

## Preliminary List of Future EPA Program Evaluations

Program Evaluation Title	Expected Start/ Completion Date	Scope/Issue Addressed and Purpose
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### Goal 1: Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Air Quality

Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 9/2012	To assess the outcomes of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles to better understand and learn lessons about implementation that might be transferable to similar activities focusing on international environmental, health, and technological outcomes.  The results of the evaluation will help inform and improve existing and future partnerships within the EPA international portfolio.
Board of Scientific Counselors Review of EPA Research on Air, Climate and Energy	Start: 10/2014 Complete: 4/2015	To evaluate research that supports decisions on air quality standards.  This research review will: assist EPA in reducing uncertainties associated with linking health and environmental outcomes to air pollution sources; support the review of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; provide guidance to help plan, implement, and strengthen EPA's research program; and provide context for making investment decisions over the next 5 years.

### Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters

Board of Scientific Counselors Review of EPA Research on Sustainable Waters	Start: 9/2011 Complete: 4/2012	To examine the research that provides methods, models, tools, and data to characterize the health risks associated with the use of water resources. This evaluation will improve the Agency's ability to develop water quality criteria, manage watershed, remediate waste water, reduce the public health risks associated with exposure to drinking water, safeguard the quality and availability of surface and underground sources of drinking water, improve the water infrastructure, and establish health-based measures of program effectiveness.  This research review supports decision-makers in preventing, managing, and mitigating health risks associated with the hydrosphere.
Board of Scientific Counselors Review of EPA's Homeland Security Research Program	Start: 10/ 2013 Complete: 4/2014	To examine research that informs EPA's capabilities to protect and respond to intentional and accidental disruptions/attacks on the nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.  This research review will inform programmatic decision-making relative to homeland security program implementation.
Review of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds National Estuary Program (NEP)	Each of the NEP's 28 nationally-significant estuaries are evaluated every three years	To determine the progress made by each NEP in implementing its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. If an evaluation concludes that a program has made satisfactory progress, the program continues to be eligible for Clean Water Act 320 funding until the next evaluation cycle.  The program evaluation supports the program's commitment to identifying and funding projects that produce measurable environmental results.

### Goal 3: Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development

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Board of Scientific Counselors Review of EPA Research on Sustainable Communities	Start: 9/2012 Complete: 4/2013	<p>To understand and reduce uncertainty in risk assessment; characterize aggregate and cumulative risks in order to manage risks to humans exposed to multiple environmental stressors; address the mitigation management and long-term stewardship of contaminated sites and waste material management and resource conservation; and support programs aimed at empowering communities to engage fully in protecting their health and environments.</p> <p>This research review will help EPA plan, implement, and strengthen EPA's scientific research on sustainable communities, and provide context for investment decisions over the next 5 years.</p>
Environmental and Geographical Impacts of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Backlog	Start: Ongoing Complete: Phase 1: 9/2011 Phase 2: 9/2012	<p>To explore whether patterns of unaddressed LUST sites exist within geographic clusters, whether these clusters are dominated by a single or small set of responsible parties, and whether certain communities bear disproportionate share of these unaddressed sites.</p> <p>This evaluation will help EPA make determinations on environmental impacts to health and quality of life. Results of the evaluation can be used to prioritize sites for clean-up.</p>
LUST Backlog Phase 2 study	Start: 9/2010 Complete: Not Specified	<p>To determine why the number of cleanups completed under the LUST program is on the decline and to inform allocation of resources for the LUST program. Backlog reduction is a critical goal for ensuring all LUST cleanups are moving forward at an appropriate pace.</p> <p>Targeted data has been obtained from 14 states on factors (characteristics of the sites and of the state programs) that may affect the size of the backlog and the pace of cleanups.</p>
Effectiveness Assessment of the Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA)	Start: 9/2009 Complete: 9/2010	<p>To examine factors influencing the use of SAA (as an effective alternative to cleanup via National Priority Listing), assess the efficiency of SAA in terms of potential time and cost savings, assess the effectiveness of SAA in achieving the goals of the Superfund program, and identify strategies to improve the implementation, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program.</p>
Study of the Socioeconomic Impacts of Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants	Start: FY 2011 Complete: FY 2013	<p>To analyze the extent to which EPA's Brownfields grants result in improved socioeconomic conditions. The general approach will be to chronicle the socioeconomic changes that have occurred in close proximity to Brownfields sites over the major stages of land revitalization. Information gathered will be used to help guide and improve EPA's Brownfields assessment and cleanup grant programs.</p>
Review of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Waste Management Academic Labs Rule	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 9/2011	<p>To determine if EPA's RCRA Waste Management Academic Labs Rule has been implemented successfully and to determine if academic laboratories are improving the management of hazardous waste and cleaning of facilities.</p>

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WasteWise: Evaluating the Effectiveness of EPA's WasteWise Program	Start: 10/2008 Complete: 2010	<p>To determine how EPA can encourage WasteWise partners to submit sufficient environmental data for performance measurement and evaluation purposes, and to analyze the program's overall success.</p> <p>This evaluation will help identify the most effective activities for increasing waste reduction by program partners and is addresses how much of this waste reduction is attributable to EPA activities.</p>
Evaluating Progress Towards Implementing Institutional Controls (ICs) at Superfund Sites	Start:7/2009, Complete: 2010	To evaluate the effectiveness of implementing Institutional Controls (ICs), such as deed restrictions and covenants, at Superfund sites using a subset of national sites as a sample. The evaluation will address topics including costs, durability, and protectiveness of ICs.
EPA and Corps Section 404 Review	Start: 4/2010, Complete: CY 2010	To determine the extent EPA and the Corps of Engineers are effectively and efficiently communicating and cooperating during regulatory review of Clean Water Act 404 permits for proposed surface coal mining projects.
Review of RCRA Permitting Program	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 9/2011	<p>To evaluate the effectiveness of the RCRA Permitting Program. The program is intended to prevent poor waste management practices from causing environmental contamination that has the potential to negatively impact local communities.</p> <p>This evaluation may lead to policy changes to streamline the permitting process, improve data sharing with the states, and decrease the risks posed by hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities.</p>
RCRA Regulation Development	Start: 10/2011 Complete: 9/2012	<p>To review the operating procedures for the development of rulemaking materials needed by the RCRA program to meet EPA's emerging needs for improved, more protective waste management regulation that promotes sustainable materials management and energy savings co-benefits. Rulemaking for the RCRA program affects the nation's solid and hazardous waste management practices.</p> <p>This evaluation will focus on making internal improvements in the development of new or improved RCRA regulations.</p>
Superfund: Green Remediation	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 9/2012	<p>To review how different regions have implemented green remediation strategies. Site cleanup actions have a substantial environmental footprint and many cleanup methods employed during site remediation release greenhouse gas emissions and consume material resources.</p> <p>This evaluation will highlight best practices that could be implemented nationwide.</p>

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Outcome Evaluation of the Hazardous Waste Determination Regulations	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 9/2012	<p>To study the underlying causes of violations to the RCRA cradle-to-grave hazardous waste management regulations. Under RCRA, persons or companies who produce any kind of waste, called generators, are required to determine whether the waste they produce is hazardous (e.g., toxic, ignitable, corrosive). If a waste is hazardous, the generator must manage the waste under the full RCRA cradle-to-grave hazardous waste management regulations.</p> <p>This evaluation was prompted after a review of RCRA compliance data from 2008 and 2009 revealed that hazardous waste generators have twice as many violations associated with their hazardous waste determination process than any other RCRA generator violation.</p>
Evaluating the Paint Product Stewardship Initiative (PPSI) Demonstration Program in Oregon and Assessing its Suitability for Scale up to Other States	Start: 10/2007 Complete: 6/2011	<p>To test a new national model for collecting, recycling, and/or otherwise properly disposing of leftover house paint. Under the Oregon Demonstration Program the PPSI stakeholders (including the National Paint and Coatings Association and 12 states) are committed to extend the new model to all 50 states.</p> <p>This evaluation serves as a model for integrating evaluation into the design of the program. The results of the evaluation will be used to refine the new model and, ultimately, inform the development of successful programs in other states.</p>
Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) Process Evaluation on the Delivery of Services	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 9/2012	<p>To evaluate the processes designed to enable federal partners to work with EPA to achieve the stated goals of the PSC Southwest Atlanta. EPA has a number of ongoing community/place-based initiatives across the Southeast under the recently formed EPA-HUD-DOT Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC). The PSC is a cross-Federal initiative designed to work with states and local communities to address training/education, workforce and economic development, housing, transportation, and environmental justice issues.</p> <p>One of the PSC projects is focused on leveraging the resources, skills and expertise at the Federal, state and local level to help four Southwest Atlanta communities. Among the community concerns is the need for green jobs and economic development.</p>
Evaluation of Program Tribal Grants Programmatic Process	Start: 10/2010 Complete: 12/2011	<p>To analyze existing grant processes and identify ways EPA can become more consistent across programs. and EPA awards tribal grants across media programs and these grants provide core funding for Tribal Nations to assist them in developing capacity and implementing environmental protection programs in accordance with their individual needs and EPA requirements.</p> <p>This evaluation will identify recommendations to improve grants management, communication, and coordination with Tribal Nations.</p>

### Goal 4: Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution

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Internal Control Review of the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program	Start and Complete: 2013	To produce a multi-disciplinary review of the implementation of Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program test orders, and the effectiveness of assay validation, priority setting, and data evaluation.
Design for the Environment (DfE) Effectiveness of and Benefits associated with the use of the DfE label on consumer products	Start: 2013 Complete: 9/2014	To determine consumer behavior in response to DfE product labeling, and the economic and environmental benefits of increased sales of DfE products, reduced chemicals-of-concern use, and other associated benefits for manufacturers.
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing: Effectiveness in Promoting Green Federal Purchasing	Start: 10/2013 Complete: 9/2014	<p>To assess the extent to which federal demand has shifted toward greener products alternatives. EPA works with voluntary standards organizations to develop consensus standards to define what constitutes "green" as applied to a variety of products, services, and sectors. The primary question to be addressed by this evaluation is how widely these standards have been used by the federal and other institutional purchasers.</p> <p>If it is determined that voluntary consensus standards are effective in shifting federal purchasing toward greener products, the program may increase development of those standards to a wider circle of greener and safer products.</p>
Board of Scientific Counselors Review of EPA Research on Safe Products for a Sustainable World	Start: 6/2011 Complete: 12/2011	<p>To examine research that provides EPA with scientific information needed to reduce or prevent unreasonable risks to humans, wildlife, and non-target plants from exposures to pesticides and toxic chemicals.</p> <p>The research review will provide data to inform programmatic operations and decision-making; inform how technical support to broader regional and national sustainability policies and initiatives can effect long-term environmental improvements and protection of human health; and provide recommendations to EPA research managers to refine goals and strategies.</p>

### Goal 5: Enforcing Environmental Laws

Evaluating Outcomes from Compliance Assistance	Started: 10/2009 Complete: 12/2011	<p>To evaluate an approach for assessing attribution for compliance assistance, and the applicability of this approach to both the larger compliance assistance program and to EPA's programs that want to attribute specific outcomes to other similar EPA actions (e.g., pollution prevention and waste minimization programs).</p> <p>The evaluation results will help further improve compliance assistance program effectiveness and efficiency by helping identify which CA activities or combination result in the most effect changes in behavior, and how to most efficiently measure those outcomes.</p>
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