



# SMART SECTORS

A PROGRAM OF U.S. EPA

## Accomplishments Report for 2017-2018



Site visit to  
Port Tampa Bay, FL in March, 2018.



Site visit to Lehigh Hanson cement  
plant in Union Bridge, MD in  
September, 2018.



Site visit to Empire Dairy in Wiggins, CO  
in October, 2017.

On October 3, 2017, EPA launched Smart Sectors, a partnership program that provides a platform to collaborate with regulated sectors and develop sensible approaches that better protect the environment and public health. The goals of the program include: meaningful collaboration with regulated sectors; sensible policies to improve environmental outcomes; and better EPA practices and streamlined operations.

The Smart Sectors program, housed within the Office of the Administrator's Office of Policy, works with trade associations that represent a cross-section of the American economy and significant opportunities for environmental improvement. Program leads for each sector serve as ombudsmen within the Agency, conduct educational site visits, host roundtables with EPA leadership, and analyze data to advise on forward-thinking options for environmental improvement. This inaugural report highlights program achievements for the first year of the Smart Sectors program.



September 2018

# Meaningful Collaboration with Sectors

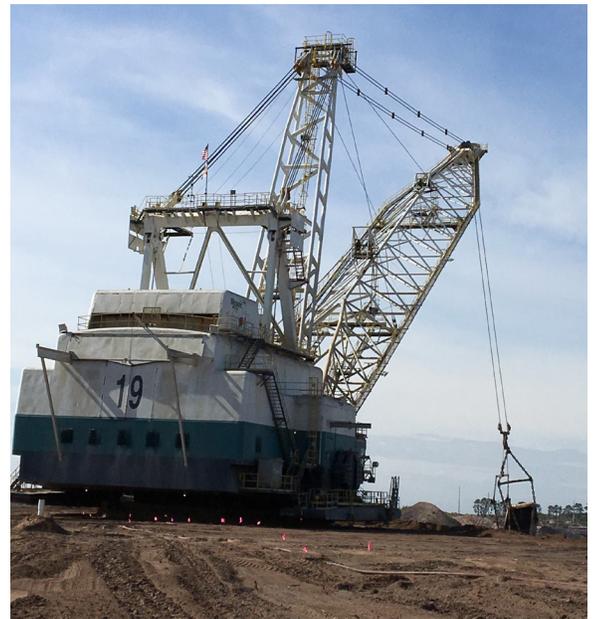
In the first year of the program, EPA established partnerships with **13 sectors of the economy**, and developed ongoing relationships with associations through dialogues and speaking opportunities. Engagement included **two Administrator roundtables** with all sectors, **17 site visits** covering the operations of **9 different sectors**, and more than **400 other meetings**. Staff also held internal meetings with EPA regional and program offices to learn more about all sectors and the issues that cross multiple sectors. EPA Region 8 launched its own Smart Sectors program to engage businesses in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming in achieving better environmental outcomes.

Smart Sectors established a multi-media presence: engaging stakeholders through the web, a video, **3 sector snapshots**, a story map, **15 EPA press releases**, and multiple social media posts, receiving a total of more than **34,000 program website hits** and **61,000 web mentions**.

The Smart Sectors program staff visited the following sites to learn more about sector operations: Chevron Phillips Chemical Company plant in Lake Jackson, TX; Port of Cleveland and ArcelorMittal iron and steel facility in Cleveland, OH; Empire Dairy in Wiggins, CO; JBS/Five Rivers Cattle Feeding in Kersey, CO; Port of Virginia in Norfolk, VA; Marathon Petroleum Corporation's Catlettsburg Refinery in Catlettsburg, KY; Empire State Building energy efficiency retrofit and Hudson Yards sites in New York City; The Boeing Company in Charleston, SC; FoodMaven in Colorado Springs, CO; Port Tampa Bay in Tampa, FL and Mosaic Four Corners Mine in Bradley, FL; Zentech Manufacturing electronics facility in Windsor Mill, MD; Donjon Shipbuilding and Repair in Erie, PA; Fair Oaks Farms in Fair Oaks, IN; and Lehigh Hanson cement plant in Union Bridge, MD.



Site visit to Lehigh Hanson cement plant in Union Bridge, Maryland in September, 2018.



Site visit to learn more about phosphate fertilizer mining in Florida in March, 2018.



Listening to Smart Sectors partner feedback at the Administrator roundtable in June 2018.

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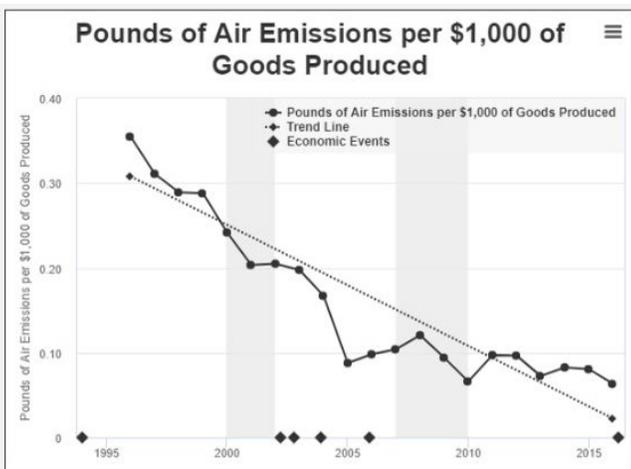
 **34K**  
program website hits

# Sensible Policies to Improve Environmental Outcomes

The program unveiled a new **sector snapshots tool** in September 2018 that provides environmental and economic data about three industries participating in the program. This interactive, web-based application employs a novel approach by assembling a range of **environmental and economic data** from different publicly-available sources to provide an integrated, easy-to-understand context for each sector over the last **20 years**. Each snapshot is designed to help the general public, EPA, and sector partners gain a common understanding of sector performance to inform environmental improvement strategies going forward. The first snapshots feature the chemical manufacturing, iron and steel, and utilities and power generation sectors. Well over **100 different chart views** are possible for each snapshot, depending on which combinations of indicators, benchmarks, and events are selected. Snapshots for the remaining sectors will be released in batches over the next year.



An electric arc furnace used in industrial steel making.

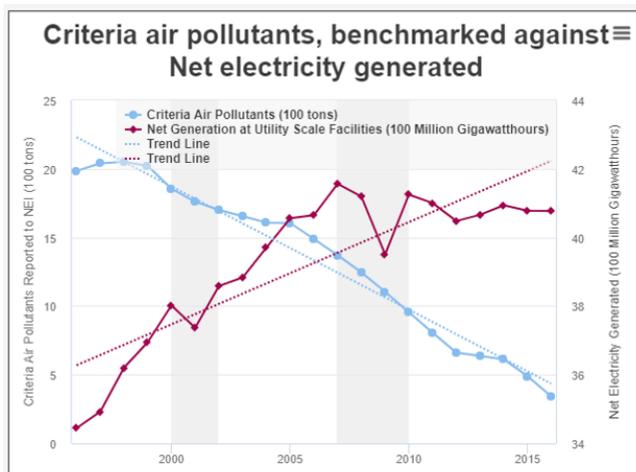


Iron and steel snapshot chart view.



Site visit to Fair Oaks Farms in Fair Oaks, IN, in September, 2018. The anaerobic digesters convert manure into biogas that is then refined into compressed natural gas (CNG) to fuel the milk trucks and to generate electricity to power the farm buildings and machines. Surplus clean biogas is piped and sold to a CNG fueling station.

Utilities and power generation sector snapshot chart view.



# Better EPA Practices and Streamlined Operations

Smart Sectors launched the **best practices in permitting project** to support an agency goal of making all permit decisions within 6 months by 2022. This project included a video, story map, infographic, and profile highlighting a successful, timely permitting process to help EPA, companies, states, and other regional/federal agencies learn from this example. When The Boeing Company decided to secure additional land for future growth in Charleston SC, it identified 468 adjacent acres that met its needs. Because about 150 of those acres were wetlands, Boeing worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and EPA Region 4 to secure air, wetlands, and other permits for development, and they **secured all permits in six months**. They also worked with The Nature Conservancy, Lowcountry Land Trust, and the Open Space Institute. The wetlands mitigation plan included restoration enhancements and habitat improvements on nearly **4,000 acres of land** that will be turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for public access and recreation. The video, story map, infographic, and profile developed by Smart Sectors highlight lessons learned from that project to demonstrate that securing permits within six months is an achievable goal.

Smart Sectors also supports the **Regulatory Reform Task Force**, that was established in 2017, as directed by Executive Order 13777, to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations on those that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification. EO 13777 also directed agencies to seek input from entities significantly affected by regulations. Outreach since 2017, including through Smart Sectors, has continued to bring additional regulatory reform opportunities to EPA's attention. The program will continue to play a supporting role with



Site visit to The Boeing Company, Charleston, SC facility in March, 2018.

respect to passing along recommendations that have been communicated by sector partners for appropriate program office consideration and potential development, in accordance with internal processes and in conformance with the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.



Maintaining and improving the Cooper Watershed is critical for the health of the diverse ecosystem in Charleston, SC.

## Best Practices in Permitting

**What?**

- The Scenario:** An aircraft manufacturer seeks to build new facilities to accommodate future growth.
- The Challenge:** The company needs to expand onto an additional 468 acres, 150 of which are wetlands.
- The Result:** The company's air and wetlands permits are approved 6 months after submission, and 4,000 acres are now protected.

**How?**

- PLAN.** Engage early with key stakeholders. Take advantage of pre-application meetings. Create a permit target schedule.
- COMMUNICATE.** Identify needs (requirements, priorities, uncertainties) and solutions.
- BE FLEXIBLE.** Be willing to change course to overcome barriers.
- COLLABORATE.** Work together to achieve the best outcomes.

**Who benefits?**

- COMMUNITY:** The wetlands mitigation plan protects 4,000 acres expanding the green belt around Charleston – terrific for future hiking, biking, bird watching, and enjoying nature.
- ENVIRONMENT:** The plan improves water quality, protects wildlife, and restores the long-leaf pine ecosystem. **Note:** wetlands projects do not have to be large; it is more about functional ecological gain than acreage.
- ECONOMY:** Streamlined permitting supports business development, adding direct and indirect jobs to the local economy, as well as around the state through the supply chain.

**A streamlined permitting process is good for the economy and good for the environment.**

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