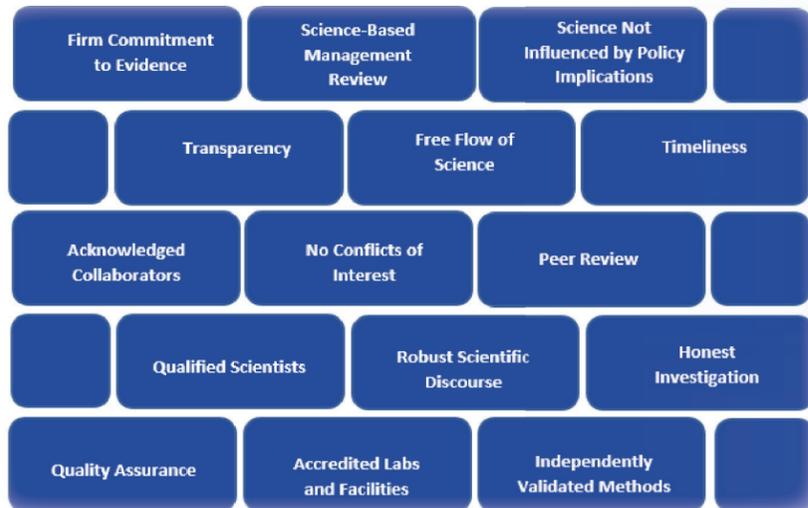


“The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. We exist to serve the public. As such, the public should trust our work. We are committed to earning and maintaining the public’s trust through transparency and accountability in our actions and civility and fairness in our public participation processes.”

— Andrew Wheeler - EPA Acting Administrator
July 30, 2018

Agency Goals for Scientific Integrity

- EPA’s environmental policies, decisions, guidance, and regulations grounded in robust high quality science;
- Transparency within Agency scientific processes;
- Scientific research and results communicated openly and with integrity, accuracy, and timeliness;
- Appropriate use of peer review and federal advisory committees; and
- Professional development of the Agency’s scientists, engineers, and other technical staff.



Scientific Integrity at U.S. EPA

Safeguarding science to protect human health and the environment

Contact Us

Scientific Integrity Official

Francesca T. Grifo, PhD
grifo.francesca@epa.gov

Deputy to the Scientific Integrity Official

Vincent Cogliano, PhD
cogliano.vincent@epa.gov

Scientific Integrity Program Lead

Martha Otto
otto.martha@epa.gov

Scientific Integrity Committee

The Scientific Integrity Committee provides oversight for the implementation of the Scientific Integrity Policy. Led by the Scientific Integrity Official, it is comprised of senior Agency officials from every Office and Region. A list of committee members can be found on our website.

<http://epa.gov/scientificintegrity>

To report fraud, waste, or abuse, contact the Office of Inspector General Hotline through one of the following methods:

Email: oig_hotline@epa.gov

Phone: 1-888-546-8740

Fax: 202-566-2599

Online: <http://www.epa.gov/oig/hotline.htm>

Write:

EPA Inspector General Hotline

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Mailcode 2431T

Washington, DC 20460

Publication Number: 601F17001

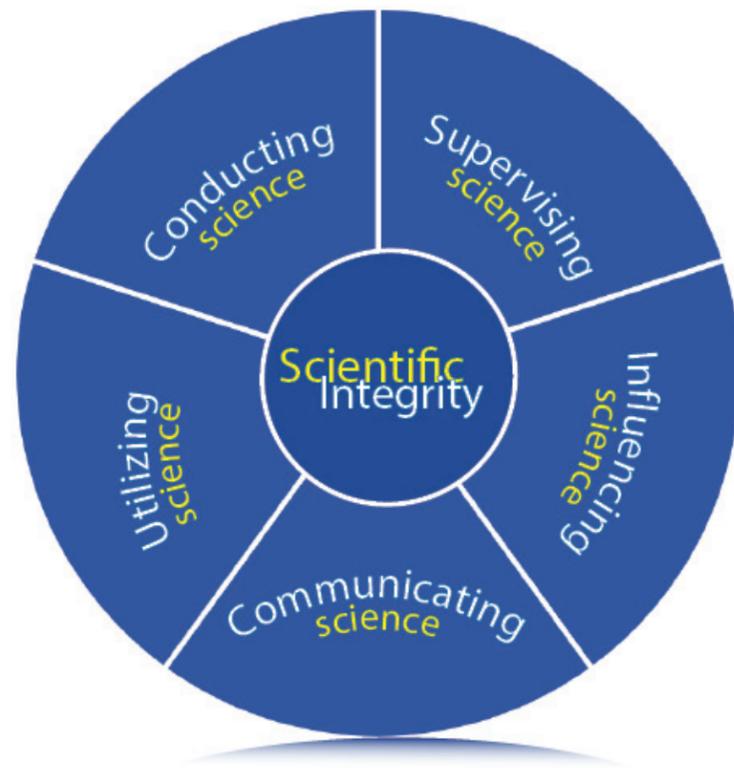
Scientific Integrity



<http://epa.gov/scientificintegrity>

What Is Scientific Integrity?

Scientific integrity is adhering to professional values and practices when conducting, supervising, communicating, and utilizing the results of science and scholarship. Scientific integrity ensures objectivity, clarity, reproducibility, and utility. It also provides insulation from bias, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, outside interference, and censorship.



Why is Scientific Integrity Important to EPA?

EPA's ability to protect human health and the environment depends upon the integrity of its science. The EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy provides both a vision and a roadmap for scientific integrity at the Agency. The Policy, released in 2012, builds upon EPA's rich history of scientific integrity and aims to promote a culture of scientific integrity, ensure the release of scientific information to the public, the consistent use of peer review, and the professional development of scientists and engineers at EPA.

Who Is Expected to Follow the Scientific Integrity Policy?

All Agency employees, including scientists, managers, and political appointees, are required to follow this policy when engaging in, supervising, managing, or influencing scientific activities; communicating information in an official capacity about Agency scientific activities; and utilizing scientific information in making Agency policy or management decisions. In addition, all contractors, grantees, collaborators, and student volunteers of the Agency who engage in scientific activities are expected to uphold the standards established by the policy.

What Characterizes a Culture of Scientific Integrity?

- A culture of robust scientific inquiry and discussion
- Transparent scientific processes and open communication of science
- Scientific conclusions that are not influenced by their policy implications

A culture of scientific integrity ensures that EPA scientists can do their best work and that EPA decisions are informed by the best science that the Agency, its contractors, grantees, and collaborators have to offer. In a culture of scientific integrity, employees are protected when they report allegations. Similarly, employees who express differing scientific opinions should not be subject to retaliation.

Policy Highlights

- Commits EPA to evidence, honest investigation, & open discussion
- Re-affirms policies & procedures for using & characterizing scientific information in policy development
- Requires employees to act honestly & avoid scientific misconduct
- Aims to expand & promote access to EPA's scientific information
- Prohibits all employees including managers and other Agency leadership from intimidating or coercing scientists to alter their scientific findings or opinions
- Enables employees, with disclaimers, to speak as private citizens
- Allows scientists to review, correct, & approve content for public release that significantly relies on their research, writing, or opinion
- Describes safeguards for peer review & advisory committees
- Encourages professional development for Agency scientists

What if I Have a Scientific Integrity Concern?

Employees with a scientific integrity concern are encouraged to seek immediate advice from the Scientific Integrity Official (SciO) or a Deputy Scientific Integrity Official (DSiO). These officials can provide timely advice or assistance that may potentially prevent violations of the Policy and may provide information or suggest preventive actions. If they are unable to assist in preventing or resolving a scientific integrity issue through early consultation, a person may submit a formal allegation.

Allegations of a violation of the Scientific Integrity Policy may be reported in writing to the SciO, any DSiO, or to the Office of Inspector General. To facilitate timely corrective scientific action, submitters should strive to promptly report allegations. Allegations may come from inside or outside the Agency. Because we are all responsible for upholding scientific integrity, a submitter does not need to be an involved party in the allegation. Allegations should be submitted in writing with as much of the following information as possible.

- The section of the Policy that was violated
- The names & affiliations of those who violated the Policy
- Documents & supporting evidence including a timeline
- The D/SciO or other official consulted for advice or assistance
- The names & affiliations of pertinent witnesses & experts

To the extent permissible by law, the identity of someone wishing to remain anonymous will be kept confidential and only shared with those that need to know.

Once an allegation is resolved, the SciO prepares a summary that includes recommendations for preventive measures and corrective actions to safeguard the relevant science. The SciO also follows up to ensure that the scientific recommendations are appropriately enacted. Resolved allegations are summarized in EPA's Scientific Integrity Annual Report and on the internet in a way that protects the identities of those involved.

