Appendix D: Project Planning Guidance and Resources

Identifying Items for Reuse - Exchange Network Partner Products

The Exchange Network Community strives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental management by collectively learning about successful business processes, data management and technology approaches used by EN partners. As outlined in Section VI-B, the EPA EN Grant Program continues to require assistance agreement applicants to explicitly identify which EN data and technology management resources developed by EN partners will be reused or repurposed in the text of their project proposals within the 'Commitment to Reuse' section of their project narrative.

To ensure that products and services are available for EN partner use and/or collaboration, Exchange Network grant applicants must commit to register any newly developed resources (required since 2011) and commit to register the reuse of existing resources (required since 2018). Applicants should include these explicit commitment statements within the 'Commitment to Reuse' section of their project narrative.

Applicants may use several tools to discover opportunities to reuse or build on the work of other partners:

➢ **Search past EN grant projects on the EPA Exchange Network Grants website**
   Past project records on the EN Grants website now contain information, where available, on reusable components that were developed as part of the project. To find any registered reusable components follow these steps:
   o Visit https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/previous-exchange-network-grant-projects and select a link for the fiscal year you would like to search.
   o In the PDF file, examine the column marked "Registered Components". Projects that have components registered in EPA's Shared Services Resource Catalog (SSRC) will include a hyperlink in that column.
   o Click the hyperlink to view the project record in the SSRC that describes registered components associated with the project.

➢ **Search EECIP to find project ideas, project partners, and reuse opportunities**
   The E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform or EECIP (https://www.eecip.net) is an online community and living project inventory for employees of federal, tribal, territorial and state environmental agencies to enter information about agency projects, technical environment and their own professional interests. Projects and expertise can be tagged to make connections to peers. Users can learn from and collaborate with colleagues and experts and discover, reuse or repurpose the work of others. The site search includes projects, agencies, discussion topics and staff. Please note that a simple registration process is required for first-time users of EECIP; returning users must log-in with their username and password.
   o Projects in all parts of the development cycle can be added to the EECIP – even projects just under consideration – to help users connect with each other in the initial stages of a project and identify organizations for potential EN assistant agreement partnerships.

➢ **Search the SSRC to find potentially reusable code, services, software, and other tools**
   The Shared Services Resource Catalog (SSRC) is part of EPA's System of Registries (https://sscatalog.epa.gov/sharedservicecatalog/search). It is both a catalog of EPA, state, tribal and territory services and a registry of XML schema, widgets, plug-ins, web services and many other resources all of which can be reused by others. SSRC has a searchable interface which allows users to search for existing data and IT assets, grouped by resource types of similar assets. Anyone can search these resources by going to the SSRC public website, which hosts all publicly viewable resources without requiring registration or a password.