

## A New Era of State, Local, Tribal, and International Partnerships Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Action Plan

*Strengthen partnerships with states, tribes, local governments, and the global community that are central to the success of the national environmental protection program through consultation, collaboration, and shared accountability. Modernize the EPA-state relationship, including revitalizing the National Environmental Performance Partnership System and jointly pursuing E-Enterprise, a transformative approach to make environmental information and data more accessible, efficient, and evidence-based through advances in monitoring, reporting, and information technology.*

### 1. With State and Local Partners

#### A. Continue consultations with state and local elected officials on EPA rulemakings, guidance, and policies.

- 1) In addition to the “Big 10” intergovernmental associations<sup>1</sup>, EPA will include other intergovernmental organizations and state and local officials in federalism consultations--such as the Local Government Advisory Committee, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Association of Attorneys General, National Association of State Conservation Agencies, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Conference of Black Mayors, and National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials--when an EPA policy or rule impacts their organizations.
- 2) National Program Managers (NPMs) and regional offices will conduct and document additional outreach with intergovernmental partners on regulations, major guidance, and other Agency policies.
  - a) Outreach efforts will include New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gases from Modified and Reconstructed Electricity Generating Units, Waters of the U.S., and chemical plant safety. In addition, EPA will continue dialogue with states about developing and issuing timely implementation guidance for new rules.
  - b) By September 2015, EPA will assess existing tools and potential new approaches to capture EPA’s discretionary outreach with intergovernmental partners during the development of major regulations and policies for which formal consultation is not required by E.O.13132 (Federalism), the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, or the Regulatory Flexibility Act.
- 3) Collaborate with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to ensure strong EPA-state engagement around Civil Rights Act Title VI grant management programs. By March 31, 2015, the EPA Office of Civil Rights (OCR) will develop a Title VI work plan and prioritize specific areas of mutual interest with states; and also by March 31, 2015, OCR will be engaging with states to learn of states’ best practices in Title VI compliance. By June 30, 2015, OCR will work with ECOS to disseminate the first

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<sup>1</sup> The Big 10 intergovernmental associations are the largest national organizations for state and local governments and include the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, International City/County Management Association, County Executives of America; National Association of Towns and Townships, Council of State Governments, and the Environmental Council of States.

iteration of the Title VI compliance toolkit. By September 30, 2015, EPA will have offered two (2) civil rights trainings for states (e.g., Limited English Proficiency).

- 4) Work in cooperation with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), and other intergovernmental and private sector partners to further Environmental Justice (EJ) goals. Specifically, continue implementation of initiatives begun under Plan EJ 2014 such as EJSCREEN, and community-based partnerships and best practices.

**B. Recognize the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) and its role as a platform to revitalize EPA's working relationship with the states.**

- 1) NPMs and regions will collaborate with states to develop guiding principles to coordinate NPM Guidance with NEPPS, and promote best practices in oversight.
  - a) By December 2014, EPA will work with states to reach consensus on a working set of principles for efficient and effective oversight.
  - b) By December 2014, the NPM Guidance-NEPPS Workgroup will finalize additional recommendations to ensure that the two-year NPM guidance, Annual Commitment System, Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs) and Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs) are useful tools and provide a clear path to achieve available flexibilities for states and tribes.
  - c) By May 2015, or prior to negotiating NEPPS agreements and grant workplans, EPA regional and state senior managers will convene to review environmental priorities, available resources and program flexibilities to further refine priorities and commitments that reflect the most effective deployment of resources to accomplish state, regional, and national program goals.
- 2) EPA will develop an updated policy for PPGs to increase awareness of the administrative and programmatic flexibility available through PPGs, encourage their broader use, and ensure consistent implementation and management of PPG policy.

**2. With Tribes**

**A. Develop EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) with each tribe that applies for and receives an Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Grant (GAP), consistent with the May 2013 GAP Guidance.**

- 1) By September 30, 2015, finalize planned number of EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) with each tribe, consistent with Regional ETEP Schedules submitted in FY14.

**B. In strengthening our relationship with tribes, EPA will improve the coordination and implementation of the Agency's consultation activities under the "Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes" through enhanced communication tools, training and outreach.**

- 1) By September 2015, Tribal Consultation Advisors will host a minimum of two internal trainings for EPA staff in their office or region about how to implement the Policy.
- 2) By September 30, 2015, complete a national pilot project under the EPA's leadership of the Climate Change Interagency Workgroup under the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA).

- 3) By January 2015, complete WHCNA dialogues on plans for improved leveraging of expertise and resources to address other environmental issues including longer-term infrastructure challenges (e.g., drinking water, waste water and solid waste management).

**C. Fully implement EPA’s tribal identification data standard to help ensure the quality and consistency of EPA data, and enhance our ability to exchange, integrate, and query tribal information across the Agency and with other federal agencies.**

- 1) By September 30, 2015, in accordance with EPA Policy (CIO 2133.0) incorporate the tribal identification data standard into all relevant Agency systems that manage tribal data.

**3. Advancing E-Enterprise for the Environment with State, Local, and Tribal Partners**

**A. Through E-Enterprise joint governance, work with states and tribes to improve environmental results by making government more efficient and enhancing services to the regulated community and the public.**

- 1) Achieve E-Enterprise targets and milestones.
  - a) By December 31, 2014, complete the E-Enterprise Integrated Management Plan as an inclusive business plan for the joint governance, design, and implementation of the E-Enterprise strategy.
  - b) By September 30, 2015, build Phase 1 of the Regulatory and Public Portals for E-Enterprise.
  - c) By September 30, 2015, Integrated Project Teams will complete “as is” and “to be” architecture documentation for E-Enterprise.
  - d) By September 30, 2015, complete all scoping for the 5 projects selected by the E-Enterprise Leadership Council in May 2014, and complete initial implementation plans for all projects for which scoping was completed by February 28, 2015.
- 2) Embed E-Enterprise principles in work processes and aligned projects of EPA and state/tribal partners.
  - a) By September 30, 2015, state grant workplans should align activities with E-Enterprise goals as appropriate.
  - b) By September 30, 2015, each program and regional office will identify management processes, projects, and/or program activities that will be adapted to align with E-Enterprise goals, including activities such as Lean, burden reduction and rule effectiveness efforts, and early engagement and collaboration with states and tribes.
- 3) EPA and ECOS will conduct outreach to state and local partners and the regulated community in support of E-Enterprise initiatives.
- 4) By January 2015, EPA will conduct outreach to tribes through the National Tribal Caucus to recruit tribal members for the E-Enterprise Leadership Council.

#### **4. With International Partners**

- A. Within the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), strengthen EPA partnership with the Canadian and Mexican governments to improve policies and implement cooperative projects that address climate change mitigation, adaptation, and support environmental activities in historically underserved communities including in Indian country and other vulnerable populations.**
- 1) By summer 2015, finalize a new CEC Strategic Plan that will include priorities on addressing climate change and building state, tribal and local partnerships with underserved communities across North America.
- B. Strengthen EPA leadership in the Arctic Council (AC) and with other governments to improve policies and implement cooperative projects that address climate change and reduce contamination in the Arctic as the United States assumes the Chairmanship of the Council in April 2015.**
- 1) By April 2015, prepare project with Alaskan native village(s) and their tribal counterparts in other AC countries to address climate change (e.g., black carbon mitigation, adaptation planning, expanding use of tools that promote the use of traditional environmental knowledge) as a key EPA deliverable for the US Chairmanship.
  - 2) By April 2015, complete negotiations on a Framework for cooperative actions on black carbon through the Arctic Council for Ministerial endorsement demonstrating the commitment of Arctic nations to lead on actions to combat climate change in this sensitive ecosystem and for headquarters and relevant regional offices to begin implementation of the Framework.