

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

EPA'S COLLABORATION NETWORK NEWS



"Public Involvement brings the pieces together"

Spring 2008

This is the eleventh volume of *Network News*. There is no theme for this issue; it just came together as information arrived from across the nation and around the world.

Collaboration, deliberative democracy, participatory governance, citizen engagement, public involvement, local empowerment -- named many things -- it's called for, demanded and happening across the United States and nearly everywhere else. This issue presents many different aspects of the phenomenon.

You'll find many short feature articles and a long list of new materials to download and share with others.

I hope you'll find something you can use in your work.

Pat

In This Issue:

- Clean Air Excellence Awards – Applications for the 2008 awards are now being accepted. Find out about the process and who can apply.
- Last chance to apply for Collaboration Train-the-Trainer this October – now open to State, Federal and Tribal strategic partners.
- EPA's Office of the Inspector General's evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay Program concludes that the Program needs to improve reporting to Congress and the public on the actual state of the Chesapeake Bay and actions necessary to improve its health.
- Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Award – Read how you can cast a vote to determine this year's winners
- Public Deliberation about Nanotechnology for Human Enhancement – Learn about the six local dialogues between citizens and scientists.
- Gladstone on the Move – Citizen-based strategic planning at the local level is real in Gladstone, Missouri.

- Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy - United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at Yale University
- Hofstra University Opens Center for Civic Engagement
- Permitting in the US and UK – review a report and its findings looking at the UK integrated pollution prevention and control permitting system which, among other things, notes the difference in public trust under the US and UK systems

What's New

On July 25, the Bureau of National Affairs [BNA] published a table of all the state environmental related laws that went into effect on July 1, 2008. You can find the table at <http://pubs.bna.com/ip/bna/DEN.NSF/eh/a0b6w1v0r7>

[The CARE Roadmap: 10-Step Plan to Improve Community Environment and Health](#) is available for public distribution via the CARE (Community Action for a Renewed Environment) website at <http://www.epa.gov/CARE>. The 17-page guide is designed to provide communities with a process to:

- ☐ Learn about local environmental and environmental health risks and impacts
- ☐ Build the community consensus necessary to take effective action
- ☐ Mobilize a community partnership to take action to reduce impacts and risks
- ☐ Build long-term capacity

CARE developed the Roadmap to be a practical tool for communities' use in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing environmental health risks. CARE assists communities by providing technical assistance and resources to local organizations that form stakeholder groups to address and reduce their most significant risks, especially through voluntary programs.

This Roadmap is essential reading for any community that has received a CARE grant. It should also be helpful to any group wishing to improve local environmental quality without funding through CARE. Anyone who read it can put this Roadmap to good use.

CARE also released "Federal Grants Guide for Community Environmental and Public Health Activities." Developed by an EPA-CDC-ATSDR Collaboration on Community Environmental Health, this 20-page guide contains basic information about 35 grant programs at 8 agencies, including within DOI, HUD, HHS, USDA and EPA. It also shares helpful tips on applying for federal grants. Available @:
http://www.epa.gov/care/documents/EPA_CDC_ATSDR_Grants_Guide_web_061708.pdf

The National Research Council's Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making released a prepublication copy of **"Public**

Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making” on Friday, August 22, 2008. The report can be read on line at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12434.

If you would like to receive a final copy of the report when it is published, please e-mail your request along with your address to Linda DePugh at ldepugh@nas.edu.

[*Programs, Tools & Resources to Assist Local Governments*](#) is a resource directory for local governments to use in developing and implementing climate change initiatives. This guide includes information on, among many other items, how the U.S. EPA can help with:

- greening transportation;
- land-use decisions and building construction requirements;
- improving recycling;
- conserving water; and
- using more efficient and renewable energy

Transforming Government Through Collaborative Innovation is a new report from the IBM Center for the Business of Government .by Satish Nambisan [nambis@rpi.edu], Associate Professor of Technology Management & Strategy at [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute](#) - Lally School of Management & Technology.

The issues facing government are increasingly complex. From education to health care to homeland security, problems are often ill-defined or emergent, involve diverse sets of stakeholders, and cross organizational and geographic boundaries. The capacity to address such problems is unlikely to be found within the four walls of government. Only by pursuing collaborative innovation can government develop solutions to effectively address these issues.

This report examines the different roles government can take to successfully implement network-based collaborative innovation. The author lays out a road map for senior leaders of government agencies to determine the appropriate problem-solving role for their agency, clarify the parameters of external collaboration, and invest in building the infrastructure to support their agency's role. Following this road map will lead to collaborative innovation and problem-solving initiatives that deliver significant public good.

Private sector organizations have successfully used collaborative innovation.

Network-based collaborative innovation harnesses the resources and capabilities of external networks and communities to enhance innovation speed and innovation outcomes. This approach to solving problems has been used extensively in the private sector. For example, Staples Inc., the leading office supplies company in the United States, holds idea contests called Invention Quests. Independent inventors are invited to submit their ideas to Staples and winning ideas are commercialized by Staples under the Staples brand name with the inventor receiving a share of the revenues. Through this approach, the company is able to source ideas from a large and diverse inventor community, significantly increasing its potential to generate valuable concepts.

Potential for Collaborative Innovation in Government

The government plays diverse roles in collaborative innovation and problem-solving settings. These roles include:

- ☐ Innovation Integrator
- ☐ Innovation Seeker

- ☐ Innovation Champion
- ☐ Innovation Catalyst

Innovation Integrator: Government-led collaborative effort with external partners to solve well-defined problems related to the agency's existing services and programs.

The defense sector brings together private companies to create new weapon systems. The primary function of government is to envision and define the project, establish and support the network, coordinate innovation activities, and achieve final solution integration.

Innovation Seeker: Government-led collaborative effort to solve emergent or ill-defined problems related to the agency's existing services and programs. The Toronto Transit Commission welcomed innovative ideas and solutions from its customers, the traveling public. The specific problems were emergent in nature; they evolved dialogue among the volunteer citizens who participated in the Transit Camp. The ideas and solutions that fit with the TTC's goals and objectives were taken up for implementation by the Commission.

Innovation Champion: Community-led effort to solve emergent or ill-defined problems that are related to but not part of the agency's services and programs. The All Hazards Consortium (AHC) brought together private corporations, nonprofits, universities, volunteer citizens and government agencies in the Mid-Atlantic states to address key problem areas in disaster management and emergency preparedness. The primary function of the consortium was to facilitate coalition building, establish mechanisms to support member dialogue, and provide infrastructure to support knowledge sharing.

Innovation Catalyst: Community-led effort to solve well-defined problems that complement the agency's existing services/programs. The Neighborhood Watch program trains citizens in crime prevention techniques and facilitates the reporting of crime and suspicious activities in local communities. The primary function of government is to identify problem-solving areas and provide access to relevant information and resources.

Success Factors in Collaborative Innovation

The diversity of the collaborative innovation roles described in this report implies the need for government agencies to develop new and different types of capabilities and competencies. The authors conclude by listing four factors needed for network-based approaches to succeed:

- ☐ Cultivate a culture of openness
- ☐ Create the right organizational structure
- ☐ Develop appropriate leadership and relationship skills
- ☐ Adopt a portfolio of success metrics

By bringing more clarity to the different collaborative approaches and their preconditions for success, this report will help government agencies at every level – federal, state, and local – evaluate and pursue opportunities to engage diverse, external partners in collaborative innovation initiatives.

Read and/or download the full report @

http://businessofgovernment.org/publications/grant_reports/details/index.asp?gid=309

In the IBM Center's Spring 2008 issue of the **Business of Government Magazine** is a Profile in Leadership of Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock. You will also find a series of article on collaborative governance. You can link to all these items from <http://businessofgovernment.org/publications/bog.asp> .

A new issue book **"Preparing Today's Kids for Tomorrow's Jobs: What Should Our Community Do?"** is now available from the National Issues Forums Institute at http://www.nifi.org/discussion_guides/detail.aspx?catID=6&itemID=11009

The 30-page issue book includes an overview of the problem, three possible approaches to the problem, and a post-forum questionnaire to be completed by forum participants and returned to the National Issues Forums Institute in Dayton, Ohio. The following is an excerpt from the introduction to the issue book.

"A rising chorus of complaints from the nation's employers is a troublesome sign that too many of today's high school graduates are ill prepared for the jobs they seek. What and how should young people be taught to best equip them for tomorrow's workplace and help strengthen the economy of the communities they live in? What community resources--including but not limited to schools--can be brought to bear on the problem? This 30-page issue book presents the following three approaches for deliberation:

Approach One- A Firm Foundation

Americans' strong work ethic has long been credited for building this nation's economy. In this view, today's emphasis on "me first" and instant gratification has eroded this sense of responsibility. Our focus should be on teaching basic work skills and character traits that are fundamental to job success at any level

Approach Two- Academic Competition

The United States has been losing ground in an aggressively competitive global economy. Technology, math, and science are the keys to our economic future. If American young people are to hold their own in tomorrow's marketplace, it is critically important to improve the number and rigor of K-12 courses and to create community expectations for excellence in these areas.

Approach Three- The Community First

There is a critical need for qualified workers to fill jobs in the local businesses that are the backbone of a community's economy. In this view, community and educational goals should be created with the needs of the local economy in mind. This will not only benefit graduates and businesses, but will strengthen the community as well."

"Integrating Collaborative Activities: Public Deliberation with Stakeholder Processes" published by the National Policy Consensus Center has the following conclusion section. Read the full report @ <http://www.policyconsensus.org/publications/reports/index> to understand how the researchers came to these conclusions.

"Stakeholder processes and public deliberative forums have both proven to be valuable alternatives to traditional governance activities. In combination, in appropriate cases, these two collaborative governance activities can create even better solutions to public

problems. To achieve the most effective, most lasting solutions, with the most community acceptance and ownership, a combined effort should be considered when:

- A broader public interest is involved
- Representatives of all interests cannot be gathered in a small group
- Creative solutions have not emerged from stakeholders
- Implementation will depend on the wider public

In these cases, the public needs to have its values heard, its conflicts resolved, and its priority issues addressed. Including a public forum can educate the wider public about the stakeholder process, build trust between the public and stakeholders, and yield more successful implementation of the final decision

When the public is invited to deliberate in these situations, public solutions will be better substantively, and they will be implemented more smoothly and efficiently. By combining public deliberation with stakeholder processes:

- *The public's values can help frame issues at the beginning of a stakeholder process*
- *More creative solutions to public problems can emerge*
- *Stakeholders can implement public solutions more directly, and with greater acceptance*
- *Communities will suffer less from current challenges like interest-group politics and community members' limited involvement in problem-solving efforts*
- *Democratic principles will be immediately fortified in stakeholder processes*
- *Democratic practices will be more successful over time."*

You can access and read the first issue of **Environmental Justice**, a new quarterly peer-reviewed journal focused on research, debate, and discussion of the equitable treatment and involvement of all people, especially minority and low-income populations, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The premier issue is available free online at www.liebertpub.com/env.

The goal of Environmental Justice is to provide an intellectual forum that presents a balanced and objective assessment of environmental inequalities locally, nationally, and globally. The Journal explores the adverse and disparate environmental burden impacting marginalized populations and draws upon the expertise and perspectives of all parties involved in environmental justice struggles: communities, industry, academia, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Legal challenges and lawsuits to ensure prevention of harmful policies, projects, and developments are within its purview, as are issues of compliance and enforcement, activism, and corrective actions. Studies that demonstrate the adverse health affects on populations who are most subject to health and environmental hazards are pertinent, as well as the complicated issues inherent in remediation, funding, relocation of facilities that pose hazardous risk to health, and selection of new locations.

The inaugural issue of the Journal focuses on analyses of past and contemporary environmental compliance and enforcement, activism, and corrective actions, environmental politics, environmental health disparities, environmental epidemiology,

environmental sociology, and environmental history. "Mrs. Block Beautiful: African American Women and the Birth of the Urban Conservation Movement, Chicago, IL, 1917-1954" by Sylvia Hood Washington is an historical essay that elucidates the vital role that African American women played in launching the first national urban conservation movement in the United States.

"Articulating the Basis for Promoting Environmental Justice in Central and Eastern Europe" by Tamara Steger and Richard Filcak explores the international impact and global ramifications of the environmental justice movement and spotlights environmental justice as a global injustice and international human rights crisis.

In "'A Small Group of Thoughtful, Committed Citizens': Women's Activism, Environmental Justice and the Coal River Mountain Watch," Joyce M. Barry presents a contemporary oral history study of women struggling to combat environmental inequalities in West Virginia, facing unique environmental and health challenges.

Other papers in the inaugural issue include: "Where's the Kale? Environmental Availability of Fruits and Vegetables in Two Racially Dissimilar Communities" by Edith M. Williams et al.; "Obesity, Physical Activity, and the Environment: Is There a Legal Basis for Environmental Injustices?" by Wendell C. Taylor et al. and "Mortality Rates in Appalachian Coal Mining Counties: 24 Years Behind the Nation" by Michael Hendryx.

EPA releases 2008 Report on the Environment -- EPA issued the 2008 Report on the Environment in May, presenting data and analysis for several dozen indicators of environmental and human health in the United States. The report also presents regional indicators. Indicators include air pollutant emissions and concentrations, acid deposition, drinking water quality, land use patterns, population, fertilizer use, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease, forestland, fish populations, carbon storage, climate, and more. [Press release](#) / [Link to report](#).

"Managing Stormwater in Your Community: A Guide for Building an Effective Post-Construction Program" is now ready to download from the Center's website. Local stormwater managers across the country are exploring innovative approaches to managing runoff, but are also facing an array of challenges, such as adopting a local ordinance, securing funding, and operating a maintenance program. This guide provides practical tips, and also features a series of downloadable tools that are designed to be modified by local programs to assist with program implementation.

The guide covers topics ranging from program planning, integrating stormwater with land use planning, developing locally-appropriate stormwater criteria, stormwater inspection and maintenance programs, and program evaluation and tracking. The tools include a program self-assessment; model post-construction stormwater ordinance; plan review, inspection, and maintenance checklists; and more. The guide and tools can be downloaded at: www.cwp.org > Resources > Controlling Runoff & Discharges > Stormwater Management or by visiting http://www.cwp.org/Resource_Library/Controlling_Runoff_and_Discharges/sm.htm where you may download individual sections or the entire manual [pdf format] at no cost.

The Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy is a 15-member commission of leaders from diverse backgrounds [new and traditional communications businesses, politics, higher education, and general community organizations, local communities, nonprofits, and government] assembled to recommend both public and private measures that would help American communities better meet their information needs. This is the first national panel in 40 years to look at how information flows in communities, is a joint project of Knight Foundation and the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program. For a list of the new Commissioners, see <http://www.knightcomm.org/meet-commission-and-staff>

The charge of the Commission is to articulate the information needs of communities in this democracy; determine where we are today; and propose public policy that will encourage market solutions. The Commission will be led by co-chairs Ted Olson, former Solicitor General of the United States, and Marissa Mayer, Vice President of Search Product and User Experience at Google. Peter Shane, a distinguished law professor at Ohio State University Law School, is the executive director.

The digital revolution is driving this new look at the role of news and information in our society. As the Hutchins Commission did in the 1940s, and the Kerner and Carnegie Commissions did in the 1960s, this Knight Commission will formulate a national agenda calculated to improve the flow of news and information in the nation's communities. The Commission's research-based work will focus on three large questions:

- *What are the information needs of communities in our American democracy?*
The Commission will identify short- and long-term community needs for information. We are concerned with news and information "in the public interest," intelligence that helps communities and their leaders face their 21st century challenges.
- *What are the current trends affecting how community information needs are met?*
Are media, including commercial, nonprofit, and governmental, meeting today's information needs of communities? In what ways is the information sector falling short?
- *What changes will ensure that community information needs will be better met in the future?* Are there new ways of thinking about our information environment that, once implemented, would increase the flow of news and information in the public interest? Can we unleash American's power to innovate in this field, engaging the private, public and nonprofit sectors?

The Commission is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and organized by the Aspen Institute. It will be jointly coordinated by the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program, directed by Charles M. Firestone, and the Knight Foundation's Journalism Program, directed by Eric Newton. Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, and Alberto Ibargüen, president and CEO of the Knight Foundation, will serve as ex-officio members of the commission. To support the Commission's work, the Aspen Institute will constitute an Advisory Group of leaders from within and beyond the academy in communications, journalism, media studies, public opinion research, law, political science, business, economics, sociology, social work, and other fields, who will help implement the Commission's research agenda.

[NOTE: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of 26 U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. The Knight Foundation focuses on ideas and projects that create transformational change. The Aspen Institute, founded in 1950, is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue. The Communications and Society Program is one of 21 policy programs at the Aspen Institute. It addresses the societal and democratic impact of the communications and information sectors.]

Manual 8: Pollution Source Control Practices of the Urban Subwatershed

Restoration is now permanently available for free downloading from The Center for Watershed Protection @ <http://www.cwp.org/Forms/accessform.htm>. This 190 page pdf outlines how to find pollution sources and goes on to explain how education, training, direct municipal service, subsidies and recognition can reinforce pollution reducing actions. You will find profile sheets on 21 stewardship practices for residential neighborhoods and 15 pollution prevention techniques to control stormwater hot spots. The manual also addresses the permits, ordinances, inspections, and enforcement needed for severe stormwater pollution sources.

As part of an EPA grant, the Center for Watershed Protection and the University of Alabama prepared six monitoring study designs, outlined in the project's final manual, [*Monitoring to Demonstrate Environmental Results: Guidance to Develop Local Stormwater Monitoring Studies Using 6 Example Study Designs*](#). This guidance is designed to navigate the stormwater manager through the complexities of implementing a monitoring program so they can be confident in their results and get the most out of their limited stormwater dollars. The six study designs address the following questions:

- What is the quality of the stormwater at the outfall?
- What are the sources of pollutants in stormwater?
- What is the effectiveness of individual stormwater treatment practices in reducing pollutants?
- Do implementation and maintenance factors affect stormwater treatment practice function over time?
- What is the effect of public education programs on water quality?
- What is the cumulative effect of treatment within a watershed?

Each study design covers such essential elements as scoping, budgeting, and staffing needs as well as equipment and sampling requirements. Special issues associated with each monitoring study design are also covered for those unforeseen but inevitable monitoring challenges. This manual is available for free download as the "Featured Resource" from the Center for Watershed Protection's website: <http://www.cwp.org>.

New organization and website re: the State of the USA -- As a public service, the State of the USA, Inc. (SUSA), a new nonprofit, will offer a website where every American can get the best available facts drawn from respected sources. The site will be easy to use and available around the clock, so people can find credible, relevant data in minutes or hours.

SUSA's mission is to unite nonprofits, the media, government decision makers, business leaders, scientists, educators and citizens around a single goal: to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the country's most pressing issues. SUSA will offer Americans a new tool to help them assess where our nation is moving forward and where it has stalled.

SUSA believe that knowing the state of the USA today and acting on that knowledge is our best opportunity to improve America for all generations. The State of the USA—with advice from the [The National Academies](#)—is assembling a set of key indicators that measure specific conditions or trends. Data from respected statistical sources will help Americans track progress on many issues at many levels of society. Without articulating national goals, SUSA will provide shared, reliable and usable facts to fuel more focused public debate.

People are asking themselves and talking about hard questions: Are our families and neighborhoods safe and secure? Are we getting the best health care for children and the elderly? Are we balancing our energy needs with environmental protections? Is our economy positioned to create the best possible jobs and opportunities to grow wealth? Having a common set of facts as a shared foundation can reinforce accountability for allocating scarce resources to the most crucial problems and the highest impact solutions.

Interest in a common approach to measuring national progress is mounting in the United States and around the world. Hundreds of communities, cities and regions across America and in other countries have already developed key indicator systems. It is now time to set up a key indicator system for the United States as a whole. Why? As the pace of change accelerates, the country confronts new, complex challenges. At the same time, leaders face growing and often overwhelming volumes of information that they cannot interpret or filter in an efficient manner. The technology now exists to solve this problem simultaneously for our leaders, the media and the public. With this capability, Americans would have an opportunity—and an obligation—to become more active participants in public discourse.

[EPA Issues Global Climate Change Report](#) -- EPA released the final report entitled, Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.6: Analyses of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems on July 28, 2008. This Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.6 (SAP 4.6) focuses on impacts of global climate change, especially impacts on three broad dimensions of the human condition: human health, human settlements, and human welfare.

“Deliberative Public Engagement: Nine Principles”— A new British publication, produced by Involve and the National Consumer Council (NCC), sets out nine key principles for effective and high-quality deliberative public engagement. The document, available at http://www.involve.org.uk/deliberative_principles, was released in July to coincide with the British government's launch of their Empowerment White Paper. For commentary by Involve's Richard Wilson that links the principles to the white paper, see http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/joepublic/2008/07/community_engagement_for_the_f.html. The entire publication gives a clear overview of what deliberative engagement is and its appropriate use. The Nine principles follow. The process:

1. makes a difference
2. is transparent
3. has integrity
4. is tailored to circumstances
5. involves the right number and types of people
6. treats participants with respect
7. gives priority to participants' discussion
8. is reviewed and evaluated to improve practice and
9. Participants are kept informed

UK white paper on democratic governance – “Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power” is the report of a U.K. government agency charged with identifying means of pushing power down to the community level. The recommendations in the report – intended for both government and citizens – are framed in terms of UK structures, but are applicable to the U.S. and other countries as well. Download the white paper at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/communitiesincontrol/>

Participatory Citizenship, Identity and Inclusion is a new paper published by Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Civic Participation. Naidoo clearly explains concepts of citizenship that we frequently take for granted in our work. He then analyses the correlation between citizenship and democracy. Although this paper appears in *Openspace*, the journal of the Open Society Initiative for Africa, it sheds light on timely issues of public participation that we face in the Western world. Click here for a link to the paper http://www.osisa.org/files/openspace/2_2_pp031-37_kumi_naidoo_participatory_citizenship.pdf. For more information about CIVICUS, visit <http://www.civicus.org>

Featured Upcoming Events



The Office of Environmental Information is pleased to invite you to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Information Symposium** to be held at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Hotel **December 10-12, 2008, in Phoenix, Arizona**. We encourage you to attend this year's Symposium to learn more about EPA's information management and technology strategic direction, get involved in current information activities, and network with colleagues. Come learn about the next step beyond the National Dialogue on Access to Environmental Information and explore new means and methods for using our data more strategically.

The Web site for the Symposium is now live and is accepting registrations. Please visit the site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oei/proceedings/2008/proceedings08.htm> for logistics information and to register.

Can't attend in person? Register to participate via live streaming!

If you have questions or would like to learn about the 2008 Symposium, please contact Don Flattery at 202-564-4677 (flattery.don@epa.gov) or Janice Jablonski at 202-564-9922 (jablonski.janice@epa.gov).

Please visit www.epa.gov/oei to learn more about the National Dialogue and other key Office of Environmental Information events.

Presidential Libraries and National Issues Forums to Host Fall Discussions

In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), the twelve Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration will host a series of discussions on public policy issues between Labor Day and Election Day this fall. All forums will be open to the public.

Each of the Presidential Libraries will host a series of three forums, with some Libraries hosting additional forums. The Libraries will each host a forum on [health care](#), and other forums will be on a range of topics including immigration, federal debt, education, and energy. The forums will reflect the interests and enthusiasm of the community that supports the Libraries. As a result, the forums will be held in a variety of locations including the Presidential Libraries, local community centers, public libraries, and university campuses.

"Hosting National Issues Forums at the Presidential Libraries is consistent with our emphasis on civic education," Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, said.

"Presidential Libraries are public places and it is appropriate for citizens to engage in discussions about major public policy issues in the midst of a presidential campaign."

"Participants in a forum," NIFI chairman William Winter, said, "deliberate with one another eye-to-eye, face to-face, exploring options, weighing others' views, considering the costs and consequences of public policy decisions. In a democracy, citizens have a

responsibility to make choices about how to solve problems and forums help enrich participants' thinking on public issues. By offering citizens a framework for deliberative forums, NIFI helps the public take an active role in acting on public issues."

The Presidential Libraries of the National Archives are not libraries in the usual sense. They are archives and museums, bringing together in one place the documents and artifacts of a President and his administration and presenting them to the public for study and discussion without regard for political considerations or affiliations. Presidential Libraries and Museums, like their holdings, belong to the American people. They promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience, preserving and providing access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.

NIFI is a 25-year-old nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored forums for the consideration of public policy issues. Forums are rooted in the simple notion that citizens need to come together to reason and talk -to deliberate about common problems. For information about Presidential Libraries, and links to forum information in your local community, visit www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries.

IAP2 Certification Training - The five-day International Association for Public Participation Certificate Program in Public Participation will be offered on: September 15-19, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Hotel [625 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314] and December 1-5, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel [901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Seating is limited and classes fill quickly. Register by calling 703-837-1197, or by going to www.theperspectivesgroup.com/capabilities/training.html and downloading a registration form.

The full week of training is \$1,625, or \$325 per day. The Course is presented in 3 sections: Planning for Effective Public Participation* (two days), Effective Communication for Public Participation (one day), and Techniques for Public Participation (two days). The Planning course is a prerequisite to the Communications and Techniques courses. For additional information, please go to www.theperspectivesgroup.com/capabilities/training.html to download the brochure.

Call for Proposals for CCPH's 11th Conference Released! The call for proposals for the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)'s 11th Conference "Creating the Future We Want to Be: Transformation Through Partnerships," is now available by visiting <http://www.ccpb.info> and clicking on "here" in the purple box. Proposals are due October 10, 2008. For complete information on submission criteria, guidelines and procedures please see the announcement. The Conference will be held April 29-May 2, 2009 -- 4 days of skill-building, networking and agenda-setting in Milwaukee, WI -- CCPH's new home city.



Featured Articles

2008 Clean Air Excellence Awards Program

EPA established the Clean Air Excellence Awards Program in February, 2000 as an annual awards program to recognize outstanding and innovative efforts that support progress in achieving clean air. All submission of entries for the 2008 Clean Air Excellence Awards Program must be postmarked by September 19, 2008 and sent to: Pat Childers @ childers.pat@epa.gov; telephone 202-564-1082; fax 202-564-1352 or surface mail at USEPA -- Office of Air and Radiation (6102A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004. For more information, contact Pat or see the Federal Register: August 6, 2008 [Notices], Page 45768-45769 <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2008/August/Day-06/a18140.htm>

The Program is open to both public and private entities. Entries are limited to the United States. There are five general award categories: (1) Clean Air Technology; (2) Community Action; (3) Education/Outreach; (4)Regulatory/Policy Innovations; (5) Transportation Efficiency Innovations; and two special awards categories: (1) Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award, and (2) Gregg Cooke Visionary Program Award. Awards are for recognition only.

Entry Requirements: All applicants are asked to submit their entry on a CAEAP entry form, contained in the CAEAP Entry Package, which may be obtained from the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/caaac> by clicking on Awards Program or by contacting Mr. Pat Childers. The entry form is a simple, three-part form asking for general information on the applicant and the proposed entry; asking for a description of why the entry is deserving of an award; and requiring information from three (3) independent references for the proposed entry. Applicants should also submit additional supporting documentation as necessary. Specific directions and information on filing an entry form are included in the Entry Package.

Judging and Award Criteria: Judging will be accomplished through a screening process conducted by EPA staff, with input from outside subject experts, as needed. Members of the CAAAC will provide advice to EPA on the entries. The final award decisions will be made by the EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. Entries will be judged using both general criteria and criteria specific to each individual category. There are four (4) general criteria: (1) The entry directly or indirectly (i.e., by encouraging actions) reduces emissions of criteria pollutants or hazardous/toxic air pollutants; (2) The entry demonstrates innovation and uniqueness; (3) The entry provides a model for others to follow (i.e., it is replicable); and (4) The positive outcomes from the entry are continuing/sustainable. Although not required to win an award, the following general criteria will also be considered in the judging process: (1) The entry has positive effects on other environmental media in addition to air; (2) The entry demonstrates effective collaboration and partnerships; and (3) The individual or organization submitting the entry has effectively measured/evaluated the outcomes of the project, program, technology, etc. As previously mentioned, additional criteria will be used for each

individual award category. These criteria are listed in the 2008 Entry Package.

Collaboration Train-the-Trainer Window of Opportunity Closing

The next "Working Together: An Introduction to Collaborative Decision Making" Train-the-Trainer event will occur for 2.5 days, **October 28-30 in Ariel Rios South at Federal Triangle in Washington, DC.**

This workshop is designed to help potential trainers convey to collaboration practitioners some key skills and practices to promote and improve collaboration among a wide variety of stakeholders in environmental protection. Specifically, the workshop addresses:

- Understanding collaborative behaviors and how to increase your ability to model them
- Knowing the range of stakeholder processes available to you and what goals they can help you meet
- Using Situation Assessment to determine which projects are ready for collaborative processes and are likely to succeed
- Understanding how you can support, engage, and encourage staff to enhance collaboration competencies
- Learning to lead successful internal and external collaboration

The application form as well as a flyer outlining the content of Working Together are available at <http://intranet.epa.gov/collaborations/training/trainthetrainer.htm>.

Completed forms are due back to bonner.patricia@epa.gov by the day after Labor Day, September 2. This Certification Workshop is approved as official EPA training, so for Agency employees the only travel costs are actual fares; all else can be charged to training.

Recently, EPA opened this certification class to highly qualified representative of state, tribal and other federal agencies working with EPA in strategic partnerships. If you are a representative of a partner agency and wish to apply, receive the flyer or see the materials, please contact Pat by e-mail and she will immediately send you the appropriate files.

A nine-member panel will review all applications and select no more than thirty individuals for certification. By mid-September, all who apply will know if they have [or have not] been selected. With the invitation to attend will be an agenda for the 2.5 days.

The first day participants will take the course; the rest of the time will be spent doing practices and discussing how each of the new trainers plans to use or modify the five modules so they will work well within their organizations. All participants will receive the Student Workbook and Facilitators Guide files in electronic form so they can tailor the material to fit the needs of their organizations.

EPA personnel may view the training materials, @ <http://intranet.epa.gov/collaborations/training/materials.htm>. In addition, collaboration

related training pages that may be useful in developing Individual Development Plans have just be activated @ <http://intranet.epa.gov/collaborations/training/othertraining.htm>.

For more information, please call [202-566-2204] or e-mail bonner.patricia@epa.gov.

EPA Needs to Better Report Chesapeake Bay Challenges – A Summary Report

By EPA's Office of the Inspector General [IG]

Despite many noteworthy accomplishments by the Chesapeake Bay partners, the Bay remains degraded. This has resulted in continuing threats to aquatic life and human health, and citizens being deprived of the Bay's full economic and recreational benefits. Through its reporting responsibilities, EPA could better advise Congress and the Chesapeake Bay community that (a) the Bay program is significantly short of its goals and (b) partners need to make major changes if goals are to be met. Current efforts will not enable partners to meet their goal of restoring the Bay by 2010. Further, new challenges are emerging. Bay partners need to address:

- . • uncontrolled land development
- . • limited implementation of agricultural conservation practices
- . • limited control over air emissions affecting Bay water quality

EPA does not have the resources, tools, or authorities to fully address all of these challenges. Farm policies, local land development decisions, and individual life styles have huge impacts on the amount of pollution being discharged to the Bay. EPA needs to further engage local governments and watershed organizations in efforts to clean up the Bay. In four prior reports, the IG we made recommendations to the Region 3 Regional Administrator to address individual sector needs (agricultural, developing lands, air deposition, and wastewater). In this summary report, we are making additional recommendations on overall issues to the EPA Administrator.

The IG recommends that the EPA Administrator improve reporting to Congress and the public on the actual state of the Chesapeake Bay and actions necessary to improve its health. We also recommend that the Administrator develop a strategy to further engage local governments and watershed organizations to capitalize on their resources, tools, authorities, and information to advance the mission of the Chesapeake Bay, and provide the Chesapeake Bay Program Office with the opportunity to comment on proposed rulemaking related to pertinent air issues. EPA concurred with all of the recommendations in this report.

Why the IG Did This Review

This review summarizes several evaluations conducted by the Office of Inspector General in response to a congressional request. The IG evaluated how well the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with its Chesapeake Bay partners in cleaning up the Bay.

Background

The Chesapeake Bay is North America's largest and most biologically diverse estuary and provides the region economic and recreational benefits. Nutrient and sediment overloading is the primary cause of water quality degradation. EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office is charged with coordinating federal, State, and local partners to plan and implement strategies to meet the restoration goals of the Bay.

For further information, contact the IG's Office of Congressional and Public Liaison at (202) 566-2391. To view the full report, click to the following link:

www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2008/20080714-08-P-0199.pdf

Now You Can Vote For The Winner Of The Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest.

Last year in May, the world celebrated the 100th anniversary of Rachel Carson's life. She was an American biologist who cared deeply about the natural world around her.

Carson is considered to be the founder of the contemporary environmental movement through her landmark book, "Silent Spring." Using the title of another of Carson's books, "The Sense of Wonder," the contest sought submissions "that best express the 'Sense of Wonder' that you feel when observing the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, wildlife, and all that is beautiful to your eyes."

In *The Sense of Wonder*, Ms. Carson wrote "There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after the night and spring after the winter." And it is also important to remember how nature can serve as a source of strength, as she noted with the comment from the book, that, "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

To honor this amazing woman, the EPA, Generations United, and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., are sponsoring the Second Annual Rachel Carson Intergenerational photo, essay, and poetry contest. Submissions were due by Monday, June 16, 2008. A panel of judges selected the finalists.

Now everyone can vote [until September 15] for their favorite in each of four categories: photography, essay, poetry and mixed media (photography and a poem or essay). Finalists were selected based on originality, creativity, use of an intergenerational team, and ability to capture a sense of wonder.

The contest's intergenerational approach reflects Carson's efforts through her writing to have adults share with children a sense of wonder about nature and help them discover its joys. **The deadline for voting is Sept. 15 and the winners will be announced in October.**

To register, view and read the finalists' submittals, and cast your votes in each category, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/agingepa/resources/thesenseofwonder//2008/index.html>.

The winners will be posted on the websites of: EPA, Generations United, and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc.:

www.epa.gov/aging www.gu.org <http://members.aol.com/rccouncil/ourpage/>

Public Deliberation about Nanotechnology for Human Enhancement

from Research Highlights e-newsletter of Arizona State, dated August 13, 2008

In March 2008, eighty-six people across six nationwide panels participated in the National Citizen's Technology Forum on "Human Enhancement Through Nanotechnology." These citizens ranged from teens to seniors and had no previous expertise or experience in nanotechnology. They studied background material, met face-to-face, and participated in nine, two-hour Internet discussion forums with scientist experts. During their final meeting, each panel wrote a Citizen's Report that outlines their optimism, concerns and recommendations regarding human enhancement technologies.

The reports address socio-economic, safety, environmental, health and governance issues, as well as regulatory challenges and human identity concerns. This project gives average citizens a voice in the early stages of nano-scale science and engineering research and development. It is noteworthy that every report implores policymakers, research scientists, and the private sector to recognize that real-time citizen input is essential to fully understanding the societal implications of emerging technologies. The principal investigator of this research is Dr. Patrick Hamlett, Associate Professor of Science, Technology & Society, and Political Science at North Carolina State University.

You can read the individual reports of the six dialogues in their entirety @ http://www4.ncsu.edu/~pwhmds/final_reports.html. Each report is unique in format and coverage.



Locations of the 2008 NCTF citizen panels: Tempe, Arizona; Boulder, Colorado; Berkeley, California; Durham, New Hampshire; Atlanta, Georgia and Madison, Wisconsin

A Citizen-Based Strategic Planning Process

From the International City/County Managers Association's Local Government Matters e-newsletter, August 18, 2008

Gladstone, Missouri, Kirk L. Davis, city manager, has long been a leader in the area of innovative management styles and programs, as well as a strong proponent of citizen participation in city programs. Recognizing that the community's long-term sustainability depends on strong community involvement, in 2003 the city decided to implement a citizen-based strategic planning process. The goal was to develop a 20-year strategic plan that would address current needs as well as plan for the future.

In July 2003, the city council approved a citizen-based project to evaluate conditions within the city and recommend a long-range plan to ensure continued prosperity. The National Civic League served as facilitator for the project, and the council established an initiating committee to identify citizens from a large cross-section of the community to participate in the plan's development. No council members or city staff were on the committee or involved in the planning discussions: the goal was to provide an environment in which citizens could voice their concerns and evaluate potential solutions without being influenced by the political concerns of elected officials. Since the group inception in August 2003, more than a hundred community leaders have taken advantage of this opportunity.

"Gladstone on the Move: Citizens Making a Difference" was the phrase chosen to identify these leaders and describe their goals and objectives. Participants met 10 times as a large group and countless other times in small discussion groups. First they crafted a mission statement to describe what Gladstone should be in 20 years. They then divided into subcommittees focused on six key performance areas—business and economic development, neighborhoods, civic and community center, city services, education and identity, and regionalism—to research, discuss, prioritize and submit proposals to the entire group for consideration. An implementation committee was then formed to provide a coordinated and realistic timeline in which to achieve the tasks and goals, as well as to identify potential funding sources.

The report of Gladstone on the Move identified many priorities on which the participants wanted to focus more of the city's energy and resources. Near the end of the process, however, the group learned that the company that was providing backup emergency medical services within Gladstone would no longer be available, a change in service that would cost the city an additional \$600,000 per year. Thus, taking the imminent needs of its aging population into consideration, the city had to find a definite funding source for the long-term provision of these services, as well as for the implementation of the citizen-based strategic plan.

The subcommittee on city services determined that in order to maintain a viable organization and infrastructure, the city's property tax base and property tax revenues needed to increase. They agreed that no additional sales tax should be imposed on Gladstone residents, but recommended that the five-cent fire sales tax that would end in June 2006 be continued with no sunset to fund major improvements, including a new community center. The implementation committee also recommended a property tax increase to fund the additional ambulance service and strategic planning priorities.

Gladstone on the Move brought its recommendations to the city council, which accepted them. The council also voted to proceed with both tax recommendations, asking voters to continue the expiring fire protection sales tax as a parks and recreation sales tax and to approve a \$0.39 property tax increase. The group's strategic planning committee

became the tax campaign committee, organizing a grass-roots letter-writing campaign, creating signs, and holding several public presentations to bring their case to the public. On February 8, 2005, Gladstone's voters approved the sales tax with nearly 69 percent of the vote, and the property tax increase—the first in 52 years—with 57 percent. Truly the citizens and businesses of Gladstone felt empowered through Gladstone on the Move to have a part in directing their future.

Today Gladstone on the Move remains active. Its implementation committee meets regularly with city staff for progress reports and project updates, and new community leaders have come forward, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the community. Today, there are sidewalks in some areas for the first time; new streetlights are being installed each year, with the goal of having one on each city block; three ambulances are in place, each staffed with two paramedics; and a new fire station centrally located on the west side provides for improved response times to that part of the city. The city is hosting its first Future Leaders Academy to continue to educate the people about municipal government and planning and to identify additional community leaders.

This program demonstrates the success of strategic leadership and governance. With a 20-year strategic plan in place, a citizens' implementation committee, and ongoing budgeted items that address the plan, long-term success will be real and viable for Gladstone.

Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy

How can democratic institutions and processes be designed so that they are compatible with, and foster environmental sustainability? This question was at the centre of discussions at the *UNITAR-Yale Conference on Environment and Democracy*.

"Democratic participation in environmental governance has become an internationally agreed principle" said Carlos Lopes, Executive Director of UNITAR and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations in his introductory remarks, "but it is the socio-economic context and local capacities which essentially determine how civic participation can effectively contribute to good governance and environmental sustainability."

Invited EPA participants included Dr. Daniel Fiorino and Leanne Nurse, of EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation. Dr. Fiorino presented on "Understanding the democracy-environment interface: Perspectives of public officials and practitioners." Ms. Nurse was part of an earlier EPA-UNITAR team developing an online public involvement toolkit for public officials. She explained EPA's current training program for collaborative decision making and the multi-media tools that public involvement professionals are using in their communities of practice

The conference was conducted primarily as an academic forum. The presented papers are forming the basis for a longer-term research agenda in the field. For more details about the conference and draft postings of presented papers and session summaries, visit <http://www.yale.edu/envirocenter/envdem/index.htm>

Hofstra University Opens Center for Civic Engagement

Hofstra's center was founded to encourage students to become more active citizens. "Democracies need engaged citizens," said Cynthia Bogard, Ph.D., the Center's founding director. "And the habit of active involvement in one's civic life typically starts in one's youth. The Hofstra community wants to make sure that our students are given every opportunity to practice civic involvement while they are learning with us. We see it as an intrinsic part of the holistic curriculum that Hofstra seeks to provide our students."

CCE students traveled this summer to work in Togo on a "Green Futures Project" which will then bring Togolese students to Hofstra this fall to learn more about sustainable development.

Initial CCE projects included a civic internship database; leadership training and voter registration and response activities. The inaugural exhibit, "Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A legacy of Building Peace" was the basis of a course taught by Dr. Michael D'Innocenzo, the Harry Wachtel Distinguished Teaching Professor for the Study of Nonviolent Social Change.

For more information about Hofstra's CCE, please visit <http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/HCLAS/CCE/index.html>

Integrated Permitting Report Released

For several years the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partnered with the UK Environment Agency to research the processes, policies, and tools used to implement the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) system in the UK. During this time, the EPA organized and/or participated in numerous outreach activities sharing information on the UK system with interested parties and discussing possible uses of the permitting model in the US.

A new comprehensive report [with several appendices] is the product of this collaborative effort. The National Center for Environmental Innovation (NCEI) has just released "*An In-depth Look at the United Kingdom Integrated Permitting System*", accessible at www.epa.gov/permits/integrated.htm. NCEI undertook this examination of the United Kingdom's (UK's) integrated permitting system to fully understand the permitting approach now being adopted across the European Union and to explore whether aspects of it might offer insights into how the United States (US) system might be improved.

The report describes the historical and cultural setting for the UK's integrated permitting system, provides an overview of the legal and organizational framework, and includes detailed information on the permitting process and permit requirements. An analysis of several individual US and UK permits for the pulp and paper sector and the specialty organic chemical sector offers practical comparisons between the two countries' approaches. The report concludes with summary findings regarding features of the UK permitting system significant for a US audience.

Despite more than two decades of environmental policy and permitting innovation in the US, many believe there continues to be significant potential for improvement in the

effectiveness and efficiency of environmental permitting. A variety of state and federal initiatives have explored ways to streamline the permitting process, encourage multi-media approaches, foster continuous improvement through environmental management systems and other means, and to understand and manage the entire environmental footprint of permitted facilities toward sustainability goals. While many of these efforts have shown significant promise, they have largely been carried out independently and on a rather small scale. The rich array of ideas brought together on a large scale in UK's integrated permitting system stimulates new ideas and fresh perspectives on old ideas about how environmental permitting might be improved for greater environmental results here in the U.S.

NCEI plans to use the report to encourage and stimulate further dialogue with others in government, academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations about the potential testing and application of integrated and other innovative permitting approaches in the U.S. [The executive summary \(PDF\)](#) (11 pp, 115K) very briefly covers the introductory and analytical elements detailed in the full report and focuses on the report findings.

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Public Involvement brings the pieces together