

EPA Open Government Progress Report: FY2011 – 1st Quarter



Contents and Highlights

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- Community Engagement Flagship Initiative update
- Website Redesign update
- Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP) update
- EPA Data News
- OpenGov Performance and Measures update
- Employee Engagement update
- Communications Strategy update
- Public Participation update

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 posted a new challenge this quarter, bringing our total challenges to 6
 - 2011 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards (New)

Transparency, Participation and Collaboration Actions/Opportunities:

- Over the past quarter EPA offered many opportunities; examples include:
 - 20 Administrator Jackson transcripts posted
 - 3 Congressional Committee Holding hearings
 - Convened first public meeting of Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
 - Released reports on Dioxins emitted during BP Oil spill
 - Hosted free training workshops for Environmental Justice stakeholders
 - Announced winners of first National Building Competition to save energy
 - Released the Chemical Data Access tool for public to access health and safety studies on industrial chemicals
 - Finalized Greenhouse Gas Reporting Requirements for Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry
 - Published Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Air Transport Rule
 - Seeks Small Businesses Input on Exterior Lead Paint for Public and Commercial Buildings - Press Release
 - Launched Enable the Label Blog: Join the discussion related to the labeling of pesticides.
- 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)
- This quarter, the QIC voted to approve the outline and plan for the Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP)

Community Engagement Flagship Initiative

Approach

- Highlights of our Flagship efforts, in varying stages of progress, is provided below or via links
- Lessons Learned: We continue collecting best practices and experiences and will post them in the future

Flagship Theme: Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities:

- [Urban Waters \(Ongoing\)](#)
- [Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results \(Ongoing\)](#)
- [Improve Delivery of Information to At-Risk and Remote Communities \(Ongoing\)](#)
- [Faces of the Grassroots Video Contest \(Complete\)](#)

Flagship Theme: Expanding Public Awareness & Involvement in Developing Rules and Regulations:

- [Chesapeake Bay TMDL Webinar Series \(Ongoing\)](#)
- [NPDES Pre-proposal Involvement \(Ongoing\)](#)
- [Rulemaking Gateway \(Ongoing\)](#)

Flagship Theme: EPA Mobile Apps to Empower Citizen's Environmental Decisions:

- Human Health Advisories and Green Product Information (Ongoing)
- Mobile apps are now accessible on [EPA's Mobile site](#) under the "App" tab, providing users one place to access all EPA mobile apps, including tips
 - [My Right-To-Know on the Go](#) app is the newest, created and launched to allow citizens mobile access to TRI release facilities based on geographic information

Website Redesign

Search Function and Microsite Update:

- Launched Google search engine for EPA's search function, addresses public feedback to improve Search
- Launched the CFL Recycling and Disposal Resource from <http://www.epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling.html>

Mobile Applications (apps):

- Developed a [mobile webpage](#) (see "Mobile Apps" Flagship above for details)

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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:
 - Published an [outline of the SDAP](#) with anticipated products, milestones and dates
 - Published [Interim EPA Data.gov Guidance and Procedures](#) for use while SDAP v1.0 is developed

EPA Data News

Bringing More Data to the Public this Quarter:

- Continued to increase EPA's information available on Data.gov (now over 1800 datasets/tools/geodata)
 - Added a new raw dataset: the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)
 - Added 6 new tools, focusing primarily on providing enforcement/legal information:
 - Consent Decrees
 - Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Website
 - Civil Penalty Policies
 - EPA Administrative Law Judge Legal Documents
 - Title III List of Lists - Data Tool
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Data
 - Added 115 new geodata sets (including Ecoregion data and STORET information)
 - Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) datasets are widely used by many stakeholders, and now all current and historical TRI datasets are available; this quarter we:
 - Published new 2009 TRI data on Data.gov in conjunction with the 2009 National Analysis release to the general public
 - Published dynamic versions of historical TRI datasets (1987 to 2008) to complete easy access to data from all TRI data years
- To find these and other EPA data, visit our updated Data.gov Inventory at <http://www.epa.gov/open/data-gov-inventory2011Q1.xls>

OpenGov Performance and Measures

Update:

- EPA continues to take 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
- 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

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Employee Engagement

Update:

- Added social media “dos” and “don’ts” to the annual ethics training all EPA employees must complete
- Continue developing an Agency-wide resource for OpenGov education, engagement and outreach including:
 - OpenGov (with links to Federal and EPA resources)
 - A repository of best practices, benefits and lessons learned
- Began populating the OpenGov internal Wiki to capture various Community Engagement Flagship efforts
- Once sufficiently populated we will create an external view of Wiki content for transferability

Communications Strategy

Approach:

- The OpenGov workgroup is applying a Communications Framework that includes:
 - Using the internal Wiki to provide access to background information, updates and points of contact for questions on OpenGov
 - Quarterly progress reporting to provide accomplishments and project descriptions
 - Workgroup members share information within their organizations
 - Briefings to the QIC for direction, approval, and program commitments
 - Updates to OpenGov 101 briefing template for use by program representatives
 - Links to EPA’s OpenGov page from key locations within EPA’s intranet site

Public Participation

Current Status/Update:

- IdeaScale
 - Added 3 new questions designed to garner public feedback as well as help us identify existing or proposed 3rd party use of EPA data
- Please continue to visit EPA’s Open webpage (www.epa.gov/open) for featured discussion topics and opportunities to participate