

## **Environmental Financial Advisory Board**

### **Purpose and Goals**

A major environmental challenge of our time is paying for environmental facilities and services and creating incentives that promote environmental stewardship.

To address this issue, EPA created the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB), a federally chartered advisory committee. EFAB provides advice to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Program Offices on “how to pay” for environmental protection. EFAB provides authoritative analysis and advice to EPA on finance issues, and assists the Agency, communities and businesses in carrying out their environmental mandates.

The Board’s membership includes prominent experts from all levels of finance and government including elected officials; the finance and banking communities; business and industry; and national organizations. The Chair is Lyons Gray, a former North Carolina State Legislator and successful businessman from Winston Salem, N.C. EFAB’s Executive Director and Designated Federal Official is Stan Meiberg, Deputy Regional Administrator for EPA, Region 4 in Atlanta, Georgia. A key impetus for the Board is environmental legislation, which has placed additional resource requirements on governments, increasing their infrastructure and administrative costs.

EFAB works closely with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network. The nine EFC Directors are expert witnesses to the Environmental Financial Advisory Board. In this capacity, the directors share with EFAB their expertise on a wide variety of environmental and financing issues as well as latest lessons learned in working directly with regulated communities.

EFAB meets twice a year to discuss products, reports and plans for the future. The meetings are open to the public and announced in the Federal Register. EFAB has project groups that meet individually as needed.

The goals of EFAB are to:

- lower costs—EFAB proposes ways to remove financial and programmatic barriers that raise the cost of environmental protection;
- Increase public and private investment—EFAB proposes means of increasing public and private investment in environmental facilities and services. The Board also proposes ways to improve the efficiency of investment.; and
- Build state and local financial capacity—EFAB recommends ways to build state and local financial capacity necessary to carry out environmental mandates.

### **Advisories and Reports**

The Board’s work is guided by its Strategic Action Agenda and is organized in support of the five major goals in EPA’s Strategic Plan. EFAB annually applies these thematic goals in the context of the requirements in its charter to provide advice and recommendations to the Agency. Over the years, EFAB has had an impressive record of accomplishment, producing a variety of environmental policy and technical reports and advisories for the Agency that are available to the public. To view EFAB’s Strategic Action Agenda and reports and advisories, please visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/efab.htm>