



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Review on the Effectiveness of EPA's Environmental Education Activities
Project No. OPE-FY15-0050

FROM: Eric Lewis, Product Line Director /s/
Special Program Reviews, Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Brian Bond, Associate Administrator
Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to begin preliminary research on the effectiveness of the EPA's Environmental Education activities. In 2005, the EPA's National Environmental Education Advisory Council submitted a report to Congress on the status of environmental education and provided several specific recommendations to improve environmental education by:

- Developing a framework and tools for measuring the effectiveness of environmental education.
- Supporting and strengthening comprehensive, long-term research initiatives to assess the effectiveness of environmental education in improving environmental literacy and stewardship and in promoting student academic achievement.
- Developing assessment-based professional development programs to improve the ability of educators to teach environmental concepts/skills to learners of all ages.

This is a self-generated project with anticipated benefits in the reduction of risks to human health and the environment from harmful pollutants or practices by informing and preparing citizens to manage and respond to environmental risks through the EPA's Environmental Education outreach programs and activities. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting this project.

Our review objectives will focus on:

1. Whether the EPA has developed the framework and tools to allow for the measurement of the Environmental Education program.
2. Whether research initiatives have been implemented to assess the effectiveness of the Environmental Education program to improve environmental literacy and stewardship.

3. Whether programs have been developed to improve the ability of educators to teach environmental concepts.
4. What benefits the EPA derives from its Environmental Education program.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of this project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis, as agreed upon at this meeting.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objective(s). We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records to the OIG, or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the Administrator and include the incident in the Semiannual Report to Congress.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2664 or lewis.eric@epa.gov; or Dwayne E. Crawford, the Project Manager, at (202) 566-2894 or crawford.dwayne@epa.gov.

cc: Gina McCarthy, Administrator
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