

EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

Fact Sheet

The Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee is officially chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to provide advice that assists EPA in developing a stronger partnership with local governments and building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs. The committee provides recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of topics, including: regulatory innovation and reform, environmental protection tools, pollution prevention, new technologies, performance measurement, and appropriate roles of the various governmental levels in efficient and coordinated environmental management. The LGAC is unique in having members that are locally elected and appointed officials, such as mayors, county executives, city managers, commissioners, and others that represent key interests of local governments.

The LGAC crafts its advice through the help of five workgroups and one subcommittee. More information on the charges of these workgroups and their recent accomplishments are below.

Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)

The mission of SCAS is to strengthen the capacity of small communities throughout America to improve and protect the health of their people and the environment in which they live. SCAS seeks to effectively inform and advise EPA on how environmental regulations impact small communities; the disproportionate costs of providing environmental protection and services in small communities; the need for flexible regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to environmental protection in small communities; and the importance of providing a range of technical assistance and professional services to small communities through EPA, states, and third party providers.

Recently, the SCAS has provided ongoing consultation on several complex issues, including:

- Partnership for Sustainable Communities' Draft Report: *Building Federal Support for Sustainable Rural Communities*
- HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership Draft Policy Papers

Air, Climate and Energy Workgroup

The Air, Climate and Energy workgroup focuses on improving air quality, taking action on climate change, and promoting clean, renewable energy sources.

Since 2010, the Air, Climate and Energy workgroup has prepared advice letters on a range of topics, including:

- Draft Guidance for Implementing the Exceptional Events Rule
- Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Proposed Reconsiderations of Clean Air Act Standards for Industrial/Commercial/Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters
- Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE NESHAP) Rule
- Heavy-Duty High Program: Revisions for Emergency Vehicles (the Fire Truck Rule)
- Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Cleaning up Our Communities Workgroup

The Cleaning up Our Communities workgroup focuses on environmental programs and issues such as Superfund, Brownfields, waste management, and chemicals in our communities, in order to promote healthy and viable communities.

The Cleaning up Our Communities workgroup has examined a range of issues, including:

- Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites
- Developing “Tool Kits” to Clean Contaminated Sites
- Cleanup Technology
- Green Development of Contaminated Sites

Expanding the Conversation (Environmental Justice) Workgroup

The Expanding the Conversation (EJ) Workgroup focuses on ensuring that all communities have equal access to environmental programs and technology and a significant voice in the formulation of national environmental policies impacting them. In particular, the workgroup promotes environmental protection activities in disparately impacted communities.

The Expanding the Conversation (EJ) Workgroup has consulted on topics such as:

- Plan EJ 2014
- Plan EJ 2014 Permitting Guidance
- EJ and Ozone
- Benefits of the Community Action for a Renewed Environment Program

Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup

The Gulf Coast Restoration workgroup was established following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill as a way to ensure that local governments have an opportunity to provide meaningful input as EPA and the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force planned ways to restore the environmental, economic, and cultural health of the Gulf Coast region. The workgroup continues to explore issues related to program implementation of restoration strategies.

The Gulf Coast Restoration workgroup has produced numerous reports, including:

- Gulf Coast Restoration Recommendations
- Comments on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Discussion Document
- Recommendations on the Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy

Protecting America’s Waters Workgroup

The Protecting America’s Waters workgroup focuses on ways that communities and EPA can ensure that we have adequate, safe water resources to support a healthy population and vibrant economy.

The Protecting America’s Waters workgroup has provided recommendations on:

- Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Framework
- Stormwater Management Practices
- Managing the Environmental Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing