

Data Quality Record for Long-Term Performance Goals

Long-Term Performance Goal Text: By September 30, 2026, all EPA programs that work in and with communities will do so in ways that are community-driven, coordinated and collaborative, support equitable and resilient community development, and provide for meaningful involvement and fair treatment of communities with environmental justice concerns.

Corresponding Annual Performance Goal: Percentage of EPA national programs and regions that have created a new meaningful involvement plan for a specific Agency project or decision with potential impacts in communities with environmental justice concerns.

Goal Number/Objective: Goal 2/Objective 2.2

NPM Leads: Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

1a. Purpose of Long-Term Performance Goal:

The intent of this long-term performance goal (LTPG) is to track how the Agency is meaningfully involving and fairly treating communities with environmental justice concerns, thus evolving into practices that are community-driven, coordinated and collaborative.

When seeking ideas, input, feedback, and recommendations from the public to influence a project or decision, national program sub-offices and regional divisions should develop a meaningful involvement plan. A positive trend through several years of results will demonstrate that a greater number of EPA national programs and regions will implement meaningful involvement activities that influence the Agency's decision-making process. The aim is that Agency decisions will show increased equity and resiliency in overburdened (communities experiencing disproportionate environmental harms and risks) and underserved communities, in addition to addressing community priorities.

1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

Community-driven: For this LTPG, the principle behind community-driven is to respect and support the community's voice, priorities, leadership, and knowledge. It means that EPA actively seeks out and documents the needs and priorities of the community, ensuring that all community voices are heard. Input from the community is used to inform EPA decision-making, changes in policies or procedures, and should affect actions toward solutions to improve the environment, public health, and overall quality of life within the community. EPA commits to transparency by providing a response to the community on why or why not decisions, changes, or actions were taken.

Coordinated: For this LTPG, coordinated refers to an EPA program connecting with other relevant EPA programs to coordinate as one EPA voice to address the community's documented priorities on environmental and public health concerns. Coordination will ensure that programs engage in a way that is respectful of the community's time, resources, and capacity and is sharing information in a cohesive manner.

Collaborative: For this LTPG, collaborative means connecting with external partners (e.g., local community-based organizations, federal, tribal, state, local, business, academia, etc.) to collaborate on

the work that will address the community's documented priorities on environmental and public health concerns. This provides for a holistic, and whole of government approach.

Meaningful involvement (or participation) implies:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment, health and/or other quality of life interests;
- The public's contribution can influence the agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be meaningfully considered in the decision-making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected, including people from communities with environmental justice concerns.

Meaningful involvement plan: A document designed to ensure the resources and timeline match the Agency's community involvement goals for a specific project or decision. Qualifying plans can be different lengths and depth of complexity, tailored to fit the need/scale of a particular project or decision. However, all plans should:

- identify key decisions subject to public influence and statutory or other requirements and limitations to the public's influence;
- clarify the timeline, budget, staff, and resources available, including technical and financial assistance;
- provide an assessment of the interested and affected community, including identifying key partners to work with from federal, tribal, state, and local governments, non-profits, and community-based organizations;
- include a communications strategy with key messages, outreach materials, and engagement activities;
- describe how the EPA team will review ideas, input, feedback, and recommendations from the public, incorporate those into the decision, and provide feedback and next steps to the public.

Community with environmental justice concerns: For this LTPG, it refers to any community that meets at least one of the following criteria: self-identification as such; is at or above the 80th percentile in [EJScreen](#) for any of the environmental justice and/or supplemental indexes; has been the recipient of an EPA Environmental Justice grant or cooperative agreement; has been determined based upon on-the-ground knowledge supported by interaction with EPA staff.

1c. Unit of Measure:

Percentage of EPA national programs and regions

2a. Data Source:

Each implicated region or national program sub-office will submit their plans to OEJECR quarterly, generally within the month after the end of a quarter.

2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:

The submission of newly created meaningful involvement plans. Quarterly targets are to be determined each fiscal year, starting in FY 2025.

3. Calculation Methodology:

Quarterly results will be calculated cumulatively, with the number of regions and program sub-offices submitting plans for that period representing the numerator. The total number of applicable regions and program sub-offices will represent the denominator.

4. Quality Assurance/Quality Controls:

QA/QC procedures will be developed by OEJECR with the involvement of programs and regions during the FY 2024 pilot period of implementing this measure.

5. Data Limitations/Qualifications:

Meaningful involvement plans are iterative in nature. Qualifying plans can be different lengths and depth of complexity, tailored to fit the need/scale of a particular project, decision and community need. Subjectivity is involved when discerning whether a new meaningful involvement plan meets the criteria for reporting.

6. Technical Contact:

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7. Certification Statement/Signature:

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

PDAA Signature Original signed by Theresa Segovia **Date** 5/6/2024