

EPA's Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment--air, water, and land--upon which life depends. EPA's purpose is to ensure that:

- All Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn, and work.
- National efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information.
- Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.
- Environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy.
- All parts of society--communities, individuals, business, state and local governments, and tribal governments--have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks.
- Environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable, and economically productive.
- The United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.

EPA's Goals

EPA has developed a series of ten strategic, long-term Goals in its Strategic Plan. These goals, together with the underlying principles that will be used to achieve them, define the Agency's planning, budgeting, analysis, and accountability process.

- \$ **Clean Air:** The air in every American community will be safe and healthy to breathe. In particular, children, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments will be protected from health risks of breathing polluted air. Reducing air pollution will also protect the environment, resulting in many benefits, such as restoring life in damaged ecosystems and reducing health risks to those whose subsistence depends directly on those ecosystems.
- \$ **Clean and Safe Water:** All Americans will have drinking water that is clean and safe to drink. Effective protection of America's rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and coastal and ocean waters will sustain fish, plants, and wildlife, as well as recreational, subsistence, and economic activities. Watersheds and their aquatic ecosystems will be restored and protected to improve public health, enhance water quality, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife.
- \$ **Safe Food:** The foods Americans eat will be free from unsafe pesticide residues. Children especially will be protected from the health threats posed by pesticide residues, because they are among the most vulnerable groups in our society.
- \$ **Preventing Pollution and Reducing Risk in Communities, Homes, Workplaces and Ecosystems:** Pollution prevention and risk management strategies aimed at cost-effectively eliminating, reducing, or minimizing emissions and contamination will result in cleaner and safer environments in which all Americans can reside, work, and enjoy life. EPA will safeguard ecosystems and promote the health of natural communities that are integral to the quality of life in this nation.
- \$ **Better Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Waste Sites, and Emergency Response:** America's wastes will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and to the natural environment. EPA will work to clean up previously polluted sites, restoring them to uses appropriate for surrounding communities, and respond to and prevent waste-related or industrial accidents.
- \$ **Reduction of Global and Cross-Border Environmental Risks:** The United States will lead other nations in successful, multilateral efforts to reduce significant risks to human health and ecosystems from climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, and other hazards of international concern.

\$ **Expansion of Americans' Right to Know About Their Environment:** Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange between scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens, and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it.

\$ **Sound Science, Improved Understanding of Environmental Risk, and Greater Innovation to Address Environmental Problems:** EPA will develop and apply the best available science for addressing current and future environmental hazards, as well as new approaches toward improving environmental protection.

\$ **A Credible Deterrent to Pollution and Greater Compliance with the Law:** EPA will ensure full compliance with laws intended to protect human health and the environment.

\$ **Effective Management:** EPA will establish a management infrastructure that will set and implement the highest quality standards for effective internal management and fiscal responsibility.

Organization of the Annual Plan

The organization of EPA's FY 1999 Final Annual Plan reflects the Agency's continuing commitment to link planning and budgeting in a coherent, integrated process. In the spirit of reinventing government to better serve the American people, the Agency presented its FY 1999 budget as its Annual Plan. While the initial FY 1999 Annual Plan represented the President's Budget Request, the FY 1999 Final Annual Plan reflects the Agency's enacted budget.

The Annual Plan presents the Agency's Goals and Objectives, and identifies the resource levels and activities associated with them. The Annual Plan sets forth in measurable and quantifiable form the intermediate levels of performance for each objective in the budget year; as such, it is the linchpin to each of the Agency's Objectives contained in the Agency's five-year Strategic Plan. As a result, the Annual Plan promotes fiscal accountability through a direct connection between resources and outcomes.

GOAL CHAPTERS

The FY 1999 Final Annual Plan is organized by the Agency's 10 Strategic Goals. Within each Goal chapter, you will find the following sections:

- \$ **Background and Context:** Sets the broad context for the Goal and briefly explains why the Goal is of National importance.
- \$ **Means and Strategy:** Describes the Agency's approach to achieving the strategic Goal.
- **Resource Summary:** Provides a broad overview of the resources for FY 1999 by Goal, Objective, and Appropriation.
- **Strategic Objective:** Includes all the Objectives under each Goal and links the Objectives with:
- **Key Programs:** Resources levels are listed for Key Programs which help to achieve the Objective. The Key Programs do not account for all resources in the Objective.
- **Annual Performance Goals and Measures:** Objective sections contain "*Congressional*" *Annual Performance Goals*, which are commitments by the Agency to Congress to achieve certain levels of performance. The accompanying *Performance Measures* provide the means for determining the extent to which annual goals and multi-year objectives are achieved.
- **External Factors:** This section addresses the external-Agency factors that could have a substantial impact on the achievement of the Annual Performance Goals. External factors may include the participation in environmental programs by State and local governments and other stakeholders, or economic and technological factors that may enhance or impede progress toward achieving environmental goals.

- **Verification and Validation:** This section describes how the values used in Performance Measures are verified and validated. This section includes a description of the source of performance

measure data as well as procedures for quality assurance. This section may also include information on the methodology of data collection and review.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUDGETED RESOURCES AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES

Annual Performance Goals are related to the resource levels contained in each Objective. Annual Performance Goals in this Annual Performance Plan are based upon the resource levels in the Agency's enacted FY 1999 budget. However, resources may contribute not only to the budget years Annual Performance Goals but also to the accomplishment of Goals in future years. For example, a performance goal to complete a number of Superfund site cleanups, or develop research methods and models, generally requires a period

longer than one year. Thus, FY 1999 activities will contribute to completion of work in FY 1999 or beyond. Likewise, some FY 1999 Annual Performance Goals are achievable only with funding provided in prior years.

Given this multi-year characteristic of some of the resources requested, it is not always possible to establish direct linkages between the budget requested for a particular year and the achievement of all performance goals for that year.

Annual Plan Overview

For over 25 years, the Environmental Protection Agency and its partners have made significant strides in controlling pollution and other environmental risks to human health and the environment. The air, land, and water are now safer for all Americans due to our Nation's investment in environmental protection.

The EPA's plan for FY 1999 builds on that success and invests in programs that deliver consistently better environmental protection at less cost. The EPA's FY 1999 Final Annual Plan highlights significant programs and activities the Agency will undertake with its enacted budget of \$7.590 billion and 18,385 FTE.

This Annual Plan represents the EPA's new approach to planning and budgeting, which links goals and objectives to the human, capital, and technological resources required to achieve them. The EPA's FY 1999 Final Annual Plan is another step forward in the Agency's full participation in the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which is designed to increase the effectiveness and accountability of Federal Agencies.

KEY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The EPA is committed to providing the greatest degree of environmental protection at the lowest possible cost and regulatory burden to citizens and businesses. The Agency has several key initiatives which are designed to address environmental risks effectively while maintaining the Administration's commitment to a strong economy and a streamlined Federal government.

Many of these initiatives are supported across the Agency and involve a number of strategic goals and objectives. They all work to support the Agency's mission to reduce risk to human health and safeguard the environment for future generations.

ENSURE CLEAN AND SAFE WATER

The President has made the protection of America's water supply and waterways a national priority. To meet this commitment, the FY 1999 enacted budget supports the Agency's involvement in the Clean Water Action Plan as well as strong support for the Nation's water infrastructure through State Revolving Funds:

- Clean Water Action Plan: The EPA will play a key role in the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP), focusing on three challenges to restore and protect the Nation's waterways: preventing polluted runoff; protecting public health; and ensuring community-based watershed management. This initiative is funded in the Agency's Annual Plan at \$605 million. The Agency also provides for an additional \$20 million in CWAP related activities such as source water protection, the

Index of Watershed Indicators, and research. This initiative increases grants to States to implement water quality improvement projects as well as other Agency activities such as the restoration and protection of our Nation's wetlands.

- Upgrading the Nation's Water Quality Infrastructure: The budget proposes \$775 million in capitalization grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), which make low-interest loans to help municipalities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. The funds will help ensure that Americans have a safe, clean drinking water supply -- our first line of defense in protecting public health. The budget also include \$1.350 billion in capitalization grants to Clean Water SRFs to help municipalities comply with the Clean Water Act, thus helping to reduce beach closures and keep our

waterways safe and clean. The combined SRF proposal, with continued outyear capitalization, will meet the Administration's long-term goal to provide about \$2.5 billion a year in loans to needy communities.

MEETING THE GLOBAL WARMING CHALLENGE

The United States has made a commitment to lead the world in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technology and energy efficiency. The *Climate Change Technology Initiative (CCTI)*, funded in the EPA's budget at \$109.5 million in FY 1999, will help America continue to meet its global responsibility to lead the world in emissions reductions. CCTI is an inter-agency initiative led by EPA and the Department of Energy to support research and technology advancements in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon-reduction technologies.

IMPLEMENTING STRONGER CLEAN AIR STANDARDS

This budget invests \$65.7 million in a national network of Particulate Matter Monitors to help the Nation meet the health based air quality standard for fine particles. This investment level honors the Administration's commitment to States to fund the costs of deploying a new fine particulate monitoring network and to provide them the tools necessary to carry out their monitoring efforts. The EPA will also be conducting analyses to determine the chemical constituents of PM 2.5 and better identify and understand the sources and characteristics of the pollution. This effort will lead to cleaner, safer air for all Americans.

PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH

One of the President's foremost policy concerns is the protection of human health through the reduction of environmental threats. To reduce environmental threats and protect future generations, the Agency focuses on areas where it can provide the greatest amount of protection, such

as the cleanup of toxic waste sites and the protection of children from toxins in the environment.

- Cleaning up Toxic Waste Sites: The budget continues a commitment to clean up toxic waste sites with \$1.5 billion for Superfund cleanups. Combined with continuing administrative reforms, these funds will help meet the President's pledge to clean up the most hazardous waste sites.
- Focusing on Health Risks to Children: The Agency has made the protection of children's health a fundamental goal of public health and environmental protection in the U.S. This annual plan builds on that commitment with a \$33 million investment (an \$8 million increase over 1998) for the Assessing Health Risks to Children Agenda. This is a high-priority for the Agency since children face significant and unique health threats because they are often more heavily exposed and more vulnerable than adults to toxins in the environment. When we protect the health of children, we protect the health of all Americans. Major activities include establishing, with HHS, five Children's Environmental Research Centers, ensuring that EPA's public health regulations consider children's health, and providing information to parents to better protect their children from environmental hazards.
- Reducing Risks Posed by Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Pollutants: The Agency is strengthening its efforts to address the health threat presented by persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) pollutants. This initiative is funded at \$9.3 million in the 1999 Revised Annual Plan (a \$6.3 million increase over 1998). The Agency will conduct research and coordinate strategies to reduce the risks posed by PBTs using the full range of regulatory, voluntary, programmatic, enforcement, compliance and research tools. PBT risk mitigation activities will

include analysis of economic impact, pollution prevention strategies, exploration of safe substitute chemical alternatives and dissemination of public information. This multi-year initiative will reduce PBTs in the environment and reduce the risks these toxins pose to human health.

INVESTING IN SCIENCE FOR SOUND DECISION-MAKING

Environmental research is critical for developing the scientific understanding and technological tools to allow the Nation to enhance environmental quality for current and future generations. The Agency's FY 1999 enacted budget includes \$562 million for EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). This investment will provide a scientific basis for developing cost-effective environmental policies, create the knowledge base for citizens to make wise environmental decisions, and enable new and better approaches to environmental protection.

REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE BROWNFIELDS INITIATIVE

The FY 1999 enacted budget continues the President's Brownfields initiative, which promotes local cleanup and redevelopment of industrial sites, bringing jobs to blighted areas. This budget includes \$91 million for technical assistance and grants to communities for site assessment and redevelopment planning as well as revolving loan funds to finance clean-up efforts at the local level.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDIAN TRIBES

This Annual Plan continues the Agency's commitment to carrying out its trust responsibilities to Federally-recognized tribes with a budget of \$174 million (a \$35 million increase over 1998). The Indian Program includes cross-Agency activities

designed to ensure the protection of public health and the tribal homeland environment in a manner consistent with a government-to-government relationship. The Indian Program is a priority for the Agency because the sub-standard environmental conditions of many tribal homelands pose threats to human health, Tribal economies, and ecosystems. The program will enhance environmental protection by increasing the number of partnerships with tribal governments, providing infrastructure assistance, and helping to resolve trans-boundary environmental issues.

IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

All U.S. citizens have a right to know about the pollutants in their environment -- including the condition of the air they breathe and the water they drink, as well as the health effects of the chemicals used in the food and products they buy. Access to environmental information also helps make American citizens involved and informed environmental decision makers, and promotes creative and lasting solutions to environmental problems. EPA's participation in the President's Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) initiative, funded at \$14 million in this Annual Plan, helps to carry out this commitment to provide the public with crucial information on environmental conditions.

SUMMARY

The EPA's 1999 Final Annual Plan embodies the Agency's commitment to protect human health and safeguard the environment, while continuing on the nation's path of unprecedented economic growth. As the Agency strengthens its relationships with the public, the regulated community, and its governmental partners, it will provide a more effective and efficient system of environmental protection. These partnerships, along with a commitment to identify and solve the Nation's most pressing environmental problems, will help us leave a cleaner, safer environment for generations to come.

