

# **FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan**

**Briefing for NACEPT**

November 3, 2014

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# Strategic Plan Background and Purpose

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- Required by GPRA Modernization Act of 2010; published every 4 years
- Describes the Agency's long-term direction/results and strategies to achieve them.
- Used by senior leadership as a management tool
- Basis for annual planning, budgeting, and accountability



# **EPA Administrator's Themes**

*Meeting the Challenge Ahead*

- Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country
- Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality
- Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety
- Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource
- Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships
- Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization
- Working Toward a Sustainable Future



# EPA FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan

Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment

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## Strategic Goals

*(What we do)*

Climate Change & Air Quality

Water

Cleaning Up Communities

Chemical Safety & Pollution Prev.

Enforcement and Compliance

## Cross-Agency Strategies

*(How we do it)*

Sustainability

Communities

Partnerships

High Performing Organization

Core Values: Science, Transparency, Rule of Law



# Operationalizing the Strategic Plan

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# Key Focus Areas of NACEPT Comments

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- Sustainability
- Cross-Agency Strategy Implementation and Cross-Program Collaboration
- Enforcement



# Sustainability: Greater Visibility in the Strategic Plan

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- Sustainability has been incorporated throughout the Strategic Plan as a key operating principle.
  - Administrator's Message sets the tone
    - Agency seeks to build sustainability into day-to-day operations, to adopt sustainable, innovative solutions that build resiliency, such as green infrastructure.
    - Sustainable, innovative approaches grounded in science...are instrumental to solving today's environmental challenges.
  - Introduction lays the groundwork
    - Use creative, flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable actions that deliver significant environmental/health benefits on the ground
    - Incorporate sustainability principles into regulatory, enforcement, incentive-based, and partnership programs
    - Focus on developing and using sustainable actions that deliver significant benefits on the ground. Building resiliency to extreme weather events will help adapt to a changing climate.



# Sustainability:

## Greater Visibility in the Strategic Plan (cont'd)

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- Goal Chapters provide specifics
  - Goal 3 has an entire objective on promoting sustainable and livable communities
    - Describes efforts with local, state, tribal, and federal partners to promote smart growth, land redevelopment and reuse, and equitable distribution of environmental benefits, and how local planning and zoning codes can support smart growth.
  - Goal 2 addresses sustainable infrastructure and planning
    - Working with partners to protect infrastructure, conserve water, adopt green infrastructure, and improve resilience of infrastructural and natural systems
    - Promoting robust planning that includes assessment of green, sustainable alternatives





# Sustainability:

## Greater Visibility in the Strategic Plan (cont'd)

- **Cross-Agency Strategies engage Agency-wide**
  - Sustainability included in all four Strategies, with one dedicated Strategy: “Working toward a Sustainable Future.”
  - Communities Strategy: Expand support of community efforts to build healthy, sustainable, green neighborhoods through improved outreach, coordination of resources across community-based programs, increased community focus within regulatory and enforcement actions, and expanded technical assistance and research for the benefit of communities.
  - Partnerships Strategy: Expand partnership efforts to increase international commitments to sustainability goals.
  - High Performing Organization: Achieve or exceed federal sustainability targets through enhanced sustainable workplace choices (reduced water/ energy use, GHG, and waste generation). Share lessons learned with other federal agencies.



# Cross-Agency Strategies: Implementation & Cross-Program Collaboration

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- High-level discussion by design in executive-level Strategic Plan
  - ❑ Gives us flexibility to adapt to changing needs and an opportunity to plan for and organize our efforts.
- Agency's Executive Management Council is accountable for Strategy implementation
  - ❑ EMC led by Deputy Administrator and composed of all EPA's career senior leaders.
- Facilitation teams for each Cross-Agency Strategy
  - ❑ Teams led by and consist of senior leaders from across program and regional offices.
  - ❑ Teams developed and implemented FY 2014 action plans, available on EPA website (<http://www2.epa.gov/planandbudget/fy-2014-cross-agency-strategies-action-plans>). FY 2015 action plans currently under development.
  - ❑ Facilitation teams provide an opportunity for us to look at the Strategies, identify the most significant actions, assess progress, and raise issues to senior leadership.
  - ❑ Facilitation teams help break down "stove pipes" and encourage cross-media activity within the Agency.



# Maintain Strong Enforcement Presence

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- EPA is focusing federal enforcement resources on the most important environmental problems where non-compliance is a significant contributing factor and where federal enforcement attention can have a significant impact.
- This strategy means EPA's top enforcement priority will be pursuing large, complex cases that require significant investment and a long-term commitment.
- We anticipate that this strategy will result in a higher level of public health protection because of the significant impacts associated with the large cases and the precedent they set for performance of large facilities across the country.
- In this way, we can address the most serious pollution problems, direct EPA's limited resources to important cases on which EPA is best suited to take action, and still maintain the program's effectiveness.