

Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities FY 2014 Annual Action Plan

This Annual Action Plan lists a limited set of transformative actions that EPA will work cross-Agency to carry out in FY 2014 to achieve the goals of the FY14-FY18 Cross-Agency Strategy for Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities. The actions in this plan will enable EPA to make more visible progress in enhancing the livability and economic vitality of neighborhoods. This plan draws from the experience of a wide range of existing community-based activities and is intended to advance those practices into all the work occurring across the Agency. NPMs will integrate community-based work within and across core programs to maximize results in communities.

Strengthen EPA's Community of Practice

- Improve existing mapping, tracking and reporting to strengthen EPA's nationally-consistent platforms (EPA's GeoPlatform and GeoGrants). These platforms not only illustrate the places where EPA's national regulatory and regional efforts impact communities, but also enable collaboration, strategic prioritization and communication relevant to our work that benefits communities.
 - *Develop an implementation plan for a mapping, tracking and reporting system (using Region 1's Community Action Tracker (CAT) as a model) that will provide a nationally-consistent platform.*
 - *Improve staff usability of GeoPlatform and GeoGrants.*
- Expand the OSWER Community SharePoint site and other means to transfer knowledge and training resources Agency-wide to EPA community specialists and all EPA staff.

Empower Communities and our Staff with New Tools

- Publicly release EJScreen and other completed tools to empower communities and other stakeholders with information on harmful exposures and health risks to children and underserved, overburdened communities.
- Integrate select competitive grants under a single consolidated program at the regional level, and maximize use of community-based criteria in broad range of grant awards.
 - *Prepare a plan for each region to replicate, as appropriate, Region 1's "Healthy Communities" grant program in FY15, integrating select competitive grants and aligning timing of other grants announcements.*
 - *Maximize use of a universal set of community-based evaluation criteria competitive solicitations.*
 - *Begin feasibility analysis of integrating community factors into certain non-competitive grant programs.*
 - *Increase NPM/Regional use of the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) contract to support communities without the internal capacity to manage grants.*

- Develop a single Community Web microsite to provide local government officials and other community leaders with a “one-stop shop” that enables them to identify and more easily navigate information about programs and resources that match their needs.

Seek Opportunities for Leveraging

- Further leverage resources through new opportunities with HUD/DOT/other agencies to achieve better environmental and health results in communities.
 - *Identify new leveraging opportunities with federal agencies (e.g., HUD disaster recovery funds, USDA investments in rural communities), and assess current partnership grant alignment efforts.*