



Sustainability and the EPA:  
*What does it mean for Tribes?*

RTOC Meeting  
Listening Session  
February 8, 2012

# Topics

- Overview of NAS report – Sustainability in the US EPA
- NAS report in context
- Expanding conversation on environmentalism
- Questions
- Interactive session

**“... Environmental challenges do not obey bright lines or numerical limits. They are not constrained by disciplinary boundaries or the boxed walls of an organizational chart.”**



*Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, Remarks to the NAS,  
November 30, 2010*

# Background

- Complex problems
- Need for new and modified approaches
- National Research Council of the National Academies of Science tasked to explore idea of further incorporating sustainability at EPA
- In September 2011, NAS issued its report - *Sustainability and the U.S. EPA*

# EPA Charge to NAS

- *“What should be the operational framework for sustainability for EPA?”*
- *How can the EPA decision-making process rooted in the risk assessment/risk management paradigm be integrated into this new sustainability framework?*
- *What scientific and analytical tools are needed to support the framework?*
- *What expertise is needed to support the framework?”*

# Key NAS Recommendations Include

- Adopt a comprehensive sustainability framework
- Programs should set 3-5 year “breakthrough objectives”
- Develop a “sustainability toolbox”
- Include risk assessment as a key input to sustainability decision making
- Institute a focused program of change management inside EPA
- Hire multidisciplinary professionals and augment staffing from additional sectors (e.g. social & health)

# EPA and Tribal Experience Advancing Sustainability

- Energy Star
- Brownfields
- San Juan Pueblo Master Land Use Plan
  - Long term growth strategy
  - Coordinates existing infrastructure with housing and commercial development
  - First project - Tsigo Bugeh Village
  - Winner of EPA's 2004 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement for Small Communities

# NAS Report in Context

- EPA requested review and is not bound by results
- NAS did not assess EPA legal mandate, organizational structure or institutional framework
- NAS cited many encouraging ongoing EPA efforts on sustainability
- Outreach process underway to hear what others outside of EPA think
- Unique relationship between EPA and Tribes calls for separate discussion



# Next Steps

- Stakeholder listening sessions through March 2012
- In-reach sessions in EPA HQ and Regions
- Follow-up with interested stakeholders
- Aggregation of feedback across EPA
- Discussion on next steps in Spring/Summer 2012

# To get today's discussion rolling...

- 1) What should EPA do to promote sustainability within our work or with our partners, particularly in our role as co-regulators with the tribes?
- 2) What experiences or examples do you have to share that might be helpful?
- 3) What tools or resources do you need to advance sustainability in your organization?

Other opportunities and comments.

# EPA Office of Policy Contacts

Bicky Corman, Deputy Associate Administrator  
Office of Policy

[Corman.bicky@epa.gov](mailto:Corman.bicky@epa.gov)

Beth Termini, Senior Advisor, Office of Policy

[Termini.beth@epa.gov](mailto:Termini.beth@epa.gov)

215-814-5683