

## **EVERYDAY CHOICES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

### **INNOVATION ACTION COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – PROJECT LIST**

#### **INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

##### **Introduction**

The Administrator has requested that the Innovation Action Council (IAC) prepare an implementation plan to ensure focused follow-through on the IAC report to the Administrator on environmental stewardship – *Everyday Choices: Opportunities for Environmental Stewardship* (November 2005). Given the breadth of stewardship activities across EPA programs and regions, and the new kinds of thinking spawned by the *Everyday Choices* report (e.g., the importance of stewardship behavior and sustainability outcomes to accomplishing EPA’s mission), an EPA-wide implementation plan was envisioned as a way to ensure connections across programs, and to help track and communicate EPA’s progress.

There are three primary components to our implementation approach. First, we will identify the most significant stewardship activities planned for the next few years and initiate a limited set of additional efforts that advance the strategic priorities identified in *Everyday Choices*. Second, we will increase emphasis on communicating the significance of EPA stewardship activities through a unified communication plan. And finally, we will track, evaluate and periodically report progress to the Administrator and Deputy Administrator, including possible recommendations for further activities as appropriate.

The project list that follows is a compilation of key EPA stewardship activities that the IAC has identified for priority attention and leadership. This list of activities is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, it is a subset of items that national programs and regional offices identified as the most significant that merited inclusion in an EPA-wide plan. Most activities are already underway or planned for FY2006/2007. Some of the activities are still in early stages of planning but are included to show the range of the Agency’s interests. We anticipate that periodic updates will be needed.

The IAC has general oversight responsibility for implementation activities. Individual IAC members have responsibility for activities in their respective organizations, and the IAC is expected to provide leadership for activities that involve EPA as a whole or involve multiple organizations, e.g. ecosystems, sustainable products, DOD collaboration, and measurement. The National Center for Environmental Innovation will work with appropriate staff from around the Agency to prepare periodic progress reports.

The list of activities is organized around the five “opportunity areas” identified in the *Everyday Choices* report. Grouping projects into these broad strategies offers a new way to review and think about our work and, hopefully, promote connections across projects and identify potential

areas that need additional attention. The first part of this document is a summary list, to give readers a quick overview. Following the summary there is a compendium of detailed descriptions of the specific activities, including milestones and contact information.

As described in the *Everyday Choices* report, States and Tribes are also using stewardship strategies to get environmental results, and are interested in partnering with EPA on environmental stewardship. Toward that end, EPA and States will plan to hold a stewardship colloquium, combined with the planned 2007 Innovation Symposium, to showcase stewardship success stories and discuss what we have jointly learned.

A companion communication strategy is being prepared to help promote a more unified approach for these and other related activities. Improving our communication about EPA's stewardship work is one priority item identified by the IAC for continued attention.

One more word about this draft: This draft contains all the information collected as of August 31, 2006. It is nearly complete. It is missing a very few names of EPA staff contacts and milestones. Also, since much of the information was collected several months ago, some of the milestone dates have been reached. This draft has not yet been updated to take the current date into account or to confirm that the recent milestones have in fact been achieved.

## Summary Project List

**1. FOCUS ON PRIORITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WHERE STEWARDSHIP HAS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL:** *Some environmental challenges are best defined in a multi-media perspective and addressed with environmental stewardship approaches that cut across traditional organizational boundaries and contribute to sustainable solutions. Environmental stewardship provides EPA with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how a collaborative approach can foster sustainability of natural resources. EPA has particular opportunities in the following areas:*

***Sustainable products:*** *Many environmental issues can be associated with one or more stages of the life cycle of products. Using a product focus to unite the appropriate media programs around the development of more sustainable goods, the Agency will work to target key decision-makers (e.g., manufacturers, technology developers, retailers, consumers) and the critical decision points that exist within product life cycles – from design, through manufacture and use, to end of life disposal or reuse.*

EnergyStar (OAR, R1)  
Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (OPPTS)  
Federal Electronics Challenge (OPPTS)  
Electronics Recycling (OPPTS)  
Life Cycle Assessment (ORD)  
Greening the Supply Chain (OPPTS, R1)  
Design for the Environment (DfE) Recognition for Pesticide Labeled Products (OPPTS)  
Water Efficient Products (OW)  
Sustainable Products Initiative (IAC, leadership by OPPTS and OSWER)

**Clean transportation:** *Transportation is an activity responsible for very large impacts on the environment. EPA will work with States and Federal partners to expand focus on innovative solutions to air quality, energy and other environmental impacts of transportation.*

Smartway Transport Partnership (OAR)

Green Highways (R3)

National Clean Diesel Campaign (OAR and Regions)

- Northeast Diesel Collaborative (R1, R2)
- Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative (R3)
- Southeast Diesel Collaborative (R4)
- Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative (R5)
- Blue Skyways Collaborative (R6, R7)
- Rocky Mountain Collaborative (R8)
- West Coast Collaborative (R9, R10)

Sustainable Transportation (IAC, leadership by OAR and interested HQ and regional offices)

**Ecosystem protection:** *Ecosystems are basic building blocks of life on Earth and are frequently not adequately protected by traditional approaches to environmental protection. Working with Federal, State, Tribal and local partners, EPA will be exploring a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to protect and restore ecosystem functions and services, as well as additional opportunities to fully utilize authorities provided under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, activities will include finding ways to encourage use of market mechanisms to reflect the immense value that a wide range of ecosystems services provide, and that stimulate entrepreneurial action, investment and market innovation.*

Schuylkill Action Network (R3)

Ecological Research Program (ORD)

SERPPAS Collaboration with DOD (R4)

Sustainable Sandhills Collaboration with DOD (R4)

Strategic Agricultural Initiative (OPPTS)

Managing Fertilizer to Protect Water Quality (OW)

Partnership to Develop Sustainability Principles/Metrics for Water Resources (OW)

Source Water Collaborative (OW)

National Estuary Program (OW)

Ecosystem and Community Initiative (IAC, leadership by ORD, R5, R1, OW, OPPTS, OPEI)

**Community stewardship:** *Community environmental stewardship requires long-term, integrated multi-media approaches. EPA will continue to promote the use of smart growth principles in development and redevelopment projects and support local institutions that design environmental stewardship strategies with community involvement.*

Community Action for a Renewed Environment - CARE (Cross Agency)

Smart Growth Redevelopment of Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine (R1)

Sustainable Sandhills Collaboration with DOD (R4)

SEQL - Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life (R4)

Decision-Support Tool Box (ORD)

Great Cities Partnerships Program (R5)  
Promote sustainable governance in the metropolitan Kansas City area (R7)  
Collaborative Stormwater Management Model (R3)  
Urban Heat Island Mitigation Pilot (R3)  
Atlanta Beltline Project (R4)  
Promotion of Environmental Management Systems at Healthcare Facilities (R2)

Schools:

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools (OAR)  
School Chemical Cleanout Campaign (OSWER)  
Small Scale Chemistry Program (R6)  
Rehab the Laboratory (R7)

Water Supply:

Incentives for government water supply agencies to participate in Performance Track (OW)  
Partnership in Support of Capacity Development for Small Public Water Systems (OW)  
Agreement with National Utility Assns to Promote Sustainable Management Practices (OW)  
Sustainable Water Infrastructure (R1)  
Utility Watershed Stewardship (R2)

Ecosystem and Community Initiative (IAC, leadership by ORD, R5, R1, OW, OPPTS, OPEI)

***Resource Conservation:*** *Resource conservation is at the heart of sustainability. EPA will pursue opportunities to conserve water, energy, materials, and other natural resources to achieve multiple benefits while also finding ways to better leverage and coordinate existing resource conservation stewardship programs.*

Coal Combustion Partnership Program, WasteWise, National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (OSWER)  
Performance Track Energy Challenge (R1)  
Kansas City Regional By-Product Synergy Project (R7)  
Waste-to-Energy Strategic Geographic Planning Tool Development (R6)  
Using Remote Sensing to Detect Air Emissions and for leak Detection and Repair (R6)  
Ground Source Heat Pumps in Public Schools (R6)  
Incorporating Sustainability Activities into Disaster Recovery Plans (R6)  
EPA/DOD Collaboration (IAC, leadership by OSWER)

**2. ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP :** *An effective environmental stewardship strategy must address choices made by individuals, and harness the “power of one” to make a difference. EPA has some activities aimed in this direction, but they do not work in a fully coordinated way to raise the nation’s environmental literacy. EPA will provide practical information and tools that make stewardship easy and rewarding, and set clear environmental education goals to engage people in addressing priority problems.*

Great American Woodstove Changeout Campaign (OAR)  
Greenacres and Green Infrastructure (R5)  
Individual Environmental Stewardship (OPEI)  
Recycle on the Go (OSWER)

National Environmental Education Grant Program; National Environmental Education and Training Partnership (OEE)  
Spread Sustainability Courses to technical colleges and universities (R7)  
P3: Student Design Competition (ORD)  
Compliance Assistance Centers (OECA)  
Waste-to-Energy Strategic Geographic Planning Tool Development (R6)  
Market incentives/higher visibility for less toxic pesticide products – DfE Risk Reduction Program (OPPTS)  
EPA-wide Environmental Education Strategy (IAC, leadership by OEE with interested HQ and regional offices)

**3. SHOWCASE BEST PRACTICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** *EPA has a major opportunity to increase awareness about stewardship practices, to identify organizations that are environmental leaders, and to motivate businesses, communities and others to strive for continuous improvement in environmental performance. To this end, EPA is undertaking a variety of activities.*

Portfolios of Stewardship Opportunities Offered by EPA (OPEI)  
Green Building Workgroup (cross-agency)  
Best Workplaces for Commuters (OAR+)  
SmartWay Transport Partnership (OAR)  
National Clean Diesel Campaign (OAR, Regions)  
P3: Student Design Competition (ORD)  
PFOA Stewardship Program (OPPTS)  
Green Suppliers Network (OPPTS)  
Greenacres and Green Infrastructure (R5)  
Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (OPPTS)  
GreenScapes (OSWER)  
Environmentally Responsible Redevelopment and Reuse (ER3) Program (OECA)  
Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability (ORD)  
Environmental Science Connector (ORD)  
Decision-support Tool Box (ORD)  
Performance Track – new incentives and directions (OPEI, OW, R1, R10)  
Sectors Strategies Performance Report (OPEI)  
Biomass Summit (sustainable use/reuse of hurricane-type debris) (R4)  
Regional Provision of P2 Technical Assistance (R10)  
State-EPA Symposium on Innovation & Environmental Stewardship (OPEI)  
2006 Collaborative Summit with Fed. & State Land Management Agencies (R8)  
Business/Government Sustainability Roundtables (R1)

**4. LEAD BY EXAMPLE – DEMONSTRATE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN EPA’S OPERATIONS AND IN ITS WORK WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:** *EPA should be a model in the federal government and the nation for environmental stewardship. While we know that our own actions can deliver important environmental benefits, the real value comes from the multiplier effect – when our employees use what they have learned in their jobs and in their homes and communities. To this end, we will set measurable goals for EPA environmental*

*performance improvement, support sustainability efforts across the Federal government, help create new markets for sustainable products and services, and encourage all EPA employees to play a stewardship role.*

EPA Environmental Performance Improvement:

Lead by example at our facilities and with our people (OARM)

Region 1 Green Team Efforts (R1)

Develop Sustainability Environmental Management Program (R7)

Region 8 Moves into a Green Building ; Reuse and Recycle Materials Generated from Move (R8)

Vision 2020 (ORD)

Support Sustainability efforts across the Federal Government:

Cooperative Conservation Activities (OPEI and others)

FedCenter (OECA)

2006 Collaborative Summit with Fed. & State Land Management Agencies (R8)

Federal Agency Collaboration on Stewardship and Sustainability (R10)

EPA/DOD Collaboration (IAC, leadership by OSWER and other interested program and region offices)

Encouraging EPA employees to Play a Stewardship Role:

Internal Sustainability Campaign (R2)

Environmental Stewardship Training Series (R7)

Sustainability Training for Region 8 Employees (R8)

Employee Carbon Footprint Reduction (R10)

**5. MAINSTREAM STEWARDSHIP IN EPA DECISION PROCESSES:** *In order for EPA's environmental stewardship strategy to have real value, it must become an enduring priority and pervasive ethic in all parts of the organization. To this end we will build Agency capacity for environmental stewardship by improved coordination and communication of EPA's current environmental stewardship activities; leveraged resources and set priorities; better alignment of EPA efforts with State and Tribal priorities, improved performance measurement and reporting of results, aligning partnership programs to fully support EPA's environmental stewardship*

Sustainability Outcomes and Indicators (ORD+)

Coordinated Agency-wide communications strategy (IAC, leadership by OPA, OPEI)

Improve measurement tools for environmental stewardship activities (IAC, leadership by ORD and OPEI)

Measurement Tools: Pilot Sector Cross-Program Measures and Data Coordination (OECA)

Measurement Tools: Economic and Decision Support Science (ORD)

Measurement Tools: Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Developing Spatial Decision Support Tools (ORD)

Measurement Tools: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) -- Public Data Release (OEI)

Measurement Tools: Environmental Indicators Effort and Public Report on the Environment (OEI)

Sustainability Research Strategy (ORD)

Utilize State Performance Partnership Mechanisms (PPA/PPG) to Address Stewardship Opportunities (R4)

Vision 2020 (ORD)

Strengthen EPA Partnership Programs (OPEI)

EPA Collaboration Practitioners Network (OPEI)

Encourage consideration of stewardship strategies and tools as part of EPA environmental problem solving (IAC, leadership by OPEI)

NACEPT Project on Environmental Stewardship and Cooperative Conservation (OCEM & OPEI)

# EVERYDAY CHOICES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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### DETAILS

**1. FOCUS ON PRIORITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WHERE STEWARDSHIP HAS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL:** *Some environmental challenges are best defined in a multi-media perspective and addressed with environmental stewardship approaches that cut across traditional organizational boundaries and contribute to sustainable solutions. Environmental stewardship provides EPA with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how a collaborative approach can foster sustainability of natural resources. EPA has particular opportunities in the following areas:*

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#### **EnergyStar (OAR)**

Through the ENERGY STAR program, EPA provides public and private organizations as well as individual consumers the information and tools they need to make energy efficiency choices and do their part to help protect the environment by reducing emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. By 2005, this program has helped reduce electricity demand by 4 percent, avoid the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 23 million vehicles and save \$12 billion annually.

#### *Milestones:*

EPA will continue to expand this program in 2006 with more than 8,000 public and private partners with a goal of doubling energy savings over the next decade. EPA will:

- Work with major retailers, utilities, states and others to help consumers choose more than 175 million ENERGY STAR qualifying products each year – these products save consumers between 10 and 90% on energy use over standard models
- Add an additional 2 product categories each year to the ENERGY STAR program and revising the requirements in more than 5 product categories each year.
- Work with businesses, states, utilities, and others so that three to five additional markets each year have ENERGY STAR new homes available to them as well as a new, cost-saving whole-home improvement program -- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
- Step up efforts with public and private organizations to encourage building owners and managers to take the ENERGY STAR Building Challenge and improve the efficiency of their buildings by 10 percent or more, reducing the more than \$80 billion that this sector spends on electricity and natural gas each year.



- Expand its Industrial Focus efforts by adding two new industry sectors each year through which it develops and shares detailed energy savings opportunities and improved energy management tools.

*Contact:* Elyse Steiner 202-343-9141

### **Energy Efficiency – Energy Star (R1)**

EPA-New England is promoting Energy Star at a local level with numerous sectors including Commercial Buildings, Colleges and Universities, State and local government. Region 1 will partner with the three largest utilities in New England, NSTAR, National Grid and Northeast Utilities, to build efficiency programs around Energy Star Benchmarking.

*Results:* Approximately 450 facilities were benchmarked in 2005. The region plans to equal or exceed this number in 2006.

*Milestones:*

- Region 1 will continue to leverage a small portion of the regional energy efficiency dollars (approximately \$250 million in 2005) to support Energy Star benchmarking efforts.

*Contact:*

### **Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (OPPTS)**

The Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is a tool for evaluating the environmental performance of electronic products throughout their life cycles. EPEAT will be used to create green purchasing specifications for computers, laptops, and monitors for institutional purchasers. OPPT, working with OSWER and Regions 10 and 9, leads the multi-stakeholder effort to develop and implement the criteria and tool.

*Milestones:*

- On April 30th, EPEAT became a final standard (IEEE P1680), and on July 24th, 2006, the registry of EPEAT registered products will go live and be available at [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net). An Environmental Benefits Calculator is being developed that will translate FEC/EPEAT activity/purchasing data into environmental outcome data.
- Over the next two years, the Federal government will begin purchasing electronic products that are certified against the EPEAT standard.

*Contact:* Holly Elwood (OPPTS) John Katz (Region 9) Vicky Salazar (Region 10)

### **Federal Electronics Challenge (OPPTS)**

OPPT, working with OSWER, manages the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC), which is a voluntary partnership program that encourages federal facilities and agencies to purchase greener electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use, and manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way. EPA is promoting the FEC at its headquarters offices and in all ten EPA Regions. We will also work to encourage adoption of FEC principles and EPEAT by state and local governments and by industry.

*Milestones:*

- The FEC has set a goal of having 1000 federal agency partners by the end of 2008.
- The FEC will continue to expand its reach to other Federal agencies and other offices and programs in Agencies already committed to the program. State and local governments are showing interest in emulating FEC practices.

*Contact:* Laura Nazef (OPPTS), Sue Nogas (OSWER)

### **Electronics Recycling (OSWER)**

The Plug-in to eCycling program encourages reuse and recycling of used computers and other electronics through partnerships with manufacturing, retail partners, and State and local governments. Plug-In has 21 private partners and 26 state and local government partners. Over 60 million pounds of electronics have been recycled in three years. We are also working to encourage the development of best management practices for recyclers of electronics, and a process for credible third parties to certify that recyclers are in compliance with these practices.

#### *Milestones:*

- Plug-In will continue to foster more partnerships between electronics retailers and manufacturers with the aim of expanding the infrastructure for collecting and recycling discarded electronics. By spring 2007, EPA and interested stakeholders anticipate establishing an agreement on best management practices for electronics recyclers, and a process for third party certification.

*Contacts:* Clare Lindsay, [lindsay.clare@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.clare@epa.gov) or Verena Radulovic, [radulovic.verena@epa.gov](mailto:radulovic.verena@epa.gov) for Plug-In; Karen Pollard for certification of electronics recyclers.

### **Life Cycle Assessment (ORD)**

The goal of ORD's Life Cycle Assessment Research program is to advance LCA methodology through improved inventory data collection methods and impact assessment modeling. The program also aims to encourage and aid the application of the life cycle concept through such tools as the LCAccess website ([www.epa.gov/ORD/NRMRL/lcaccess](http://www.epa.gov/ORD/NRMRL/lcaccess)) and the TRACI (Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and other Impacts) impact model.

#### *Milestones:*

- Maintain and update the LCAccess website - on-going
- Update of TRACI - Fall 2006

*Contact:* Mary Ann Curran (513-569-7782)

### **The Green Suppliers Network (OPPTS)**

OPPT manages the Green Suppliers Network, which is designed to accelerate environmental performance, process efficiency, and economic competitiveness among manufacturing suppliers. To date the program has engaged aerospace, automotive, healthcare/pharmaceutical and office furniture suppliers in these activities. Supplier engagements, to date, have identified the potential for over \$17.9 million in cost savings, 65 million kilowatts of energy savings, 81,000 pounds of air emission reductions, and 128,000 pounds of water pollution reductions. Effective collaboration continues with the Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Green Suppliers Network is collaborating with other EPA programs such as the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program, where we expect to demonstrate the economic and social benefits of environmental improvement to manufacturers within the CARE communities. The Green Suppliers Network is also collaborating with the Performance Track program and the Office of Air's SmartWay Transport Partnership. More information can be found at [www.greensuppliers.gov](http://www.greensuppliers.gov).

#### *Milestones:*

- Engage additional OEMs and their suppliers in the program
- Conduct Green Suppliers Network-CARE pilot in Region 1 to demonstrate the value of Green Suppliers Network in a local CARE community

- Continue to promote GSN among Performance Track Corporate Leaders  
*Contact:* Kristin Pierre, 202-564-8837, pierre.kristin@epa.gov

### **Facilitating Sustainable Business Practices – Greening the Supply Chain (R1)**

The goal of the strategy is to work with aerospace OEM's to identify suppliers located in New Haven, CT, an EJ area. OEM's will encourage suppliers to sign up for a GSN review, and EPA will discount cost of reviews. This project is being conducted under the auspices of EPA's CARE Program.

*Results:* The results of the previous pilot GSN reviews at 5 aerospace suppliers included: \$1,325,841/year in environmental impact savings including 53,561 BTU's of energy, 3,329,459 gallons of water conserved, 600 lbs of hazardous waste reduced, 600 lbs of toxic chemical use reduced. Additional suppliers will be signed up, but will not get \$ discount if not located in New Haven.

*Milestones:*

- The region will develop a list of interested aerospace suppliers (and is doing this currently); sign contracts with 5 suppliers in New Haven; complete reviews and follow-up with suppliers to determine actual cost/environmental savings realized.

*Contact:*

### **Design for the Environment (DfE) Recognition for Pesticide Labeled Products (OPPTS)**

OPPTS is now developing a process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to allow Design for the Environment (DfE) recognition for pesticide products that qualify as Reduced Risk pesticides and meet criteria of the DfE Formulators Program. The Office of Pesticide Program's "Reduced Risk" determinations are based on risk evaluations at the active ingredient level. Active ingredients in the formulation will be evaluated by OPP's Reduced Risk Committee. DfE will assist in evaluation of inert ingredients. The effort will expand the DfE program to include pesticide products and expand the existing Reduced Risk program to include biopesticides and antimicrobial pesticides, in addition to conventional pesticides. This initiative will provide market incentives for pesticides registrants to switch to less toxic ingredients in their formulations and will raise the visibility of safer pesticides.

*Milestones:*

- By August 2006, OPP will have established internal criteria for review of biopesticide and antimicrobial pesticide registration actions under the Reduced Risk Program.
- By September 2006, OPP will have vetted with OGC legal considerations of allowing a DfE logo on the pesticide label.
- By fall 2006, present to OPP's stakeholder FACA and the PPDC.
- By spring 2007, issue Notice seeking public comment on the proposal.
- By winter 2007, issue Policy Notice [if rulemaking to revise regulations not required].

*Contact:* Stephen Schaible schabile.stephen@epa.gov

### **Water Efficient Products (OW)**

One aspect of the water efficiency effort is a project called "Community Pilots in Water Efficient Product Marketing". The purpose of this project is to show at the community level the success of marketing water-efficient products. The partnership would be between EPA, national retailers and community leaders. This program will encourage a decrease in water usage to help ameliorate water shortages, help consumers save on rising utility bills and has the potential for infrastructure savings.

*Milestones:*

- Program Launch 2nd quarter 2006
- Agreement with retailer 2nd quarter 2006
- Selection of communities 2nd quarter 2006
- Implementation of program 3rd quarter 2006
- Evaluation of results achieved 2007

*Contact:* John Flowers

**Sustainable Products Initiative (IAC, leadership by OPPTS and OSWER)**

OPPTS and OSWER have convened a workgroup to explore a multi-media, cross-office initiative aimed at development of more sustainable products -- products that are designed, made and managed to ensure human and ecosystem health, are less resource intensive and more easily recovered at end of life. It is aiming to better integrate and coordinate existing agency programs that support sustainable products, building on the strength, experience and credibility of current programs and tools, including DfE, Green Chemistry, Green Suppliers Network, Energy Star, Smartway, Performance Track and many initiatives in OSW driving product and materials reuse and recycling.

This initiative will aim to promote life cycle design and management of products. The initiative will identify key product sectors and seek to promote change within those sectors to achieve: 1) minimal or no use of toxic chemicals that pose risks to human health and ecosystems; 2) greater energy conservation; 3) greater materials conservation through design for reuse, upgrade and recovery; and 4) systems to maximize recovery of the product at the end of its useful life. These goals will support multiple agency objectives including the Resource Conservation Challenge of priority chemicals reduction, increased municipal solid waste recycling and more integrated, cross media approaches to problem solving that consider pollution prevention and sustainability on the front end.

Our cross-office efforts to make electronics more sustainable are a good example of what is possible with a Sustainable Products Initiative:

- DFE partnerships to find less hazardous substitutes for standard computer chip manufacturing, flame retardants and lead solder.
- Energy efficiency standards for PCs and TVs and other electronics (both in use and standby).
- Developing a purchasing tool to guide greener electronics procurement by Federal agencies and other large institutional purchasers.
- Regulatory reform to reduce paperwork associated with recycling cathode ray tubes.
- Partnerships to pilot creative public/private collection/recycling programs for discarded electronics.
- Partnership to develop a safe management certification program for electronics recyclers.

*Milestones:*

- Year One – Cross-office team forms; goals, measurement tools, operating plan, and communication strategy (including sustainable products "vision" for dissemination by top EPA management) developed; highlight a small number of cross-cutting priority issues/products for attention; complete dialogue with stakeholders on these choices; begin implementation.
- Year Two – Continue implementation; measure progress; report outcomes; quantify benefits (toxic substances avoided; materials reduced; materials recovered); evaluate; initiate additional product stewardship initiatives.

*Contact:* Tom Murray (OPPT), 202-564-8829, or Clare Lindsay (OSWER), 703-308-7266.

***Clean transportation:*** *Transportation is an activity responsible for very large impacts on the environment. EPA will work with States and Federal partners to expand focus on innovative solutions to air quality, energy and other environmental impacts of transportation.*

**SmartWay Transport Partnership (OAR)**

The SmartWay Transport Partnership is an innovative public-private partnership that seeks to (1) work with the transportation industry to improve the overall efficiency of transportation related businesses and reduce the environmental impacts of transportation sources, and (2) work with states to achieve transportation related emission reductions in State Implementation Plans. Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, EPA is directed to develop a deployment program for idle reduction and energy conservation technologies through the SmartWay program. SmartWay provides the transportation industry with opportunities to address their transportation footprint by reducing fuel use and emissions while providing recognition for those Partners who achieve superior environmental performance. The SmartWay program also assists states and local entities with quantifying and using emission reductions from the use of SmartWay program technologies and strategies as a means to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Information on SmartWay can be found at [www.epa.gov/smartway](http://www.epa.gov/smartway).

*Milestones:*

- SmartWay program innovative and sustainable financing programs available for the transportation industry to adopt energy savings and emissions reductions technologies. Sept 07
- Deployment of electrified parking spaces along major transportation corridors, thereby allowing vehicles a means to reducing excess idling, and generating additional fuel and emissions savings. Sept 07

*Contact:* Mitch Greenberg 202-343-9269

**Green Highways Initiative (R3)**

The Green Highways Initiative is a voluntary, collaborative, public/private effort designed to identify & promote streamlining and environmental stewardship in transportation planning, design, construction, and/or operation and maintenance through integrated partnerships, flexibility, rewards, and market-based solutions. The Goal is to foster partnerships for improving upon the natural, built and social environmental conditions in a watershed, while sustaining life-cycle functional requirements of transportation infrastructure (safety, structural & service levels) – providing for conditions that are “better than before”.

The Green Highways Initiative was created to promote innovative streamlining and market-based approaches toward sustainable solutions for transportation and environmental improvements. Partnership development consists of integrated public/private partnerships with federal/state transportation and regulatory/resource agencies, contractors, industry, trade associations, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to develop and champion Green Highways efforts.

*Milestone:*

- Green Highways Partnership Strategic Retreat - A small problem solving meeting attended by approximately 40 professionals was held March 1-3, 2006 in St. Michaels, MD. This meeting was by invitation only.

*Contact:* Denise Rigney 215-814-2726

### **National Clean Diesel Campaign (OAR and Regions)**

Diesel engines are a major source of particulate matter (PM) or soot, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) which contribute to ozone, hydrocarbons and air toxics. These pollutants contribute to poor air quality in many areas of the country and can cause serious health problems, especially for children, the elderly and the chronically ill. Fortunately, there are many cost-effective solutions available today that can dramatically reduce pollutants from diesel exhaust. The EPA established the National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC) to promote the diesel emissions reduction strategies. The NCDC comprises both regulatory programs to address new diesel engines and innovative programs to address the millions of diesel engines already in use.

There are more than 11 million diesel engines in operation today that do not meet EPA's new clean diesel standards. These engines may continue to operate for 20 to 30 years, or more. The goal of EPA's innovative programs is to address in-use diesel engines in five key sectors – freight, construction, agriculture, ports, and school buses – by promoting a variety of cost-effective emissions reduction strategies, including switching to cleaner fuels; retrofitting, repairing, engine replacement, and replacing equipment; and reducing idling. EPA has made significant progress towards this goal by creating partnerships, fostering innovative technologies, and getting projects off-the-ground through grant support.

At the regional level, several clean diesel collaboratives have formed across the country that are employing proactive, incentive-based approaches to achieve regional environmental improvement. Members of these regional initiatives have agreed collectively to secure additional funds for projects and to take a more localized approach to diesel emission mitigation. The NCDC's regional collaboratives include:

- Northeast Diesel Collaborative (Regions 1 and 2)
- Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative (Region 3)
- Southeast Diesel Collaborative (Region 4)
- Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative (Region 5)
- Blue Skyways Collaborative (Regions 6 and 7)
- Rocky Mountain Collaborative (Region 8)
- West Coast Collaborative (Regions 9 and 10)

*Milestones:*

- Current highway trucks and buses emit about 1/6 of the particulate matter and less than 80% of the NO<sub>x</sub> of a 20 year old truck. In 2007, new heavy-duty diesel engines will become even cleaner and all highway diesel engines will be powered with cleaner diesel fuel.
- EPA's Clean Air Nonroad Rule will result in dramatic emissions reductions for nonroad engines. Starting in 2008, engines in construction, agriculture and industrial equipment will become 90% cleaner than they were just over a decade ago.
- There are more than 500 clean diesel projects in 44 states, reducing pollution from nearly 200,000 diesel engines in operation today.
- More than 20 states are using ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel well ahead of EPA's regulatory schedule.
- The NCDC has attracted more than 500 partners including state and local governments, industry, and environmental groups.
- These partners have implemented projects that are expected to generate lifetime reductions of over 110,000 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> and 20,000 tons of PM and provide the nation with approximately \$4-5 billion in health benefits (in year 2000 dollars).
- As a result of the NCDC's Clean School Bus USA program, more than one million school children are now riding over 20,000 cleaner school buses.

*Contact:* Jim Blubaugh 202-343-9244

**Sustainable Transportation (IAC, leadership by OAR and interested HQ and regional offices)**

Sustainable transportation focuses on improving the energy efficiency of the transportation industry by deploying various technologies and strategies and providing outreach to the public and industry. The Office of Transportation and Air Quality hosts a number of sustainable transportation programs, including:

*Clean Automotive Technology:* EPA has developed hydraulic hybrid technology to provide cost-effective, ultra-clean and ultra-efficient improvements for vehicles. With a hydraulic hybrid system, nearly all of the energy typically lost during vehicle braking is captured and used to propel the vehicle the next time it needs to accelerate. The EPA hybrid features a hydraulic drivetrain that replaces a conventional drivetrain and eliminates the need for a conventional transmission. By achieving 70 percent better fuel efficiency in urban driving and 40 percent lower CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions, this vehicle demonstrates the highest-efficiency powertrain known. A fleet owner operating one of these high efficiency hydraulic vehicles would save up to 1,000 gallons of fuel each year. EPA estimates that over the lifespan of the vehicle the net savings based on lowered fuel consumption and lowered brake maintenance cost to be over \$50,000. Information on Clean Automotive Technology can be found at [www.epa.gov/otaq/technology/](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/technology/).

*SmartWay Transport Partnership:* SmartWay is an innovative partnership between EPA and the freight industry designed to increase energy efficiency while significantly reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution. The Partnership creates demand for cleaner, more fuel efficient freight transportation by promoting those shippers and carriers committed to improving the

environmental performance of their freight operations. Trucking companies improve their environmental performance by implementing various fuel saving and emission control technologies to their fleet, while shippers hire more SmartWay carriers and improve the environmental performance of their facility operations. Information on SmartWay can be found at [www.epa.gov/smartway](http://www.epa.gov/smartway).

*Green Vehicle Guide:* EPA's Green Vehicle Guide provides consumers with information about the environmental performance of vehicles. The guide uses emission levels and fuel economy values to determine environmental scores for cars and trucks. The vehicles in the guide also are labeled with SmartWay and SmartWay Elite designations. These designations indicate the vehicles with the best environmental performance compared to all other vehicles, where EPA certifies that these vehicles have exceeded environmental thresholds on the Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gas Scores. Information on the Green Vehicle Guide can be found at [www.epa.gov/greenvehicle/](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicle/).

*Milestones:*

- A short (one page) strategy piece will be developed by OAR, in consultation with other interested HQ and regional offices
- IAC will pursue the topic further in its June discussion on diesel. Issue of sustainable transportation will be explored in this context.
- On June 21, 2006, EPA unveiled the first delivery truck with a full series hydraulic hybrid drivetrain in a UPS vehicle.

*Contacts:* Green Vehicle - ; Clean Automotive Technology - ; SmartWay - Mitch Greenberg, 202-343-9269

***Ecosystem protection:*** *Ecosystems are basic building blocks of life on Earth and are frequently not adequately protected by traditional approaches to environmental protection. Working with Federal, State, Tribal and local partners, EPA will be exploring a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to protect and restore ecosystem functions and services, as well as additional opportunities to fully utilize authorities provided under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, activities will include finding ways to encourage use of market mechanisms to reflect the immense value that a wide range of ecosystems services provide, and that stimulate entrepreneurial action, investment and market innovation.*

**Schuylkill Action Network (R3)**

A major effort is underway to improve the Schuylkill River and its tributaries by the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN). The SAN is a group of more than 60 government, business and nonprofit partners convened by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to tackle the challenges in restoring the river. The mission of the group is to improve the water resources of the Schuylkill River Watershed by working in partnership with state agencies, local watershed organizations, water suppliers, local governments, and the federal government to transcend regulatory and jurisdictional boundaries in the implementation of protection measures. Members include: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, City of Philadelphia Water Department, Conservation Districts, local officials, state and federal agencies, watershed organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and other essential stakeholders.



The SAN includes a Steering Committee, a Planning Workgroup, and Technical Workgroups to address the complex issues in the Schuylkill River watershed. SAN goals are to:

- restore and protect the watershed as a regional drinking water source
- promote stewardship and education
- transfer the experience and lessons learned to other communities, and
- enhance intergovernmental communication and collaboration

*Milestone:*

- Target Initiation Grant Funding Project - \$1.13 M has been set aside to construct BMPs in the watershed to control releases to surface water bodies due to storm events. This is a multi-year initiative, with some projects already under construction. Post-construction monitoring will begin at each unit upon completion. Results from that data will be used to determine the impact the BMPs are having on mitigating the problem.

*Contact:* Lorraine Reynolds 215-814-5435

### **Ecological Research Program (ORD)**

This program will advance individuals and society stewardship through (a) quantifying and mapping ecosystem services, (b) providing decision support tools to better assess how their actions affect ecosystem services, (c) enabling decision-makers to envision alternative futures, and (d) providing access to information on the availability and reliability of ecosystem services. The program is initially focusing on ecosystem services related to provision of freshwater, aquifer recharge, mitigation of flood damage, recycling of nutrients to reduce eutrophication from point and non-point sources of pollution, reduction of sediment loads, and the maintenance of air quality and biodiversity.

*Milestones:*

- FY2006 grant solicitation on methods to enhance ecosystem services from agricultural lands and exploration of new research to enhance ecosystems services within urban areas.

*Contact:* Iris Goodman, 202-343-9854

### **SERPPAS collaboration with DOD (R4)**

The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPASS) effort was initiated in July 2005 by the State of North Carolina and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and constitutes a collaboration involving the environmental and resources agencies of the states of N.C., South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, together with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, EPA., Army Corps of Engineers and Federal Fish and Wildlife. All these parties have interests in preserving and maintaining open space and natural lands for reasons ranging from base encroachment, public safety, endangered species, habitat protection, farm and timberland protection, and other environmental and economic motives. Recognizing that the traditional land protection strategy of public ownership does not best serve these interests, the goal of SERRPAS is to act as stewards of the land by maintaining working landscapes through partnerships among public and private land owners and managers. One potential project is the formation of a Southeast Greenway along the fall line where the Piedmont meets the coastal plain, and where many military bases are located in the Southeast. A similar effort may be mounted to cover the coastal areas of the southeast.

*Milestones:*

- May 2006 – Conference in Atlanta among academics to discuss research opportunities
- May, 2006 – Creation of a staff level steering committee

- Summer 2006 – Invite Alabama to join the group
- August 2006 – Second meeting of the SERPPAS steering committee in Atlanta
- August 2006 – Meeting of SERRPAS Principals at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina

*Contacts:* Linda Rimer, Rick Durbrow

#### **Sustainable Sandhills Collaboration with DOD (R4)**

Sustainable Sandhills is an initiative involving the Ft. Bragg military installation, near Fayetteville, NC, and the surrounding eight counties,. Its focus is to ensure sustainable quality of life both on and off the base, and incorporates such activities as LEED building certification, energy and water conservation efforts, smart growth and land conservation.

*Milestone:*

- May- September, 2006 -- The Sustainable Sandhills Land Use team will convene and facilitate 8 workshops to gather stakeholder input on a GIS-based regional land use decision support tool.
- Host a work shop on high performance schools in partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction and the NC State Energy Office –Fall, 2006.

*Contact:* Linda Rimer

#### **Strategic Agricultural Initiative (OPPTS)**

EPA is evaluating toxic and persistent pesticides used in food production against current standards. The Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) is EPA's program to help farmers transition to less-toxic farming practices, while adopting new biologically-based pesticide products. The program comprises one agricultural specialist in each of EPA's 10 Regions who works with farmers to improve upon traditional pest management approaches and measures the impact of those changes on the environment and human health. The work of the Regional specialists is led by a national program coordinator in the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD). The SAI program provides technical assistance and \$1.5 million in grant funds for projects that:

- (1) Increase adoption of sustainable agricultural production in partnership with producers, commodity groups, and research organizations;
- (2) Develop field-generated data that contribute to regulatory decisions impacting specialty crop production, worker safety, and the environment; and,
- (3) Employ performance measures to ensure projects contribute to improving environmental conditions and human health.

SAI will be used as a core program efficiency measure and the number of acres using reduced risk pest management practices as a result of SAI will be evaluated. By the year 2011, the goal is to decrease risk/stewardship dollars spent for acres by 10% using reduced risk practices.

*Milestones:*

*Contact:*

#### **Managing Fertilizer to Protect Water Quality (OW)**

OWOW staff have had preliminary discussions with The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), which is very interested in working with EPA (e.g., by entering into an MOU) to promote the efficient use of

fertilizer. The purpose would be to promote the management of fertilizer to protect water quality. Fertilizer runoff is one of the most significant sources of water pollution in the United States and has been identified as a source of water quality problems in the Gulf of Mexico, the Chesapeake Bay, and many other waterbodies including rivers, stream, lakes, and estuaries. Better management of fertilizers could help reduce those problems in many waterbodies. EPA would work with TFI to engage other stakeholders, such as American Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups; lawn care service companies and other urban participants; and citizens' groups having an interest in these issues.

*Milestone:*

- Products would include a set of actions that focus on outreach, training and education for fertilizer manufacturers; farmers; lawn care companies; and citizens. (We would also explore the possibility of more ambitious quantitative outcome-oriented long term goals).

*Contact:*

**Partnership to Develop Sustainability Principles/Metrics for Water Resources (OW)**

This effort would involve partnerships with individual stakeholders and/or a group of stakeholders who have the mutual goal of promoting watershed-based planning and design approaches that are sustainable over the long-term, e.g., low impact development designs or decentralized approaches to water resource management. This effort would involve associations such as the American Institute of Architects; the American Society of Landscape Architects; The American Society of Civil Engineers; the National Association of Counties; academia; federal agencies such as the General Services Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, The Department of Defense, the Federal Highway Administration; and the United States Geological Survey; watershed associations; and environmental groups.

*Milestones:*

- Potential projects and outcomes include demonstration projects; water resource management principles adopted by individual stakeholders; agreed-upon decision tree metrics for water resource planning and design processes; joint conferences and outreach publications; and collaborative research agendas to provide data on designs and management practices on multiple scales, economic and cost benefit examples and reports documenting the advantages of such approaches.

*Contact:*

**Source Water Collaborative (OW)**

In February 2006, EPA signed a vision statement with thirteen national organizations are expressing the members' commitment to work together to protect drinking water now and in the future. The Source Water Collaborative agreed to share information with each other through regular communication and during quarterly meetings; work with stakeholders in land stewardship planning to develop advice and about what is needed to protect sources of drinking water; and package and disseminate information through the membership of our organizations, on approaches to source water protection that can be used in making land-use and stewardship decisions. The group has developed a one year action plan to guide efforts.

*Milestone:*

- Expect to put out an RFP to fund a pilot project to demonstrate 2006

how states and localities can successfully implement strategies to integrate drinking water protection into state land and water programs.

*Contact:*

### **National Estuary Program (OW)**

Ongoing implementation of the National Estuary Program (NEP), a watershed grant program targeting water quality protection and restoration in U.S. estuarine watersheds whose total population exceeds 94 million and whose total area exceeds 121,000 square miles.

25% of U.S estuarine waters are impaired for swimming, 28% for aquatic life use, and 22% for fishing and are also threatened by habitat loss, degraded ecosystems, and increased invasions by non-native aquatic species. The NEP is one of the EPA flagship community-based estuarine watershed programs that target those impairments as well as other threats to natural and living resources in 28 nationally-significant estuaries. The NEP meets the criteria for a stewardship program both in terms of how the individual NEPs operate and in terms of the NEPs' underlying environmental goal, which is to protect and sustainably restore their watersheds' water quality and living resources:

- The NEP process is watershed-based and collaborative--NEPs identify key groups of federal, state, tribal, local stakeholders and industry, academic, environmental, local business, and citizen groups to collaborate and come to consensus on a management plan unique to each of their watersheds.
- NEP management plans identify priority impairments and threats, set goals for and identify actions to address those priority problems, and implement those actions via multiple federal, state, tribal, and local citizen group partnerships.
- The NEPs exemplify adaptive management; their stakeholders regularly meet, review the status of action plan implementation, and consider new information and data; when appropriate, they revise and/or re-direct programmatic and environmental activity to reflect new conditions and emerging challenges.
- The NEPs track and report on the progress of action plan implementation and achievement of measurable environmental results.
- Many NEP action plan goals are environmental, e.g., they target habitat protection and sustainable restoration, contaminated runoff and sediment reductions and site restoration.
- The NEPs develop indicators of local ecosystem health to measure and report on progress toward meeting their environmental goals and achieving sustainable environmental results.
- The NEPs have highly-developed education and outreach programs directed at the general population and at particular groups like recreational boaters, schoolchildren, and tourists. They promote enhanced understanding of the functions and value of ecosystems and behaviors and practices that directly protect coastal watersheds' living resources and promote the watersheds' near- and long-term economic vitality and well-being.
- By implementing many Clean Water Act core programs, they enhance, i.e., add value to and make more efficient, federal and state implementation of water quality regulations.

*Milestones:*

- 28 NEPs protected and restored a total of 450k acres of habitat      2001 - 2005
- NEPs expected to protect and restore an additional 25k acres      September 2006

*Contact:*

**Ecosystem and Community Initiative (IAC, leadership by ORD, R5, R1, OW, OPPTS, OPEI)**

IAC's future role will be further scoped by an IAC subcommittee headed by Bill Farland and Bharat Mathur and including Rob Brenner, Mike Shapiro, Margaret Schneider, Ira Leighton and Jay Benforado. First focus is on ecosystems.

*Milestones:*

- TBD

*Contacts:* Alan Hecht and Iris Goodman (ORD) and Marilou Martin (R5)

*Community stewardship: Community environmental stewardship requires long-term, integrated multi-media approaches. EPA will continue to promote the use of smart growth principles in development and redevelopment projects and support local institutions that design environmental stewardship strategies with community involvement.*

**Community Action for a Renewed Environment - CARE (Cross Agency)**

The CARE program is an innovative new program that currently is spending \$3 million to directly help communities improve their environment by developing local solutions to local environmental problems. These solutions are typically a combination of EPA Voluntary Programs. CARE brings communities together creating collaborative stakeholder groups that include residents, business and local government. The expectation is that these groups will remain after the CARE grant is over continuing to improve the environment and lives of community members.

CARE uses two sets of cooperative agreements. In the smaller Level I agreements, the community, working with EPA, creates a collaborative problem solving group made up of the various stakeholders in the community. That group assesses the community's toxic exposure problems and begins to identify potential solutions. In the larger Level II agreements, the community, working with EPA, selects and funds projects that reduce risk and improve the environment in the community.

*Milestones:*

- CARE will hold a national training for the existing 12 CARE communities plus the 17 new 06 CARE communities in November in Seattle, Washington.
- CARE will release it's new grant solicitation for the 07 class of CARE grantees by the end of 2006.

*Contacts:* Larry Weinstock 202-564-9226 & Hank Topper 2020-564-8534

**Smart Growth Redevelopment of Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine (R1)**

Located on the coast of Maine, Brunswick Naval Air Station is Maine's second largest employer, with 4,864 military and civilian personnel. Under BRAC 2005, the base was targeted for closure, and this 3,000 acre facility will be available for redevelopment. Although it will be challenging for the community to deal with the job losses, base closure also presents an opportunity for growth. EPA Region 1 has a long history of involvement with cleanup of Superfund sites on the base, and we intend to now expand our activities and provide assistance in planning for reuse of the property. Specifically, Region 1, in collaboration with OPEI's Development, Community, and Environment Division, has offered to help the newly-formed

Local Redevelopment Authority incorporate environmentally-friendly smart growth principles and practices into their reuse plan. EPA is investing in this work because practices such as compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented development reduce air emissions from vehicle trips, and minimize water pollution from stormwater runoff. In this effort, we will use a newly-published smart growth guidebook for BRAC communities, *Turning Bases into Great Places: New Life for Closed Military Facilities*, that was written by Region 1 and HQ staff. We also will build on our prior success with redevelopment of South Weymouth Naval Air Station in Massachusetts.

*Milestones:*

- The key output will be a smart growth reuse plan that is supported by the community and that is accepted by the Navy as the foundation for disposal and reuse of Brunswick Naval Air Station. The Local Redevelopment Authority is still working out their schedule for development of this plan, but we expect it to be produced in 2007.

*Contact:*

#### **Sustainable Sandhills Collaboration with DOD (R4)**

[See information above – 1. Focus on Priority Environmental Problems Where Stewardship Has the Greatest Potential]

#### **SEQL – Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life (R4)**

SEQL (Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life) is a regional sustainable development collaboration in the greater Charlotte/Gastonia/Rock Hill region, which encompasses 15 counties with 117 political jurisdictions and a population of more than 2.1 million. SEQL offers a network of voluntary measures (action items) undertaken by various governments and communities as well as individuals, to address environmental issues in all media.

*Milestone:*

- Finalize action item descriptions for High Performance Building Techniques, Promotion of Infill Development, and Design for the Environment – September 2006
- September, 2006 -- Preview regional vision .

*Contact:* Linda Rimer

#### **Decision-Support Tool Box (ORD)**

ORD will identify and inventory all decision support tools and organize them in a user friendly manner to support sustainable decision-making at all levels of government and in business.

ORD's success with REVA (assessment model) in assisting urban planning in North and South Carolina is one such example.

*Milestones:*

- The project begins in the summer of 2006 with Post Doc support and will be completed by end of 2006.

*Contact:* Alan Hecht, 202-564-4772

#### **Great Cities Partnerships Program (R5)**

In 2003, the Great Cities Partnerships Program (GC) was developed to focus more specifically on urban environmental problem(s) in each Great City, to strengthen EPA's partnerships/relationships with Cities, to promote cooperation with City officials and States and other stakeholders to leverage resources, and to produce tangible results. The GC Program promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability through individual projects.

*Milestones:*

- Milwaukee GC Sustainable Schoolyard Demonstration Project creates a bio-retention zone (rain garden) planted with native plants to demonstrate unique approach to storm water management. The project also includes an environmental education component which will serve as a hands-on outdoor laboratory for the Milwaukee Public School System.  
Installation of rain garden: Fall '05  
Measurement: Collection begins Spring '06 and includes amount of run-off, rate of infiltration, and temperature changes at rain garden.
- Minneapolis GC Sustainable City Center Project focuses on reducing the heat island effect by downtown tree planting and green parking demonstration project to investigate best practices and design guidelines for more environmentally protective surface parking lots.  
38 trees planted: Fall '05  
Measurement: Using U.S. Forest Service model (Urban Forests Effects) calculate forest functions and values related to tree effects on air pollution, greenhouse gases/global warming, pollen, and building energy use: Collection begins Spring '06

*Contact:*

**Promote sustainable governance in the metropolitan Kansas City area (R7)**

Region 7 is working with leaders in the metropolitan Kansas City area regarding a sustainability retreat to promote a regional approach in the metropolitan area. *Sustainable Governance: A Practical and Conceptual Approach* will explore the underlying principles of sustainability, suggest some models of more sustainable governance and encourage local leaders to incorporate sustainable thinking and action into their strategic plans. A sustainability project incorporating green building and smart growth principles will be selected by the group to model regional collaboration.

*Milestone:*

- Retreat held at Shadowcliff Lodge, June 4-8, 2006.

*Contact:* Luetta Flournoy, 913-551-7653, [flournoy.luetta@epa.gov](mailto:flournoy.luetta@epa.gov)

**Collaborative Stormwater Management Model (R3)**

We propose to pilot a collaborative stormwater management model with internal and external partners, beginning with the demonstration of an innovative stormwater management computer model that has been developed jointly by R3 program offices and Prince George's County, MD. The model can be used to address contaminants currently discharging into a watershed on a site-by-site basis. Ultimately, the pilot, to be conducted in the Chesapeake Bay area, will demonstrate the model's usefulness and transportability, and serve as a prototype for coordinated watershed cleanup approaches.

*Milestone:*

- Run the model for the first time by the end of 2006

*Contact:* Nicholas DiNardo 215-814-3365

**Urban Heat Island Mitigation Pilot (R3)**

In accordance with the Energy Efficiency Eco-region initiative, we propose piloting an effort to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands, a growing concern for major cities throughout the U.S.

“Heat islands” refer to urban air and surface temperatures that are higher than nearby rural areas, which impact communities by increasing energy demand at peak times, air conditioning costs, air pollution levels, and heat-related illnesses and mortality. By leading an effort to take readily available steps to simply modify our environment, energy consumption can be reduced by as much as 30-40% during the summer season. We recently held a successful Cool Roofs Conference with more than seventy participants as a first step to gauge the level of interest in this area and found it to be high. Preliminary discussions with the City of Philadelphia as a potential partner have been promising, and we hope to develop a model to scale up this initiative with internal and additional external partners. This approach has great potential for applicability elsewhere in the region and throughout the US.

*Milestones:*

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*Contact:* Stephanie Lanster 215-814-2744

#### **Atlanta Beltline Project (R4)**

The Atlanta BeltLine is an effort by a public-private partnership to promote integrated transportation and redevelopment focused on a 22 mile ring of railroad right of way around the city of Atlanta. Combining transportation with redevelopment, the project will ultimately connect 45 in-town neighborhoods, cover 8% of the city's total land area close to downtown Atlanta, and be adjacent to nearly 3,000 acres of underutilized industrial property. The project will add more than 1,200 acres of new parks and 33 miles of trails, promote alternative transportation and brownfields redevelopment, and foster environmental remediation and livable communities. It is the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment currently planned in the United States. The project enjoys strong support from Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and a diverse group of stakeholders, and a five year workplan was released to the Atlanta City Council on July 5, 2006. For more information on the project, visit [www.beltline.org](http://www.beltline.org).

Members of the BeltLine partnership approached EPA Region 4 in the spring of 2006 to brief us on the project and explore ways that EPA could become involved with the BeltLine project. Their approach to us was based in part on the successful experience which EPA had as a partner with the Atlantic Station development. One promising area would be the use of Region 4's streamlined approach to prospective purchaser agreements, especially given the number of properties potentially targeted for reuse. A second area was the establishment of a group similar to the "Green Lights" team used at Atlantic Station to facilitate timely identification of issues and decision making.

As the project moves forward, Region 4 will continue to explore ways in which we can support this initiative.

*Milestones:*

- July-August, 2006 – Transmission of development plan to the Atlanta City Council
- September-December, 2006 – Formulation of EPA Region 4/Atlanta Beltline partnership activities.

*Contact:* Maryjo Bragan



### **Promotion of Environmental Management Systems at Healthcare Facilities (R2)**

The 480 hospitals in Region 2 (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands) pose a major environmental and public health concern. First, they contribute to the presence of mercury in the environment which is pervasive in freshwater fish in the Northeast at levels that pose health risks to people and some species of fish eating wildlife. Hospitals, dental facilities and laboratories account for about 90% of the mercury being discharged to the New York-New Jersey Harbor at this time. In addition to mercury, hospitals also generate a wide variety of hazardous waste (e.g., chemotherapy and antineoplastic chemicals, solvents, epinephrine, and pharmaceuticals) and produce 2 million tons of solid waste, which is 1% of the total municipal solid waste in the U.S. Finally, significant violations have been found at hospitals related to air, water, hazardous waste, and toxic substances. Many hospitals have only one person in charge of all health, safety and environmental issues at the hospital and it is very difficult for one person to manage all the environmental aspects of a healthcare facility let alone the health and safety issues as well.

In response to these concerns, EPA Region 2 embarked upon a healthcare compliance initiative in 2000, a major component of which was the promotion of environmental management systems (EMS). An EMS is a set a management processes and procedures that allows an organization to integrate environmental concerns and issues into day-to-day decisions and practices, thereby improving both its environmental and economic performance. With EMS maintaining compliance with environmental regulations, statutes, and laws becomes the responsibility of all employees. Although not required, EPA Region 2 believes that the environmental footprint of healthcare facilities would be greatly improved if they developed EMSs.

#### *Milestones:*

- At least two EMS workshops for healthcare facilities in the New York Metro Area will be conducted by the Fall of 2006. We will then explore the possibility, taking into account travel resources, to conduct similar EMS workshops in upstate New York, southern New Jersey, and the Caribbean in 2007.

*Contact:* Linda Longo

### **SCHOOLS: Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools (OAR)**

The Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program has been supporting schools for nearly a decade. Through the voluntary adoption of sound indoor air quality management practices, school districts are reducing exposure to indoor environmental contaminants in schools and creating healthy learning environments for students and staff. Through environmental stewardship the IAQ Tools for Schools Program collaborates through partnerships with school district wide IAQ Tools for Schools Teams. Each results-oriented Team consists of school superintendents, principals, facility managers, teachers, nurses, parents and students working to implement EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Kit (or comparable IAQ management plans) to ensure good IAQ management practices are used in urban, suburban, rural and tribal schools nationwide. The 2012 program goal is that 40,000 (~35%) of the nation's school will adopt good IAQ practices consistent with EPA's guidance.

#### *Milestones:*

- The 7th Annual IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium will take place December 7-9, 2006. The Symposium is a premiere training, networking, and action-generating event for more than 500+ school representatives, as well as health and environmental experts from across the country. The Symposium brings nationally recognized experts to present the most up to date information on IAQ issues and strategies for improving IAQ in our nation's schools. IAQ Tools for Schools Excellence Award winners are also recognized and highlighted as models at the Symposium.

*Contacts:*

Michele Curreri 202-343-9099; Dena Moglia 202-343-9221; Dave Rowson 202-343-9449

**SCHOOLS: School Chemical Cleanout Campaign (OSWER)**

Under this program, we are working to remove and safely recycle or dispose of the dangerous chemicals that have been accumulating in schools.. This program reduces the threat of dangerous chemicals in schools by leveraging the resources and partnerships between EPA and other Federal Departments and Agencies, as well as States. In addition, we aim to create a network of non-governmental sponsors to support continued removal and safe disposal with proper chemical management to prevent such problems in the future.

*Milestone:*

- Announce School Chemical Cleanout Campaign Federal Partnership – 2006.

*Contact:* Kristina Meson, [meson.kristina@epa.gov](mailto:meson.kristina@epa.gov)

**SCHOOLS: Small Scale Chemistry Program (R6)**

The Region 6 program involves the removal of hazardous chemicals and wastes from schools in combination with training to teachers in 'Small Scale Chemistry' and environmental regulations. Teachers are trained to use less chemicals and create less waste. Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) provide the majority of funding.

Purpose

- Advancement of P2 ethic by training teachers to purchase less, use less and create less waste (Green Chemistry.)
- Partner with nonprofit to provide assistance to schools.
- Create a safer environment for children, schools and communities.
- Facilitate the removal of unwanted and hazardous chemicals in schools.
- Build communication and rapport with communities, state education agencies, nonprofit and EPA.

Program Strategy

- Establish SSC instructors, hazardous waste disposal contacts, and education agencies to advance a more effective chemical management program.
- Use SEPs and whatever grant funds that can be found or competed for, to fund activities and training materials.
- Five (5) SEPs currently in Baton Rouge LA, Laredo TX, Corpus Christi TX, Houston TX and Dallas TX. Settlement amounts range from \$10K to \$150K.
- One (1) tribal grant for \$60K for work in Oklahoma.

Environmental Benefits

- Significant partnership building between state education agencies, safety commissions, universities, vocational schools, and tribes.
- Schools visited or where chemicals removed : 75 to date, 42 scheduled to be visits.

- SSC Workshop: 52 training days completed (in the form of one, two or three day workshops), 33 days scheduled.
- Science Teachers trained: 350 have completed SSC training, 120 scheduled to be trained.
- Pounds of chemicals removed: 11,250 lbs. to date, 6,300 lbs. scheduled to be removed.  
Average: 150 lbs. per school.

*Milestones:*

- 200 FY06 hazardous chemicals removals from R6 universities and high schools.
- Increase our chemical removals from schools by 100 schools each year.

*Contacts:* Gerald Carney, (214) 665-6523, [carney.gerald@epa.gov](mailto:carney.gerald@epa.gov)  
Javier Ballí, (214) 665-7261, [balli.javier@epa.gov](mailto:balli.javier@epa.gov)

**SCHOOLS: Rehab the Laboratory (R7)**

With the assistance of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and EPA's solid waste management and pollution prevention grants, the Des Moines Metropolitan Solid Waste Agency has created an assessment, training, certification and clean up program for the schools in Iowa to get the chemicals out of schools and keep them out. It provides a school assessment of chemicals of concern with labeling for disposal; requires training for administrators, science teachers, custodians, art teachers and industrial arts teachers; requires adoption of a chemical hygiene plan by the school which establishes future buying, storage, disposal practices; and then provides some assistance on disposal through a separate grant to IDNR. Over half the high schools in Iowa have participated in the program. The insurance carrier for the Iowa schools is assisting with administration of the program.

*Milestone:*

- Securing funds to export the program fully to Kansas by fall of 2006 and Nebraska by fall of 2007.

*Contact:* Chet McLaughlin, 913-551-7666, [mclaughlin.chilton@epa.gov](mailto:mclaughlin.chilton@epa.gov)

**WATER SUPPLY: Develop Incentives for PWSs and POTWs To Join Performance Track (OW)**

The purpose of this activity is to encourage Public Water Suppliers (PWSs) and Privately Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) to participate in Performance Track. This action is important because those who do participate in Performance Track will take actions that go beyond compliance. OW expects that the incentives we develop will attract PWSs and POTWs to apply to participate in Performance Track.

*Milestone:*

- Identify incentive, Summer 2006

*Contact:* Steve Hoyge

**WATER SUPPLY: Partnership in Support of Capacity Development for Small Public Water Systems (OW)**

Sustainable water systems are the core of public health protection in drinking water. The capacity development program, part of the Agency’s sustainable infrastructure initiative, ensures that water systems acquire and maintain adequate technical, managerial, and financial capabilities that enable them to consistently provide safe drinking water. EPA, States, technical assistance providers (including the earmarked university-based Technology Assistance Centers) and water systems work together to ensure that systems can be sustainable. Efforts to provide continued coordination and collaboration among all partners takes place during the Regional Capacity Development workshops that are held around the country each year. EPA and State capacity development program staff and technical assistance providers meet to discuss how all can work in support of water system capacity development. Through the use of effective and innovative approaches, program integration, and collaboration with all key stakeholders, all water systems are better positioned to provide, promote, and protect the Nation's water resources.

*Milestones:*

- Release EPA’s Capacity Development Program Strategic Plan 3rd quarter 2006
- CD-ROM to assist water system board members, and elected and appointed officials, in understanding the basic principles of public water system purpose, operation, planning, budgeting, and communication. This product is being developed by Montana State University, one of the 8 TACs. This product will assist small public water systems in increasing their managerial and financial capacity. 4th quarter 2006

*Contact:*

**WATER SUPPLY: Agreement with National Utility Assns. to Promote Sustainable Mgt. Practices (OW)**

This activity would establish an agreement between EPA and six national drinking and wastewater utility associations. All would agree to identify, highlight, promote, and recognize management practices that result in sustainable water infrastructure.

*Milestones:*

- Signing of agreement 2nd quarter 2006
- Identification of sustainable practices 3rd quarter 2006
- Holding focus sessions to identify barriers and opportunities 4th quarter 2006
- Completion of a strategy identifying actions each signatory organization will take. 2nd quarter 2007

*Contact:*

**WATER SUPPLY: Sustainable Water Infrastructure (R1)**

The Region is supporting the IAC Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative as well as pursuing region-specific sustainable infrastructure efforts. At the February IAC meeting, the region presented two ideas as ones that can further support the SI effort: development of regional dialogues on the future vision for water utilities and the integration of sustainable infrastructure

principles into state capacity development strategies utilizing tools developed by EPA HQ under the Better Management and Full Cost Pricing pillars.

Other activities to support sustainable infrastructure development in the region include: coordinated enforcement and assistance activities; working with OW on EMS-outreach efforts for utilities with the potential for a multi-year follow-on EMS pilot program; workshops on asset-management and operation and maintenance issues. Region 1 is participating on an Energy Star subcommittee focusing on energy efficiency at water and wastewater utilities. These efforts, and others, are currently under discussion and development within the region.

The region will be working with HQ as well as external partners including the states, trade associations, utilities and municipalities to develop appropriate and strategic sustainable infrastructure efforts over the next two fiscal years. The level of effort applied to some of this work will depend upon available resources from within the region and HQ.

*Milestones:*

- [TBD]

*Contacts:* Jackie LeClair and Anne Leiby

### **Utility Watershed Stewardship (R2)**

Region 2 uses stewardship approaches to engage utilities in addressing sustainable water infrastructure issues in the NYC Watershed, PRASA Stewardship Agreement, and NY/NJ Harbor TMDL. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection is implementing a \$1 billion plus watershed protection program under the terms of a Filtration Avoidance Determination. The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, under the terms of Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), is collaborating with EPA, the Puerto Rico environmental regulatory agencies and watershed stakeholders, to develop and implement watershed management programs to protect the Loiza and LaPlata drinking water reservoirs serving the citizens of the metropolitan San Juan area. Working closely with the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary program, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and a consortium of New Jersey sewer utilities is funding a comprehensive monitoring and modeling program that will serve as the technical foundation for the next generation watershed protection program for the Harbor. In each case water and/or wastewater utilities are making major financial and technical contributions to watershed stewardship.

*Milestones:*

- Implementation of respective agreements.

*Contact:* Haley Gilbert (212-637-4971)

### **Ecosystem and Community Initiative (IAC, leadership by ORD, R5, R1, OW, OPPTS, OPEI)**

IAC's future role will be further scoped by an IAC subcommittee headed by Bill Farland and Bharat Mathur and including Rob Brenner, Mike Shapiro, Margaret Schneider, Ira Leighton and Jay Benforado. First focus is on ecosystems.

*Milestones:*

- TBD

*Contacts:* Alan Hecht and Iris Goodman (ORD) and Marilou Martin (R5)

**Resource Conservation:** *Resource conservation is at the heart of sustainability. EPA will pursue opportunities to conserve water, energy, materials, and other natural resources to achieve multiple benefits while also finding ways to better leverage and coordinate existing resource conservation stewardship programs.*

### **Coal Combustion Partnership Program (OSWER)**

EPA's Coal Combustion Partnership Program (C2P2) is a partnership program that has been working since its inception in 2001 to increase the beneficial use of coal combustion products (CCPs). The program has grown to include 137 government and private sector partners. The overall program goal, shared by the Department of Energy and other partners, is to increase the utilization rate to 50% by 2011, from a baseline of 31% in 2001. The most recent data available indicates that 40% of CCPs were beneficially used in 2004. The use of CCPs as a supplementary material in concrete increased during the same time period from 12 to 14 million tons, resulting in an estimated decrease of 1.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in GHG emissions. In addition to conducting core activities such as an awards program and educational outreach, C2P2 will play an important role in the development of a Report to Congress on "Increased Use of Recovered Mineral Component in Federally Funded Projects Involving Procurement of Cement and Concrete." The Report was directed by the 2005 energy and transportation legislation.

*Milestone:*

- The report is due to Congress in March 2008.

*Contact:* John Sager, [sager.john@epa.gov](mailto:sager.john@epa.gov)

### **WasteWise (OSWER)**

WasteWise is a partnership program designed to assist businesses and other organizations to set goals for reducing their municipal solid waste and select industrial wastes, benefiting their bottom line and the environment. WasteWise has almost 1900 members. In 2005, WasteWise partners recycled more than 3.75 million tons of organic materials, and more than 2.6 million tons of paper. WasteWise also encourages the purchase and use of recycled materials by partners. WasteWise was one of the original voluntary greenhouse gas reduction programs within EPA and has received the majority of its funding through EPA's Climate Partnerships Program. This is WasteWise's twelfth year of existence.

*Milestones:*

- Each year the program aims to add 50 partners and host a fall conference where partner achievements are given national EPA recognition. In 2006, among other categories, recognition will be given for reduction of RCC priority wastes including organics, paper, packaging and electronics. The program also will continue to provide technical support through a web site, helpline and partner forum teleconferences, and will issue an annual report. Through these means and by actively working with large industry partners to set more ambitious waste reduction goals, WasteWise hopes to continually boost reporting in the coming years.

*Contact:* Terry Grist, [grist.terry@epa.gov](mailto:grist.terry@epa.gov)

### **National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (OSWER)**

Through this program, we are seeking to voluntarily source reduce/recycle of 31 of the most dangerous chemicals found in wastes. Our goal for 2008 is to eliminate or recycle 10 % (8.2 million pounds) of these pollutants, from a 2001 baseline. This "beyond-compliance" program recruits partners in industry and government and in return, we provide high visibility public recognition to members that make commitments and achieve their goals.

*Milestones:*

- Achieve priority chemical waste reductions of 1 million pounds.

*Contact:* William Brandes, [brandes.william@epa.gov](mailto:brandes.william@epa.gov)

### **Energy Efficiency – Performance Track Energy Challenge (R1)**

In 2003, EPA-NE extended to our Performance Track members a New England Energy Challenge in which we challenged participants to reduce Green House Gas Emissions by at least 5% by 2006.

*Results:* The results to date of the Region 1 Performance Track Energy Challenge are: 15 of the 33 EPA-NE Performance Track members accepted in 2003; year 1 results showed reduction of 9400 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E or 4%, which is 80% of the 3 year goal. Two additional companies joined in 2005.

*Milestones:*

- The commitment is for a three year time frame. The 2003 entrants will report for 2006 in spring 2007. The 2005 entrants will report for 2008 in spring 2009.

*Contact:*

### **Kansas City Regional By-Product Synergy Project (R7)**

By-product synergy applies the principles of industrial ecology in which companies work together to match unwanted by-products as resources for new products and processes. Through the BPS process, individual companies are transformed into a cross-industry team focused on turning every gram of material running through their plants into product. Region 7 and other entities have supported the development and implementation of the project. Benefits of the process are the achievement of balanced social, economic and environmental goals such as: reduced operating expense; reduced energy use; reduced emissions; waste transformed into product; surpassed regulatory targets; improved community; improved productivity; and improved profitability. The process teaches participants to follow nature's model by seeing that one industry's waste can be another industry's food.

*Milestone:*

- The April 2006 semi-annual report will highlight new partners that have recently joined the project, with a goal of three new major partners, and reports on matches completed and under discussion. The project will be extended another year at reduced support.

*Contact:* Chet McLaughlin, 913-551-7666, [mclaughlin.chilton@epa.gov](mailto:mclaughlin.chilton@epa.gov)

### **Waste-To-Energy Strategic Geographic Planning Tool Development (R6)**

The purpose of the WTE Strategic Geographic Planning Tool is to develop the prototype of a publicly available web-based tool that will increase the market-driven use of wastes as renewable fuels. The web tool will allow both users and suppliers with a way to determine locations where there is a high likelihood of economically successful renewable energy partnerships and thereby benefit the environment by eliminating direct discharges as well as reducing the need for fossil

fuels. The tool is expected to divert waste that would otherwise be disposed, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, create revenues for waste generators and WTE facilities.

*Milestones:*

- Phase I of the GIS Tool is complete. Phase I collected GIS data for CAFO's, POTW's and landfills and evaluated their potential and proximity to transmission networks (freeways, roads, railroads, electricity and pipelines).
- Phase II will include additional data sets and will be complete by December 2006. The data sets will constitute the primary information source for the WTE facilities location model. The tool will be hosted by a server (TBD) and a secure website will be available for use shortly afterwards.

*Contact:* Deanna DeBose, 214-665-6461, [debose.deanna@epa.gov](mailto:debose.deanna@epa.gov)

**Using Remote Sensing to Detect Air Emissions and for Leak Detection And Repair (R6)**

The objective of this proposed project is to determine the effectiveness of commercially available optical imagers when applied to a SMART Leak Detection And Repair (LDAR) monitoring program in reducing mass VOC emissions as compared to a traditional Method 21 monitoring program. It will also help environmental agencies and industry determine if the instrument can effectively detect which chemicals and at what detection limits.

Region 6 has initiated two RARE grants to investigate the use of remote sensing for fugitive emission monitoring in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Crittenden County Arkansas/ Shelby County Tennessee. These projects are to determine the feasibility of using remote sensing to identify sources of emissions not readily identified by other sources.

*Milestones:*

- LDAR- The American Chemical Council will decide if they are going to participate in the LDAR project with EPA and The American Petroleum Institute. 5/06
- Perform lab testing of chemicals of concern 7/06
- Commence field testing at a participating facility 5/06 - 10/06
- Arkansas/Tennessee Study
  - Planning with States 3/06
  - Field operations 6/06

*Contact:* Barry Feldman, 214.665.7439, [feldman.barry@epa.gov](mailto:feldman.barry@epa.gov)

**Installing Ground Source Heat Pumps in Public Schools (R6)**

Use Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP's) to either partially or fully fund the purchase and installation of ground source heat pump cooling/heating systems for public schools.

A ground source heat pump (geothermal) cooling/heating system makes use of the mild temperatures at layers well below the Earth's surface. A bore is made to establish a series of piping in which liquid is pumped down to the base level below the surface. At this level, temperatures remain at approximately 55-65 degrees F year-round. In the warmer months, this liquid is cooled, then passed through a heat exchanger to provide air conditioning. In the winter months, the system provides heating. Numerous schools in Texas have incorporated this technology. Also, the Oklahoma State Capitol complex is run off a geothermal heating/cooling system.



Employing a geothermal cooling/heating system would decrease the school's dependence on electricity to supply its cooling/heating needs. Reductions on the order of 25-35% in heating/cooling costs are to be expected in public school buildings. The amount of decrease in electricity demand can be quantified and then associated with a decrease in nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from the power plants supplying that electricity.

*Milestones:*

- TBD

*Contacts:* Barry Feldman and Jim Yarbrough, Region 6

### **Incorporating Sustainability Activities into Disaster Recovery Plans (R6)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues efforts to recycle electronics and white goods being discarded in the Katrina/Rita hurricane recovery. The eCycling efforts complement the EPA's ongoing household hazardous waste collection and disposal work throughout hurricane affected Louisiana Parishes. EPA has collected more than 300,000 pieces of electronic equipment and over 310,000 white goods in the state. By collecting white goods, recovering Freon and removing other hazardous materials, prior to recycling metal components and properly disposing of the wastes, EPA is protecting the health of Gulf residents by preventing contamination of soil and groundwater.

The Agency should consider incorporating these short-term sustainable actions, as well as including mid- and long-term support for sustainable redevelopment, into future national multi-Agency wide-scale disaster recovery plans. Mid- to long-term rebuilding would include smart growth principles, permanent on-site waste collection and treatment, green building and EnergyStar programs, attracting low-impact industries, etc.

*Milestones:*

- TBD

*Contact:* Myron Knudson, Region 6

### **Resource Conservation Partnership with the Department of Defense (IAC, leadership by OSWER) [including SERPPAS collaboration with DOD, see info above in 1. Ecosystems]**

- Department of Defense is one of major builders, deconstructors, consumers of materials in the US.
- DOD has recently indicated interest in more broadly exercising environmental stewardship through all its operations (e.g., through Alex Beeler).
- Opportunities include materials use, recycling and materials recovery, construction (Green buildings)/deconstruction, operational practices.
- Administrator/Deputy Administrator level discussions with DOD could provide impetus to DOD efforts in this area.

(Examples of other federal partnerships: Green Highways with DOT, Recycling on the Go with Park Service)

*Milestones:*

- Solicit participation from EPA offices
- EPA participants identify potential issues for discussion with DoD
- Initial meeting with DoD to talk about the issues we identified but open to ideas they may have.
- Follow-up discussions with DoD - Scope of the partnerships, types of projects, etc.

Contact: Beth Zelensky

**2. ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP :** *An effective environmental stewardship strategy must address choices made by individuals, and harness the “power of one” to make a difference. EPA has some activities aimed in this direction, but they do not work in a fully coordinated way to raise the nation’s environmental literacy. EPA will provide practical information and tools that make stewardship easy and rewarding, and set clear environmental education goals to engage people in addressing priority problems.*

### **Great American Woodstove Changeout Campaign (OAR)**

EPA is leading a national campaign to help state, local and tribal agencies reduce emissions of air toxics and fine particles by replacing older, dirtier, “conventional” woodstoves with new, cleaner-burning appliances like masonry heaters, gas stoves, pellet stoves, and EPA-certified woodstoves. Already in place in targeted areas, the Changeout is a voluntary effort that provides information and incentives- through rebates or discounts- to encourage people to replace their old, conventional woodstove with an EPA-certified woodburning appliance. EPA estimates that for every 20 woodstoves replaced, PM2.5 emissions will be reduced by 1 ton.

*Milestone:*

- EPA will provide support to state, local and tribal agencies to at least five woodstove changeout campaigns by March 2007.

Contact: Larry Brockman 919-541-5398

### **Greenacres and Green Infrastructure (R5)**

Since the April 1994 Presidential Executive Memorandum on beneficial landscaping practices, Region 5 has actively promoted education and use of native plants for landscaping to individuals, municipalities, institutions, and corporations. R5 developed a toolkit for municipalities and a website, [www.epa.gov/greenacres](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres), with valuable information that provides the-how-to’s of native landscaping and the economic and environmental benefits such as reduced costs of landscape installation and maintenance and storm water management. R5 has partnered with Chicago Wilderness to provide Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards for outstanding efforts by corporations, park districts, and municipalities. Building on this work, R5 convened a conference on quantifying the benefits of native landscaping which resulted in the development of a research agenda.

*Milestones:*

- Provide information to the public regarding the benefits and the-how’s of landscaping with native plants.  
Booth at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show 2006, Navy Pier, March 11 – 19, 2006
- Promote beneficial landscaping by providing recognition of outstanding efforts by corporations, park districts and municipalities using native plants in landscape within the Chicago Wilderness region.  
Solicit Applications: April – July 2006  
Award Ceremony: December 2006
- Develop a research agenda for quantifying the benefits of native landscaping. The research agenda is based on a two day conference ( Dec. 2004) during which a series of survey papers examining native plant landscaping and biodiversity, air quality, controlled

burn emissions, carbon sequestration, and more were presented. The next step is to identify the key gaps of knowledge and develop a research agenda.

Gap Analysis report: April 21, 2006

Research agenda finalized: April 21, 2006

*Contact:*

### **Individual Environmental Stewardship (OPEI)**

The theme of the 2006 National Environmental Partnership Summit, held in Atlanta in April 2006, was environmental stewardship. One of the sessions, organized by OPEI, focused exclusively on individual environmental stewardship. OPEI is currently seeking additional opportunities to pursue the topic of individual environmental stewardship.

*Milestones:*

- National Environmental Partnership Summit – April 2006
- Additional milestones TBD

*Contact:* Bill Hanson

### **Recycle on the Go (OSWER)**

The national Recycle on the Go initiative promotes the development of recycling infrastructure in public spaces such as sports venues, parks, airports and highway rest stops and shopping malls to collect the increasing amount of recyclable materials that are currently being disposed in these locations. OSW worked with the NFL and other partners to recycle beverage containers during Pro Bowl 2006 and the National Park Service to recycle at National Parks and special events such as the National Cherry Blossom Festival. As this program matures, OSW will work with Federal, state and local partners as well as with other organizations to expand public space recycling.

*Milestone:*

- Tool kit for public space recycling, additional partners – 2006.

*Contacts:* Hope Pillsbury, [Pillsbury.hope@epa.gov](mailto:Pillsbury.hope@epa.gov), Judy Taylor, [taylor.judy@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.judy@epa.gov)

### **National Environmental Education Grant Program (OEE)**

OEE grants that support environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers and citizens. Recipients of these grants will further EPA's strategic goals by implementing environmental education projects that improve environmental behavior through non-regulatory means; raise the public's awareness of actions it can take to prevent pollution and acceptance of personal responsibility for actions to improve environmental quality; and promote voluntary commitment to stewardship.

The 2006 solicitation is available at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed>

*Milestones:*

- Award approximately 150 grants by June, 2006

*Contact:* Diane Berger

### **National Environmental Education and Training Partnership (OEE)**

The National Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) is a national environmental education programs that delivers training and support to education professionals across the country to advance education and environmental literacy in the United States. The goals of the program include enabling decision makers and educators to effectively use

environmental education as a tool for improving teaching and learning and achieving a healthy and sustainable environment, and promoting quality environmental education that is scientifically accurate, pedagogically sound and responsive to community needs. OEE awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> EETAP cooperative agreement to a consortium of organizations headed by the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point.

*Milestones:*

- Provide training to 100 educators on how to evaluate environmental education materials
- Provide on-line, university accredited instruction in environmental education program evaluation to 350 educators
- Provide training to 220 educators on how to use the national environmental education standards for materials, student learning, educator training, and non-formal programs

*Contact:* Kathleen MacKinnon

**Spread Sustainability Courses to technical colleges and universities (R7)**

With assistance from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and EPA's Pollution Prevention grant, Dr. Gerry Snore of the University of Iowa initiated a course on sustainable communities for upper level engineering, design and science students. The interest in the course far exceeded the number of students that they could accommodate. The news spread and similar courses have been adopted by Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska and Kansas State University, each with different aspects but a similar theme.

*Milestone:*

- Region 7 plans to market the course to another 3 schools by fall 2006, and assess the interest of the lead professors in sharing video lectures and information to enable the courses to grow and reach more students.

*Contact:* Chet McLaughlin, 913-551-7666, [mclaughlin.chilton@epa.gov](mailto:mclaughlin.chilton@epa.gov)

**P3: Student Design Competition (ORD)**

This competition is envisioned to expand with the additional of industry sponsored targeted sectors. This year, Home Depot will promote sustainable building design projects. Future industry sponsors are planned.

*Milestones:*

- The P3 annual May mall event and Academy of Science judging will be expanded into a National Student Design Expo.
- Future grant solicitations will target specific sectors and sustainability goals.

*Contact:* Julie Zimmerman

**Compliance Assistance Centers (OECA)**

Over a dozen sector-specific Compliance Assistance Centers help businesses, local governments, regulated entities, and the public understand environmental requirements and give them access to clear information on achieving compliance, best management practices, and pollution prevention approaches. The Centers offer internet web sites, telephone assistance lines, fax-back systems, and email discussion groups, and address real world practical issues in sector-tailored language.

*Milestones:*

- Add significant topical content--Ongoing (eg., movement of municipal solid waste from Canada to U.S. in May 2008);
- Launch new State Resource Locator portal page--May 2008.

- Support Compliance Assistance Platform, Platform-based Centers, and enhance outreach to regulated community on available services--Ongoing.
- Conduct survey of the Centers' users--May through August 2006;
- Host meeting for EPA Center team members and grantees--May 8, 2006;
- Initiate development of a new Center for the Education sector--Spring 2006

*Contact:*

### **Waste-To-Energy Strategic Geographic Planning Tool Development (R6)**

[See information above – 1. Focus on Priority Problems (Resource Conservation)]

### **Market Incentives/Higher Visibility for Less Toxic Pesticide Products: Design for the Environment Designations for Pesticide Products (OPPTS)**

EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) Program is a voluntary partnership program that works with companies to integrate health and environmental considerations in business decisions. DfE's Formulator Initiative, which began in 1997, offers partnership and recognition to companies that act as environmental stewards by improving the health and environmental profile of their products. The program recognizes chemical formulations that are safer than other products in their sector (e.g., laundry detergents and floor care products), basing this decision on hazard comparisons for every component in the product formulation. Recognition comes in the form of a Design for the Environment logo which is displayed on the product.

OPPTS is now developing a process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to allow DfE designation for pesticide products that qualify as Reduced Risk Pesticides. "Reduced risk" determinations are based on risk evaluations at the active ingredient level. This effort will expand the DfE Formulators program to include pesticide products and expand the existing Reduced Risk Program to include biopesticide and antimicrobial registration actions, as well as conventional pesticides. This initiative would provide market incentive for pesticide registrants to switch to less toxic ingredients in their pesticide formulations and to raise the visibility of safer pesticides.

#### *Milestones*

- By July 2006 OPP will have established internal criteria for review of biopesticide and antimicrobial pesticide registration actions under the Reduced Risk Program
- By August 2006 OPP will have vetted with OGC legal considerations of allowing a DfE logo on the pesticide label By July 2006 OPP will have established internal criteria for review of biopesticide and antimicrobial pesticide registration actions under the Reduced Risk Program
- By fall 2006, present to OPP's stakeholder FACA, the PPDC
- By spring 2007, issue a Policy Notice

*Contact:* Tom Brennan (OPP), 703-306-0540

### **EPA-wide Environmental Education Strategy (IAC, leadership by OEE with interested HQ and regional offices)**

#### **Develop a strategic vision to guide environmental education throughout EPA (OEE)**

Environmental education is needed to enable our citizens to become better stewards of the environment. We need to develop a strategic vision of environmental education for the entire agency in order to improve the quality and access of environmental education to the public. The

Office of Environmental Education is in the unique position of being a bridge to the environmental education community and the program offices within the Agency. Duplication of efforts can be reduced and gaps in programs and materials developed for the public can be identified and targeted for support.

*Milestones:*

- Office of Environmental Education will convene a cross-office group to draft an EPA strategic vision for environmental education and consider what steps towards an agency-wide strategy might be appropriate. IAC encourages participation in this group, especially by HQ and regional Environmental Education coordinators.

*Contact:* Ginger Potter

**3. SHOWCASE BEST PRACTICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** *EPA has a major opportunity to increase awareness about stewardship practices, to identify organizations that are environmental leaders, and to motivate businesses, communities and others to strive for continuous improvement in environmental performance. To this end, EPA is undertaking a variety of activities.*

### **Portfolios of Stewardship Opportunities Offered by EPA (OPEI)**

Following a suggestion in the *Everyday Choices* report, OPEI has initiated an effort to create “portfolios” of stewardship opportunities offered by EPA. These portfolios will inventory and make information more easily available about the full range of EPA programs that enable and encourage all parts of society – individuals, communities, businesses, and government – to improve environmental quality and achieve sustainable outcomes. The portfolios will be organized by user groups and will be available on the EPA website so that they can be easily accessed.

*Milestones:*

- Launch the initial portfolio, for business users, on the EPA website – Spring 2006
- Launch portfolios for other user groups – dates to be determined

*Contact:* Laura Pyzik

### **Green Building Workgroup (cross-agency)**

The Green Building brings together the many programs across the Agency that work with the building and development sectors to improve their environmental performance. Programs that participate in the Workgroup include: ENERGY STAR®, Indoor Environments, Brownfields, Smart Growth, Water Efficiency, Construction and Demolition Debris, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, Nonpoint Source Pollution, Heat Island Reduction, Green Power, Labs21, Greenscapes, Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, Construction Sector Strategies, Environmentally Responsible Redevelopment and Reuse (ER3), International Affairs and others.

The Green Building Workgroup works to facilitate progress in the green building movement, by bringing together, inspiring and informing many key stakeholders to play their part in transforming the building marketplace to move towards environmental sustainability. EPA is achieving this by: guiding the definition of green building by advancing national and international efforts to develop definitions, metrics, lifecycle analysis approaches, and a larger vision of the field; fostering innovation by promoting research and development; and facilitating

stakeholder cooperation by working with industry, governments and non-profits on breaking down barriers to green building, setting goals and measuring results.

*Milestones:* N/A

*Contact:* Ken Sandler, 202-343-9607 and Alison Kinn Bennett, 202-564-8859

### **Best Workplaces for Commuters (OAR)**

Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC) is an innovative, voluntary, business-government program that addresses the environmental and energy impact of increasing reliance on personal vehicles to get to work. Through partnerships with public and private sector employers, BWC promotes and recognizes U.S. employers that offer superior commuter benefits such as subsidized transit passes, vanpool vouchers, and telework programs that saves energy, reduces greenhouse gas emission and local traffic congestion. Since program start-up the Best Workplaces for Commuters program has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> by 4.2 million metric tons, saved nearly 500 million gallons of gasoline and saved commuters almost \$1 billion dollars.

*Milestone:*

- BWC will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> year since program launch May 2006, by which time the cumulative savings from the BWC program will likely exceed \$1 billion dollars. In conjunction with this anniversary, we will release a “progress report” and “program evaluation” highlighting all the achievements of this program. An event proposal for the EPA Administrator is currently in his office.

*Contact:* Lucie Audette 734-214-4850

### **SmartWay Transport Partnership (OAR)**

[See information above – 1. Focus on Priority Environmental Problems Where Stewardship Has the Greatest Potential]

### **National Clean Diesel Campaign (OAR, Regions)**

[See information above – 1. Focus on Priority Environmental Problems Where Stewardship Has the Greatest Potential]

### **P3: Student Design Competition (ORD)**

[See information above – 2. Engage Individuals in Environmental Stewardship]

### **PFOA Stewardship Program (OPPTS)**

On January 25, 2006, Administrator Johnson invited eight major fluoropolymer and telomer manufacturers to participate in a global stewardship program on PFOA and related chemicals. Participating companies were asked to commit to reducing PFOA and related chemicals from facility emissions and product content by 95% no later than 2010, and to work toward eliminating PFOA from emissions and product content no later than 2015. This global stewardship program complements the Agency’s ongoing efforts with industry, key stakeholders, and other interested parties to identify and develop the data needed to fully understand how people are being exposed to PFOA and what, if any, concerns these exposures may pose.

*Milestones:*

- All eight companies -- Arkema, Asahi, Ciba, Clariant, Daikin, DuPont, 3M/Dyneon, and Solvay Solexis -- submitted letters of commitment to the Program by the March 1, 2006 deadline. The companies will submit their year 2000 baseline information by October

31, 2006, and will submit annual reports on their progress toward the goals each successive October. Their reports will include information on their worldwide business as well as their U.S.-based operations.

*Contact:*

### **The Green Suppliers Network (OPPTS)**

OPPT manages the Green Suppliers Network, which is designed to accelerate environmental performance, process efficiency, and economic competitiveness among manufacturing suppliers. To date the program has engaged aerospace, automotive, healthcare/pharmaceutical and office furniture suppliers in these activities. Supplier engagements, to date, have identified the potential for over \$22.4 million in cost savings, 65 million kilowatts of energy savings, 81,000 pounds of air emission reductions, and 128,000 pounds of water pollution reductions. Effective collaboration continues with the Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership to improve the performance of America's manufacturers. The Green Suppliers Network is also collaborating with other EPA programs such as the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program and Performance Track to promote economic and social benefits of environmental improvement to manufacturers. More information can be found at [www.greensuppliers.gov](http://www.greensuppliers.gov).

*Milestones:*

- Engage additional OEMs and their suppliers in the program
- Conduct Green Suppliers Network-CARE pilot in Region 1 to demonstrate the value of Green Suppliers Network in a local CARE community
- Continue to promote GSN among Performance Track Corporate Leaders

*Contact:* Kristin Pierre, 202-564-8837, pierre.kristin@epa.gov

### **Greenacres and Green Infrastructure (R5)**

[See information above – 2. Engage Individuals in Environmental Stewardship]

### **Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (OPPTS)**

The Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) is a voluntary program that forms partnerships with pesticide users to reduce the health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use. The goal of PESP is to reduce pesticide risk in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings. While government regulation can reduce pesticide risk, PESP is guided by the principle that, even in the absence of additional regulatory mandates, the informed actions of pesticide users reduce risk even further than regulation. PESP will be used as a core program efficiency measure. Both the number of agricultural acres using reduced risk pest management practices, and the number of schools in the United States that have adopted Integrated Pest Management strategies as a result of PESP involvement will be evaluated. By the year 2011, the goal is to decrease by 10% the risk/stewardship dollars spent for both the agricultural acres using reduced risk practices and the number of schools adopting IPM strategies.

*Milestones:*

*Contact:*

### **GreenScapes (OSWER)**

This partnership program is designed to provide cost-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions for landscape design, construction, and maintenance - large and small. The program



has over 70 partners. The goal is to preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution by encouraging organizations and individuals to make more holistic decisions regarding their landscape practices and purchases.

*Milestones:*

- Over the next two years we will expand our approach and target homeowners and large landscapers to preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution.
- We will release a GreenScapes brochure for homeowners in Spring 2006.
- We will conduct a series of GreenScapes training workshops with the American Society of Landscape Architects at their national conference in October 2006.

*Contact:* Jean Schwab, [schwab.jean@epa.gov](mailto:schwab.jean@epa.gov).

**Environmentally Responsible Redevelopment and Reuse (ER3) Program (OECA)**

ER3 promotes the safe, sustainable reuse and redevelopment of contaminated property by providing incentives to developers who commit to using the best sustainable environmental practices. ER3 encourages green building design, construction, and operation; energy efficiency; use of renewable energy sources; environmental management systems; storm water and wastewater management; pollution prevention; waste minimization and recycling; healthy building and environmental design; industrial ecology; sustainability; and smart growth.

*Milestone:*

- OECA and 14 non-federal ER3 partners have entered into Memoranda of Cooperation recognizing mutual cooperative efforts to promote sustainable development. Each Region will identify a Superfund or RCRA site appropriate for a pilot ER3 project to be coordinated with the partners. Site identification due to OECA by March 31, 2006.

*Contact:*

**Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability (ORD)**

ORD grant support is provided to encourage innovative thinking about the practical applications of science and engineering in pursuit of sustainability. Grantees are asked to bring together diverse sets of partners to explore and learn about new approaches to environmental protection at a regional scale that are systems-oriented, forward-looking, and preventive with links to economic and social dimensions. The collection of projects will inform practical learning on analytical tools, collaborative approaches, and decision-making to support progress towards sustainability. The 2006 solicitation is available at <http://epa.gov/ncer>.

*Milestone:*

- Solicitation closes May 17, 2006
- Awards by the end of 2006

*Contact:* Diana Bauer

**Environmental Science Connector (ORD)**

ORD will launch this gateway to environmental science models, data, publications and Library resources and other tools. The Connector is designed all EPA users to share information with scientists in EPA and with external stakeholders. The ESC can support ORD's stewardship plans by streamlining communications and providing access to a variety of resources and tools.

*Milestones:*

- The portal is now being tested for launch in May or June.

- Future milestones include: Added collaboration tools, including discussion forums, project announcements, and unified science information search providing the ability to access and store resources from EIMS, and the new Agency Search Engine Northern Light.

*Contact:* Jacques Kapuscinski, 202-564-6683

### **Decision-Support Tool Box (ORD)**

ORD will identify and inventory all decision support tools and organize them in a user friendly manner to support sustainable decision-making at all levels of government and in business. ORD's success with REVA (assessment model) in assisting urban planning in North and South Carolina is one such example.

*Milestones:*

- The project begins in the summer of 2006 with Post Doc support and will be completed by end of 2006.

*Contact:* Alan Hecht, 202-564-4772

### **Performance Track – New Commitments and Directions (OPEI)**

Performance Track is a voluntary partnership that recognizes top environmental performance among participating U.S. facilities of all types, sizes, and complexity, public and private. Program partners are providing leadership in many areas, including preventing pollution at its source. Currently, the program has about 400 members and welcomes all qualifying facilities. There are several new commitments and directions being developed which will advance environmental stewardship:

*Milestones:*

- Adopt challenge commitments for waste (priority contaminants), water (water efficiency), and air (to be determined) programs – in place by April 2006.
- Announce the second round of Performance Track Corporate Leaders – May 2006.
- Design and EMS template for the nanotechnology industry that will encourage participation in Performance Track – complete template by September 2006.

*Contact:* Dan Fiorino

### **National Environmental Performance Track (R10)**

Region 10 continues its efforts to scale up Performance Track. We will soon be hiring a 0.5 FTE to work on the program. This person will assist with outreach and recruitment efforts. The regional program has experienced a 25% growth rate each of the last 2 years and we anticipate maintaining this growth rate in each of the next 3 years. The Region considers Performance Track one of its premier stewardship activities because of the ability to demonstrate beyond-compliance environmental outcomes.

The region has been successful in aligning the delivery of performance incentives in several states including Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Partnerships have been established with several NGOs including the Zero Waste Alliance to build EMS capacity in the municipal sector. And most recently, the region has established Regional Challenge Commitments for greenhouse gas emission reductions and for diesel fuel use reductions.

*Milestone:*

- 4<sup>th</sup> qtr/FY'06 MOA with Idaho DEQ and GEMStars program

Contact: Bill Glasser

### **2006 Sector Strategies Performance Report (OPEI)**

The Sector Strategies Program develops performance stewardship strategies for major manufacturing and service sectors of the US economy. As part of this effort, the program issues periodic reports that track major environmental and energy performance trends in the participating sectors. By understanding sector performance trends we can bring better focus to our activities that promote sector-wide environmental stewardship. OPEI published the first such report in 2004 and is currently preparing another.

*Milestone:*

- Publish the 2006 Sector Strategies Performance Report – May 2006

Contact: Robert Benson

### **Biomass Summit - Sustainable Use/Reuse of Hurricane-Type Debris (R4)**

Based on the sudden need to handle huge amounts of biomass debris from Hurricane Katrina, Region 4 organized a Biomass Summit in December 2005, in Jackson, MS to build collaborations to apply novel logic and methods to biomass debris management. Since the Summit, ORD's Senior Advisor to the Director for Sustainable Development has taken the lead in promoting technologies associated with sensible use of biomass debris, having organized several events and presentations related to the topic. ORD is also working with a USDA/DOE/DOI workgroup called the Woody Biomass Utilization Group, primarily helping with changing contracting procedures to incentivize reuse of woody biomass in lieu of landfilling, and identifying and knocking down barriers to commercialization of technologies capable of converting biomass to energy products. Region 4 will be participating in select initiatives of this workgroup and providing information and input when needed and/or appropriate. Also, during the next year Region 4 plans to devote additional resources to sustainable use and reuse of debris, such as that resulting from hurricanes or other potential large scale debris-producing events, with innovative choices and methods.

*Milestones:*

- PowerPoint summarizing the December Biomass Summit results, prepared by R4 and ORD, presented at the Mississippi Biomass Conference by MS Forestry Commission, April 23, 2006
- Sustainable technologies in debris management session organized by ORD for the *Restoration 2006 Conference* held in New Orleans, May 16-17, 2006
- Briefings in DC organized by ORD: presentations to EPA and federal agencies by companies with innovative approaches to manage hurricane biomass and C&D debris, March, April and June 2006
- Report from the Summit is in final draft with comments from participants and the final version will be issued to the leaders of the MS agencies in July 2006.

Contact: Davy Simonson (R4)  
Donna Perla (ORD HQ)

### **Regional Provision of Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance (R10)**

Regional technical assistance networks comprised of non-profit, local, state and federal partners provide direct technical assistance to business and government representatives who seek cost effective, prevention-oriented solutions. The direct assistance mode which includes beyond

compliance recommendations, affords recipients the opportunity to select and own their Stewardship achievements, as well as to lead and teach peer groups. Region 10 supports approximately 10 such efforts annually, with objectives as diverse as spurring the use/production of biodiesel to supporting a Lean Manufacturing pilot where State of Washington technical assistance providers will team with State Manufacturing Extension Program representatives to enhance value provided to business clients. A milestone for the latter will be four industry case studies, produced by October 2006, which will describe the benefits of integrating the efforts. Region 10 2006 Results Estimates: 2.6 Million Pounds Waste, 21 Million Gallons of Water, 68 Billion BTU's, 3.7 Million Dollars Saved  
EPA Commitment in Region 10: 1.8FTE and approximately \$500K per year in state and network support.

*Milestones:*

*Contact:* Carolyn Gangmark

### **State-EPA Symposium on Innovation and Environmental Stewardship (OPEI)**

It has been suggested that the IAC's next State-EPA symposium on innovation have a focus on environmental stewardship. The most recent symposium, the third in the series, was held in Denver in January 2006. The next symposium would occur about 18 months after the start of our environmental stewardship implementation activities and would be an opportunity to share experiences.

*Milestone:*

- Hold Symposium on Innovation and Environmental Stewardship, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007.

*Contact:* Betsy Shaw

### **2006 Collaborative Summit with Federal and State Land Management Agencies (R8)**

The Collaborative Summit brings together executives and senior managers from federal and state land management agencies in the Rocky Mountain Region to develop new or enhance existing partnerships regarding stewardship practices on public lands. Stewardship is achieved through the implementation of Environmental Management System protocol developed specifically for land management agencies.

*Milestone:*

- The 2006 Summit will be held at Grand Teton Lodge in Grand Teton National Park, September 19 – 21, 2006. It is expected that approximately 60 participants will attend the Summit including Regional Directors, Regional Foresters, Superintendents, Executive Directors of State DEQs, directors of state parks and representatives from organizations interested in collaborative efforts between federal and state land management agencies.

*Contact:* Mary Byrne, 303-312-6491

### **Business/Government Sustainability Roundtables (R1)**

The Region has organized two Business/Government roundtables involving a selected list of business leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to sustainable business practices along with senior leadership from EPA and state environmental agencies. These roundtables, held in MA and NH, identified action items that will form the beginnings of a New England action agenda that will promote sustainability in a variety of ways such as through procurement, education, communication, and promotion of energy efficient practices. Maine also organized a similar dialog in the development of their Maine "StepUp" leadership program. Other state

efforts are underway that will promote sustainability such as the NH leadership program that will be developed under an EPA funded State Innovation Grant. In August 2001, the six New England states together with the five eastern Canadian provinces became the first region in North America to adopt a Climate Change Action Plan. This Regional and State work could potentially form the basis of a sustainability agenda that could be agreed on by the states and EPA. The goals of such an agenda would be to promote economic development based on sustainable business practices that are encouraged and rewarded by state and federal environmental agencies.

*Milestones:*

- [TBD]

*Contact:* Tom D'Avanzo

**4. LEAD BY EXAMPLE – DEMONSTRATE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN EPA'S OPERATIONS AND IN ITS WORK WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:** *EPA should be a model in the federal government and the nation for environmental stewardship. While we know that our own actions can deliver important environmental benefits, the real value comes from the multiplier effect – when our employees use what they have learned in their jobs and in their homes and communities. To this end, we will set measurable goals for EPA environmental performance improvement, support sustainability efforts across the Federal government, help create new markets for sustainable products and services, and encourage all EPA employees to play a stewardship role.*

#### **EPA ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT:**

##### **Lead by example at our facilities and with our people (OARM)**

In calendar year 2005 EPA completed the implementation of environmental management systems (EMS) at 34 major locations encompassing its headquarters and regional offices, and regional and program laboratories. EPA locations are currently focusing on EMS integration and utilization of their EMSs as the framework by which they will improve environmental performance and reduce their environmental footprint. OARM is proposing bold and innovative Agency-wide objectives, targets and metrics, to be implemented through the EMS framework, that will: promote compliance as the baseline for environmental stewardship, set measurable goals for improving environmental performance, encourage employees to adopt a stewardship role, incorporate energy, environmental management and transportation priorities expressed in OMB scorecards, and lead by example in the areas of green purchasing, sustainable design, conventional energy use reduction and green power usage, and recycling and electronic stewardship.

*Milestones:*

- The Administrator will formally issue EMS Agency-wide Objectives for CYs 2006 and 2007 and EPA's Commitment Statement to the Integration and Utilization of Environmental Management Systems. (July 15, 2006)
- OARM will formally issue Agency-wide EMS Targets and Metrics for the Objectives issued by the Administrator (August 30, 2006)
- OARM will provide training for Agency managers and staff on Agency-wide Objectives and Targets, performance measurement, and reporting systems. (October 30, 2006)
- OARM will issue a performance report card on Agency-wide Objectives and Targets. (March 30, 2008)

Contact: Howard Wilson, 202-564-1646, [wilson.howard@epa.gov](mailto:wilson.howard@epa.gov) .

### **Region 1 Green Team Efforts (R1)**

Region 1 has a team of 50 staff (.05 FTE each) working to educate staff, implement a facility EMS, green our fleet, encourage mass transit, green meetings, increased recycling, greening our buildings and publicizing our work.

*Results:* The regional fleet MPG went from 20 to 30 mpg with 7 hybrids; duplex printing was initiated in two divisions; the region purchased a mail system to minimize returns (resulting in a \$10,000 worth of savings); electronic transmissions saved the region 2,640 reams of paper/year and we designed a LEED silver renovation for our new office space.

#### *Milestones:*

- The region will publicize the team and accomplishments on a new internet site; it will purchase more hybrid vehicles as budget allows and push the fleet cumulative mpg over 30 mpg; it will initiate final implementation of the duplex printing in each division (survey results suggested that more than 35% usually print duplex); it will convert all staff to Eforms for leave slips for reduction of 23,000 paper forms and we will host an Earth Day Green Expo in April 2006 and April 2007.

*Contact:*

### **Develop Sustainability Environmental Management Program (R7)**

Region 7 will develop a Sustainability Environmental Management Program (EMP) within its Environmental Management System (EMS) to formalize and strengthen a number of non-regulatory initiatives and to provide an environment where employees engaged in outreach activities can gain experience in applying sustainability and stewardship principles. The Sustainability EMP will facilitate the completion of broad objectives to achieve significant performance improvements in the areas of alternative fuel vehicle use, energy and water conservation, environmentally preferable purchasing, recycling/reuse, and sustainable design/development and will be structured to incorporate life cycle considerations (acquisition, use, and disposition) of our activities.

#### *Milestones:*

- Development of EMP, identification of existing operational controls, and the establishment of objectives and targets in each focus area by September 30, 2006.
- Development of formal teams to achieve the objectives and targets in each focus area by November 30, 2006.
- Ensure full compliance with USEPA national objectives in these areas (ongoing).

*Contact:* Chris Taylor, (913) 551-7736, [taylor.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.christopher@epa.gov)

### **Reuse and Recycle Materials Generated from EPA Activities (R8)**

As Region 8 prepares for its move to a new building in November 2006, we will unearth a lot unwanted paper, office supplies, furniture, appliances and equipment. Region 8 commits to reuse and recycle unwanted materials to the greatest extent possible.

#### *Milestones:*

- From January 2006 – November 2006, Region 8 will conduct clean-up campaigns to recycle paper, bound publications, phone books, computer disks, CDs and video tapes as well as collect office supplies and 3-ring binders for reuse.

- From November 2006 – January 2007, Region 8 will decommission old furniture, appliances, equipment and cabling and ensure reuse or recycling to the greatest extent possible.

*Contact:* Kathy Letson, 303-312-6641

### **Region 8 Moves into a Green Building (R8)**

For the last several years, Region 8 has been participating in the development and construction of a green office building that we will move into November 2006. It is a significant demonstration of EPA’s leadership in reducing the environmental impacts of its facilities. Features of this new building include: the first LEED® Gold rated building in Colorado, ENERGY STAR® rated, on-site renewable energy generation, waterless urinals, the first commercial green roof in Colorado and new office furniture that meets high standards for environmental preferability.

*Milestone:*

- Region 8 will begin occupying the new building in November 2006.

*Contact:* Tim Rehder, 303-312-6293

### **Vision 2020 (ORD)**

The Vision 2020 project examines the changing environmental, economic, and technologic and governance forces likely to confront EPA and environmental protection in the U.S. over the next 15 years. The first Vision 2020 paper on *Energy and the Environment*, has contributed to an extensive dialogue between Program and Regional offices on the role EPA should play in energy related issues. Vision 2020 has also hosted several seminars for EPA staff.

*Milestone:*

- Four more seminars in 2006

*Contact:* Alan Hecht

### **SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS ACROSS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Coordinate EPA’s Cooperative Conservation Activities (OPEI)**

EPA’s environmental stewardship activities respond closely to the Administration’s Cooperative Conservation initiative. Executive Order 13352 (“Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation,” August 26, 2004) calls on DOI, USDA, DOD, DOC and EPA to work with CEQ to facilitate implementation of Cooperative Conservation. The Order defines Cooperative Conservation as “actions that relate to use, enhancement, and enjoyment of natural resources, protection of the environment, or both, and that involve collaborative activity among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit institutions, other nongovernmental entities and individuals.” In addition to the environmental stewardship activities described in this implementation plan, EPA has a suite of activities that respond specifically to the Cooperative Conservation initiative. OPEI coordinates these activities for the Administrator. Because of the close relationship between these two initiatives, EPA’s major Cooperative Conservation activities are included in this environmental stewardship implementation plan.

*Milestones:*

- (see individual action items listed below)

*Contact:* Patricia Bonner

### **Human Resource Systems (Cooperative Conservation)**

(Collaboration Plan - Build Expert Knowledge, Skills, & Capacity, and Foster Collaborative

## Leadership at All Levels)

### *Milestones:*

- In April 2006, OPEI/OARM will meet with the Human Resources Council regarding how best to implement the eight proposed competencies to support EPA's work in collaborative problem solving, partnerships and stewardship in all agency offices, regions and laboratories, using the Human Capital plans, their local action plans and other means to speed implementation.
- EPA will participate in the nominations and review process for the President's Award for Excellence in Cooperative Conservation" (name may or may not be cooperative conservation) once established - Fall 2006 - Spring 2007.
- EPA will establish an internal national award recognizing excellence in collaboration in 2006 and present its first awards in 2007.

*Contact:* Patricia Bonner

## **EPA Leadership of Cooperative Conservation Activities (Cooperative Conservation)**

### *Milestones:*

- EPA provided draft task descriptions for the Cooperative Conservation task groups it leads (FACA, Public Engagement, Legislative Compendium, and ECR/collaborative problem solving) and will begin recruiting members to the groups - April 2006
- EPA is sponsoring workshops on effective use of trading (market incentives) in March and May 2006.
- EPA with DOI will sponsor a workshop on negotiated rulemaking ("reg neg") in 2006 (early Spring).
- EPA will share with Cooperative Conservation partner agencies its
  - strategy for engaging the public using stewardship approaches for priority environmental issues
  - public involvement policy and support tools
  - FACA tools
  - measurement tools

*Contact:* Patricia Bonner

## **Legislative Authorities (Cooperative Conservation)**

### *Milestones:*

- EPA will complete drafting its portion of the DOI Cooperative Conservation draft legislation (Good Samaritan - mitigating acid mine pollution) - Spring 2006
- EPA will review and provide an analysis of its legislative authorities and best practices using them to support partnerships and collaboration - Summer 2006

*Contact:*

## **Administrative Activities (Cooperative Conservation)**

### *Milestones:*

- EPA will provide timely appointments of members to Cooperative Conservation task groups when they are requested throughout 2006.
- By July 2006, EPA will provide its input to the CEQ August annual report to the President on progress made in implementing EO 13352.

*Contact:* Patricia Bonner



### **FedCenter (OECA)**

This web-based portal for federal agencies and federal facilities managers provides comprehensive information resources and data management capabilities to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental compliance and stewardship programs, in addition to opportunities for interagency collaborative self-management on environmental issues across the federal government. It allows real-time access to recognized best management practices on compliance, environmental management systems, green procurement, energy management, sustainable construction, chemical management, restoration and reuse, NEPA, and natural resources. In addition it provides a significant instrument for tracking and reporting of common environmental metrics across the federal government.

#### *Milestone:*

- FedCenter will be used by many Federal facilities and agencies to collect, summarize, and deliver to Congress and EPA, information on underground storage tanks, as required by the 2005 Energy Policy Act (reporting deadline: 8/8/06).

#### *Contact:*

### **2006 Collaborative Summit with Federal and State Land management Agencies (R8)**

[See information above – 3. Showcase Best Practices & Accomplishments]

### **Federal Agency Collaboration on Stewardship and Sustainability (R10)**

Region 10 has been actively involved in promoting federal agency collaboration on environmental issues. One approach has been to support the activities of the Federal Network for Sustainability, which is a voluntary network of west coast federal agencies who promote sustainability practices within their respective agencies. FNS member agencies have developed a successful website, ([www.federalsustainability.org](http://www.federalsustainability.org)) which highlights a variety of sustainability practices and educates federal agencies on specific issues, including use of alternative fuels such as biodiesel, electronics product stewardship, green power procurement and the development and use of EMS. The Federal Environmental Executive has cited the FNS as a model for federal agency collaboration which can be reproduced in other geographic areas.

On a more local level, Region 10 has been instrumental in creating an Environmental Leadership Committee authorized by the local Federal Executive Board (FEB). Federal Executive Boards were created by Presidential Executive Order, and currently 12 FEBs exist nationally. The environmental committee of the Seattle FEB is the first of its kind nationwide, and hosts multiple inter-agency environmental projects. An EPA employee currently is the Chair of the Seattle FEB Environmental Committee.

#### *Milestone:*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr/FY'06, the Seattle FEB Environmental Committee in conjunction with the Region 10 Innovation Council is sponsoring an Americorps team of volunteers to highlight federal agency collaboration in multiple Earth Day projects.

#### *Contact:* Barbara Lither

**EPA/DOD Collaboration (IAC, leadership by OSWER and other interested program and region offices)** e.g. SERPPAS collaboration with DOD (R4) and Sustainable Sandhills

Collaboration with DOD (R4) [See information above – 1. Focus on Priority Problems (Ecosystem Protection) and (Community Stewardship)]

### **ENCOURAGING EPA EMPLOYEES TO PLAY A STEWARDSHIP ROLE:**

#### **Internal Sustainability Campaign (R2)**

The internal sustainability campaign is an initiative to challenge staff at Region 2 to “walk the talk.” The campaign is intended to 1) provide useful and timely resources to employees so that they are empowered to make informed decisions about the products and services they use that potentially affect their health and the environment; 2) serve as a learning tool (test ideas and messages to better understand what resonates with different audiences); and 3) promote EPA's mission by serving as a role model for the programs that we implement. Conceptually the campaign will be structured over a one year time frame with five target issues. These include food, goods, housing, investment/travel/services, and transport. Each of the target issues will engage employees via activities such as challenges, eco-fairs, speakers and outreach materials.

#### *Milestones:*

- Launch campaign with coordinated events and new Intranet site.
- Develop events and disseminate information to all Region 2 offices for the 5 category topics.
- Expand planning/coordination team to include more Regional employees.
- Update the Intranet site to reflect information disseminated during the campaign.
- Develop and launch pledges for the 5 category topics.

*Contact:* Haley Gilbert (212-637-4971)

#### **Environmental Stewardship Training Series (R7)**

Training developed by and for Region 7 Employees, designed to reinforce our personal responsibility as environmental stewards and encourage environmental stewardship.

Presentations show how actions people take at home and at work can have a direct or indirect, positive or negative, impact on the environment. The series demonstrates relationships between human activity, ecosystems, agriculture, and sensitive populations, and how small-scale activities can result in large-scale environmental benefits.

#### *Milestone:*

- One training session every quarter, which began in August 2004.

*Contact:* Gayle Hubert, 913-551-7439, [Hubert.gayle@epa.gov](mailto:Hubert.gayle@epa.gov)

#### **Sustainability Training for Region 8 Employees (R8)**

Every EPA employee should demonstrate stewardship behaviors at the office and at home. In addition, they are in a position to educate the regulated community and general public about stewardship practices that will lead to sustainability. However, most are focused on their own core work and rarely take a more holistic look at how greater environmental protection could be achieved through stewardship approaches. This training will teach employees how to think more systematically at how to achieve sustainability through stewardship.

#### *Milestone:*

- Approximately 60 Region 8 employees will receive the training by August 30, 2006.

*Contact:* David Schaller, 303-312-6146

#### **Employee Carbon Footprint Reduction (R10)**

A small group of regional employees have indicated an interest in baselining their carbon footprints and sharing their carbon reduction efforts with other regional employees. The Region 10 Innovation Council will assist this initial volunteer group by designing a framework for measuring and tracking their progress and sharing the results with the Region. As additional regional employees are inspired and motivated to join this effort, the Council will manage the sign-up program and provide just-in-time educational materials and measurement/tracking support. As part of this voluntary effort, the Region 10 Innovation Council would publicize and promote the use of on-line tools for CO2 offsets such as-

<http://www.terrapass.com/>

<http://www.driveneutral.org/>

<https://www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/index.cfm>

*Milestones:*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr FY'06 Employees baseline carbon footprints and Region 10 Innovation Council prepares initial communications 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Qtr FY'07 Region 10 Innovation Council prepares quarterly communications on the status of volunteer group carbon reduction progress

*Contact:* Rick Albright

**5. MAINSTREAM STEWARDSHIP IN EPA DECISION PROCESSES:** *In order for EPA's environmental stewardship strategy to have real value, it must become an enduring priority and pervasive ethic in all parts of the organization. To this end we will build Agency capacity for environmental stewardship by improved coordination and communication of EPA's current environmental stewardship activities; leveraged resources and set priorities; better alignment of EPA efforts with State and Tribal priorities, improved performance measurement and reporting of results, aligning partnership programs to fully support EPA's environmental stewardship*

#### **Sustainability Outcomes and Indicators (ORD+)**

A cross-office workgroup has been formed, chaired by ORD, to add further detail to the sustainability outcomes developed for the *Everyday Choices* report. Our objective is to identify more specific targets, and indicators that can help us gauge progress towards the outcomes for each of the six resource systems identified in the *Everyday Choices* Report. We are relating the indicator side of the work to the Report on the Environment. We will relate the overall effort to decisions made by individuals, business, communities, and/or governments as discussed in the *Everyday Choices* report. The workgroup has broad participation from across EPA.

*Milestone:*

- By January 2007, we will develop some illustrative detailed products and an integrated roadmap that describes a possible longer term effort.

*Contacts:* Diana Bauer and Claudia Walters (ORD)

**Coordinated Agency-wide environmental stewardship communication strategy (IAC, leadership by OPA, OPEI).** The IAC agreed to give special attention to unify EPA-wide efforts by developing and implementing a communication strategy for environmental stewardship. OPEI has drafted an EPA Environmental Stewardship Plan. This plan includes a variety of events and speech suggestions for the Administrator.

*Milestones:*

- Approval and implementation of draft plan by Office of Public Affairs and Office of the Administrator -- ASAP
- Circulate to IAC a copy of communications strategy and encourage Agency-wide participation – Spring 2006

*Contact:* Sandy Germann

**Measurement tools for environmental stewardship activities (IAC, leadership by ORD and OPEI)** The IAC agreed to focus on two areas critical in establishing metrics for environmental stewardship – measurement of sustainability outcomes, and the measurement of stewardship behavior.

*Milestones:*

- (a) ORD-led staff group will report back to IAC on work to sharpen the six “sustainability outcome statements” included in *Everyday Choices* report and the Sustainability Research Strategy.
- (b) OPEI-led staff group will be formed to develop proposal

*Contacts:* (a) Diana Bauer (ORD); (b) TBD

**Measurement Tools: Pilot Sector Cross-Program Measures and Data Coordination (OECA)**

OECA will support the Environmental Assistance Network project to better plan, coordinate, and measure environmental assistance so as to help improve environmental performance by a specific pilot sector. The two candidate sectors are health care and construction, both of which OECA already supports via compliance assistance centers. The project goal is to identify opportunities for building common cross-program metrics and measurement approaches for the chosen sector. Common metrics and measurement approaches will address environmental assistance, pollution prevention and environmental stewardship efforts across EPA’s program offices. The project promotes effectiveness in helping organizations improve their environmental performance, and supports demonstration of results under Goal 5 of the Agency’s strategic plan.

*Milestones:*

- Sector selection will occur Spring 2006. OECA/OC and OPPT are hosting the calls and discussions.
- Over the next two years, the EAN project participants working on the selected sector will be tasked with identifying metrics of common interest or gaps in measurement; proposing standard cross-program metrics; tracking standard cross-program metrics; identifying where standard metrics may be applied (e.g., in the annual commitment system supporting national priorities) and promoting their use; and examining possible consolidation of reporting requirements and databases.

*Contact:* Tracy Back

**Measurement Tools: Economic and Decision Support Science (ORD)**

This ORD grants program will focus on better understanding of factors that affect human behavior. A current grant solicitation on Methodological Advances in Benefit Transfer Methods is open.

*Milestone:*

- Future solicitations will consider aspects of stewardship and sustainability, some of which were addressed at the ORD sponsored workshop on Economic Well-being, (See: [www.epa.gov/sustainability](http://www.epa.gov/sustainability))

*Contact:* Dinah Koehler, 202-564-9687

### **Measurement Tools: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Public Data Release (OEI)**

This annual event provides important information to the public about releases of around 650 toxic chemicals and chemical categories in their communities, allowing their informed initiation of and participation in activities related to stewardship of their local environments. In addition to simply providing information annually, EPA provides tools, including TRI Explorer ([www.epa.gov/triexplorer](http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer)) that facilitate retrieval of the information in many different formats and at different levels of analysis (e.g., sectors, geographic, chemical). Each year TRI Explorer has evolved, providing additional flexibility and tools for the public and progress is made in explaining the TRI data in context to encourage appropriate uses.

*Milestone:*

- TRI Public Data Release for 2004 TRI Data March 29, 2006

*Contact:* Ben Smith, 202-566-0816

### **Measurement Tools: Environmental Indicators Effort and Public Report on the Environment (OEI)**

In 2001, EPA launched its Environmental Indicators effort and developed its first ever Report on the Environment to report on what is known about national level environmental conditions. The Report also contains a discussion of gaps which is the basis for continuous improvement of the information available for Agency decision-making. EPA's public Report on the Environment contains national level indicators of environmental conditions and health trends. States and localities can use these trends as a benchmark to compare their environmental conditions and diseases trends to the rest of the nation. The availability of the indicator information thus supports ways that federal, state, and local governments can encourage and promote stewardship activities. The next Report on the Environment, due out in 2007, will include environmental conditions at and EPA Regional scale, and in the long-term the ideal is to have a set of indicators that describe conditions at national, regional, state, and local scales.

*Milestone:*

- Interagency Review of Draft Public Report on Environment Begins May, 2006

*Contact:* Heather Case, 202-566-0613

### **Sustainability Research Strategy (ORD)**

To allow decision-makers at all levels of government and in the private sector to choose action that will lead to achieving sustainable outcomes, ORD will advance research in five areas: Improve Systems Understanding, Develop Decision-Support Tools, Advance Technologies, Promote Collaborative Decision-Making, and Develop metrics and Indicators.

*Milestones:*

- New draft of strategy circulated to the IAC for review -- early May
- SAB review of strategy in June 2006
- Interagency Sustainability Research Summit, Winter 2006/7

*Contacts:* Alan Hecht, Diana Bauer

### **Utilize State Performance Partnership Mechanisms (PPA/PPG) to Address Stewardship Opportunities (R4)**

Region 4 proposes to add stewardship language and concepts to at least one state PPA and/or PPG and cooperate on associated activities. The region currently has a PPA and PPG with the State of Georgia, and PPGs with the States of South Carolina and Mississippi. We will broach the concept of incorporating stewardship language and activities into their commitments and support those efforts.

#### *Milestones:*

- June – August, 06 -- meetings with states to begin discussing next year commitments, specifically exploring environmental stewardship opportunities

*Contact:* Carol Monell

### **Vision 2020 (ORD)**

[See information above – 4. Lead by Example (EPA Environmental Performance)]

### **Strengthen EPA Partnership Programs (OPEI)**

Many of EPA's leading environmental stewardship efforts are partnership programs, carried out in conjunction with businesses, communities, government organizations and individuals. In 2004, the Deputy Administrator chartered an effort led by the IAC and OPEI to better coordinate and strengthen the Agency's growing number of partnership programs. This ongoing effort catalogs the existing programs, provides training and other assistance to them, and identifies policy concerns that may require more senior management attention. During 2006 we will enhance this effort to ensure that resources are being used effectively, that program performance is measured and reported, and that program managers are well-trained and well-informed.

#### *Milestones:*

- Initiate federal-state dialogue on voluntary programs, starting at the ECOS meeting – March 2006
- Complete agency-wide guidelines on program design, branding and measurement – June 2006
- Release report on agency-wide accomplishments by partnership programs – December 2006
- Second annual practitioners' workshop – January 2007

*Contact:* George Wyeth

### **EPA Collaborative Problem Solving (OPEI)**

A key element of environmental stewardship is collaborative problem solving. Under the direction of both former Administrator Leavitt and current Administrator Johnson, EPA has made significant investments in this area. We have developed a white paper (“Draft Discussion Paper – Solving Environmental Problems through Collaboration”) and a subsequent implementation plan (“Solving Environmental Problems through Collaboration - An Initial Action Plan”). The vision, as established through this process and articulated in these documents, is for EPA to “consistently achieve superior environmental outcomes by collaborating with others to solve environmental problems that no single party could solve on its own.”

#### *Milestones:*

- Establish and facilitate a Collaboration Practitioners Network to help identify, develop and test specific collaborative problem solving products, tools and services. – Kick-off in March 2006 with ongoing facilitation.
- Complete work with EPA Honors Awards Board to establish & refine options for rewarding and recognizing collaboration in EPA awards. – May 2006

*Contact:* Kimberly Green-Goldsborough

**Consideration of stewardship strategies and tools as part of EPA environmental problem solving (IAC, leadership by OPEI)** The IAC agreed to encourage the use of several stewardship strategies where appropriate and to revisit in the future how to incorporate these approaches in a more strategic way at EPA. Some potentially promising approaches include:

- Strategic use of challenge programs
- Strategies to engage individuals in environmental stewardship
- Use of recognition/awards programs
- Tapping market forces to encourage stewardship
- Moving toward “sustainable outcome” goals

*Milestones:* TBD

*Contacts:* TBD

**NACEPT Project on Environmental Stewardship and Cooperative Conservation (OCEM, OPEI)**

At the request of the Administrator, the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) is beginning a review of EPA’s activities that support Environmental Stewardship and Cooperative Conservation.

*Milestones:*

- Sept./Oct. 2006 – initial product to EPA
- Spring 2007 – final product to EPA

*Contacts:* Sonia Altieri (OCEM) and Derry Allen (OPEI)