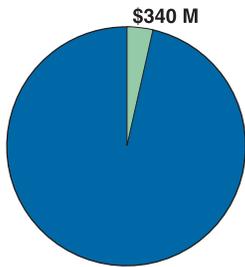


Goal 8 FY 2001 Obligations



Note: EPA FY 2001 Total Obligations were \$9,007 million

GOAL 8: 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.

PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

EPA relies on sound scientific research and innovative new approaches to provide the understanding and technologies needed to detect, abate, and avoid human health and environmental problems, as well as promote improved environmental performance across all media—air, water, and land. In FY 2001 EPA conducted research to improve understanding of the principles underlying assessment and management of environmental risks and to allow the Agency to identify the most significant sources of risk to human health and the environment. To ensure that EPA research is a source of high-quality scientific and technical information, the Agency consults a number of expert sources, both internal and external, and uses several deliberative steps in planning its research programs.

EPA also expanded its multiyear research planning efforts in FY 2001 to address all of its major research programs to better assess progress toward the strategic research objectives, including research performed under this goal. As a starting point, the Agency draws input from its Strategic Plan, available research plans, EPA program offices and regions, federal research partners, and outside peer advisory bodies such as EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) and others. In FY 2001 EPA's SAB conducted two reviews addressing controversial pollutants that pose significant environmental and human health risks: (1) a reevaluation of the science underlying EPA's dioxin reassessment, which was designed to strengthen the Agency's evaluation of the health risks of exposure to dioxin; and (2) an evaluation of the costs and benefits of the arsenic drinking water

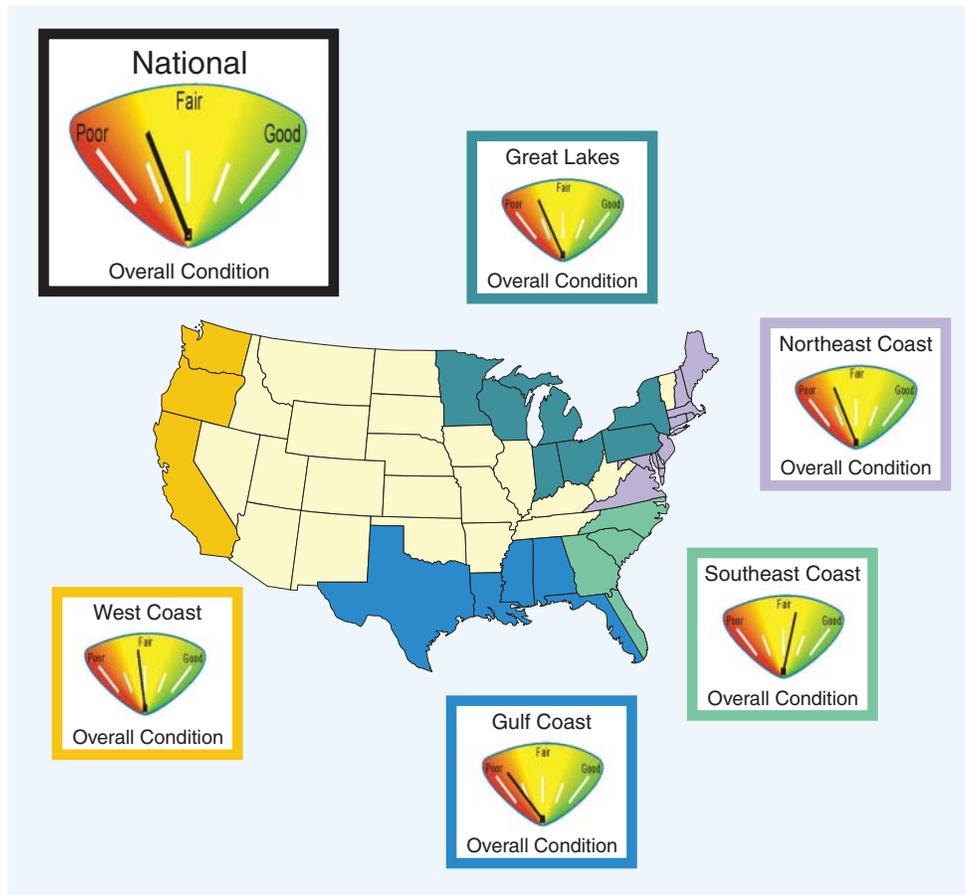
standard proposal supporting Administration and congressional efforts to find an acceptable and protective level of arsenic in drinking water. EPA also works with industry, individual business facilities, communities, state and local government agencies, and other stakeholder groups to craft and implement innovation strategies for better environmental results.

FY 2001 PERFORMANCE

Sound Science

EPA made an important contribution to the characterization of ecological resources by completing a baseline assessment of the conditions of the Nation's estuaries (*National Coastal Condition Report*, EPA620/R-01/005). Based on this report and subsequent surveys, changes and ultimately trends in the ecological conditions of many of the Nation's estuaries can be documented, with a known level of confidence, and the results of environmental management policies can be evaluated at the national, state, watershed, and regional levels. This report provides an assessment of historical conditions of many of the Nation's estuaries and is based on the past 10 years of archived data from federal and state sources, including data from many programs with differing purposes and designs. EPA's National Coastal Assessment (NCA) Program, begun in FY 2000, will build on this report by using the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) indicators and sampling designs covering the estuaries of the entire coastal United States to provide in 2003 the first statistically valid, nationwide assessment of the health of these crucial ecological resources (<http://www.epa.gov/emap/nca/html/about.html>).

National Coastal Condition



In FY 2001 the Agency also made significant strides in understanding and detecting potential risks to human health. In response to recommendations from the SAB, EPA initiated an analysis of the National Human Exposure Assessment Survey (NHEXAS), a program investigating critical information gaps about population-scale distributions of human exposures to contaminant mixtures. The NHEXAS analysis will demonstrate the costs and benefits of a national-scale exposure assessment program and will provide a basis for the design and implementation of an effective surveillance program for multimedia pollutants. In addition, research in FY 2001 continued to focus on understanding child-specific exposure to environmental pollutants. EPA conducted studies on pesticide exposure among farmworkers' children in California and Washington State. Over the next several years, the Agency will use the data from these studies to identify the most effective methods for assessing children's exposure and to develop exposure assessment models.

In FY 2001 the Agency also developed a protocol for identifying endocrine-disrupting chemicals using amphibian and small fish models. This protocol will

help to implement a legislatively mandated program for testing chemicals that might cause adverse reproductive and developmental effects through disruption of endocrine systems controlled by sex steroids. The testing program will help EPA effectively determine the toxicity of various chemicals, so that the appropriate precautions can be employed to protect human health.

Additionally, in response to an FY 1999 congressional directive, the Agency provided recommendations on an appropriate reference dose, or RfD (an estimate of the public's daily exposure to a compound that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects) for methylmercury, a highly toxic compound that bioaccumulates in fish and animal tissue. These recommendations will enable EPA to set fish consumption advisories to effectively inform the public of the effect of ingesting unacceptable concentrations of methylmercury, thereby preventing neurological and developmental harm. Information on EPA's revised RfD for methylmercury is available at <http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0073.htm>.

In the area of pollution prevention research, EPA produced decision tools that are more quantitative and easier for stakeholders and decision-makers to use when considering pollution prevention options, including computer-based tools for chemical and industrial processes. Additionally, EPA's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) pilot program evaluated 35 environmental technologies, and as a result, verified a programmatic total of 164 technologies. Verification results, which are publicly available on the ETV web site (<http://www.epa.gov/etv>), provide purchasers and permittees of environmental technologies with highly credible data and performance analyses on which to make decisions that directly affect the health and well-being of populations and ecosystems.

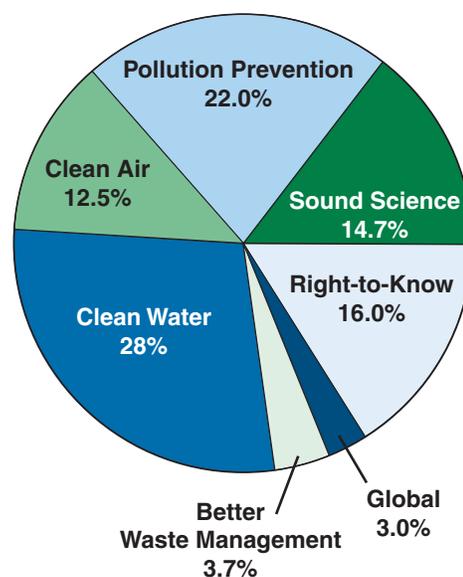
The Agency declared EPA Science as a management integrity weakness in FY 1995 in response to concerns in a GAO review and the September 1993 Report of the National Performance Review regarding the strength of EPA's environmental science program and the scientific basis for decision making related to EPA regulations and policies. EPA developed a corrective action strategy to address these concerns and strengthen the Agency's environmental science program. EPA completed final corrective actions during FY 2001 and met with representatives from GAO who acknowledged the Agency's progress and along with EPA's Science Policy Council agreed with the determination that this weakness had been resolved. (Refer to Section III, "Management Accomplishments and Challenges," for further discussion.)

GAO conducted a review of the policies and procedures of EPA's SAB related to the selection of technical experts to serve on SAB panels. GAO identified concerns that EPA's policies and procedures do not ensure that SAB peer review panelists are independent and that the panels are properly balanced and that the public is sufficiently informed about points of view represented on the panels. EPA generally agreed with the GAO findings, declared the balance and independence of SAB panels as an Agency integrity weakness for FY 2001, and implemented a corrective action plan to address the concerns. (Refer to Section III, "Management Accomplishments and Challenges," for further discussion.)

Greater Innovation

The Regional Geographic Initiatives Program (RGI) provides EPA regions an opportunity to address unique, multimedia environmental problems in a specific geographic area that are not readily addressed by single media programs. RGI supported 120 projects in FY 2001 each contributing to at least one of the Agency's environmental goals. An example of a project that supports the Agency's clean air goal is the Hyde Park Air Project in St. Louis, Missouri. Under this project, data on emissions of hazardous air pollutants are being collected, analyzed, and evaluated. In addition, a coalition of federal, state, and local air pollution control programs are working with the local community, elected officials, and industry to develop a work plan for addressing the city's air quality problem.

FY 2001 Distribution of Regional Geographic Initiative Projects Across Agency Goals



The Agency also continued to improve and integrate a systematic approach to innovation based on testing, evaluating, and disseminating innovations. The number of innovations being tested continues to grow: Project XL (eXcellence and Leadership) exceeded its goal of 50 projects, and more than 40 new pilot proposals were submitted under the Joint EPA/State Innovations Agreement, 14 of which were implemented in FY 2001. The Agency has accelerated its evaluation of innovations by

BIOLOGICALLY INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEMS

Under the RGI program, EPA's Pacific northwest region has run innovative agricultural pollution prevention programs in California's Central Valley. Partnering with state agencies, the University of California, and agricultural industry groups, growers adopt integrated pest and soil management methods and reduce the use of pesticides such as organophosphates (OPs). These chemicals are major pollutants of surface water in the state and also are targeted for reduction under the Food Quality Protection Act. Without harming farm profits, the program successfully eliminated use of OPs in 83 percent of the walnut orchards and all of the prune orchards in the program, and reduced OPs by 59 percent in the participating apple orchards.

co-funding evaluations with other EPA offices and establishing a successful Program Evaluation Network. The Agency developed a successful model approach in partnership with the state of Massachusetts to disseminate innovative permitting approaches for small businesses to other states. Finally, in FY 2001 EPA circulated a draft Innovation Strategy that will further integrate innovation into its programs and culture. Believing in the need for a focused agenda to achieve results, EPA identified specific environmental challenges where innovative approaches will be essential for further progress. These challenges—greenhouse gases, smog, water quality, and water infrastructure—will be targeted for particular resource and creative investments. Strengthening environmental partnerships, targeting priorities, expanding the current collection of tools, and creating a more innovative culture to address challenging problems effectively are the ultimate goals of the innovation strategy.

In the latter half of 2000, EPA launched the National Environmental Performance Track Program to recognize and encourage top environmental performers—those who go beyond compliance with regulatory requirements to attain levels of environmental performance that benefit people, communities, and the environment. Since then 250 high-performing facilities have been accepted into the program; 47 more were under review as of

December 2001. Over the next 3 years the 250 members are committed to reducing solid waste by 225 million pounds, hazardous waste by 8.8 million pounds, energy use by 6.7 trillion British thermal units (BTUs), water use by 1.6 billion gallons, hazardous materials use by 1.7 million pounds, and volatile organic compound emissions by 98,000 pounds, and to improving habitat on 4,600 acres.

Industry sector performance partnership programs also achieved significant accomplishments in FY 2001. Stakeholder participation in the National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program (SGP) increased to nearly 500 facilities, 22 states, and more than 85 local governments. Participating metal finishing facilities show quantified results in their progress toward the voluntary SGP performance goals. For example, active SGP facilities have reduced wastewater by 1.24 billion gallons, sludge shipped to landfills by 2.7 million pounds, and organic chemical emissions by 4 million pounds (measured as cumulative annual reductions from 1992 baseline amounts). Through the Sustainable Industries Partnership Programs, EPA developed new partnerships with the metal casting, meat processing, shipbuilding, and specialty-batch chemical industries. Each of these industries is setting voluntary performance improvement objectives, while EPA, states, and other stakeholders craft incentives, provide assistance, and remove barriers to better performance. Also in FY 2001 EPA created a “virtual” Center for Industry Sector Innovation with tools and services that address stakeholders’ needs for better information-sharing, planning, and measurement to support federal and state sector-based programs. New tools include the SectorSTAR (Strategies, Tools, and Resources) web site, the State-Scan information directory of state programs and priorities, enhanced measurement tools, and a strategic process for selecting new sector opportunities.

EPA supported further development of economic information and analytical methods that will improve economic analyses of its policies and regulations, providing better tools for assessing innovative alternatives. In FY 2001 EPA offices sponsored workshops on critical economic valuation and policy assessment issues, including ecological valuation methods and stated preference valuation techniques. In addition, EPA and the National Science Foundation continued to support new

economic research with solicitations directed at such priorities as valuing human health benefits, market-based mechanisms and economic incentives, and corporate environmental performance and the effectiveness of government intervention.

In FY 2001 the Regional Science & Technology (RS&T) organizations provided field sampling, analytical and data management support, and quality assurance to Agency programs nationwide and continued to expand the number of Centers of Applied Science (CAS). CAS support the development and application of new and innovative technologies by developing sampling, quality assurance, and analytical methodologies. These methodologies and technologies are shared both within EPA and with the Agency's partners. One example is the EPA's Great Lakes region Central Laboratory's development of analytic methodologies for detection of alkylphenol endocrine disruptors in water, soil and sediments, which have been used in midwest rivers to determine whether alkylphenols exist at amounts that may show ecological effects. The RS&T organizations continued to strengthen their operations by developing and implementing Corrective Action Plans in response to Laboratory Assessments of both internal quality systems reviews and external technical systems audits. (Four assessments were completed in FY 2001.) To date all of the corrective actions have been implemented in four of the EPA regions, and the remaining regions are working on completing their corrective actions.

As an integral component of the Agency's systematic approach to innovations, EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation (OPEI) has actively completed or initiated evaluations of EPA's innovative programs and approaches. The *Directory of Regulatory, Policy, and Technology Innovations* evaluates more than 70 innovations being tested by Project XL. The report assesses the expected advantage of each XL innovation over the current approach, the results to date, the efficacy of the innovation, and its suitability for application beyond the pilot scale. OPEI also completed the first-ever assessment of Agency-wide lessons learned on stakeholder involvement, supporting the development of EPA's Public Involvement Policy. *Stakeholder Involvement & Public Participation at the U.S. EPA: Lessons Learned, Barriers, & Innovative Approaches* reviews the Agency's efforts to involve the

public through a meta-analysis of formal evaluations and informal summaries from across the Agency. The meta-analysis identifies key cross-cutting lessons learned, pinpoints unique barriers and ways to overcome them, and highlights innovative approaches to stakeholder involvement and public participation. OPEI's Industry Performance Partnership Program published *Living the Vision*, a report on the progress of the Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program that shows the degree to which the industry met a series of voluntary "better than compliance" facility performance targets.

Program Evaluation

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) agreed that program evaluation is appropriate for environmental research, and the pilot evaluation demonstrated the potential benefits of a partnership approach to program evaluation. The primary tool used in the evaluation was the "logic model," which allows evaluators to identify the relationships between resources, activities, outputs, customers, and outcomes. One of the observations resulting from the evaluation process was that annual performance goals and measures focus primarily on outputs (such as developing new methods, models, and tools) rather than on achieving outcomes (the effects resulting from the acceptance and use of these new tools and technologies). Placing greater focus on potential outcomes could assist ORD in identifying the impact of its research on long-term environmental results. When designed appropriately, high-quality research allows the users of the research results to achieve meaningful environmental outcomes.

STATE AND TRIBAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

State Contributions

EPA's National Coastal Assessment Program builds the scientific basis for representative cost-effective monitoring of conditions and trends in the Nation's estuaries; transfers this technology to states, tribes, and regions; and encourages the states and tribes to adopt and implement this approach. Using a compatible, probabilistic design and a common set of survey indicators (to measure factors such as

water quality, sediment quality, fish, and benthos), each state conducts the survey and assesses the condition of its coastal resources independently. These estimates then can be aggregated to assess conditions at the regional, biogeographical, and national levels. EPA is accomplishing this assessment through a number of partnerships with 24 of 26 coastal-marine states, tribes, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey laboratories in the Southern Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions, and the Delaware River Basin Commission. In conducting this monitoring program, EPA is leveraging an approximate 50/50 cost-share with the state monitoring programs. All of the participating states either are evaluating or have already adopted this new, cost-effective approach to monitoring their coastal resources.

In FY 2001 EPA continued its work to support and learn from innovation in the states, particularly in partnership with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). EPA received 26 projects in FY 2001 and was negotiating or implementing 44 pilot projects under the Joint EPA/State Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation as of September 30, 2001. EPA, ECOS, and the Council for Excellence in Government conducted an Innovations Symposium in FY 2001 at which federal and state regulators exchanged information and developed new partnerships to innovate in the areas of information and technology, market-based approaches, new models for environmental protection, partnerships, and enforcement and compliance.

In October 2000 EPA's OPEI, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and EPA's northeast region formed a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). The purpose of this ongoing partnership is to investigate whether the Massachusetts Environmental Results Program (ERP), a self-certification alternative to general permitting, can be transferred to other states and environmental management issues. Three states (Rhode Island, Florida, and Maryland) and the District of Columbia have

agreed to conduct ERP pilot projects on a common small business sector, auto body repair shops. This application is in addition to MA DEP's success over the past 3 years in mandatorily applying the ERP process to the dry cleaning, photo processing, and printing small business sectors.

Tribal Contributions

The Tribal Science Council (TSC), composed of senior tribal and EPA representatives, will provide a mechanism for systematic and thorough consideration of tribal science needs and EPA's ability to address the tribes' highest environmental science priorities. Tribal Operations Committee co-chair and EPA's Administrator endorsed the TSC in July 2001. The TSC conducted its first face-to-face meeting December 11–13, 2001, in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting focused on organizational issues, including developing processes for how the TSC will address tribal science priorities.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS OF FY 2001 PERFORMANCE ON FY 2002 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

There are no changes to FY 2002 APGs based on results of FY 2001 performance.

PERFORMANCE DATA CHART

The following performance data chart includes performance results for the FY 2001 APGs that support Goal 8. The performance chart reflects the Agency's 1997 Strategic Plan goals and objectives with which FY 2001 APGs are associated. Relevant FY 2000 and FY 1999 APGs are displayed for ease in comparing performance. Data quality information for Goal 8 can be found on pages B-32 and B-33 of Appendix B, "Data Quality." Additionally, the chart presents results for FY 2000 and FY 1999 APGs for which data were not available when the FY 2000 report was published, as well as for FY 2000 APGs that are not associated with FY 2001 APGs.

Summary of FY 2001 Performance

2 Goal Met 1 Goal Not Met 0 Data Lag

Goal 8: Sound Science
Annual Performance Goals and Measures
FY 1999–FY 2001 Results

By 2008, Provide the Scientific Understanding to Measure, Model, Maintain, or Restore, at Multiple Scales, the Integrity and Sustainability of Ecosystems Now and In the Future.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 EPA produced a report on the baseline conditions of the Nation’s estuaries, providing the scientific understanding necessary to measure the condition of these crucial ecological resources. By establishing a baseline with a known level of confidence at the national, state, and regional levels, it will be possible to evaluate the results of environmental management policies, which will in turn increase our ability to maintain and restore the integrity and sustainability of ecosystems.

APG 54		Planned	Actual
FY 2001	Establish baseline conditions from which changes, and ultimately trends, in the ecological condition of the nation’s estuaries can be confidently documented, and from which the results of environmental management policies can be evaluated at regional scales. Goal Met.		
	<u>Performance Measures</u>		
	- Report describing the condition of the nation’s estuaries.	1	1
<hr/>			
FY 2000	<i>Report on monitoring findings in the Mid-Atlantic Region as a cost-effective means of measuring the condition of these systems. Goal Met.</i>		
	<u>Performance Measures</u>		
	- A final report on the extent and magnitude of fish tissue contamination in small, wadeable streams in the Mid-Atlantic Region as means of identifying high risk areas.		1
	- Final report on the relationship between macro-invertebrate and periphyton assemblages and chemical and physical stressors to verify the applicability of these biological indicators in the Mid-Atlantic.		1
<hr/>			
FY 1999	<i>Complete and evaluate a multi-tiered ecological monitoring system for the Mid-Atlantic region and provide select land cover and aquatic indicators for measuring status and trends (2001). Goal Met.</i>	1	1

FY 2001 Result: The *National Coastal Condition Report*, a collaborative effort among EPA program offices, the coastal states, other federal agencies, and EPA’s Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), is the first Ecological Report Card on the United States’ coastal resources.

FY 1999 Result Available in FY 2001: EPA completed and evaluated a multitiered ecological monitoring system for the Mid-Atlantic region and provided select land cover and aquatic indicators for measuring status and trends. Products from the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), such as the Mid-Atlantic Highlands stream report, have increasingly been used in environmental management actions in the Mid-Atlantic region.

By 2008, Improve the Scientific Basis to Identify, Characterize, Assess, and Manage Environmental Exposures That Pose the Greatest Health Risks to the American Public by Developing Models and Methodologies to Integrate Information About Exposures and Effects From Multiple Pathways.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 EPA revised its analysis strategy for the National Human Exposure Assessment Survey (NHEXAS). Implementation of the new analysis plan will assist the Agency in determining the effectiveness of a national-scale exposure program. The Agency also continued to evaluate the exposures and effects of environmental contaminants, particularly in children, and produced several reports on child-specific susceptibilities. FY 2001 research efforts provided significant findings regarding environmental health risks and will strengthen the Agency’s ability to make effective public health decisions.

By 2008, Establish Capability and Mechanisms Within EPA to Anticipate and Identify Environmental or Other Changes That May Portend Future Risk, Integrate Futures Planning Into Ongoing Programs, and Promote Coordinated Preparation for and Response to Change.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 EPA provided methods for identifying and characterizing the risks of developmental and reproductive toxicants, which will assist the Agency in implementing a program to test chemicals that might have adverse effects on

endocrine systems. This work also provides insight into how to prepare for, and respond to, other potentially adverse human health and environmental risks.

By 2006, Develop and Verify Improved Tools, Methodologies, and Technologies for Modeling, Measuring, Characterizing, Preventing, Controlling, and Cleaning Up Contaminants Associated With High Priority Human Health and Environmental Problems.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 the Agency produced decision tools for use by decision-makers when considering pollution prevention options and provided purchasers and permittees with credible data and performance analyses for 35 environmental technologies. The Agency continued to develop more effective methods of reducing emissions of harmful pollutants associated with high-priority human health and environmental problems.

APG 55		Planned	Actual
FY 2001	Develop, evaluate, and deliver technologies and approaches that eliminate, minimize, or control high risk pollutants from multiple sectors. Emphasis will be placed on preventive approaches for industries and communities having difficulty meeting control/emission/effluent standards. Goal Not Met.		
	<u>Performance Measures</u>		
	- Deliver a Report to Congress on the status and effectiveness of the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program during its first five years.	1	0

FY 2000	<i>Complete development of one or more computer-based tools which simulate product, process, or system design changes, and complete proof-of-process structure for one or more generic technologies (applicable to more than one environmental problem) to prevent or reduce pollution in chemicals and industrial processes. Goal Met.</i>		
	<u>Performance Measures</u>		
	- <i>Complete development of PARIS II Software tool to design environmentally benign solvents, and development and integration of Waste Reduction (WAR) Algorithm into commercially available chemical process simulator.</i>		9/30/00
	- <i>Complete Beta testing of a decision support tool for life-cycle analyses of municipal waste management options.</i>		9/30/00

FY 2001 Result: EPA completed a report on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hazardous air pollutants emissions from indoor paints. The experimental data on VOC emissions can be used for exposure estimation and risk assessment purposes. The Agency also completed performance evaluations of various metal finishing processes, which may effectively replace current hazardous and polluting processes. Delivery of the ETV report to Congress was delayed to allow for more extensive data collection and analysis, which will contribute to a more accurate and comprehensive report; it is now scheduled to be delivered by September 2002. To learn more about ETV, visit <http://www.epa.gov/etv>.

By 2005, EPA Will Increase the Number of Places Using Integrated, Holistic Partnership Approaches, Such as Community-Based Environmental Protection (CBEP), and Quantify Their Tangible and Sustainable Environmental Result in Places Where EPA Is Directly Involved.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: Under the Regional Geographic Initiatives Program, EPA has supported 100 to 140 projects a year (120 projects in FY 2001). These projects address problems that are not being addressed, wholly or in part, by existing national environmental programs because of their unique geographic or cross-media nature. Projects are accomplished by working in partnership with states, local governments, and the private sector. All of the projects support one or more of EPA's environmental goals. EPA has analyzed possible methods of identifying and quantifying the gains in environmental outcomes associated with the projects and has linked each of the projects to the Agency goal and objective it supports.

By 2005, EPA Will Increase the Number of Opportunities for and Applications of Sector-Based Approaches to Environmental Management by 150% Over 1996 Levels.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: The Agency continued to improve and integrate a systematic approach to innovation based on testing, evaluating, and disseminating innovations. The number of innovations being tested continues to grow, and the Agency has accelerated its evaluation of innovations.

APG 56		Planned	Actual
FY 2001	EPA will implement significant improvements to core Agency functions identified as high environmental or economic impact identified during FY 2000 priority setting (Project eXcellence and Leadership—XL.) Goal Met.		
	<u>Performance Measures</u>		
	- High impact changes.	5	6

Goal 8 - Sound Science

FY 2000	All 50 Project XL projects will be in implementation. <i>Goal Met.</i>	50
FY 1999	50 Project XL projects will be in development or implementation. an increase of 23 projects over 1998. <i>Goal Met.</i>	24

FY 2001 Result: In FY 2000 the Innovation Action Council identified a number of priorities for core program improvements, based either on reforms already under consideration in the programs or on ideas drawn from pilot projects. By the end of FY 2001, the following program improvements were complete or significantly under way: (1) TMDL rule under the Clean Water Act (issued); (2) consolidated air rule for the chemical industry (issued); (3) Performance Track to provide incentives to top environmental performers (in implementation); (4) an array of innovations in compliance assistance, ranging from an on-line database of compliance assistance information to compliance guides for new rules (in implementation); (5) diffusion of a sector-based model for regulating small sources, based on the Massachusetts Environmental Results Program tested in Project XL (diffusion efforts under way); and (6) a new EPA policy facilitating cost-effective disposal of residential lead-based paint debris (issued).

By 2005, Regions Will Have Demonstrated Capability to Assess Environmental Conditions in Their Region, Compare the Relative Risk of Health and Ecological Problems, and Assess the Environmental Effectiveness of Management Action in Priority Geographic Areas.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: The Regional Science & Technology (RS&T) organizations support EPA's air, water, waste, and toxic substances programs by providing field sampling, analytical and data management support, and quality assurance to Agency programs nationwide. Regions have developed special capabilities and expertise (Centers of Applied Science) based on unique geographic and demographic issues. Centers have been designated in the areas of ambient air monitoring; environmental biology, chemistry, and microbiology; and analytical pollution prevention methodologies. The RS&T organizations continue to strengthen their operations by developing and implementing Corrective Action Plans in response to Laboratory Assessments of both internal quality system reviews and external technical systems audits (four assessments completed in FY 2001). Quality assurance programs in the EPA regions ensure the integrity of environmental data by overseeing management of monitoring programs, approving data collection activity plans, and evaluating monitoring and laboratory practices.

Conduct Peer Reviews and Provide Guidance on the Science Underlying Agency Decisions.

Progress Toward Strategic Objective: In FY 2001 the SAB conducted peer reviews on 23 projects including significant impact, supporting the Agency's decisions on controversial pollutants posing significant environmental and public health risks, such as dioxin and arsenic.

Prior Year Annual Performance Goals Without Corresponding FY 2001 Goals
(Actual Performance Data Available in FY 2000 and Beyond or With Performance Targets Beyond FY 2001)

APG	Planned	Actual
FY 1999	Initiate field exposure study of children to two endocrine disrupting chemicals.	target year is FY 2008
FY 1999	Develop and verify innovative methods and models for assessing the susceptibilities of population to environmental agents, aimed at enhancing risk assessment and management strategies and guidelines.	target year is FY 2008

FY 2000 Annual Performance Goals (No Longer Reported for FY 2001)

Develop risk assessment guidance and regional assessments concerning risks to children exposed to environmental contaminants.

Develop tools to identify hazards and formulate strategies to manage risks from exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals capable of inducing adverse effects in humans and wildlife.

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