

Joint Statement on

Vision & Goals

Executive Summary



The federal, tribal, state, and local governments involved in air quality management have jointly developed a shared 10-year vision for the National Air Program.

Joint Vision of the Future

Clean air is essential to a healthy population, a safe and healthy environment, and a healthy economy. The EPA, tribal, state, and local governments are committed to making the air safe and healthy in every community, reducing ecosystem damage from air pollution, and doing their share to address global air quality problems. The joint vision includes the following key goals:

Achieve further improvements in air quality. In 10 years, significantly more people will breathe air—indoors and outdoors—that is cleaner and healthier and that meets national standards. The United States, working in concert with other nations, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

Manage for Results. The air management partners will more effectively target resources to the most significant problems, measure performance and environmental progress, and work together to make the case for funding critical programs.

Use Innovative Approaches. Air quality managers will make increased use of innovative management strategies, such as multi-pollutant and cross-media approaches, geographic and stakeholder-based approaches, and voluntary and market-based strategies.

Conduct Sound Research and Use Information Effectively. Research will address critical scientific questions and support the development of more effective control techniques. Information technology will make data more widely available and support better decision-making.

Respond to New Challenges and Emerging Issues. The air management partners will respond to change—from economic or technological evolution to new scientific information to newly identified problems—creatively and effectively.

Build a Better Partnership. EPA, tribal, state, and local governments will transform today's cooperative working relationship into a stronger, deeper partnership based upon the principles of mutual respect, up-front involvement in activities of common concern, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The partners will support tribes as they build their own programs and participate more in regional and national planning.