government Directive
- We established (or are establishing) quantitative metrics for each of our Flagship efforts
- We are in the process of identifying or developing qualitative measures with the Flagship teams and anticipate including them in our 2011/Q2 report

Enhances/updates Section I.D.3 of the OpenGov Plan V1.1

Employee Engagement

Objectives:
- Recognize that Agency employees have expertise and innovative ideas to contribute
- Create opportunities to actively solicit and promote employee input/suggestions

Employee Engagement Activities
- We are in the process of creating an Agency-wide resource for Open Government education, engagement and outreach including:
  - Open Government background (with links to Federal and EPA resources)
  - A repository of best practices, benefits and lessons learned
- As an initial step, we created a Wiki to capture various Community Engagement Flagship efforts leveraging EPA's existing Wiki environment
- The Wiki is being organized by categories of activities that promote broad applicability (e.g., pre regulatory engagement, use of Web 2.0 tools)
- Once sufficiently populated we will create an external view of Wiki content for transferability

Enhances/updates Section I.E of the OpenGov Plan V1.1

Public Participation

Objectives:

- Solicit public input on the Agency's Open Government program, products, and direction
- Evaluate suggestions for implementation and provide the public a status and/or response for actionable items
- Create a process that involves the public at earlier stages of the Agency's activities

Approach:

To address and promote interactions with the public and respond to public suggestions, EPA is taking a maturity model approach and intends to take the steps identified below:

- Begin by collecting comments and summarizing/grouping similar ideas and suggestions
- Progress toward responding to comments and providing a status of actions
- Move to thoughtful, interactive dialog on specific topics and issues
- Identify trends in incoming suggestions/comments and evaluate them for adoption or action

Current Status/Update:

- IdeaScale
    - Based on public request, we kept the IdeaScale site active after publishing EPA's Open Government Plan
    - We are providing responses to actionable suggestions as part of our Quarterly progress reporting
- EPA began modifying the IdeaScale site on September 1, 2010 to prepare a solicitation of suggestions on more targeted program areas and OpenGov products
- For this quarter, we responded to a wide range of suggestions; visit the following link http://www.epa.gov/open/public-comments2010Q4.pdf to see our responses
- Please continue to visit EPA's Open webpage (www.epa.gov/open) for featured discussion topics and opportunities to participate

Enhances/updates Sections I.E and I.G of the Plan V1.1