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INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Program Background

EPA's Regional Science Program plays a vital role in linking ORD with EPA's regional offices. The program, managed by ORD's Office of Science Policy, is implemented by a small headquarters staff and two teams of scientists and engineers located across the EPA regions: Regional Science Liaisons (RSL) and Superfund and Technology Liaisons (STL). The Regional Science Program builds networks and partnerships between ORD and the regions, as well as with state, local and tribal partners to ensure EPA applied science is useful and practical for environmental decision making.

The Regional Science Program addresses high-priority regional science needs through collaborative research activities and technical support.

Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) Program

The RARE program provides a mechanism for ORD and the regions to collaborate on high-priority, near-term research needs of the regions, states and tribes. RARE research addresses a wide range of environmental issues, from human health concerns to ecological effects of various pollutants. The RSLs coordinate RARE activities and ensure that research results are effectively communicated and used within the regions.

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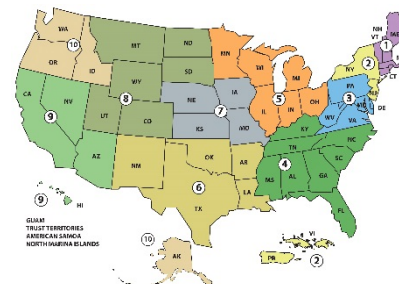
Regional Research Partnership Program (R2P2)

R2P2 provides short-term training opportunities for regional technical staff to work directly with ORD scientists in ORD laboratories, centers, and offices. The program builds technical capacity in the regions, enhances the skills and knowledge of regional and ORD staff, and promotes the development of stronger ties between ORD and the regions. The RSLs and headquarters staff facilitate the process of soliciting applicants and helping candidates establish the necessary contacts throughout ORD.

Regional – ORD Community of Science Networking (ROCS-Net) Program

ROCS-Net is an ORD orientation and networking program for regional and state scientists and engineers. It provides an opportunity for regional and state staff who have limited familiarity with ORD to visit an EPA research facility and discuss collaborative research opportunities, regional and state priorities and cross-cutting issues with ORD scientists. ROCS-Net builds ties between ORD and the regions and helps develop emerging regional science leaders.

Note: Another research partnership program, administered by ORD's Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program, is the Regional Sustainable Environmental Science (RESES) program. RESES supports community efforts to assign value to ecosystem goods and services through the use of the best available scientific tools and information.



Regional Technical Support

The STLs help regional hazardous waste program managers make scientifically defensible decisions by providing direct technical support or coordinating assistance through ORD's five Technical Support Centers. Technical support may involve site assessments, remedial investigations, document review, remedial design, environmental cleanup technology demonstrations, optimization, five-year reviews, and aerial photo interpretation. Regional staff can access this support by calling their regional STL.

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