

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

EPA Open Government Progress Report and Summary of Changes to Plan - June 2010



Contents and Highlights

Addressed in this document/update to EPA's Open Government Plan Version 1.0:

- ✓ Improvements identified since the April 7, 2010 release of our plan
 - Getting to Green ●, EPA's self-evaluation based on OMB scorecard
 - External Review/Evaluation (OMB Watch: Openthegovernment.org)

Additional highlights and links to more information:

- ✓ Inventory of current and future Data.gov data sets
http://www.epa.gov/open/Data_Set_Inventory0625.pdf
 - Helps the public understand our data sets and meets two OMB scorecard requirements
 - Provides background information including: a simple description, links to Data.gov and system information, intended audience, mission-related priorities supported, and the type of high-value information represented
- ✓ Data sets addressing public requests – TSCA Inventory data set requested by the public is now the top requested EPA data set and among top 5 government-wide
- ✓ EPA Strategic Plan – First time a draft is open for public comment <http://blog.epa.gov/strategicplan/>
- ✓ New participation opportunities – See <http://www.epa.gov/open/>
- ✓ Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Update http://www.epa.gov/foia/open_gov.html
 - Created MyPropertyInfo search tool to address real estate FOIAs
<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/fii/myproperty.html>
- ✓ Measures – The Open Government Implementation Work Group and Strategic Data Action Plan Team are evaluating current measures to leverage what exists and add where needed in defining Open Government measures
- ✓ Web Site Restructuring – Initiated web restructuring project with 8 microsite and resource directory pilots to improve targeted audience communication through content review and topic-driven consolidation

Getting to Green ●

Inventory of High-Value Data

Self-Evaluation Criteria (#5): Does the plan contain a strategic action plan that inventories agency high-value information currently available for download?

Update/Actions:

- ✓ EPA also created an inventory of information that is currently on Data.gov or will soon be posted on Data.gov; the inventory is a single place to help the public understand what the data set is and contains, who suggested it be published, the targeted audience, the Agency mission-related priorities addressed, and the type of high-value data
- ✓ The Data Inventory can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/open/Data_Set_Inventory0625.pdf

Enhances/updates Section II.B of the Plan V1.0

(continued)

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Getting to Green ● (continued)

Meeting Needs of Key Audiences

Self-Evaluation Criteria (#9): Does the plan identify key audiences for information and their needs, and the agency endeavors to publish high-value information for each of those audiences in the most accessible forms and formats?

Update/Actions:

- ✓ The plan defines key stakeholders and describes the National Dialogue project EPA undertook in 2008 to hear what our stakeholders want (<http://www.epa.gov/nationaldialogue/index.html>)
- ✓ A summary of what we heard and are evaluating can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/open/NationalDialogue.pdf>
- ✓ EPA's Data Inventory http://www.epa.gov/open/Data_Set_Inventory0625.pdf identifies the targeted audience for each data set

Enhances/updates Section III.A of the Plan V1.0

Free Reuse of EPA Materials

Self-Evaluation Criteria (#10): Is there a plan to demarcate educational material as free for re-use?

Update/Actions:

- ✓ EPA has a web site (<http://www.epa.gov/nscep/>) that provides free access EPA publications, and we have more than 7,000 print publications in stock and 35,000 digital titles
 - The public can search and retrieve, download, print and/or order EPA publications from this site
 - Publications on these sites are government material and not copyrighted; therefore, these materials can be reused for educational or other purposes
 - Any materials in EPA libraries that are copyrighted are marked accordingly
- ✓ In addition, educational materials geared to students and teachers for their reuse can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/students.htm>, accessible from EPA's home page and OpenGov page; the site also provides links to training opportunities and materials for environmental professionals

Enhances/updates Section IV.B.3 of the Plan V1.0

Congressional Response Transparency

Self-Evaluation Criteria (#15b): Staffing, organizational structure, and process for responding to Congressional requests?

Update/Actions:

- ✓ EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) is responsible for responding to Congressional requests
- ✓ OCIR's web site provides their staffing and organizational structure, as well as EPA's process for responding to Congressional requests <http://www.epa.gov/ocir/about.htm>

Enhances/updates Section II.C.2 of the Plan V1.0

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External Review/Evaluation

Approach

- ✓ EPA received comments and input on our Open Government Plan V1.0 from two types of sources:
 - Public/other comments via established avenues (i.e. IdeaScale, OG email)
 - OpenTheGovernment.org, who conducted an independent audit of all Open Government plans across government
- ✓ EPA reviewed the recommendations from these external reviews/evaluation and addressed recommendations as appropriate
- ✓ Many external comments are being evaluated or have been addressed
- ✓ In this section we respond directly to the independent review by OpenTheGovernment.org

Communications

Recommendation: The Agency's plan would be strengthened by the inclusion of a communications policy that clearly describes the rules governing interactions between the public and agency staff; such a communications policy should break down existing barriers that limit access to agency expertise and stifle scientific discourse.

Update/Actions:

- ✓ EPA is evaluating this recommendation within our established Open Government Governance process and will provide updates on the status in conjunction with our quarterly reporting process

Enhances/updates Section I.G.4 of the Plan V1.0

Stakeholders

Recommendation: The agency should be more specific when identifying the stakeholders it will reach out to for its Flagship Initiatives.

Update/Actions:

- ✓ Flagship projects are at various stages of maturity
- ✓ With this Progress report we have identified the stakeholders for our Chesapeake Bay project and others will be updated as they are identified
- ✓ Track their quarterly progress from our Open site

See Community Engagement Flagship Summary at <http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/progress.pdf>

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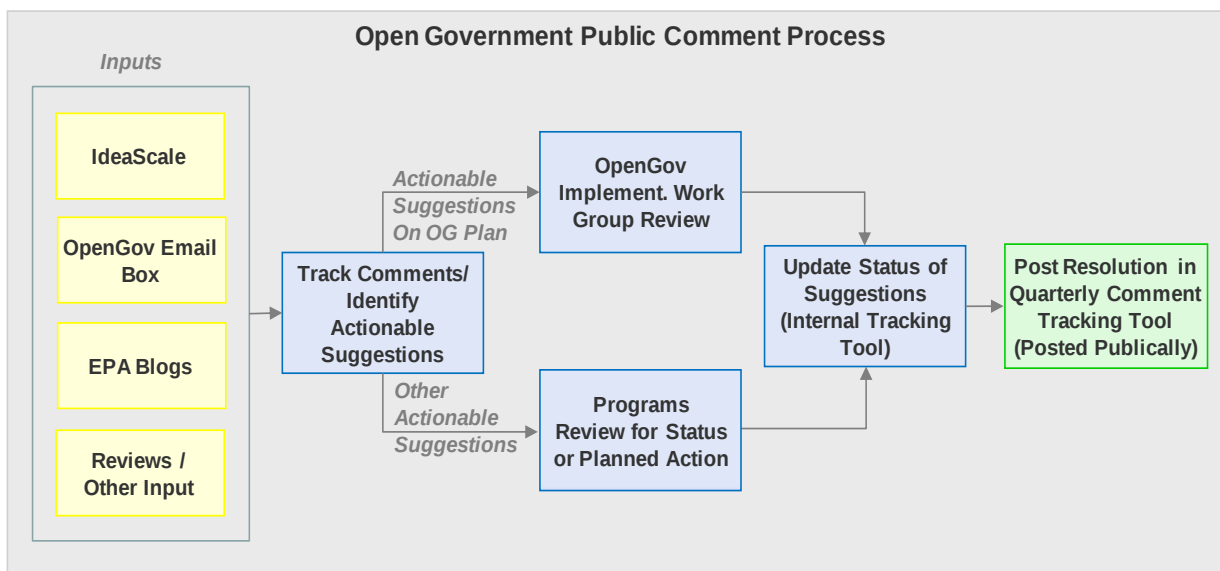


Actions to address public comments

Approach

EPA received many suggestions through the various sources created to support the development of our Open Government Plan Version 1.0 and post plan publication

- ✓ We have established the process illustrated below for assessing and acting on top vote getting public comments
- ✓ While not all recommendations could be acted upon within the past three months, EPA has addressed the 5 top vote getting suggestions in the Open Government Plan Version 1.1



Inventories of Incoming Comments

We captured and are tracking the following sources of comments

- ✓ IdeaScale
 - All suggestions are viewable at <http://www.openepa.ideascale.com/>
- ✓ EPA Blog Comments
 - Actionable Suggestions captured from Plan 1.0
<http://www.epa.gov/open/BlogComments.pdf>
- ✓ Public emails to EPA's Open Gov address
 - Actionable Suggestions summarized and categorized
http://www.epa.gov/open/public_email.pdf

Enhances/updates Section IV.B.4 of the Plan V1.0