

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# NRC Report on Sustainability and the EPA

Office of Pesticide Programs  
Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee  
May 3, 2012

# Topics

1. Overview of NRC report
2. Examples to advance sustainability
3. Next steps
4. Open Discussion
5. Contacts

# 1. Overview of NRC Report:

## EPA Charge to NRC

- *“What should be the operational framework for sustainability for EPA?”*
- *How can the EPA decision-making process rooted in the risk assessment/risk management paradigm be integrated into this new sustainability framework?*
- *What scientific and analytical tools are needed to support the framework?*
- *What expertise is needed to support the framework?”*

# Defining Sustainability

*“ to create and maintain conditions under which humans and Nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations”*

NRC referenced Executive Order 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance) signed on October 5, 2009; citing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

# Key NRC Recommendations Include

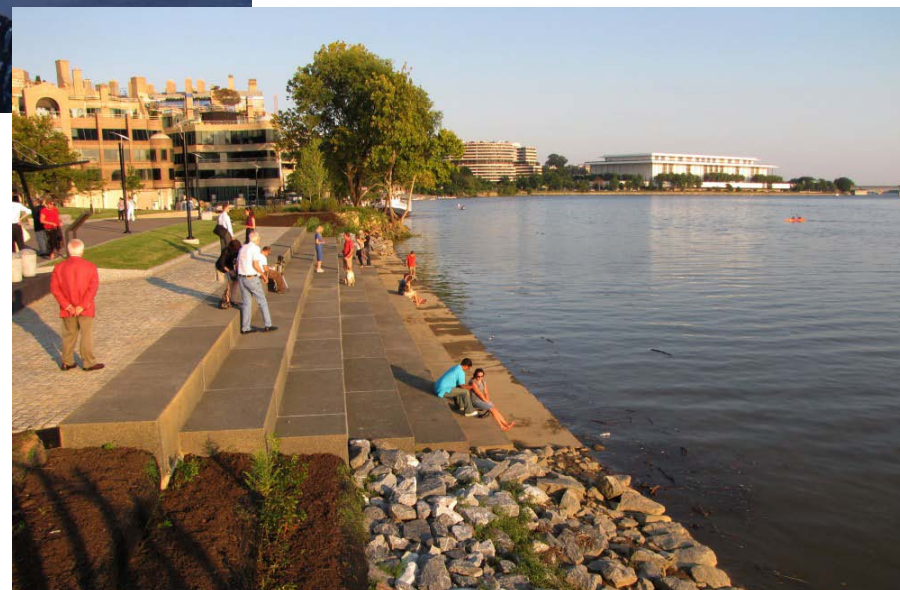
- Adopt a comprehensive sustainability framework
- Programs should set 3-5 year “breakthrough objectives”
- Develop a “sustainability toolbox”
- Include risk assessment as a key input to sustainability decision making
- Institute a focused program of change management inside EPA
- Hire multidisciplinary professionals and augment staffing from additional sectors (e.g. social & health)
- Maximize/optimize benefits paradigm

# NRC Report in Context

- EPA requested review and is not bound by results
- NRC did not assess EPA legal mandate, organizational structure or institutional framework
- Further push on sustainability can help:
  - *Overcome new challenges (e.g. climate change; aging water infrastructure)*
  - *Enhance synergies across sectors*
  - *Enhance trade and export competitiveness*
- NRC cited many encouraging EPA efforts on sustainability



*“Sustainability is a continuum.....” Bob Perciasepe*





# Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century

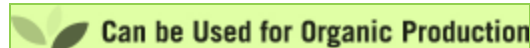
(National Research Council, 2010)

- A sustainable farming system needs to be sufficiently productive, robust (able to continue to meet the goals in the face of stresses and fluctuating conditions), use resources efficiently, and balance the four goals:
  - Satisfy human food, feed, and fiber needs, and contribute to biofuel needs.
  - Enhance environmental quality and the resource base.
  - Sustain the economic viability of agriculture.
  - Enhance the quality of life for farmers, farm workers, and society as a whole.

# Sustainability Efforts Underway in the Office of Pesticide Programs

## ONGOING PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

- ✓ Employing state-of-the-art risk assessment approaches
- ✓ Streamlining product registration for reduced risk pesticide products
  - Conventional reduced risk pesticide program
  - Biopesticide registration program
- ✓ Managing pesticide resistance
  - Mode of action labeling
  - Insect Resistance Management requirements for Plant-Incorporated Protectants
- ✓ Allowing organic production mark for qualifying pesticide products



# Sustainability Efforts Underway in the Office of Pesticide Programs

## **PILOT PROJECTS & NEW PROGRAMS**

- ✓ **21<sup>st</sup> Century Toxicology efforts, employing new technology, improving use of available scientific evidence and reducing the burden/costs of testing pesticides**
- ✓ **Pilot - Design for the Environment (DfE) mark on qualifying hard surface disinfectants -- “DfE Antimicrobial Pesticide Pilot Project: Moving Toward the Green End of the Pesticide Spectrum”**
- ✓ **Incorporating IPM standards into Green Building Council’s LEED Certification**



## 3. Next Steps

- Stakeholder meetings
- In-reach sessions in HQ and Regions
- Follow-up with interested stakeholders
- Aggregation of feedback across EPA
- Discussion on next steps in Summer 2012

## 4. Open Discussion

- Your experience with advancing sustainability
- Your views on major science, technology and policy challenges and opportunities
- Thoughts on approaches to advance sustainability in the national water and pesticides programs administered by EPA
- Roles for EPA: science, implementation, tracking and reporting of sustainability
- Near-term opportunities and constraints
- Longer term opportunities and constraints

# 5. OPP Contacts

**Jane Hopkins**

**Government and International Services Branch,  
[Hopkins.jane@epa.gov](mailto:Hopkins.jane@epa.gov); 703 -305-7195**

**Tim Kiely, Chief**

**Economic Analysis Branch**

**Biological and Economical Analysis Division  
[Kiely.tim@epa.gov](mailto:Kiely.tim@epa.gov); 703-308-8112**

**[www.epa.gov/sustainability](http://www.epa.gov/sustainability)**