

OVERVIEW TO EPA'S FY 2014 NPM GUIDANCES

I. Purpose

This new overview to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) FY 2014 National Program Manager (NPM) Guidances provides background information and highlights their common elements and themes. This document should be reviewed in conjunction with each of the FY 2014 NPM Guidances and other applicable requirements to gain a complete understanding of FY 2014 priorities and implementation strategies.

II. Background Information on the FY 2014 NPM Guidances

The FY 2014 NPM Guidances provide a national framework for regional, state, and tribal implementation of EPA's [FY 2014 Annual Plan and Budget](#) and [Strategic Plan](#)¹ to advance the Agency's mission. Regions use the NPM Guidances to establish work plans and work-sharing strategies with states, tribes, and other partners.

EPA's FY 2011 – 2015 Strategic Plan	
Strategic Goals	Cross-Cutting Fundamental Strategies
1. Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Air Quality	1. Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism
2. Protecting America's Waters	2. Working for Environmental Justice and Children's Health
3. Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development	3. Advancing Science, Research, and Technological Innovation
4. Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution	4. Strengthening State, Tribal, and International Partnerships
5. Enforcing Environmental Laws	5. Strengthening EPA's Workforce and Capabilities

The FY 2014 NPM Guidances reflect four over-arching themes for program implementation:

- Increase coordination and collaboration across the Agency and federal government and with states, tribes, and other implementation partners;
- Expedite program delivery (e.g., grant awards, obligation, and liquidation of obligated funds);
- Where appropriate, provide flexibility for states and tribes to achieve national program goals within existing laws, requirements, strategies, and guidance; and
- Encourage continued use of technology and other tools to achieve program goals and to report and measure program progress to inform decision making.

The six FY 2014 NPM Guidances² reflect a new streamlined and consistent format, focusing on environmental program delivery with regions, states, and tribes. The Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) provide additional Guidances that focus primarily on internal Agency-specific efforts. Also there is a list of the National Areas of Focus and Program-Specific Guidance included in each of these documents available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/planandbudget/focus-areas-final-fy-2014-npm-guidances>.

III. FY 2014 Cross-Program Areas

This section includes cross-program areas that are key to effective implementation of EPA's FY 2014 environmental programs and, where appropriate, incorporate strategies and measures for cross-program area implementation. While some NPM Guidances may not specifically reference a cross-program area,

¹ The EPA *Strategic Plan* is currently being updated for FY 2014-2018 and will be available in February 2014 at the following website: <http://www2.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>

² Office of Water (OW), Office of Environmental Compliance and Assurance (OECA), Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), and National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS).

program implementation activities should follow the guidelines set forth in this section, as appropriate (e.g., Title VI, Quality Program). The eleven cross-program areas are described and grouped below into four broad categories and include some examples of expectations for advancing work in the NPM Guidances.

Serving and Protecting Communities

EPA will focus attention on outreach to and protection for communities, especially those historically underrepresented in decision making. EPA will continue to build strong working relationships with tribes, communities of color, economically distressed cities and towns, and the public to implement environmental programs and to ensure the protection of vulnerable subpopulations, with a targeted focus on children.

- **Communities.** EPA will work with communities to assess and address sources of pollutants at the local level and, in particular, those communities disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens. For example, OCSPP and OAR will work to reduce risks from environmental exposures to children in schools through implementation of Integrated Pest Management and Indoor Air Quality management programs.
- **Environmental Justice (EJ).** EPA will continue to use [Plan EJ 2014](#), EPA's roadmap to integrate EJ efforts into program development and implementation activities. *Plan EJ 2014* tools, guidances, and strategies include: EJ Legal Tools, EJSCREEN, rulemaking, permitting, community-based programs, and collaborative efforts with other federal agencies. For example, the OW Urban Waters Program will advance EJ goals by developing tools for local action at the community level and providing technical support and funding for place-based projects through various initiatives like the Urban Waters Small Grants Program and grants funded by EPA, the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program funds managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.
- **Children's Health.** EPA continues to place a high priority on [protecting children's health](#) and has developed tasks and measures to ensure regional implementation of policies, programs, and standards which address disproportionate risks to children. For example, OCSPP and OAR will work to reduce risks from environmental exposures to children in schools through implementation of Integrated Pest Management and Indoor Air Quality management programs.
- **Tribal Programs.** EPA is committed to enhancing meaningful collaboration with tribal governments to implement and assure compliance with environmental programs protective of human health and the environment consistent with [Executive Order 13175 on Consultation with Indian Tribal Governments](#) and [EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Tribes](#). For example, OSWER will promote actions that enable tribes to develop integrated waste management plans in Indian Country.

Integrating Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation into Agency Programs

Efforts are underway to further incorporate principles of sustainability and climate change adaptation into EPA's core programs and functions.

- **Sustainability.** EPA will advance [sustainability](#) by collaborating with stakeholders and applying sustainability principles to core Agency programs and functions³. EPA will routinely consider the following principles in decisions and actions, as appropriate: (1) conserve, protect, restore and improve the supply and quality of natural resources and environmental media (energy, water, materials, ecosystems, land, air) over the long term; (2) align and integrate programs, tools, incentives and indicators to enhance environmental, economic and social systems; and (3) consider the full life cycles of multiple resources, processes and pollutants in order to prevent problems and pollution and to create a sustainable future.
- **Climate Change.** EPA is committed to addressing the impacts of [climate change](#) through its major programs and initiatives. NPM and regional climate change adaptation plans will include specific priority actions for integrating adaptation planning into Agency programs, policies, rules, guidance, and operations to ensure their effectiveness even as the climate changes. These adaptation plans reflect the

³ This effort is consistent with the recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council) report, [Sustainability and the U.S. EPA](#).

Administration's government-wide efforts to safeguard the health and security of communities, economies, and infrastructure from changing climate conditions.

Using Innovative Approaches to Accomplish the Agency's Mission

EPA will continue to use innovative approaches to achieve the Agency's mission by modernizing government operations; reducing reporting burden; increasing use of environmental information and new business models; and ensuring data quality.

- **E-Enterprise.** E-Enterprise for the Environment is a joint initiative of EPA and its partners to improve environmental outcomes and dramatically enhance service to the regulated community and the public by maximizing the use of advanced monitoring and information technologies, optimizing operations, and increasing transparency. This initiative will expand the use of advanced monitoring technology so government, regulated entities, and the public will have improved access to information on sources of pollutants and environmental conditions. E-Enterprise also will transform how EPA develops and maintains information systems, including the creation of shared services and a new EPA portal to provide the public and the regulated community with the ability to conduct business with EPA electronically.
- **Exchange Network (EN).** EPA plans to continue to expand the use of [EN](#) to share critical program data with states and tribes, thereby lowering costs, increasing data quality and timeliness, and promoting more informed environmental decision making. OEI plans to collaborate with states and tribes to develop services, tools, and applications to make data shared over EN available to environmental program staff and managers at all levels of government and to the public.
- **Quality Program.** EPA's Quality Program enhances and in turn ensures the quality of data and information used in environmental decision making. All EPA environmental operations, as well as state, local, and tribal governments receiving financial assistance under the authority of 40 CFR 31 and 35, are required to comply with the Quality Assurance requirements found in [EPA Order CIO 2105.0 \(formerly 5360.1 A2\): Policy and Program Requirements for the Mandatory Agency-Wide Quality System](#). When the Quality Standard (CIO 2106-S-02), which will replace CIO 2105.0, is issued, further guidance will be provided about the effective implementation dates.

Ensuring Compliance with Title VI and Grants Policy

Recipients of EPA financial assistance must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EPA Grant Policy Guidances, in addition to other applicable regulations, policies, and requirements.

- **Title VI.** Ensuring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is an Agency priority. All recipients of EPA financial assistance have an obligation to implement effective [Title VI](#) compliance programs and ensure their actions do not involve discriminatory treatment and do not have discriminatory effects. The FY 2014 NEPPS Guidance provides details regarding Title VI requirements.
- **Grants Policy.** EPA will continue to implement the "[Timely Obligation, Award, and Expenditure of EPA Grant Funds](#)" policy in conjunction with our implementation partners to streamline grant processes and improve the timeliness for award and utilization of EPA grants. The individual NPM Guidances provide additional information regarding how the Grants Policy applies to their programmatic activities and applicable grant guidances.