

# Domestic Outreach Initiative

## With State and local organizations:

- ◆ OGE has collaborated with and engaged in special programs with State ethics commissions to exchange information and share best practices.
- ◆ OGE staff members regularly attend and participate in annual meetings of various State and local ethics offices in the U.S. and Canada, including the:
  - ◆ Council on Governmental Ethics Laws
  - ◆ Association of Applied and Practical Ethics

## With the corporate world:

- ◆ OGE has made numerous briefings and presentations covering a range of topics (e.g., the interface between public and private sector ethics) to senior executives of many large U.S. corporations, including:
  - ◆ Lockheed Martin
  - ◆ Hewlett-Packard
  - ◆ United Technologies
- ◆ OGE staff members have been speakers and panelists in programs sponsored by associations with large corporate and non-profit memberships, including the:
  - ◆ Ethics Officer Association
  - ◆ Defense Industry Initiative
  - ◆ Ethics Resource Center
  - ◆ Conference Board

## With the educational community:

- ◆ Dozens of higher education institutions around the U.S. have invited OGE representatives to give lectures and presentations on relevant ethics-related topics.
- ◆ OGE staff members have spoken to both students and parents at elementary and high schools, and have participated in Career Days and other career explorations.

## With the professional community:

- ◆ OGE has participated in many annual professional conferences in such fields as law, public administration, social sciences, government, and ethics, including the:
  - ◆ American Bar Association
  - ◆ American Society for Public Administration
  - ◆ American Political Science Association
  - ◆ National Academy of Public Administration

## Reaching a diverse audience:

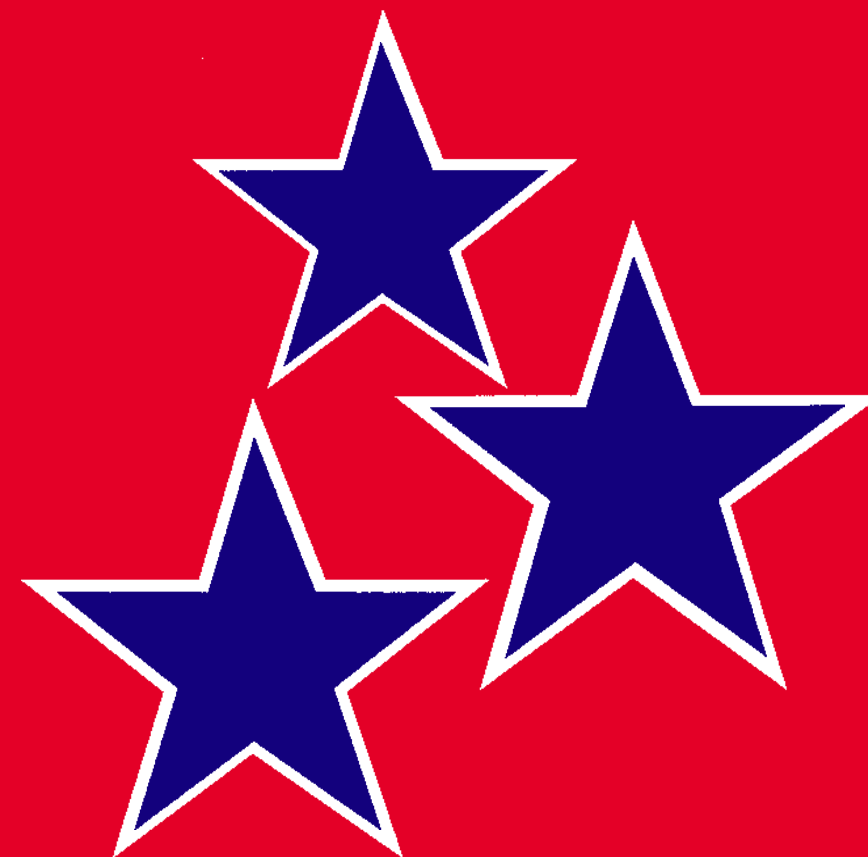
- ◆ OGE has recently become involved with the annual Public Service Recognition Week, which is aimed at educating the general public about the mission and purpose of our Agency.

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United States  
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Government  
Ethics



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*“No man is allowed to be a judge in his own cause, because his interest would certainly bias his judgement, and, not improbably, corrupt his integrity.”  
-James Madison, 1787*

It was over 200 years ago that President Madison spoke of the responsibilities associated with a public trust position.

A basic tenet of Government service, “Public service is a public trust” provides the foundation for the Office of Government Ethics’ (OGE) mission to foster high ethical standards for employees and to strengthen the public’s confidence that the Government’s business is conducted with impartiality and integrity.

There are approximately three million Federal Government employees in the U.S. and abroad. The vast majority of these employees hold their Government positions as a public trust for the benefit of the American people, observing ethical principles and dedicating themselves to serving the public interest.

Federal employees, by necessity, are held to a high level of integrity. In order to maintain this standard of public service, employees must be aware of and adhere to a variety of ethics laws and regulations. Some of these laws are criminal in nature and have severe penalties associated with them. In addition, administrative rules

seek to prevent conflicts of interest and are enforced by disciplinary sanctions.

## The Office of Government Ethics

OGE was established by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 as the office responsible for setting policies aimed at helping to prevent conflicts of interest in the executive branch of the Federal Government. OGE assists executive branch departments and agencies in implementing ethics rules and policies that deal with conflict-of-interest laws, post-employment restrictions, standards of conduct, and public and confidential financial disclosure systems. OGE is also responsible for monitoring and ensuring the effectiveness and quality of individual agency ethics programs.

## Domestic Outreach

OGE also actively participates in programs that encourage the application of ethical standards and values in the private and public sectors.

## Outreach Mission

The mission of OGE’s Domestic Outreach Initiative is to raise public awareness of the Federal Government’s ethics policies. Through participation and attendance at conferences and other similar events held by State, local, corporate, and educational organizations and through the distribution of written materials, OGE seeks to promote the underlying

values of Federal ethical standards as they relate to the American public.

## Outreach Goals

In addition to raising public awareness about the existence of Government ethics policies, the Domestic Outreach Initiative strives to promote public understanding of the role of OGE as it relates to the executive branch ethics program.

This initiative also seeks to communicate the importance of the underlying values and principles governing the conduct of Federal employees. An appreciation for these values should foster a better understanding of the ethical obligations that Federal employees undertake.

Lastly, OGE’s Domestic Outreach Initiative aims to promote the overall confidence of the American public in their Government.

## Outreach Audiences

OGE has developed a variety of domestic ethics initiatives for State and local governments, private corporations, ethics associations, and various educational organizations.

State and local governments, as well as private sector employers, have come to recognize the importance of an ethical environment for the healthy daily commerce of business. Many private and

government entities have modeled codes of conduct and administrative ethics programs after those found in the Federal sector. Many organizations have likewise sought OGE’s expertise and practical experience in developing their own ethics systems and strategies.

Ethics associations and similar organizations offer ideal networking opportunities by hosting and participating in a variety of conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, and other collaborative events which encourage the exchange of information and ideas. OGE views these opportunities as a mechanism for engaging a broad audience on the importance of ethics and discussing current ethics issues.

OGE has also worked with many educational organizations, including schools at the elementary, secondary, and collegiate level. Through outreach to students and educators, OGE seeks to emphasize how the ethical values underlying public service can be applied in facing everyday challenges. Opportunities for future careers in public service and in the growing ethics field are presented and explored.

## Recent Outreach Activities

OGE has been involved in numerous domestic outreach activities designed for a variety of audiences.