

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability (CNS)

CNS is a new grants program that is a cornerstone of ORD's transition to sustainability. The program, launched in partnership with the Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation (OPEI) and the Office of Regional Operations (ORO), enables grantees and EPA to collaborate in exploring and learning about new approaches to environmental protection that are systems-oriented, forward-looking, preventative, and collaborative. CNS will be a testing ground for developing and applying tools necessary for practicing sustainability at a regional scale. The tools developed under the program will draw on a scientific understanding of the consequences of decisions and actions.

A total of 12 projects were selected for funding in the first year of the program. These projects are addressing the long-term sustainability (in terms of quality, availability, and viability) of one or more resources, including energy, materials, and ecology. These resources were considered in the context of ecosystems, communities and the built environment, or industrial materials flow. Additionally, the selected projects are applying science and engineering in an innovative fashion; tracking success against short- and long-term environmental, economic, and social measures; connecting a diverse set of partners; and planning to transfer tools, approaches, and lessons to other states, localities, regions, or industries.

