

Environmental Technology Council Charter

Background

The United States continues to face difficult environmental challenges that often seem intractable or involve high costs. Innovative technologies often hold the key to cost effective, timely solutions that minimize environmental impacts. Governor Leavitt has identified technology as one of three critical elements to moving to a new level of effectiveness in environmental management.

Within the Agency, there are a number of programs and activities which foster the development and use of innovative technologies. By better coordinating and focusing these programs around priority environmental problems, EPA and its partners can better realize the potential that innovative technology brings to environmental protection.

In 2003, Congress mandated that EPA “develop a ‘one-stop-shop’ office to coordinate similar programs which foster private and public sector development of new, cost-effective environmental technologies”. In response to this requirement, EPA in a Report to Congress committed to establish a *‘one-stop-shop’ web site* linking the Agency’s technology programs and to establish an *environmental technology council*.

Purpose

The Environmental Technology Council (ETC) is established to coordinate and focus the Agency’s technology programs in order to:

- (1) improve results of core regulatory, enforcement and voluntary programs
- (2) facilitate innovative technology solutions to environmental problems and challenges, particularly problems with multi-media implications. The problems addressed will be clearly related to the Agency’s strategic plans, and focused on defined environmental outcomes.

Scope of Activity

Primary activities are to identify technology solutions:

1. Identify the priority environmental problems where technology is a critical factor in providing a cost- effective solution.
2. Screen the problems using stakeholder input to determine priority for the Council’s attention.
3. Set up temporary Action Teams to address problems. Each team will evaluate the status of possible technology solutions and recommend actions to address the problem.

Additional activities of the Council include:

4. Create an network of technology contacts in EPA and states to share information routinely through electronic and other communication.
5. Evaluate at appropriate intervals the effectiveness of ETC activities to enhance technology progress or adoption.
6. Serve as a central contact point for analyzing significant new technology proposals recommended by outside organizations or advisory groups such as NACEPT.

All activities will involve collaboration with other federal, state, and industry partners.

Membership

The ETC will include one or more representatives from each Agency, Program, and Regional Office. Representatives should be managers or senior technical staff with access to senior managers. Responsibilities of the representatives include the following:

- Participate in the monthly conference call
- Meet with appropriate office or regional staff to identify the most important environmental problem and develop a problem statement for the ETC
- Participate on the Action Team created to address your office or regional problem and other relevant Action Teams.
- Share information from the ETC activities with your region or office

The Council will also include representatives for the states and tribes. Lead contacts from other Agencies will serve in an adjunct capacity to the Council.

Organization

Reporting/Authority

The Environmental Technology Council will be established by the EPA Science Advisor in his role as Chair of the Science Policy Council (SPC). The Council will report to the EPA Science Advisor through the SPC.

Officers

The ETC will be co-chaired by senior representatives from ORD, a Region, and a Program.

Action Teams

Action teams will be composed of members of the Council and other appropriate personnel from EPA, states, tribes, and other Agencies. Action Teams are intended to be temporary and will exist as long as needed to meet defined objectives regarding particular environmental problems. The Council defines the charge for each Action Team, and teams will report progress to the Council for discussion and further action. Participation in any Action Team is voluntary. An example of a problem and team approach is attached.

Accountability

The ETC will develop an operating plan and submit it to the Science Policy Council no later than October 1st of each fiscal year. The operating plan will include performance measures with expected outcomes linked to the Agency's Strategic Goals.

Location and Support

The ETC will be organizationally supported by the Office of Research and Development for at least the first year of its existence. Changes in organizational support will be based on direction from the Science Policy Council. Support will include administrative support for meetings and other activities of the ETC and Action Teams. Additional contractor support will also be provided for data gathering, analyses, and related activities of the Action Teams needed to analyze technology status and recommend actions.