

Working with Partners - Fostering Innovation

States, Tribes and Provinces are important partners with EPA Region 10 in delivering environmental protection and stewardship in the Pacific Northwest Region. We invite our partners to join and help to shape a mutual effort to improve our collective capacity to consider and act on innovative ideas.

We are working to ensure that everyone in our organization, top to bottom, takes the time and has it as part of their job to thoughtfully and openly hear and consider innovative ideas. Together with our partner organizations we have an outstanding pool of thoughtful, innovative and motivated employees who are more than capable of advancing our work to meet our environmental protection challenges. EPA's National Innovation Strategy (http://www.epa.gov/innovation/plan/final4_10.pdf) envisions and supports our effort to improve our collective innovative capacity.

We expect that employees will initially use the "normal" process in the organization to "float" an innovative idea (see 1 - 3 below). If the normal process does not achieve results or resolve the issue we then provide a senior-level sounding board, the Regional Innovation Council (RIC) as a resource. The RIC will facilitate the consideration of innovative proposals and, in general, foster the creative problem-solving efforts of employees.

The idea promotion process might go something like this:



1. Do your innovative thinking.

Here are some of the questions to ask yourself and your immediate

- Is this idea consistent with your priorities?
- Is the potential payback worth the investment?
- Is it technically and legally feasible?
- Are you committed to the idea at a senior level in your immediate organization?
- Are you willing to invest the resources to make it happen?

organization about the idea:

Unsure of what program or person to approach at EPA about an idea?

Call Bill Glasser at
206 553-7215
or toll-free at
800 424-4372

2. Talk to your program colleagues and make it happen.

Talk with your colleagues in your organization about your idea. Get their opinions and ideas and move forward if you can agree (with approval, if needed). If you reach an agreement then consider the appropriate steps such as: get a commitment from senior management, develop a work plan, have it incorporated into the Performance Partnership Agreement when the timing is right, etc..

DONE? Great Work! Tell the RIC about your work.

Run into a barrier?

3. Elevate the idea.

Have a senior manager in your organization approach their organization(s) with the idea. If you reach an agreement then such as: get a commitment from senior management, develop a work Performance Partnership Agreement when the timing is right, etc..

DONE? Great Work! Tell the RIC about your work.



counterpart in the other consider the appropriate steps plan, have it incorporated into the

Still feeling stuck? . . .

4. If you think your Idea was unfairly shot down or not adequately heard.

Contact Bill Glasser 206 553-7215, toll-free - 800 424-4372. Bill can help you sharpen an idea/proposal and help you prepare to bring your proposal to the Regional Innovation Council. The RIC is a senior level sounding board in EPA Region 10 to promote innovative ideas and creative problem-solving.

