

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Federal Advisory Committee

December 2015

## About Us

The Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is officially chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to provide independent advice that assists EPA in developing a stronger partnership with local governments and building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs. The LGAC is unique in having members that are locally elected and appointed officials, such as mayors, county executives, city managers, commissioners, and others that represent key interests of local governments.

## What do we do?

The committee provides recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of topics, including: regulatory innovation and reform, environmental protection tools, pollution prevention, new technologies, performance measurement, and appropriate roles of the various governmental levels in efficient and coordinated environmental management. The LGAC crafts its advice through the help of five workgroups and one subcommittee.

## Impacts We Have

- We act as a change agent for the EPA.
- We integrate local and tribal perspectives into federal lawmaking
- We emphasize issues for the EPA to focus on

## Executive Steering Committee

The Executive Steering Committee serves to review and coordinate all workgroup actions. When the full committee meets, the Executive Steering Committee leads discussions about workgroup activities and recommendations for the EPA Administrator.

## In their Own Words

LGAC member, Mayor Doe says that her participation has been, "the best thing to happen to her since sliced bread. I have made such an impact!"

## The Workgroups

- Air, Climate, and Energy
- Cleaning Up Our Communities
- Climate Change Resiliency and Sustainability
- Environmental Justice
- Protecting America's Waters



The LGAC members with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy after their July 2015 meeting

## Small Community Advisory Subcommittee

The mission of SCAS is to strengthen the capacity of small communities throughout America to improve and protect the health of their communities. SCAS seeks to effectively inform and advise EPA on how environmental regulations impact small communities; the disproportionate costs of providing environmental protection and services in small communities; the need for flexible regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to environmental protection in small communities; and the importance of providing a range of technical assistance and professional services to small communities through EPA, states, and third party providers. The SCAS has provided ongoing consultation on several issues, including:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems in small communities
- Decentralized systems
- Capacity building



The LGAC discusses important issues facing local communities with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy in their face to face meeting in July 2015

## The Workgroups:

### Protecting America's Waters

The Protecting America's Waters workgroup focuses on ways that communities and EPA can ensure that we have adequate, safe water resources to support a healthy population and vibrant economy. The Protecting America's Waters workgroup has provided recommendations on:

- EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Memorandum of Understanding on Clean Water
- Water Quality Standards Updates

### Cleaning Up Our Communities

The Cleaning up Our Communities workgroup focuses on environmental programs and issues to promote healthier communities. The Cleaning up Our Communities workgroup has examined a range of issues, including:

- Pharmaceutical rule
- Waste generator rule
- Brownfields reauthorization
- Animas River and the Gold King Mine spill

### Air, Climate, and Energy

The Air, Climate and Energy workgroup focuses on improving air quality, taking action on climate change, and promoting clean, renewable energy sources. The Air, Climate and Energy workgroup has prepared advice letters on a range of topics, including:

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Clean Power Plan

### Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup focuses on ensuring that all communities have equal access to environmental programs and resources and a significant voice in the formulation of national environmental policies. The Environmental Justice workgroup has consulted on topics such as:

- Plan EJ 2020
- Preventing and Managing Toxic Algal Blooms

### Climate Change Resiliency and Sustainability

This is the newest workgroup within the LGAC. It is specifically focused on preparing for and being responsive to new challenges that communities face due to the major fluctuations in weather patterns. In addition to this, the workgroup promotes sustainable development to ensure safety and success despite new climate challenges.



LGAC's Mayor Johnny DuPree from Hattiesburg, Mississippi and EPA's Mark Rupp (Left to Right) listen intently