What Do We Know To Be Important But Are Unable to Measure

A Disaster Off the Scilly Isles

October 1707, Great Britain

Will support our comprehensive approach to identifying priorities, focusing resources on areas of greatest concern, and managing our work to achieve measurable results.

EPA's vision for a national "State of the Environment Report" and Developing Environmental Indicators

Goals

- **Short-term**: Gather and develop information that will help us understand where we are and where we need to go in order to make sound, strategic decisions

- **Long-term**: Bring together national, regional, state and tribal indicator efforts to describe the condition of critical environmental areas and human health concerns

Key Things the Report Will Do

EPA's "State of the Environment Report"

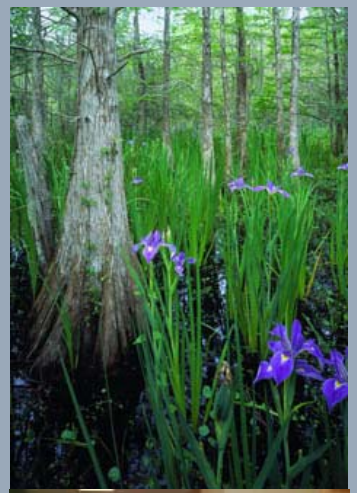
- Describe current environmental conditions and trends using existing data and indicators
- Present what is known and unknown about environmental trends and conditions
- Identify data gaps and research needs
- Discuss the challenges government faces in filling these gaps
- Be accompanied by supporting technical information
- Be circulated for public review and comment

Content Development Framework

EPA's "State of the Environment Report"

Major Themes:

- **Ecological condition**
- **Human health**
- **Cleaner air**
- **Purer water**
- **Better protected land**

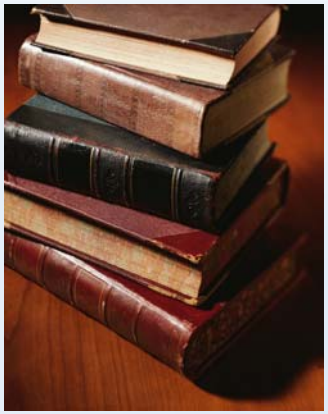


Purer Water

- Water Resources
- Drinking Water
- Recreational Water
- Fish/Shellfish Consumption
- Watershed Health

Selecting Issues & Questions

- Selection of Issues and Questions based on:
  - Public Interest
  - Need to educate and raise public awareness



Science Review

- External Peer Review of:
  - Indicators
  - Supporting Data
  - Usage and Context

Supporting Information

- Scientific foundation for the public report
- Organized around ecological and human health conditions
- Provides indicator descriptions and documentation
- Consistent with EPA Science Advisory Board, National Science Foundation, and the Heinz Center's indicator efforts

What it Means for Individual Groups and When Can We Expect It

- What to Expect in the Near-Term

  May – June

  Indicator Review and Evaluation; Outreach; Development of the supporting document

  July – November

  ***Draft* Public Report; Internal Reviews/Partner Reviews**

  ***Final Draft* Public Report**

- What We Hope to Deliver in the Future

  "On-Line" or Virtual SOE Report

  "Drill-Down" Capability for Environmental Indicators

  Use of Environmental Indicators for Strategic Planning and Performance-Based Management

“A Partnership into The Foreseeable Future”

- Rivers
- Streams
- GeospatialData
- Public Transportation data
- Energy use/production
- Average Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Facility Compliance data

Data either already spatially enabled and on the Internet or would be available with minor modification.

Data available on the Internet but is not spatially enabled and/or is not consistently collected.