

Enacted in 1993, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) places new management expectations and requirements on federal agencies by creating a framework for more effective planning, budgeting, program evaluation, and fiscal accountability for federal programs. The intent of GPRA is to improve public confidence in federal agency performance by holding agencies accountable for achieving program results. Departments and agencies must clearly describe the goals and objectives of their programs, identify resources and actions needed to accomplish these goals and objectives, develop a means of measuring their progress, and regularly report on their achievements. This approach will also serve to improve congressional decisionmaking by clarifying and stating program performance goals, costs, and results "up front."

EPA developed a system for planning, budgeting and accountability, based upon the GPRA framework, which will provide the information and structure for EPA and its stakeholders to make more informed decisions on environmental priorities and the strategies that can best achieve those results. Key system implementation efforts include developing EPA goals, updating the Agency strategic plan, guiding the development of performance plans, analyzing the process and criteria by which the Agency determines its priorities, and constructing a new accountability system.