

EPA Data Governance Council

Meeting Summary – May 20, 2024

Data Officers Update

- David Jacobson provided an update on the Data Officers recent activities and next steps.
- The current focus of the Data Officers has been establishing the overall governance framework, for example, how the Data Officers will form the new Data Governance Advisory Committee.
- The Data Officers will work with the Data Governance Community to coordinate, communicate, establish and support enterprise-wide data governance activities.
- Foundational activities for the Data Officers include:
 - Updating the Data Governance Council Charter to include the Data Officer position.
 - Examining existing subcommittees to keep, discontinue or recharter where needed.
 - Establishing common definitions for data management and governance related terms.
 - Identifying priority activities to focus on over the coming years and adding them to the Calendar Year 2024/2025 Chief Data Officer Roadmap.
- A central role of the Data Officer is to identify their organization's data asset portfolio and properly inventory those assets in the Enterprise Data Catalog.
- Data Officers are also working with the Chief Data Officer to identify where support is needed to help them perform their roles and responsibilities.

Enterprise Data Catalog Update

- The Enterprise Data Catalog was released to EPA staff and contractors with EPA credentials on March 18, 2024.
- Before the release of the EDC, an enterprise data inventory data call was conducted. 525 metadata records were updated as a result of the data call.
- Depending on your permissions level, you will see a different background on the homepage.
 - 'Viewers' can search the catalog and use a feature called 'conversations' to ask questions about a data asset to other users, data owners and data stewards.
 - 'Stewards' have editing capabilities to update metadata records. All Data Officers are assigned as 'Stewards' in the EDC.
- In order to meet requirements in the Evidence Act, the EPA will continue to provide the enterprise data inventory to Data.gov as a public-facing inventory.
- The EDC includes entries for all legacy and newly submitted metadata records as well as records from the Envirofacts database and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds tracking database.
- Data stewards should work with the EDC team and legacy metadata editors to manage records, unless your data asset is configured as a data source for direct harvesting via connector.
- There are several metadata editors available to create valid metadata:
 - [EPA Metadata Editor Pro](#) – a geospatial metadata editor plug-in for ArcGIS Pro desktop software that allows data stewards to create and edit records.

- [EPA Open Data Metadata Editor](#) – a web-based tool that allows data stewards to author, save and submit metadata records for non-geospatial data.
- The EDC is working with the Data Management and Analytics Platform to find a permanent hosting solution for small datasets.
- General audience trainings on the EDC will be offered in the next several months. Training for offices is available upon request.
- The Data Officers are assisting with updating legacy metadata records and identifying any data assets that still need to be added to the catalog.

Race and Ethnicity Data Standards

- Alex Marten, the EPA Statistical Official, announced the recent change to [Statistical Policy Directive 15](#) which sets the standards for how the government collects and disseminates information on race and ethnicity.
- Peiley Lau is an economist in the National Center for Environmental Economics within the Office of Policy. She presented on the policy revisions and the next steps for EPA.
- SPD 15 was established in 1977 to improve the quality, usefulness and consistency of federal data on race and ethnicity.
- SPD 15 was revised in 2024 to reflect the changing demographics of the United States and address the need for more detailed race and ethnicity data.
- Agencies are required to submit action plans for implementing the SPD 15 revisions to the Office of Management and Budget by September 28, 2025. EPA's action plan will be submitted through EPA's Statistical Official.