

Highlights of Environmental Accomplishments, EPA Regions

Region 10 Protecting Stratospheric Ozone

In FY 2012, EPA settled two cases alleging Clean Air Act violations by two seafood processors based in Washington state. American Seafoods agreed to pay \$700,000 in penalties for inadequate management of ozone-depleting substances and spend \$9 million to \$15 million to convert industrial refrigeration systems to non-ozone depleting substance refrigerants. Icicle Seafoods agreed to pay \$400,000 for refrigerant leaks, repair leaks at a lower trigger rate aboard its largest processor-vessel and land-based facilities, and implement comprehensive inspection and leak repair plans at all its facilities.

Region 9 Building Sustainable Communities in Fresno

As part of the White House Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, EPA; the city of Fresno, California; and 12 federal agencies collaborated to align multiple planning and infrastructure projects designed to revitalize downtown Fresno and create economic growth and innovation leading to environmental benefits. Projects considered include enhancing transit connectivity with options like bus rapid transit and supporting the city in reconnecting an 18-square-block street grid in the heart of downtown to better support infill development funded by the Department of Transportation.

Region 7 Preventing Overflow in St. Louis

In FY 2012, EPA and the Department of Justice lodged a consent decree valued at more than \$4.7 billion against the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD), requiring injunctive measures and pollution controls to cut sewer overflows. To address potential environmental justice concerns, MSD will also provide \$100 million for green infrastructure and \$230 million to the Cityshed Mitigation Program to alleviate flooding.

Region 8 Improving Tribal Health in South Dakota

In FY 2012, EPA performed time-critical removal actions on 90 structures contaminated with asbestos, lead-based paint, and other sources threatening children and other residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. To address health concerns, EPA coordinated with the Oglala Sioux Tribe’s Environmental Protection Program, the South Dakota Department of Health, the Indian Health Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Region 5 Making Great Lakes Health a Priority

On September 7, 2012, the United States and Canada amended the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to include provisions to combat invasive species, protect habitat, address climate change impacts, and reduce nutrient levels in western Lake Erie and other impaired Great Lakes watersheds. First signed in 1972, the agreement is the cornerstone of a binational effort to protect and restore water quality in the Great Lakes.

Region 1 Integrated Stormwater Campaign in New England

EPA and the New England states are using the best available science and tools to address waterways impacted by polluted stormwater. EPA New England’s office is helping cities and towns, issuing permits, and enforcing environmental laws where necessary to protect and restore water quality, shellfish beds, and beaches. As part of a public education “Soak Up the Rain” campaign, EPA has partnered with groups around New England, including inner city youth, to install rain gardens and other green infrastructure solutions. Youth developed valuable green job skills while reducing polluted runoff.

Region 2 Bringing Abandoned Sites Back to Life in New Jersey

As part of \$69.3 million in new investments to help redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies, and create local jobs, EPA awarded \$2.8 million to clean up and redevelop abandoned brownfields sites in Newark and Jersey City, New Jersey. Investments include \$900,000 for assessments and cleanups in both cities and nearly \$1 million to maintain a revolving loan fund for marketing the program, provide oversight and technical support, and award subgrants.

Region 3 Being Energy Wise in Philadelphia

In FY 2012, EPA worked closely with Philadelphia’s Sustainability Office and local building management firms to promote energy efficiency throughout the municipality. The result was increased use of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, which can help building facility managers reduce energy use. In FY 2012, 20 properties in Philadelphia—totaling 8,344,581 square feet—received Energy Star labels.

Region 4 Filtering Out Pollution in the Everglades

In FY 2012, EPA reached a historic agreement with the state of Florida on permits aimed to restore water quality in the Everglades through limits on phosphorus. Additionally, more than \$875 million will be invested in projects that expand wetland treatment systems that filter and clean the water before release and create flow equalization basins that will store and slowly release water into an additional 6,500 acres of stormwater treatment areas.

Region 6 Reducing Pollution in Texas

On December 7, 2011, EPA and Agrifos Fertilizer LLC in Pasadena, Texas, agreed to a \$1.8 million penalty for violations of the Clean Air Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, including processing and disposing of hazardous waste without a permit. Corrective actions outlined in the consent agreement and final order may reduce the release of hazardous waste into area surface water by more than 1.5 million tons and fund a \$600,000 Supplemental Environmental Project.

