



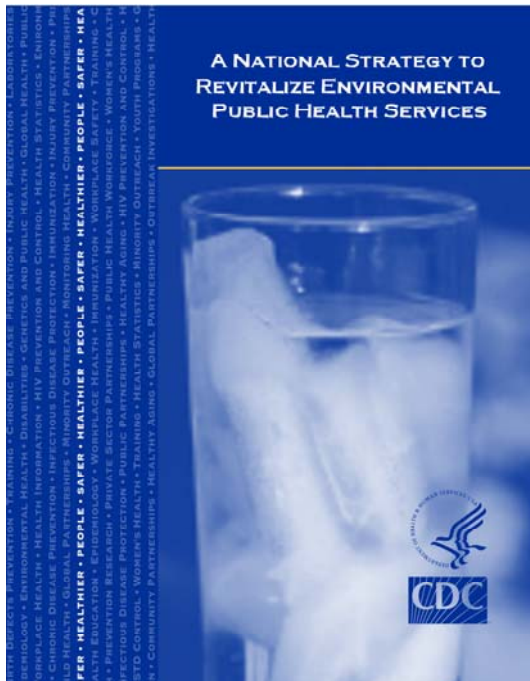
National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services

A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services

In November 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services published objectives for improving the nation's health, Healthy People 2010. It stated that: "various reports and evaluations have described the continuing deterioration of the national public health system; health departments are closing, technology and information systems are outmoded, emerging and drug-resistant diseases threaten to overwhelm resources, and serious training inadequacies weaken the capacity of the public health workforce to address new threats and adapt to changes in the health care market," and "all public health services depend on the presence of basic infrastructure."



Environmental Health Services Are Needed Throughout the United States to Address Environmentally Related Public Health Events



In response to the recognized need for A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services, the Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services of the National Center for Environmental Health formed a steering committee that spearheaded a process and will be responsible for developing and implementing the final strategy. This strategy was developed with the participation of a 31-member External Partners Working Group representing the environmental public health and protection practice community; special populations; academia; advocacy groups; and representatives of other CDC centers, institutes, and offices, as well as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The draft strategy was then reviewed by more than 100 additional environmental health and public health experts and advocacy organizations.

With its goals and objectives, the strategy is a starting point for rejuvenating the environmental health system at the federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local levels in the United States. The implementation of the goals, objectives, and activities described in the strategy will enhance our ability to achieve CDC's vision for the 21st Century: Healthy People in a Healthy World—Through Prevention. Many of the activities described herein build on existing or developing efforts or are in the planning stages. All will require building and improving long-term strategic partnerships, and commitments by all stakeholders, as well as additional resources.

SUMMARY OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	
Success in implementing the goals and objectives described in this plan will result in CDC reaching its vision for the 21st century: healthy people in a healthy world – through prevention. Achieving these goals and objectives will necessitate long-term, strategic partnerships, and a sustained commitment by all stakeholders.	
<p>Goal I: Build Capacity Strengthen and support environmental health services at the state, tribal, territorial, and local levels</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>A. Expand the nation's capacity to anticipate, recognize, and respond to environmental health threats and improve access to technology.</p> <p>B. Support, evaluate, and disseminate the results of new demonstration programs, best practices, and CDC-supported projects designed to improve livability and prevent and control environmentally related illness.</p> <p>C. Identify the range of activities, interventions, and resources available for delivering environmental health programs in the United States, and maintain a continuous assessment process.</p>	<p>governments; and other stakeholders to specifically build and enhance leadership capabilities.</p> <p>Goal IV: Communicate and Market Improve communication and information sharing among environmental health agencies, communities, strategic partners, and other stakeholders and better market environmental health services to policymakers and the public</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>A. Identify and promote community-based strategies to elevate the image, importance, and need to improve environmental health services.</p> <p>B. Support educational approaches and models of best practices to gain community support and participation in addressing environmental health service issues, concerns, and best models to organize, deliver and market them.</p>
<p>Goal II: Support Research Support research to define effective approaches to enhance environmental health services</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>A. Identify environmental antecedents to disease outbreaks.</p> <p>B. Engage community support for community-based environmental health research.</p> <p>C. Synthesize and disseminate relevant environmental health services research findings.</p> <p>D. Implement environmental health service demonstrations and evaluations in the built and natural environments that lead to healthier communities.</p>	<p>Goal V: Develop the Work Force Promote the development of a competent and ready environmental health services work force</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>A. Provide support to develop the environmental health service work force through performance standards, training, and career retention activities.</p> <p>Goal VI: Create Strategic Partnerships Foster interactions among agencies, organizations, and individuals that influence environmental health services</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>A. Coordinate and promote activities among critical stakeholders and foster partnerships and interactions among them to address needs and interests that influence environmental health services.</p>
<p>Goal III: Foster Leadership Foster strong leadership to enhance environmental health services</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>A. Provide guidance, training, and assistance to state, territorial, and local health departments; tribal</p>	

In summary, the goals listed in the strategy include

- Building capacity at all levels
- Supporting research to translate science into practice
- Fostering the leadership necessary to apply public health principles of assessment, policy development, and assurance in the field of environmental health
- Improving ability to communicate and market environmental public health services
- Supporting systems to improve the performance of the environmental public health work force across the United States
- Creating viable and long-lasting strategic partnerships among all the stakeholders.

A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services should be viewed as a working document that will be modified over time. The next step is to identify needed resources, organize and implement activities described in the strategic plan, and create a timeline for the accomplishment of objectives.

The strategy is available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs>.