EPA Open Government Progress Report: FY2011 – 4th Quarter

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Current Challenges

- The Apps for the Environment challenge accepted applications this quarter, with open voting in October
- EPA posted a new challenge this quarter, the Game Day Challenge, a friendly competition among colleges to promote waste reduction at football games
- Visit http://challenge.gov/epa#&panel1-3 to see a current status of all EPA challenges

Transparency, Participation and Collaboration Actions/Opportunities:

- Over the past quarter EPA offered many ways for the public to get informed and involved including:
  - Launched green products web portal as part of pollution prevention week
  - Proposed safeguards for hazardous waste recycling (opened for public comment)
  - Partnered with USDA to improve drinking water systems and develop workforce in rural communities
  - Announced public comment period on proposal to ban sewage dumping into the Jamaica bay
  - Released draft policy on ensuring scientific integrity (opened for public comment)
  - Sought input on the drinking water perchlorate regulation
  - Expanded Energy Star availability to new multifamily high-rise buildings
  - Began partnering with state capitals on green design and economic revitalization
  - Published 7 speeches from Administrator Lisa Jackson
  - Posted 5 EPA Congressional hearing testimonies
- Please visit our open site (http://www.epa.gov/open/) for upcoming events

Greater Transparency: EPA Home and Open Webpage Redesign

- Released interim strategy for developing future microsites and resource directories for the Homepage
- Launched development of twelve new microsites
- Updated and revised EPA's OpenGov webpage (www.epa.gov/open) to make it easier to read our plans, follow our progress, and find our data

Making More Data Accessible: Chemical and Pesticide Information

Newly Declassified Chemical Information:
- EPA's declassification challenge urged companies to voluntarily declassify some of their Confidential Business Information claims for chemicals subject to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- A number of companies responded and released health and safety studies
- Voluntary releases and new releases based on EPA review are available at: http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/declassified/declassified_claims.html

Pesticide Product Label System (PPLS)
- Pesticide product labels provide critical information on how to safely handle and use pesticide products
- EPA recently converted historic labeling information and expanded the Pesticide Product Label System (PPLS) http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=101:1:2313594035615863
- Now over 170,000 labels are searchable by product name, company name, or registration number
- New capability allows you to search within a label (all labels converted to text searchable PDFs)
- Product transfer information is now provided (when a product is transferred to another company)

Culture Change and Training: Community Involvement Conference

Adapting to the 21st Century:
- The July Community Involvement Conference themes included: Embracing Diversity, Expanding Engagement, Utilizing Technology
- Presenters and panels showcased the current state of community involvement, how it is evolving, and the steps to leverage existing and emerging technologies and techniques
- Over 400 individuals attended in person or through on-line sessions representing federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, universities, NGO's, and private industry groups
- Feedback from participants will help shape future events and efforts

Leveraging Partnerships and Technology: FOIA Module Launch

- EPA partnered with Department of Commerce (DoC) and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to develop a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) receipt, processing and repository module
- The team plans to reuse an existing eGov platform to reduce costs for development and maintenance, enable multi-agency use, and provide a public-facing component
- Module will support administration and workflow of FOIA requests and provide access to FOIA requests and responsive documents, enabling processing efficiencies and reuse for agencies and the public
- Team began validating requirements with other federal agencies

Reaching Out: Community Engagement Flagship Initiative

Approach
- Highlights of our Flagship efforts, in varying stages of progress, are provided via links below
- To support sharing experiences internally and externally, we captured benefits, lessons learned and other qualitative information for many of the Flagship efforts

Flagship Theme: Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities:
- Urban Waters (Completed)
- Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results (Ongoing)
- Improve Delivery of Information to Communities (Ongoing)
- Faces of the Grassroots (Completed)

Flagship Theme: Expanding Public Awareness & Involvement in Developing Rules and Regulations:
- Healthy Waters (Ongoing)
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL Webinar Series (Completed)
- NPDES Pre-proposal Involvement (Completed)
- Rulemaking Gateway (Completed)

Flagship Theme: EPA Mobile Apps to Empower Citizen's Environmental Decisions:
- See Apps for the Environment Challenge and EPA's Mobile web site for additional information

Better Metadata: Environmental Data Gateway (EDG)

- EPA's Environmental Data Gateway (EDG) has evolved to also capture and report metadata for datasets destined for Data.gov
- The EDG will begin producing the EPA Data.gov inventory and data dashboard internally (these products will be available to the public by Q3/2011)

Good Information Management Practices: Docket Enhancement

- This quarter, EPA turned on the electronic records management function for EPA's Federal Docket Management System (FDMS), the agency document management portion of *Regulations.gov*
- FDMS is now an official and fully-functioning system of record supporting EPA's docket management activities including rulemaking efforts

Improved Public Access: Compliance Mapping Tool and Interactive Data Browsing

ECHO Mapping Tool

- In support of the White House Regulatory Compliance Transparency Initiative, EPA provided the public a mapping tool for the Enforcement Compliance History Online (ECHO) system
- The tool allows the public to access federal and state enforcement information interactively and compare information by state
- The map will be refreshed monthly to include up to date information about the enforcement actions taken to address violations of air, water, and waste laws
- ECHO hit the 10 million mark for data queries

Leveraging New Data.gov Interactive Platform

- EPA brought a number of datasets into the new interactive Data.gov platform, including the popular Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data
- The platform allows you to browse data online, conduct searches, and create and save data visualizations

EPA Recognition: Highlights from the White House report on OpenGov

- In September, the White House released a status report on OpenGov across the Federal Government
- The President released the report when he went to the United Nations to announce a Global OpenGov Partnership initiative
- EPA's OpenGov Plan and program were cited favorably, specifically:
  - EPA's FOIA program and success in reducing the FOIA backlog
  - Proactive disclosure via EPA's My Property tool
  - EPA's Apps for the Environment challenge
  - Regulatory compliance information access