E-ENTERPRISE
for the Environment

Modernizing the business of environmental protection

Welcome to E-Enterprise for the Environment

Onboarding Information for New Partners

MAY 2024

Background

Established in 2013, E-Enterprise for the Environment (E-Enterprise) is a unique, collaborative partnership working to modernize the business of environmental protection. The E-Enterprise partners—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), States, and Tribes—share a common goal of protecting the environment and public health by improving processes and optimizing tools and practices for the benefit of regulatory agencies and communities alike.

As federal, state, and Tribal partners work together to identify and solve common challenges, E-Enterprise calls for active engagement, direct communication, and trusted collaboration by all partners.

Working Together

Guiding Principles

E-Enterprise relies on three foundational principles.

1) Shared governance, or collaborative leadership

- Exchange information, identify common problems, and find shared solutions that are adaptive and innovative.

- Explore ways to transform our "business" protecting the environment and public health through a dynamic, transparent, and trusted forum.

Work together from the start

Identify shared interests and challenges

Save resources: build once, use many times

Share expertise and best practices

Be part of a common solution

2) Customer-centric, process improvement practices

- Identify opportunities for making environmental programs more efficient and effective.

- Involve partners from the outset before developing solutions to meet customer needs.

- Consider return on investment analytics to assess initiative viability.

- Seek to first assess and improve processes to maximize environmental outcomes before developing technical solutions, where that makes sense.

3) Appropriate application of processes and tools

- Work collaboratively to build, leverage, and share innovative tools and platforms that are adaptable, reusable, and reliable.

- Engage customers and focus on user needs at every stage of the work, from identifying a common problem to finding, developing, and implementing a shared solution.

Who Are We?

A Partnership to Lead and Take Action

E-Enterprise operates under a governance structure in which senior government officials from EPA, States, and Tribes work together on the Enterprise Leadership Council (EELC) to 1) lead strategic direction and effective decision-making and 2) design and implement (customer-focused, result-driven) activities and projects. In addition, certain leaders (e.g., EELC co-chairs) assisted by support staff, sustain the EELC by managing operations and functions for E-Enterprise.

Lead: Provide E-Enterprise Strategic Direction and Decision-Making

The EELC brings environmental government leaders together to strategically focus and collaboratively decide upon critical E-Enterprise work. The EELC is comprised of 10 members each from EPA, States, and Tribes. Three EELC Co-chairs, including the EPA Deputy Administrator, one state official, and one Tribal environmental leader, provide executive-level support for meeting planning and preparation.

Specific processes for designating EELC members and their proxies for meetings and other activities are found in the 2016 E-Enterprise Charter.

EELC Roles

The EELC focuses on major policy or procedural issues and sets strategic priorities through actions such as:

- Setting EELC Strategic Direction identifying commonly shared, priority challenges and potential pathways for resolution.

- Guiding the progress of E-Enterprise teams and targeting results for E-Enterprise activities and projects.

- Exchanging best practices, tools, innovations, and new ideas that improve our environmental program work or governmental responsibilities.

- Seeking input from governance bodies that help support projects and EELC operations.

- Endorsing strategies to advance, and actively communicate, the value and story of E-Enterprise.

EELC Member Commitments

EELC members serve the E-Enterprise partnership through their commitment to earnest, honest, and open communication/information exchange, active listening, and an "open mind" (to different or new perspectives). EELC members are expected to dedicate sufficient time and attention to effective collaboration and participation in the following ways:

- Contributing to EELC discussions at meetings and in other venues.

- Attending two-day, in-person meetings twice per year (requires travel; virtual attendance is a secondary option).

- Participating in two EELC teleconference meetings per year (facilitated discussions are 1.5 hours).

- Participating in EELC meeting preparation, including joining separate EPA/state/Tribal calls to prepare for EELC meetings; identifying priorities and sharing ideas for EELC consideration; and exploring and elevating innovative best practices and improvements.

Take Action: Implement E-Enterprise Activities and Projects and Manage Operations

Consistent with the 2016 E-Enterprise Charter and defined by EELC Strategic Direction, E-Enterprise work and partnership management is guided by governance bodies and supported by the day-to-day attention and expertise of specific teams. Governance bodies and teams operate under the direction of and report to the EELC.

Governance Bodies

E-Enterprise initiatives and operations are supported by governance bodies or groups, which help the E-Enterprise partnership run effectively, support E-Enterprise activities, and enable technical system evolution to occur consistently and in a complementary fashion. These groups are comprised of government employees from EPA, States, and Tribes, and may include EELC members. Consistent with the 2016 E-Enterprise Charter and EELC Strategic Direction, these groups may provide guidance and make recommendations for E-Enterprise activities.

Teams and Workgroups

EPA, States, and Tribes assign government employees with specific experience, knowledge, and subject matter expertise to participate in and lead E-Enterprise activities, teams, and workgroups (including the E-Enterprise Regional Coordinators). They report status to and request advice and input from the EELC and governance bodies, as directed and needed. Teams and other E-Enterprise workgroups frequently include EELC members as sponsors.

E-Enterprise in Action

Making a Difference the E-Enterprise Way

By modernizing our business practices and processes and optimizing technology solutions (when suitable), E-Enterprise recognizes our shared responsibility protecting the environment and human health. A full description of these successful E-Enterprise efforts can be found <u>online</u> with numerous other valuable tools and best practices.

E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform: Online community for E-Enterprise partners to share and search for projects, answer discussion questions, and connect with peers across agencies.

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs): A consistent and transparent process for reviewing and approving grantee QAPPs, providing more certainty and awareness for state and Tribal customers.

Smart Tools for Field Inspectors: Mobile devices to improve field inspection quality, consistency, and efficiency.

Learn More

E-Enterprise Website

E-Enterprise Video

EELC Charter

Keeping Up with E-Enterprise

E-Enterprise partners use an E-Enterprise SharePoint site to share and archive information, including meeting materials and team and project-related work products. The E-Enterprise website features publicly accessible resources that highlight our collaborative partnership and innovation.