

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Open Government Plan 4.0 Outline



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a rich legacy as an open organization, and the Administration's Open Government (OpenGov) initiative has been a catalyst to re-examine our open practices with the goal of bringing tangible benefits to the public. This document serves as an outline for the structure of the Agency's Open Government Plan 4.0, expected to be published later this summer.

## I. Introduction and Background

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This section will provide an introduction to EPA's Open Government 4.0 Plan.

## II. New and Expanded Initiatives

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This section will describe EPA's current progress and plans in supporting the following new and expanded initiatives:

- A. **Open Data**: Describes how EPA will use data to further its core mission; increase accountability and responsiveness; increase effectiveness and efficiency; spur innovation and collaboration; and create economic opportunity. Also explain how EPA intends to implement and execute this strategic vision in the next two years.
  - a. Data.gov
  - b. EIMP
  - c. API Strategy
  - d. Developers Central
  - e. Other System of Registry Work
  - f. Public Access/Envirofacts
  - g. Data Analytics Program
- B. **Proactive Disclosures**: Describes actions and policies EPA uses or will use to proactively disclose information to increase transparency, accountability, and foster a culture based on the presumption of openness.
  - a. My Property and FOIAonline
  - b. Community Grants
  - c. ChemView
- C. **Privacy**: Describes how EPA provides the public with access to information regarding EPA's privacy program, generally; Privacy Act systems of records; privacy impact assessments; required privacy compliance reports; and privacy regulations, especially with regard to how an individual requests access to and amendment of Privacy Act records.
  - a. Privacy Program
- D. **Whistleblower Protection**: Describes EPA's progress toward ensuring that employees are informed of their rights and remedies under the prohibited personnel practices and whistleblower retaliation protection provisions of Title 5.

# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Open Government Plan 4.0 Outline



- a. Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman
- E. **Websites**: Describes EPA's plan for governing its digital services, including websites and data, and publicly posting its governance plan on its Digital Strategy page. Provides a link to EPA's digital governance plan.
  - a. Website Management
- F. **Open Innovation Methods**: Describes EPA's current and planned activity and policy related to increasing the strategic use of open innovation and plans for specific open innovation projects in the next two years.
  - a. Challenges and Prizes
  - b. Citizen Science
  - c. Innovation Awards
    - i. Clean Air Excellence Awards
    - ii. Presidential Environmental Youth Award Program
    - iii. Presidential Green Chemistry Award Program
  - d. Greenspark
- G. **Access to Scientific Data and Publications**: Describes EPA's plans to increase access to the results of unclassified research supported wholly or in part by Federal funding.
  - a. HERO (Health and Environmental Research Online) Website
  - b. Public Access Plan
- H. **Open Source Software**: Describes any open source software policies or projects that exist in EPA, including (1) where code is releasable to the public and (2) where code is made broadly available for Government-wide reuse.
  - a. Elastic Search
  - b. e-Enterprise Portal
  - c. e-Manifest
  - d. Adoption of Open Source Software
  - e. Reusable Component Service
  - f. Digital Service Program
- I. **Spending Information**: Describes how DATA Act implementation fits more broadly into EPA's open government work and how EPA plans to use these data in internal management and decision-making processes.
  - a. DATA Act Implementation
  - b. FITARA (Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act)

# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Open Government Plan 4.0 Outline



## III. Ongoing Initiatives

This section will describe EPA's current progress and plans in supporting the following ongoing initiatives required by the 2009 Open Government Directive:

- A. **Participation in Transparency Initiatives**: Describes how EPA is participating in transparency initiatives such as Data.gov, eRulemaking, IT Dashboard, Grants.gov, CFDA.gov, and USAspending.gov.
  - a. Data.gov
  - b. eRulemaking Program / Regulations.gov
  - c. IT Dashboard
  - d. Grants.gov
  - e. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA.gov)
- B. **Public Notice**: Describes proposed actions, including clear milestones, to inform the public about significant agency activities and business, and how EPA will use its public website to share this information.
  - a. Public Affairs Office (News Room)
- C. **Records Management**: Describes EPA's compliance with existing records management requirements and a link to the explanation on your agency's records webpage.
  - a. Records Program
- D. **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests**: Describes EPA's capacity to process and respond to FOIA requests in a timely manner; reduce FOIA request backlog; proposed changes, technological resources, or reforms that EPA determines are needed to strengthen its response processes and improve customer service; and provides a link to EPA's FOIA webpage.
  - a. FOIA Program
  - b. FOIAonline
- E. **Congressional Requests**: Describes EPA's staffing, organizational structure, and administrative process for analyzing and responding to Congressional requests for information.
  - a. Office of Congressional Affairs
- F. **Declassification**: Describes how the public can learn about EPA's declassification programs, including what materials have been recently declassified, how to access declassified materials, and how they can provide input about what types of information should be prioritized for declassification, as appropriate.
  - a. TSCA Voluntary Declassification Challenge Program
- G. **Public Participation**: Describes how EPA promotes opportunities for public participation in decision-making processes, including actions EPA will take to increase opportunities for public feedback.

# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Open Government Plan 4.0 Outline



- a. EPA's Public Participation Guide
- b. Public Participation Opportunities Promoted via the Public Affairs Office
- H. **Collaboration**: Describes how EPA will improve collaboration, including steps EPA will take to revise current practices to further cooperation with other Federal and non-Federal governmental agencies, the general public, and non-profit and private entities in fulfilling EPA's core mission activities.
  - a. Sharepoint
  - b. EPA/Federal GeoPlatform
  - c. Environmental Data Platform
  - d. A-16 Portfolio Management
  - e. Innovation Team
  - f. Selected Innovation Projects
    - i. Citizen Science
    - ii. Next Generation Air Monitoring
    - iii. Village Green Project
    - iv. Real Time Geospatial Data Viewer (RETIGO)
  - g. Public Affairs Office
- I. **Flagship Initiative**: Describes specific new transparency, participation, or collaboration initiatives that EPA is currently implementing, or will be implementing before the next update of the Open Government Plan.
  - a. AirNow-Domestic and International Expansion
  - b. ECHO
  - c. E-Enterprise
  - d. Pesticides Label Matching Project

## IV. Conclusion

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**Appendix A:** OpenGov Plan 4.0 Milestones for Featured Projects

**Appendix B:** Links to some of EPA's Major Reports. Plans and Resources Related to Open Government