



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 27 REC'D

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. William G. Ross Jr.
Chair
National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Ross,

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I wish to thank you and your colleagues on the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) for your advice and recommendations on citizen science.¹ We value NACEPT's support and appreciate the advice and recommendations made by the members on this important matter.

NACEPT's report titled *Environmental Protection Belongs to the Public: A Vision for Citizen Science at EPA* is a thorough review and in-depth set of recommendations for how EPA can continue to protect human health and the environment by working with the public through citizen science. In this report you outline the potential of citizen science for environmental protection and provide EPA with 13 recommendations to fully integrate citizen science into the work of the Agency. This report is the first comprehensive look at how citizen science supports the core work of EPA, and helps frame the issues – technical, policy, and social – that need attention. The report was widely distributed and is publicly available on the EPA website. We briefed senior leadership on the report last December and have made presentations to the EPA community of practice on citizen science, which informs EPA staff.

EPA is already implementing some of the recommendations. For example, Region 1 and the Office of Environmental Information are developing guidance for citizen science and community groups on developing Quality Assurance Project Plans and communicating data quality. This set of guidance builds from the spectrum of citizen science data use introduced in your report. In addition, the Office of Research and Development has a new initiative for regional projects that use innovative approaches, including citizen science, for regional and state science priorities.

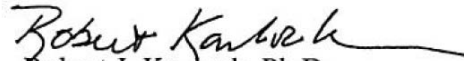
Engagement of the public in the work of environmental protection is a priority for EPA. There is a lot to learn from the case studies included in your report such as understanding how citizen science can be used to accomplish mission-critical work at EPA and state environmental agencies.

¹ National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. 2016. *Environmental Protection Belongs to the Public: A Vision for Citizen Science at EPA*. <https://www.epa.gov/faca/nacept-2016-report-environmental-protection-belongs-public-vision-citizen-science-epa>

I thank the Council once more for the thoughtful report and your continued support of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

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Sincerely,


Robert J. Kavlock, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Administrator