

# EPA Open Government Progress Report: FY2012 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter



## Contents and Highlights

### Addressed in this document:

- Greater Transparency: Expanding and Improving Data.gov Inventories
- Making Data More Accessible: Supporting the Administration's Digital Strategy
- Leveraging Partnerships and Technology: FOIAonline (Formerly FOIA Module)
- Reaching Out: Community Engagement Flagship Initiative
- Protecting the Public: Adding sites to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)
- Collaboration and Participation: Examples of Opportunities
- Partnering Across Government and with Industry: Restoring the Everglades
- Visit <http://challenge.gov/epa#&panel1-3> to see a current status of 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:
  - Published [speech](#) on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol 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: Expanding and Improving Data.gov Inventories

- Published 73 new datasets on Data.gov including new Toxics Release Inventory data, ENERGY STAR, Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and compliance datasets
- Updated 1,392 previously published datasets
- Participated in the Energy and Safety Communities of Data.gov, providing data resources for community data jam and datapalooza events

## Making More Data Available: Supporting the Administration's Digital Strategy

- Established a Digital Strategy [webpage and posted an update](#) of EPA's efforts to meet strategy milestones and deliver better digital services to the public
- Agency names Envirofacts, Regulations.gov, and the Facility Registry System (FRS) as the customer-facing services to make compliant with new open data, content, and web application programming interface (API) policy
- Agency names How's My Waterway, Integrated Health Alerts, EPA.gov, and FRS as candidates to optimize for access by mobile devices

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## Leveraging Partnerships and Technology: FOIAonline (Formerly FOIA Module)

- EPA worked with partners at the Department of Commerce and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to develop the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)online service
- The functionality will allow the public to initiate and track a FOIA request, file an appeal, and search/view other requests
- FOIAonline will also produce the FOIA reports agencies are required to produce annually
- The system is slated to launch on October 1, 2012 (next quarter)

## 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 (updated as flagships conclude)

### 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

## Protecting the Public: Additions to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)

- 12 Superfund sites were [added to the NPL for cleanup](#), and 8 were proposed for the NPL
- "Cleaning up contamination is vitally important to the health of America's communities," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "Putting clean land back into productive use leads to increases in property values, generates new jobs and creates a stronger local economy that will strengthen these communities for years to come."



## Collaboration and Participation: Examples of Opportunities

- Finalists in the [Rachel Carson Sense of Water Contest](#) were announced with open voting; follow the [blog](#)
- Opened registration for [Campus RainWorks Design Challenge](#) Competition
- Invited the public to discuss [air quality issues and participation opportunities](#) for Muscatine, Iowa
- Held [Environmental Justice conference](#) in Atlanta
- Announced [public comment period](#) for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Clean-up Phase 3 Plan
- Held [public meeting](#) for the cleanup plan for the White Chemical Corporation Superfund site in Newark, New Jersey
- Kicked off Third Annual [Energy Star National Building Competition](#)
- [Sought candidates](#) for the Advisory Board on Great Lakes issues

## Partnering Across Government and with Industry: Restoring the Everglades

- The Administration released a report outlining the [historic Federal investments and progress](#) made in Everglades restoration and announced \$80 million in additional funding to support farmers and ranchers who voluntarily conserve wetlands on agricultural land in the Northern Everglades Watershed.
- Work to restore the Everglades is a partnership with the State of Florida, Tribal governments, local governments, private landowners and industry through voluntary programs, and other Federal agencies including the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Agriculture's Wetlands Reserve Program, and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Funding includes continuation of projects such as an easement on a property known as American Prime, a key habitat corridor for the endangered Florida panther. A female panther and two kittens were recently photographed near this property -- the first documented evidence of a female Florida panther that far north since 1973.

## Partnering Across Government and with Industry: Other Examples

- Provided [environmental education grant](#) to Syracuse University to support 30 projects
- [Co-hosted 3rd annual Symposium](#) on Sustainable Environmental Practices at Colleges and Universities
- [Signed the newly amended Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#) with Canada
- Joined the City of Atlanta, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Transportation in [marking the third anniversary of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities](#)