

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Open Government Plan Self Evaluation

NAME OF AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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DIRECTIONS

The enclosed list of 30 criteria is drawn directly from the text of the Open Government Directive. Please return this form to the White House Open Government team at opengov@ostp.gov by 5 pm on Friday, April 23rd. To complete the self-evaluation form, please indicate a response to each of the criteria as follows:

Red (R) – plan does not satisfy the requirement

Yellow (Y) – plan partially satisfies the requirement

Green (G) – plan fully satisfies the requirement

N/A - not applicable because agency does not engage in that activity or area

Please include any explanatory comments on the last page.

Optional: If you wish, please provide the page range for the relevant section of the plan that is the basis for your answer to each question.

Formulating the Plan in the Open

1. Was <i>multidisciplinary collaboration</i> involved in formulating the plan? (Section I.G; pages 10-11)	● (G)
2. Was <i>public consultation</i> involved in crafting the plan? (Section I.G; pages 10-11)	● (G)
3. Was the plan <i>published in an open format</i> , online, on time and on the open government page and with raw data? (Published in PDF and blog format (HTML, web browser-viewable) early morning on 4/7/2010)	● (G)
4. Is there a plan for <i>continued public engagement</i> as part of the review and modification of the open government plan? (Section I.G; pages 10-11)	● (G)

Transparency Strategic Action Plan

5. Does the plan contain a strategic action plan that <i>inventories agency high-value information</i> currently available for download? (Section II.B; pages 16–17; the Strategic Data Action Plan discussed in the plan will include a detailed inventory of the 400+ sites)	● (Y)
6. Is there a plan to foster the <i>public's use of this information</i> to increase public knowledge and promote public scrutiny of agency services? (Section I primarily; but throughout plan and Web site)	● (G)
7. Does the action plan <i>identify high value information not yet available</i> and establish a reasonable timeline for publication online in open formats with specific target dates? (Section II.B; pages 17-19)	● (G)
8. For agencies providing <i>public information in electronic format</i> : Is there a plan for timely publication of underlying data for public information maintained in electronic format? (Section II.B; our published data are in raw and open format)	● (G)
9. Does the plan <i>identify key audiences for information and their needs</i> , and the agency endeavors to publish high-value information for each of those audiences in the most accessible forms and formats? (Section I.E; Our Public Involvement Policy is referenced in the plan)	● (Y)
10. Is there a plan to demarcate <i>educational material</i> as free for re-use? (EPA has an educators and student area on our Web site; many of our participation/collaboration activities are specifically geared to education – e.g. video contests)	● (Y)
11. Does the plan detail compliance with <i>transparency initiative guidance</i> , and where gaps exist, detailed steps the agency is taking and the timing to meet the requirements for each	

initiative:	
a. Data.gov (Section II.C; page 19)	● (G)
b. eRulemaking (Section II.C; pages 19-20)	● (G)
c. IT Dashboard (Section II.C; page 20)	● (G)
d. Recovery.gov (Section II.C; page 20-21)	● (G)
e. USAspending.gov (Section II.C; page 21)	● (G)
12. Are there details of proposed actions (with clear milestones) to inform the public of significant actions and <i>business of the agency</i> (e.g. agency public meetings, briefings, press conferences, town halls)? (Section I.F; pages 9-10)	● (G)
13. Does the plan address existing <i>record management requirements</i> by providing:	
a. Website link (Section II.C; page 22)	● (G)
b. Identifying and scheduling all electronic records (On Web site referenced Section II.C; page 22; www.epa.gov/records/)	● (G)
c. Timely transfer of all permanently valuable records to the National Archives (On Web site)	● (G)
14. Does the plan address <i>FOIA</i> by providing:	
a. Website link? (Section II.C; page 23)	● (G)
b. Staffing, organizational structure, and process for responding to FOIA requests? (On Web site referenced on Section II.C; page 23; www.epa.gov/foia)	● (G)
c. Assessment of capacity to analyze, coordinate and respond to requests in a timely manner? (On Web site)	● (G)
d. If there is a significant FOIA backlog, details on how the agency will reduce the backlog by 10% each year? (N/A; no significant backlog)	● (G)
15. Does the plan address <i>congressional requests</i> by providing a:	
a. Website link? (Section II.C; page 23)	● (G)
b. Staffing, organizational structure, and process for responding to Congressional requests? (On Web site referenced in Section II.C; page 23 – process to respond will be posted)	● (Y)
16. Does the plan address declassification, if applicable by providing a:	
a. Website link? (Section II.C; pages 23-24)	● (G)
b. Where the public can learn about declassification programs, accessing declassified materials, and provide input about what types of information should be prioritized for declassification? (On www.epa.gov/open as referenced in Section II.C; page 23)	● (G)

Participation

17. Does the plan explain how the agency will improve participation, including steps the agency will take to revise its current practices to increase opportunities for public participation in and feedback on the agency's core mission activities (including proposed changes to internal management and administrative policies to improve participation)? (Section I.E; page 8)	● (G)
18. Does the plan describe and provide links to websites for the public to engage in existing participatory processes? (Section III.B; pages 27-29; and throughout document)	● (G)
19. Are there proposals for new feedback mechanisms (including innovative tools and practices for public engagement)? (Section III.B; pages 27-29; and throughout document)	● (G)

Collaboration

Does the plan list steps the agency will take to revise its current practices to further collaboration:	
20. With other Federal and non-Federal government agencies? Including the use of technology platforms to this end? (Section IV.B; pages 33-38)	● (G)
21. With the public? Including the use of technology platforms? (Section IV.B; pages 33-38)	● (G)
22. With non-profit and private entities? Including technology platforms? (Section IV.B; pages	● (G)

33-38)	
23. Are there links to websites that describe existing collaboration efforts of the agency? (Section IV.B; pages 33-38)	● (G)
24. Does the plan describe the Innovative methods (e.g. prizes and collaborations) to increase collaboration with the private sector, non-profit, and academic communities? (Section IV.B; pages 33-38; also pages 20, 27, and 40)	● (G)

Flagship Initiative

25. Does the plan include at least one specific flagship engagement? (Section V; pages 39-42)	● (G)
26. Does the description provide an overview of the initiative: how it addresses one or more of the three openness principles and how it aims to improve agency operations? (Section V; pages 39-42; and posted on EPA's OpenGov site http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/index.html)	● (G)
27. Does it identify external partners for collaboration (if appropriate)? (Section V; pages 39-42; and posted on EPA's OpenGov site http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/index.html)	● (G)
28. Is there a plan for public participation in contributing innovative ideas to the flagship? (Section V; pages 39-42; and posted on EPA's OpenGov site http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/index.html)	● (G)
29. Does the description explain how the improvements to transparency, participation and/or collaboration will be measured? (Section V; pages 39-42; and posted on EPA's OpenGov site http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/index.html)	● (G)
30. Does the flagship include a description of sustainability and room for improvement? (Section V; pages 39-42; and posted on EPA's OpenGov site http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/index.html)	● (G)

COMMENTS: While we believe the Agency actively promotes the principles of Open Government, we took a conservative approach to scoring our Open Government plan. EPA intends to address each area where we graded ourselves as yellow, as well as make further progress in many other areas, in the months to come.