

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

EPA'S 2009-2014 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA)¹ requires federal departments and agencies to update their strategic plans every three years. Pursuant to this requirement, EPA will deliver a final *2009-2014 Strategic Plan* revision to the Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget by September 30, 2009. As in prior EPA *Strategic Plans*, the 2009-2014 update provides a framework for Agency annual planning, budgeting, and accountability by identifying the measurable environmental and human health outcomes the public can expect over the next five years and describing how we intend to achieve those results.

EPA's 2009-2014 Strategic Plan update is different from the revisions to previous *Plans*. The *2009-2014 Strategic Plan* is due to Congress on September 30, 2009. This deadline necessitates that the Agency begins the *Strategic Plan* update process under the current Administration and completes it under the next administration. As a result, the Agency has revised the process for the *Plan's* development by focusing efforts on a limited number of targeted areas and by developing EPA's *2009-2014 Strategic Plan Change Document* for review and comment at this time.

OVERVIEW OF 2009-2014 STRATEGIC PLAN CHANGE DOCUMENT

In response to recommendations from EPA's partners and stakeholders, the Agency developed this *Change Document* to provide a better context for proposed updates in the strategic performance measurement framework—the Agency's long-term goals, objectives, sub-objectives, and strategic measures.

Section 2 of this *Change Document* highlights proposed new or significantly different strategies identified for relevant targeted areas within EPA's five strategic goals.

Section 3 provides an overview of the most significant proposed changes to EPA's strategic performance measurement framework. Section 3 also presents a side-by-side comparison of the current (2006-2011) and proposed (2009-2014) strategic performance measurement framework.

TARGETED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

In EPA's *2009-2014 Strategic Plan* update, the Agency is focusing on a limited number of targeted areas where we believe new or significant changes in strategies or performance measurement are most critical in helping the Agency to better achieve and measure environmental and human health outcomes. These targeted areas include:

- Reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
- Sustainable Agriculture

- Impacts of Global Climate Change
- Contaminants
- Import Safety
- Improving Program Implementation in Indian Country
- Enforcement/Compliance Measurement Approach
- Research Strategic Directions and Targets
- Environmental Indicators, Monitoring, and Related Information

Most of these involve cross-program activities, which will result in outcomes under more than one strategic goal. In developing this set of targeted areas, EPA considered data and analyses from many sources, including program priorities, trend analyses, and scientific data and reports. One important source of information was EPA's *2008 Report on the Environment (RoE)*.² Many of these targeted areas are supported by environmental indicator information in the *RoE*. For example:

- GHG emissions and concentrations are among the few adverse trends in the *RoE*.
- Many indicators point to degraded environmental conditions associated with agriculture and fertilizer use.
- The *RoE* identifies undesirable trends in U.S. and global air temperatures, sea surface temperatures, precipitation, and sea level.
- Indicators of contaminants in lake and coastal fish and coastal sediment quality show that legacy chemicals are still a problem.
- Pesticide residues in food increased from 2003 through 2005.
- The *RoE* identified information gaps and limitations in our understanding of the relationship between contaminants and disease, greenhouse gas emissions, wetland conditions, and the effects of land use on the environment and human health.

In addition to supporting many of the targeted areas, data that support indicators included in the *RoE* also support approximately 33 of the Agency's long-term (strategic) performance measures included in EPA's *2006-2011 Strategic Plan* and that are proposed for inclusion in the *2009-2014 Strategic Plan*.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

This *2009-2014 Strategic Plan Change Document* is accessible through EPA's Internet web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>. The web site includes a comments link for the public to provide feedback and suggestions to the Agency electronically. Written comments may be provided to:

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NEXT STEPS

Aided by comments the Agency receives on this *Change Document*, and after discussions with members of the new administration, the Agency will develop a full-text draft of the *2009-2014 Strategic Plan*, which will be available for public review and comment in late spring 2009. EPA will then release the final *Plan* by September 30, 2009, as required by GPRA.

EPA's *2009-2014 Strategic Plan* will be much shorter than previous *Plans*. For example, the discussion of EPA's long-term strategies will focus on the most important proposed changes in the Agency's programs and approaches to achieve environmental and human health outcomes. In addition, the strategic performance measurement framework will be consolidated into an appendix, rather than incorporated into the body of the *Plan*. These changes are intended to make the *Plan* more readable and useful.

¹ Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (PL 103-62). Available from: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/gplaw2m.html>.

² U.S. EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment (Final Report) (EPA/600/R-07/045F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC: 366p. Available from: <http://www.epa.gov/roe/>.