

Environmental Protection Agency's Draft OpenGov 2.0 Outline

In its OpenGov 2.0 Plan, EPA intends to continue moving forward with the momentum from previous efforts as well as introduce new efforts that support open government principles and Agency priorities. A summary of the new areas being considered for inclusion in the Agency's OpenGov plan 2.0 are provided below and are being shared with the intent of informing the public and inviting feedback.

The new candidates being considered for inclusion are listed below with details following:

1. Expanding Public Participation in Developing Regulations
2. Freedom of Information Act Module (Flagship)
3. Internal Workforce Collaboration
4. Science Based Decision Support Tools
5. Additional Data Related Activities

1) Expanding Public Participation in Developing Regulations

- In response to Section 2 of Executive Order 13563 *Improving Regulations and Regulatory Review*, EPA as the managing partner of the eRulemaking program is taking the following actions:
 - Complete overhaul of *Regulations.gov* that will include a new look and feel, more intuitive navigation, more accurate search results, and richer tools for assessing regulatory data and public comments
 - Application Programming Interface (APIs) that allow other government and non-government sites to repackage and incorporate eRulemaking data into their sites and applications-- broadening the reach and impact of eRulemaking's data and participation platform
 - Changes to the *Federal Docket Management System* that will include new agency tools to more efficiently manage input from the public and deliver it directly to federal policy makers
 - New efforts to leverage social media and partnerships with other agency and non-governmental organizations to improve outreach, public awareness, and public participation in the regulatory process
- These actions also support the Expansion of Public Participation in the Development of Regulations as part of the National Action Plan and in EPA's Customer Service Plan (12/2011)

2) Freedom of Information Act Module (Flagship)

- EPA is partnering with Commerce and NARA to develop a multi-agency Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) system to increase transparency, reduce costs, and streamline back-end processing.
- The module will offer EPA substantial cost savings and enhanced capabilities over its current solution. The module expands public access by providing the public the ability to submit FOIA requests online, track the status of their requests, and search for and view FOIA responses in the system.
- The new FOIA module will enable EPA and two other agencies the ability to receive and process FOIA requests, store requests and responses in an electronic records repository (compliant with the DOD 5015.2 standard), automatically generate the annual FOIA Report, and support the referral and transfer of FOIA requests and responsive documents.

- This effort supports:
 - The National Action Plan (NAP) commitment to “Continue to Improve Freedom of Act Administration” by harnessing the power of technology;
 - The NAP’s overarching theme of “Open Government to Increase Public Integrity” by increasing transparency and modernizing the management of government records;
 - Reducing duplication and eliminating redundancy: Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996; and
 - “Shared Service” concept from the 25 pt. plan to reform Federal Information Technology Management to increase return on investment (ROI), eliminate waste and duplication, improve the effectiveness of technology solutions, and reduce costs through shared approaches to program activities.

3) Internal Workforce Collaboration

- Supporting employee engagement is one of the tenets of the OpenGov directive, which recognized the integration within and across various disciplines within an organization can facilitate lasting beneficial change in how the organization operates.
- EPA is evaluating an enterprise solution for a professional networking environment to help employees work more efficiently and effectively by providing on-line tools with the capability to easily create on-line profiles, locate expertise, share files securely, create community/project workspaces, post and vote on innovative ideas, and conduct on-line discussions.
- Based on the findings of a several pilot efforts, it is anticipated that EPA will determine how best to support and foster internal collaboration Agency-wide.

4) Science Based Decision Support Tools

- Many environmental health risks are unknown or not easily understood. Tools are needed to provide critical information in a context and format that is understandable by decision-makers.
- EPA scientists are partnering with Agency community programs, American Indian tribal groups, and other Federal Agencies to design and refine two user-friendly Web-based decision support tools for improving access to relevant scientific information.
- The tools being developed are:
 - the Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST) which is being designed to facilitate local population-based cumulative exposure/risk assessments, and help identify and prioritize issues for risk ranking; and
 - the Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (Tribal-FERST) which will also incorporate information on unique considerations for assessing and fostering tribal well-being.
- Individual examples of applying these tools and assessing their benefit and utility will be developed and shared.

5) Additional Data Related Activities

EPA also intends to update its Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP) to coincide or shortly follow publication of the Agency's OpenGov 2.0 plan. The SDAP 2.0 will update commitments under the Agency's SDAP 1.0, and establish EPA's continuing commitments toward strategic data action in a number of key areas, including:

- Supporting Data.gov communities, and data liberation efforts;
- "Big data" and unstructured data contributions;
- Smart disclosure and other reporting enhancements;
- Aligning data registration and description efforts; and
- Linked open data.