



**CHARTER of the  
COMMITTEE on ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, and  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

The Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The CENRS represents a revisioning of the former Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) and inherits all of its Subcommittees and ongoing activities.

The CENRS serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC. The NSTC, a Cabinet-level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science and technology policies across the Federal Government.

Purpose

The purpose of the CENRS is to advise and assist the NSTC, under Executive Order 12881, to increase the overall productivity and application of Federal research and development (R&D) efforts in the areas of environment, natural resources, and sustainability. The CENRS will provide a formal mechanism for interagency coordination relevant to environment, natural resource, and sustainability policy and R&D issues domestically and internationally.

The CENRS interagency process will improve the links among science, policy, and management actions and promote better understanding of environment and natural resource issues in the context of sustainability nationwide and globally.

Functions

Reporting to and under the direction of the Chair of the NSTC, the CENRS will:

- Create a balanced, integrated, and comprehensive R&D program that will promote strong coordination and collaboration among Departments and Agencies on issues of environment, natural resources, and sustainability;
- Ensure strong linkages among science, policy, and management decisions about the environment, natural resources, and sustainability;

- Encourage the use of sustainability science as a mechanism to integrate human and natural sciences, ecosystem science, ecosystem recovery and restoration work, land-use and watershed considerations, and related areas for environment and natural resource R&D, policy, and management;
- Support science and technology for sustainability to promote sustainable products, processes, and systems;
- Identify and promote Federal programs that advance environmental and economic sustainability;
- Coordinate federal R&D budgets to recognize shared priorities, reduce redundancies, promote joint programs, and create efficiencies;
- Ensure coordination and integration of its subcommittees by periodically reviewing membership and activities and making changes as necessary;
- Provide reviews, analyses, advice, and recommendations to the NSTC on Federal policies and programs concerned with the environment, natural resources, and sustainability, including both domestic and international programs;
- Develop metrics to measure progress toward environmental and economic sustainability; and
- Examine methods for transitioning new science and technology into application and for incorporating new knowledge into a range of education efforts.

The CENRS Co-Chairs, consistent with the Committee's endorsement, will recommend action on major environment, natural resource, and sustainability issues to the Chair of the NSTC for approval.

### Membership

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Associate Director for Environment, Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, and Department of Commerce Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere will serve as the Co-chairs of CENRS.

The following departments and agencies are represented on the CENRS at the Assistant Secretary level or above:

Agency for International Development  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Department of Commerce/NOAA  
 Department of Defense  
 Department of Energy  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Department of Homeland Security  
 Department of the Interior  
 Department of Justice  
 Department of State

Department of Transportation  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
National Science Foundation  
Smithsonian Institution

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the Committee:

Council of Economic Advisors  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Domestic Policy Council  
The National Economic Council  
Office of Energy and Climate Change  
Office of Management and Budget  
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Additional Departments, Agencies, and Executive Offices may be invited to join the CENRS at the discretion of the Co-chairs of the CENRS in consultation with the Director of OSTP.

#### Non-federal Interface

The CENRS may seek advice from the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; the establishment of any additional Federal Advisory Committees for use by the CENRS should be approved by the Director of OSTP. The CENRS may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice needed to accomplish its mission from various private-sector groups, private business, non-profit organizations, academia, states, and tribes, as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

#### Termination Date

This charter shall terminate no later than July 31, 2013 unless renewed by the Director of OSTP.

#### Determination

I hereby determine that formation of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

Jon P. Holder  
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

10-05-10  
Date