EPA Open Government Progress Report and Summary of Changes to Plan - June 2010

Contents and Highlights

Addressed in this document/update to EPA's Open Government Plan Version 1.0:
- ✓ Improvements identified since the April 7, 2010 release of our plan
  - ▪ Getting to Green 🟢 , EPA's self-evaluation based on OMB scorecard
  - ▪ External Review/Evaluation (OMB Watch: Openthegovernment.org)

Additional highlights and links to more information:
- ✓ Inventory of current and future Data.gov data sets
  http://www.epa.gov/open/Data_Set_Inventory0625.pdf
  - ▪ Helps the public understand our data sets and meets two OMB scorecard requirements
  - ▪ Provides background information including: a simple description, links to Data.gov and system information, intended audience, mission-related priorities supported, and the type of high-value information represented
- ✓ Data sets addressing public requests – TSCA Inventory data set requested by the public is now the top requested EPA data set and among top 5 government-wide
- ✓ EPA Strategic Plan – First time a draft is open for public comment http://blog.epa.gov/strategicplan/
- ✓ New participation opportunities – See http://www.epa.gov/open/
- ✓ Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Update http://www.epa.gov/foia/open_gov.html
  - ▪ Created MyPropertyInfo search tool to address real estate FOIAs http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/fii/myproperty.html
- ✓ Measures – The Open Government Implementation Work Group and Strategic Data Action Plan Team are evaluating current measures to leverage what exists and add where needed in defining Open Government measures
- ✓ Web Site Restructuring – Initiated web restructuring project with 8 microsite and resource directory pilots to improve targeted audience communication through content review and topic-driven consolidation

Getting to Green 🟢

Inventory of High-Value Data

Self-Evaluation Criteria (#5): Does the plan contain a strategic action plan that inventories agency high-value information currently available for download?

Update/Actions:
- ✓ EPA also created an inventory of information that is currently on Data.gov or will soon be posted on Data.gov; the inventory is a single place to help the public understand what the data set is and contains, who suggested it be published, the targeted audience, the Agency mission-related priorities addressed, and the type of high-value data
- ✓ The Data Inventory can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/open/Data_Set_Inventory0625.pdf

Enhances/updates Section II.B of the Plan V1.0   *(continued)*

Getting to Green ● (continued)

Meeting Needs of Key Audiences

<u>Self-Evaluation Criteria (#9)</u>: Does the plan identify key audiences for information and their needs, and the agency endeavors to publish high-value information for each of those audiences in the most accessible forms and formats?

<u>Update/Actions</u>:
- ✓ The plan defines key stakeholders and describes the National Dialogue project EPA undertook in 2008 to hear what our stakeholders want (http://www.epa.gov/nationaldialogue/index.html)
- ✓ A summary of what we heard and are evaluating can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/open/NationalDialogue.pdf
- ✓ EPA's Data Inventory http://www.epa.gov/open/Data_Set_Inventory0625.pdf identifies the targeted audience for each data set

<u>Enhances/updates Section III.A of the Plan V1.0</u>

Free Reuse of EPA Materials

<u>Self-Evaluation Criteria (#10)</u>: Is there a plan to demarcate educational material as free for re-use?

<u>Update/Actions</u>:
- ✓ EPA has a web site (http://www.epa.gov/nscep/) that provides free access EPA publications, and we have more than 7,000 print publications in stock and 35,000 digital titles
  - The public can search and retrieve, download, print and/or order EPA publications from this site
  - Publications on these sites are government material and not copyrighted; therefore, these materials can be reused for educational or other purposes
  - Any materials in EPA libraries that are copyrighted are marked accordingly
- ✓ In addition, educational materials geared to students and teachers for their reuse can be found at http://www.epa.gov/epahome/students.htm, accessible from EPA's home page and OpenGov page; the site also provides links to training opportunities and materials for environmental professionals

<u>Enhances/updates Section IV.B.3 of the Plan V1.0</u>

Congressional Response Transparency

<u>Self-Evaluation Criteria (#15b)</u>: Staffing, organizational structure, and process for responding to Congressional requests?

<u>Update/Actions</u>:
- ✓ EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) is responsible for responding to Congressional requests
- ✓ OCIR's web site provides their staffing and organizational structure, as well as EPA's process for responding to Congressional requests http://www.epa.gov/ocir/about.htm

<u>Enhances/updates Section II.C.2 of the Plan V1.0</u>

External Review/Evaluation

Approach

- ✓ EPA received comments and input on our Open Government Plan V1.0 from two types of sources:
    - Public/other comments via established avenues (i.e. IdeaScale, OG email)
    - OpenTheGovernment.org, who conducted an independent audit of all Open Government plans across government
- ✓ EPA reviewed the recommendations from these external reviews/evaluation and addressed recommendations as appropriate
- ✓ Many external comments are being evaluated or have been addressed
- ✓ In this section we respond directly to the independent review by OpenTheGovernment.org

Communications

Recommendation: The Agency's plan would be strengthened by the inclusion of a communications policy that clearly describes the rules governing interactions between the public and agency staff; such a communications policy should break down existing barriers that limit access to agency expertise and stifle scientific discourse.
Update/Actions:
- ✓ EPA is evaluating this recommendation within our established Open Government Governance process and will provide updates on the status in conjunction with our quarterly reporting process

Enhances/updates Section I.G.4 of the Plan V1.0

Stakeholders

Recommendation: The agency should be more specific when identifying the stakeholders it will reach out to for its Flagship Initiatives.
Update/Actions:
- ✓ Flagship projects are at various stages of maturity
- ✓ With this Progress report we have identified the stakeholders for our Chesapeake Bay project and others will be updated as they are identified
- ✓ Track their quarterly progress from our Open site
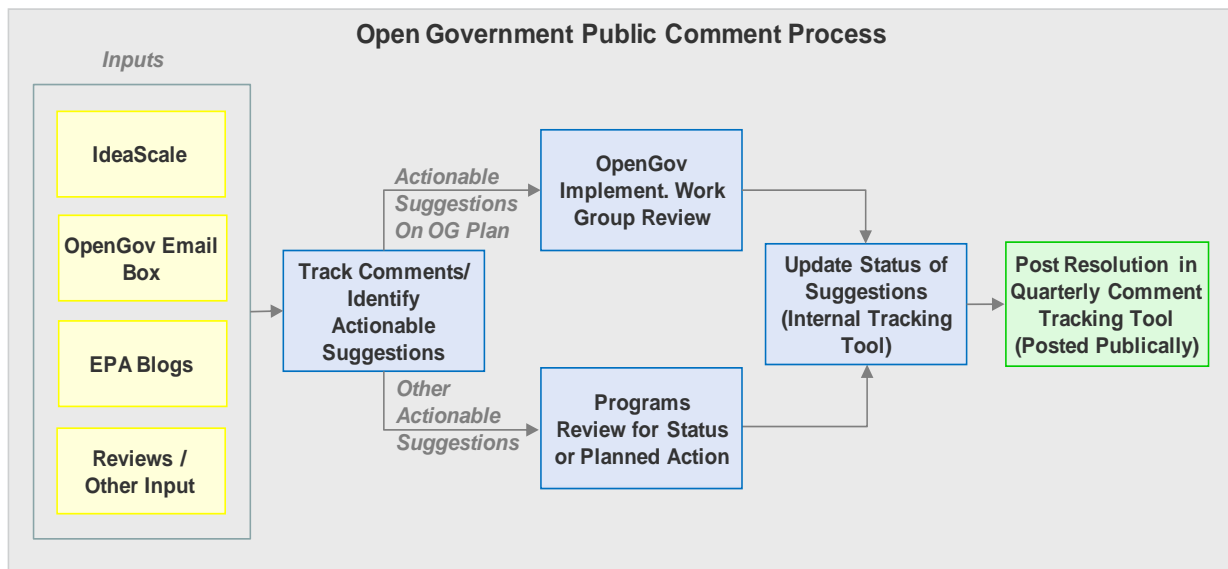
See Community Engagement Flagship Summary at http://www.epa.gov/open/flagship/progress.pdf

Actions to address public comments

Approach

EPA received many suggestions through the various sources created to support the development of our Open Government Plan Version 1.0 and post plan publication

- ✓ We have established the process illustrated below for assessing and acting on top vote getting public comments
- ✓ While not all recommendations could be acted upon within the past three months, EPA has addressed the 5 top vote getting suggestions in the Open Government Plan Version 1.1

Open Government Public Comment Process

Inputs

| IdeaScale |
| OpenGov Email Box |
| EPA Blogs |
| Reviews / Other Input |

→ Track Comments/ Identify Actionable Suggestions

Actionable Suggestions On OG Plan → OpenGov Implement. Work Group Review →

Other Actionable Suggestions → Programs Review for Status or Planned Action →

Update Status of Suggestions (Internal Tracking Tool) → Post Resolution in Quarterly Comment Tracking Tool (Posted Publically)

Inventories of Incoming Comments

We captured and are tracking the following sources of comments

- ✓ IdeaScale
  - ▪ All suggestions are viewable at http://www.openepa.ideascale.com/
- ✓ EPA Blog Comments
  - ▪ Actionable Suggestions captured from Plan 1.0
    http://www.epa.gov/open/BlogComments.pdf
- ✓ Public emails to EPA's Open Gov address
  - ▪ Actionable Suggestions summarized and categorized
    http://www.epa.gov/open/public_email.pdf

Enhances/updates Section IV.B.4 of the Plan V1.0