



**SUSTAINABILITY**  
at The National Academies

THE NATIONAL  
ACADEMIES

# **Incorporating Sustainability in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Bernard D. Goldstein, Chair**



## **Incorporating Sustainability in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

- A committee under the STS Program will conduct a study at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Research and Development to help define efforts to incorporate sustainability concepts into Agency programs.
- This study will build on existing sustainability efforts in EPA by strengthening the analytic and scientific basis for sustainability as it applies to human health and environmental protection within the Agency's decision-making process.



## **Incorporating Sustainability in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

- Develop a framework for EPA to solve complex environmental challenges through a more integrated, systems approach
- Similar to the 1983 NRC report Risk Assessment in the Federal Government
  - Will explore the relationships among science, policy, and innovation in sustainability science and technology
- Will define for EPA a recommended framework that will then be scaled up under the broader NRC study, Sustainability Linkages in the Federal Government (“Linkages”) to develop a decision framework to help all federal agencies examine the consequences, tradeoffs, synergies, and operational benefits of sustainability-oriented programs



## **Incorporating Sustainability in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

The consensus report will answer the following questions:

- What should be the operational framework for sustainability for EPA?
- How can the EPA decision making process rooted in the risk assessment/risk management (RA/RM) paradigm be integrated into this new sustainability framework?
- What scientific and analytical tools are needed to support the framework?
- What expertise is needed to support the framework?



## **Incorporating Sustainability in the USEPA Committee Members**

- **Bernard Goldstein (IOM) (Chair)**  
- University of Pittsburgh
- **John Dernbach** – Widener  
University School of Law
- **Paul Gilman** – Covanta Energy  
Corporation
- **Lauren Zeise** – California  
Environmental Protection Agency
- **Leslie Carothers** – Environmental  
Law Institute
- **Michael Kavanaugh (NAE)** –  
Geosyntec Consultants
- **Ted Russell** – Georgia Tech
- **Susanna Sutherland** – City of  
Knoxville
- **Steve Polasky (NAS)** – University  
of Minnesota
- **Kenneth Ruffing** – Organisation  
for Economic Co-operation and  
Development
- **Terry Davies** – Resources for the  
Future
- **Neil Hawkins** – The Dow  
Chemical Company

**Science and Technology for Sustainability Program  
Special Event  
Celebrate EPA at 40 and Help Address Environmental Issues  
for the Future**

***Launch of a National Research Council Study  
Incorporating Sustainability in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Marian Koshland Science Museum

Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and E Street NW Washington DC

Metro: Judiciary Square (Red Line) or Gallery Place (Yellow/Green Line)

A committee under the Science and Technology for Sustainability Program (STS) will conduct a study at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Research and Development to help define their efforts to incorporate sustainability concepts into agency programs.

This study will build on existing sustainability efforts in EPA by strengthening the analytic and scientific basis for sustainability as it applies to human health and environmental protection within the Agency's decision-making process.

***Program***

***Remarks:***

**Ralph J. Cicerone, President, National Academy of Sciences**

**Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Bernard D. Goldstein, University of Pittsburgh, Chair, Ad hoc Committee, Incorporating Sustainability in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Question and Answer Session and Reception to follow.**

If you plan to attend this event, **please register by Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm** at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/isc-registration/public/default.asp?event=A0ABFE48> or call 202-334-2047. Please note space is limited and registration will be closed once capacity has been met.

For more information on the STS Program, please visit our website at: [www.nas.edu/sustainability](http://www.nas.edu/sustainability).



## **Incorporating Sustainability in the USEPA Status**

- A [video](#) of the event is available on the EPA website. In addition, please see [Interactive Timeline: 40 Years of the EPA](#) on the Washington Post, in particular, December 2, 2010
- The first committee meeting was held on December 14-15, 2010 in Washington, DC. The [agenda and presentations](#) from the meeting have been posted on the STS website.
- One week consensus meeting was held February 7-11, 2011 in Irvine, CA





## **Additional Information**

- **Website**

[www.nas.edu/sustainability](http://www.nas.edu/sustainability)

- **Monthly newsletter**

To subscribe, send email to: [sustainability@nas.edu](mailto:sustainability@nas.edu)