



## **E-Enterprise for the Environment** ***What it is, Why it Matters***

*July 2014*

***Presented by the Environmental Council of the States***

**What is E-Enterprise for the Environment?** E-Enterprise is a joint initiative of States and EPA to improve environmental outcomes and dramatically enhance service to the regulated community, stakeholders, and the public by maximizing the use of advanced monitoring and information technologies, optimizing operations, reducing paperwork and regulatory reporting burdens, increasing productivity via mobile applications, and facilitating access to more accurate information.

**Is E-Enterprise for the Environment a Completely New Initiative?** E-Enterprise is using the foundational work of the Environmental Information Exchange Network (EN), a partnership envisioned in 1998. States, tribes, territories, and EPA as partners, share in the EN management and administration, basing decisions on collaborative consensus. The EN has revolutionized the sharing of environmental data through 1) automation, 2) standardization, and 3) real-time access. The EN lowers costs as it streamlines the data-sharing process and minimizes expensive technical setbacks.

**Who Leads E-Enterprise for the Environment?** Building on the EN model, E-Enterprise is led by the E-Enterprise Leadership Council (EELC), a group of high-level State and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental officials, listed at [www.exchangenetwork.net/e-enterprise/](http://www.exchangenetwork.net/e-enterprise/).

**What Does E-Enterprise Mean For the Regulated Community, Stakeholders, and the Public?** As a transformative business model, E-Enterprise will improve environmental results and dramatically enhance the delivery of environmental services to the regulated community, stakeholders, and the public. E-Enterprise builds on States' four decades of environmental program implementation experience to redefine how States and EPA will work together in the future. E-Enterprise focuses on joint priority setting, which can allow limited resources to be applied towards gaining more environmental results. E-Enterprise will facilitate the development of systems and implementation procedures that can be customized and replicated across states, leading to increased effectiveness and productiveness. These layered improvements will meet the reasonable expectation of the regulated community, stakeholders, and the public – that our nation has modern, effective, technology-oriented, streamlined, and efficient environmental protection programs.

**Will E-Enterprise Improve the Environment?** E-Enterprise will improve environmental performance by enabling new environmental management approaches via program modernization, streamlining, and improving existing processes. The transformational capabilities of new information technologies will enable programmatic and service improvements, leading to improved environmental results.

**Will E-Enterprise Increase Access to Environmental Information?** E-Enterprise's incorporation of advanced monitoring and data collection techniques will expand the ability of the government, regulated entities, stakeholders, and the public to measure and improve environmental performance and ambient conditions. Still, confidential and sensitive information must be protected. The EELC will ensure thoughtful consideration of, and response to, information access concerns related to E-Enterprise.

**How are States and EPA Working Together?** In 2013, EPA and ECOS signed a Memorandum of Agreement to begin this initiative around 10 organizing principles. The principles speak to the cooperative federalism relationship between states and the federal government, discerned through

decades of states working with EPA to carry out environmental regulatory and enforcement responsibilities – today, states implement over 96.5 percent of environmental programs. The principles are:

1. Manage E-Enterprise from the beginning as a partnership led by a joint governance body and work together to develop funding mechanisms and inform the independent resource investment decisions of partners.
2. Respect existing delegations and operating agreements throughout program changes that are driven by E-Enterprise. If seizing improvement opportunities calls for changes, negotiate these changes through existing channels.
3. Streamline and modernize programs before automating them. Streamlining and modernizing programs includes exploring use of new environmental management approaches to harness program improvements and technologies. New environmental management approaches may require tackling challenging or controversial issues, regulatory changes, and take a long time to complete.
4. Use a business case approach to prioritize activities.
5. Ensure that the program and system development explicitly takes into account the user's perspective.
6. Establish a seamless and secure network of services and systems to improve two-way business transactions between the regulated community and partners and among partners.
7. Ensure systems will work smoothly together, for staff, regulated entities, and the public.
8. Automate access to data to promote re-use of information and services by users and their application developers.
9. Explore the integration of advanced monitoring, data collection, and analysis techniques into programs and explore the new management approaches they might enable.
10. Lower cost of program and technical implementation by providing funding and shared infrastructure.



*E-Enterprise Agreement  
Signing Fall 2013*

**Beyond States and EPA, Is there E-Enterprise Support?** Industry groups, companies, municipalities, and other entities around the nation have called for more efficient, streamlined, modern, certain, and productive environmental regulation. Non-governmental organizations are seeking information from regulators more quickly and expect information to be timely, easy to access, and accurate. Finally, the general public, whose taxes support EPA and state government activities, expect that state and federal governments will operate in a non-duplicative and efficient manner.

**What Will E-Enterprise for the Environment Cost?** Some States and the EPA today are employing E-Enterprise initiatives with existing resources. However, federal resources are needed to effectively update national systems and to provide direct support to projects that can benefit many States. Such support will help all States move forward and maintains a level playing field. In the President's Fiscal Year 2015 proposed EPA budget, \$70M nationally is requested for E-Enterprise; \$15M to states in the form of grants to take on E-Enterprise work, usually with a state match, and \$55M to EPA across the air, water, waste, and other key environmental programs, to advance E-Enterprise initiatives.