

EMPACT Metropolitan Areas



Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY
 Albuquerque, NM
 Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA
 Anchorage, AK
 Atlanta, GA
 Austin-San Marcos, TX
 Bakersfield, CA
 Billings, MT
 Birmingham, AL
 Boise, ID
 Boston, MA
 Bridgeport, CT
 Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY
 Burlington, VT
 Charleston-North Charleston, SC
 Charleston, WV
 Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC
 Cheyenne, WY
 Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI
 Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN
 Cleveland-Akron, OH
 Columbus, OH
 Dallas-Fort Worth, TX
 Dayton-Springfield, OH

Denver-Boulder-Greenley, CO
 Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI
 El Paso, TX
 Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN
 Fresno, CA
 Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, MI
 Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point, NC
 Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, SC
 Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, PA
 Hartford, CT
 Honolulu, HI
 Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX
 Indianapolis, IN
 Jackson, MS
 Jacksonville, FL
 Kansas City, MO-KS
 Knoxville, TN
 Las Vegas, NV-AZ
 Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR
 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA

Louisville, KY-IN
 Memphis, TN-AR-MS
 Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Milwaukee-Racine, WI
 Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
 Nashville, TN
 New Orleans, LA
 New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA
 Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC
 Oklahoma City, OK
 Omaha, NE-IA
 Orlando, FL
 Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD
 Phoenix-Mesa, AZ
 Pittsburgh, PA
 Portland, ME
 Portland-Salem, OR-WA
 Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA
 Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC
 Richmond-Petersburg, VA

Rochester, NY
 Sacramento-Yolo, CA
 Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT
 San Antonio, TX
 San Diego, CA
 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA
 San Juan, PR
 Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, PA
 Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Springfield, MA
 St. Louis-E. St. Louis, MO-IL
 Stockton-Lodi, CA
 Syracuse, NY
 Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL
 Toledo, OH
 Tucson, AZ
 Tulsa, OK
 Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV
 West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, FL
 Wichita, KS
 Youngstown-Warren, OH

For more information on the EMPACT Program

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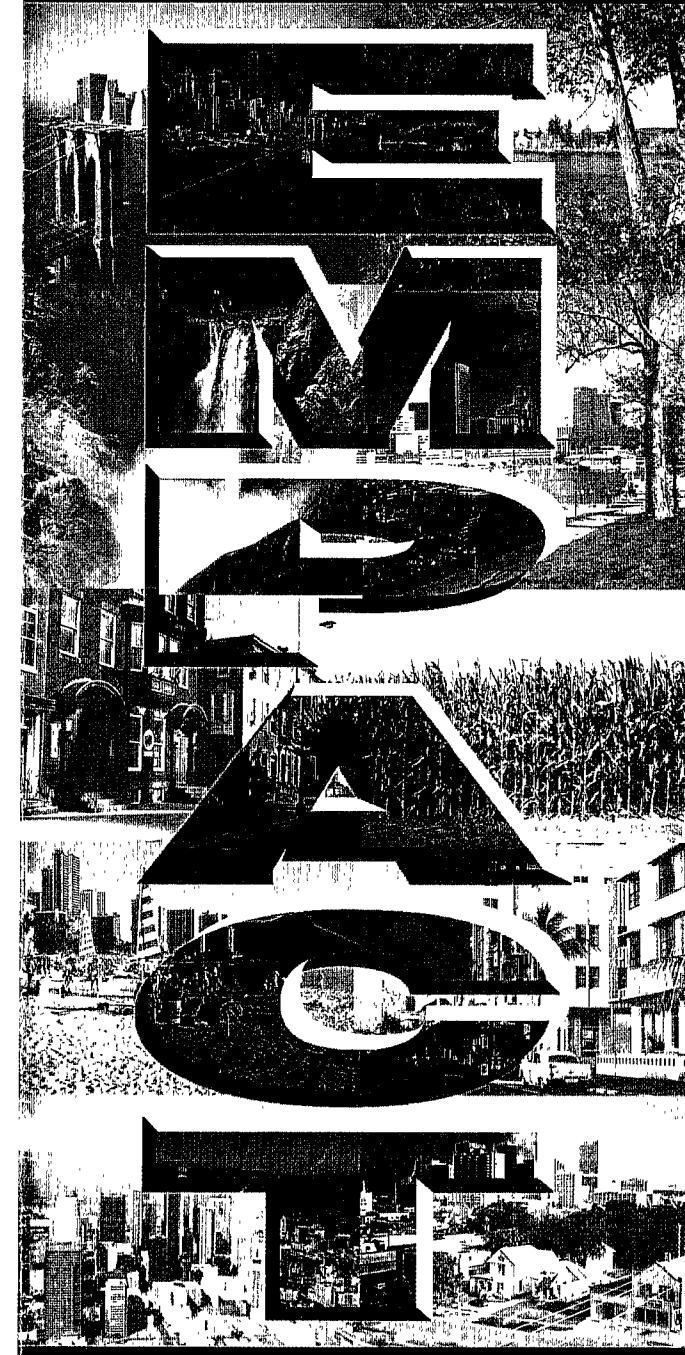
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 U.S. EPA (8722R)
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United States
 Environmental Protection
 Agency

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 EMPACT Program (8722R)



A NEW APPROACH TO PROVIDING TIMELY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE NATION

"We are committed to the vision of providing timely, useful, and accurate environmental and public-health information to all Americans. We are confident that, working together, we can make this vision a reality."

Carol Browner
U.S. EPA Administrator

What Is EMPACT?

It stands for **E**nvironmental **M**onitoring for **P**ublic **A**ccess and **C**ommunity **T**racking. It is a new approach to working with communities to collect, manage, and present environmental information.

What Will EMPACT Do?

It aims to work with communities to make timely, accurate, and understandable environmental information available to millions of people in the largest metropolitan areas across the country (see list of EMPACT metropolitan areas) so that communities and individuals can make informed, day-to-day decisions about their lives.

Why EMPACT?

What is the ozone level today? Last weekend the beach was closed. Have the conditions at the beach changed? What is in the soil in the park where our kids will play this afternoon? Tom just brought in string of perch from the lake. Are there any local fish advisories?

Answers to these and dozens of other questions about the environment are important because they affect our daily lives. In the past, the answers to these questions were unavailable or often slow in coming. And when you did get them, chances are the answers were outdated and difficult to understand.

To address this problem, in 1996 President Clinton directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create a new program—EMPACT—to bring to people up-to-date environmental information they could understand and use every day. Giant leaps in modern technology can now make this daily environmental information possible.

How Will EMPACT Work?

To improve the delivery of accurate, timely, and useful environmental and public-health information directly to communities and individuals, EPA will work with EMPACT communities to:

- Put the latest technology to work in keeping track of environmental conditions.
- Present in plain language the information the communities want to know.
- Ensure that information is not only accurate but also useful.

EPA and the communities will use a variety of methods to provide environmental information. Depending on community preferences, these may include: Internet, compact disks, television, radio, newspaper, fliers, flags, billboards, town-hall meetings, community organizations, person-to-person communications, and environmental "teller machines."

EPA plans to reach its EMPACT goals by using two distinct approaches: EPA projects, and pilot projects initiated by EMPACT metropolitan areas.

EPA Projects

EPA has started a number of pilot projects that working with communities will provide environmental information to communities and individuals by means of the latest measurement, information management, and communications technologies. These initial EPA projects, for example, will:

- Develop improved air quality tracking systems for the Cleveland area.
- Provide immediate clean-water information at Los Angeles beaches.
- Provide daily ultraviolet index information to help children avoid harmful exposure.
- Keep better track of water quality in selected urban areas.
- Provide up-to-date air quality information in a clear, understandable format.
- Keep track of water quality in Long Island Sound.
- Reduce the risk of lead exposure to children in their own backyards in the Boston area.
- Provide information on contamination at hazardous-waste sites.
- Keep track of toxic air pollutants in the San Francisco area.
- Provide information on violations of clean-water laws.

EPA will work with communities and local stakeholders to ensure that environmental information is communicated in a way that meets the community's needs for up-to-date and reliable information.

Pilot Projects Initiated by EMPACT Communities

EPA has earmarked \$3.5 million for locally sponsored pilot projects in 1998. These projects may deal with clean air, clean water, lead assessment, ocean pollution, overall ecosystem quality, or other important environmental aspects where Americans live, work, learn and play. EPA will support local projects that show innovative and effective ways to keep track of—and deliver on time—important and useful environmental information. This involves three key activities:

- Measuring—using up-to-date or innovative technology to keep track of the latest information on environmental quality.

- Processing and managing information—interpreting environmental variables and characteristics by means of new or innovative technology.
- Communicating—delivering easily understood, useful, and timely information to the public.

Who Is Eligible for Community Pilot Projects?

Local governments representing any of the EMPACT U.S. metropolitan areas are eligible to apply for pilot projects. Projects must be located in one or more of the EMPACT metropolitan areas.

The deadline for applications for 1998 projects was May 15, 1998. Awards will be announced in the fall of 1998, and will range from \$250,000 to \$600,00. An opportunity to apply for 1999 awards will be announced by the end of 1998.

The most competitive proposals for pilot projects will be developed in association with others. These could include State or local governments, community groups, universities, private corporations, and EPA. Whatever the combination, these groups would stay with a project from start to finish.

Partnerships

As mentioned above, EPA will coordinate EMPACT activities among Federal, State, Indian tribal, and local governments. Additionally, stakeholders, such as community health officials, businesses, industries, schools, and environmental organizations will be involved.

To help make EMPACT work, EPA will work closely with two other Federal agencies: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The resources and expertise of these two agencies will help EPA achieve nationwide consistency in measuring environmental data, managing that data, and effectively delivering it to the public. Data obtained from both NOAA and USGS will also help EPA get a truer, more complete picture of our environment, coast to coast.

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