



How EPA's data is used and presented to the public

Strengthening the Right to Information for People and the Environment:
Study Tour

Washington, DC
October 22, 2012



How EPA learns about the information people want

- National Dialogue on Access to Environmental Information
- OpenGov effort
- Blogs and discussion forums
- Logs of EPA's website



How EPA has made data available

- Data.gov: EPA has posted almost 5,000 data sets
- Data Finder: a single place to find EPA's data sources
- Envirofacts: EPA's point of entry for major databases
- System of Registries: official listing of databases, data elements, facilities, terminology, etc.



How EPA encourages the use of data

- Apps for the Environment Challenge
- Developer Central
- Other challenges, e.g., My Air, My Health
- Agency blog: It's Our Environment



Apps for the Environment

- A contest for software developers to create environmental apps using EPA's data
- Conducted in the summer of 2011
- EPA offered data, technical assistance, and recognition
- Significant use of social media
- 38 submissions, recognized the winners at a forum
- Established a relationship with developers



Winning apps from the challenge

- Light Bulb Finder
- Hootroot
- EarthFriend
- Environmental Justice Participatory Mapping
- CG Search



EPA offers mobile apps

- AIRNow
- UV Index
- ENERGY Star Rebate Finder
- My Right to Know
- Indoor airPLUS Builder

Available from EPA's mobile website



EPA home page

By geography

By audience

Popular topics

Social media

The screenshot shows the EPA home page with the following sections:

- Header:** EPA logo, navigation links (Mobile, Español, etc.), search bar, and menu items (LEARN THE ISSUES, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, LAWS & REGULATIONS, ABOUT EPA).
- Main Banner:** "New Tool Checks Your Waterway" with a photo of a man in a field and a smartphone. Includes "Learn more" and "Check your local water" links.
- General Info By State:** A map of the United States with state abbreviations. Includes a "General Info | MATS | TRI by State" link.
- Popular Topics:** A list of topics including Acid rain, Air cleaners, Air ducts, Air pollution, Asbestos, Bed bugs, Carbon monoxide, CFL cleanup, Climate change, Compost, Data, Drinking water, eCycling, Emissions calculator, Hurricane Isaac, Hydraulic Fracturing, Indoor air, and Internships.
- Administrator Lisa P. Jackson:** A profile section with a photo and a bio. Includes links for Biography, Schedule, Twitter, and Facebook.
- State of the Environment Photo Project:** A section titled "Documerica Debuts at Chicago's Green Exchange" with a link to "All blogs".
- Preparing for a Storm:** A section with a "EVACUATION ROUTE" sign image and text about hurricane preparedness.
- Sign up for email alerts:** A form with "Enter email address" and "sign up" buttons.
- Jobs:** A section with links for "Current openings", "Careers", and "Internships".
- Report Spills:** A section with a biohazard icon and text: "Report possible violations or spills other than BP oil spill." Includes a "Get started" link.
- Get Involved In Your Community:** A section with text: "Find out about environment conditions where you live." Includes a "Get started" link.
- Footer:** Contact Us, Open Government, Inspector General, USA.gov, Budget & Performance, White House, FAQs, No FEAR Act, Regulations.gov, Recovery Act, FOIA requests, Data.gov, Grants, Accessibility, Recovery.gov, Contracting, Privacy and Security, Widgets, News Feeds, Podcasts, EPA Blog, Social sites (Facebook, RSS, Twitter, YouTube), and "More social media at EPA".



Resources

- EPA OpenGov site www.epa.gov/open
- National Dialogue on Access to Environmental Information
www.epa.gov/nationaldialogue
- EPA blog <http://blog.epa.gov>
- Envirofacts www.epa.gov/enviro
- Data.gov www.data.gov
- Data Finder www.epa.gov/data
- System of Registries www.epa.gov/sor
- Apps for the Environment www.epa.gov/appsfortheenvironment
- Developer Central www.epa.gov/developer
- Data and Developer Forum <http://blog.epa.gov/data>
- EPA mobile site <http://m.epa.gov>



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