

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# One Cleanup Program

*Working in Concert to Make Our Cleanups Better*



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is leading this initiative in response to issues raised by the regulated community, citizens impacted by contaminated properties, and other governmental agencies. Its goal is to improve the coordination, speed, and effectiveness of cleanups at the nation's contaminated sites. **The One Cleanup Program is EPA's vision** for how different cleanup programs at all levels of government can work together to meet that goal – and ensure that resources, activities, and results are effectively coordinated and communicated to the public.

The One Cleanup Program will not require new legislation or program restructuring. Instead, it is a long term initiative designed to support the ongoing planning and quality improvement efforts of EPA cleanup programs. It does this by encouraging improved coordination among EPA programs and with state, tribal, local and other federal agency

programs and stakeholders. This initiative also will help EPA advance the principles of the President's Management Agenda, which include budget and performance integration, improved financial performance, strategic management of human capital, and

expanded electronic government.

The One Cleanup Program establishes activities that will lead to:

- More consistent and effective cleanups
- Clear and more useful information about cleanups
- Better cross-program performance measures.

***“All of our different cleanup programs have to work together better, using the best thinking, the best technologies, the best information, the best measures of success. That's what the One Cleanup Program is all about.”***

**Marianne Horinko,  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency  
Response**

This initiative involves EPA cleanup programs dealing with brownfields, federal facilities, leaking underground storage tanks, RCRA and Superfund. The results of the One Cleanup Program will be evaluated on a regular basis and considered in annual planning processes.

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) and Office of Enforcement and Compliance

Assurance (OECA) will lead the initiative. EPA worked closely with the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) and other state and tribal representatives to develop the initiative. State and tribal cleanup programs are encouraged to voluntarily participate in the program objectives within their existing standards and resources. The success of the One Cleanup Program is very dependent on partnerships and effective communication—with the public and among waste site cleanup programs.

## The One Cleanup Program will lead to three major improvements:

### I. More consistent and effective cleanups

The regulated community has expressed concern that inconsistent and duplicative approaches taken by different regulatory agencies create



inefficiency and confusion. Increased effectiveness of cleanups and more efficient use of resources can be achieved by sharing lessons learned, recognizing successful alternative approaches, and developing more consistent policies and guidance. **Cleanup programs should work together to make greater use of all available authorities, and select the optimum programmatic tools to increase the pace, efficiency, and quality of cleanups.**

### II. Clear and more useful information about cleanups

Citizens impacted by contaminated properties have stated that it is vitally important that EPA work with the nation's cleanup programs to combine and integrate information systems in order to provide clear

and useful information about the cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites.

### III. Better performance measures

The President and Congress have emphasized the need for measures that clearly show the performance of EPA's environmental programs.

EPA will work with all cleanup programs to develop meaningful measures that demonstrate the overall effectiveness and benefit of the nation's combined cleanup efforts, so we can assess the results and appropriately request, prioritize, and apply our limited resources.

## Implementation - Action Plan

To improve in the three areas discussed above, EPA will work with the nation's waste cleanup



programs to plan and implement the following initiatives and activities. EPA will regularly evaluate the results of

these activities and adjust the One Cleanup Program as appropriate. EPA also will consider these results in its annual planning process.

### Initiative I More Consistent and Effective Cleanups

The following actions will provide opportunities for cleanup programs to coordinate and plan together on specific problems. These activities will lead to:

- Faster, more effective and efficient cleanups
- Application of the most appropriate authorities and approaches
- Clear direction for future application of resources.

### EPA's Vision for the One Cleanup Program

*The nation's cleanup programs will work in harmony to achieve effective and efficient cleanups that protect human health and the environment, and support revitalization of communities. Cleanup programs will coordinate to promote sound and protective remedies, shared science and technical approaches, seamless public information systems, and the mutual acceptance of policies and results.*

## Area Wide Pilot Projects

EPA will work with the regions, states, tribes, local governments and other federal agencies to select and conduct area wide pilot projects. They will be chosen to demonstrate cross-program coordination and consistency in cleaning up groups of co-located or similar contaminated sites. These pilots will be closely observed to identify successful approaches and systems that can be further developed and incorporated into future plans and activity. The pilots also will be designed to study potential integrated information systems and better cross-program measures of success, as discussed under Initiatives II & III.

## One Cleanup Program Council

Under the direction of the Assistant Administrators of OSWER and OECA, a standing council of directors from the nation's waste cleanup programs will convene regularly to provide a coordinated, high level perspective of critical waste cleanup issues.



## Cross-program Task Forces

Cross-program task forces will conduct more detailed analysis of critical cleanup issues and support new policy guidance, as appropriate. The task forces will actively work with programs and stakeholders to encourage implementation of new approaches as they relate to these issues. Initial task forces include:

- Groundwater cleanup
- Site assessment decision making (consider ways to ensure the best combination of program approaches for categories of sites or large, challenging problems)
- Long term site stewardship (post-construction, financial assurance, and technical issues).

EPA also is considering the formation of work groups among OSWER, the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) and the Office of Water (OW) to address cross-media cleanup issues

related to PCBs, lead, asbestos and the cleanup of watersheds.

## Federal Facilities Executive Leadership Policy Steering Committee

EPA will convene a steering committee comprising Assistant Secretary/Assistant Administrator level executives from federal agencies involved in the cleanup of contaminated sites. The committee will identify and coordinate cross-agency cleanup issues. It will be supported by cross-agency work groups to conduct and develop more detailed analysis and guidance for the issues considered by the committee.

## Initiative II Clear and Useful Information About Cleanups

EPA will work with states, tribes, and local communities to develop an integrated network of systems that

provides clear and useful information about the cleanup of contaminated sites. This network of systems will clearly identify the agencies involved, the strategy for cleanup, and those responsible for safeguarding institutional controls and providing long term monitoring and maintenance at contaminated sites.

## "Sites in My Community" Information Network and Linked Systems

EPA will develop—and encourage states, tribes and local governments to develop—compatible and linkable systems that contain information about cleanups at contaminated sites. The goal is to create a network of linked systems that can be easily accessed and that includes:

- Current contacts and information about involved federal/state/tribal/local agencies
- Description of multiple program coordination and cleanup approach

- Description of site activities, status, and cleanup requirements
- Long term monitoring and maintenance requirements
- Links to institutional control tracking systems
- Links to waste sites technologies information systems
- Information about property available for reuse.

EPA will begin this effort through pilot projects with states that are developing these kinds of systems.

### Institutional Controls Tracking Network and Linked Systems

EPA will lead a national effort to develop linkages between systems for tracking institutional controls, a critical component for ensuring the long term protectiveness and safety of cleanups.

EPA will work with local governments, states and regions to pilot and expand existing efforts to develop

## Initiative III Better Performance Measures

EPA will evaluate and pilot the development of performance measures that demonstrate the overall effectiveness and benefit of the nation's combined cleanup efforts. Over the next year, EPA will collaborate with its partners to consider new cross-program measures in four areas:

- Protection of human health through waste cleanup activities
- Protection of the environment and ecology through waste cleanup activities
- Amount of land made available through cleanup activities for productive uses
- Economic benefit of waste cleanup activities



comprehensive and dependable tracking systems. EPA will lead this effort with the goal of achieving a network of linked tracking systems that can confidently be used to track institutional controls and requirements for long term cleanups.

### Waste Sites Technologies Information System

EPA will build on existing systems and efforts to speed up and broaden the transfer of scientific and technological information about contaminated sites and cleanups. EPA will include information that allows users to more effectively understand, anticipate and influence emerging science, technology, and policy issues.

## Conclusion

Many of the activities laid out here are underway. Details for others will be posted on the EPA website as they become available.

In short, the One Cleanup Program applies cross-program, cross-agency thinking and planning to the universe of contaminated sites. It pools the best ideas, experiences and innovations from each program so that they can be applied to all programs. In this way, every cleanup project in every community can benefit

### For More Information

*For information on the One Cleanup Program initiative, please visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/oswer/onecleanupprogram/](http://www.epa.gov/oswer/onecleanupprogram/). The EPA website has the latest, and more detailed information on cleanup programs and One Cleanup Program activities. If you have questions about the One Cleanup Program, or would like to become more involved in our efforts, please contact Ellen Manges at 202-566-0195.*