

January 14, 2021

Greetings EPN members,

As we approach the Environmental Protection Network's 4th birthday, we are writing to thank you for your participation in EPN and to celebrate the imminent prospects for a revitalized Environmental Protection Agency. We also want to describe both the current focus of EPN as well as the strategic process we are launching to determine a path for EPN going forward – i.e., whether to sunset later this year or to pivot to related work. We hope you will consider being part of the process. EPN's Board of Directors will be voting in June or September about our future, and we would appreciate your thoughts and perspectives.

The network was launched with a group of 25 people in January 2017 and has grown to nearly 550 members across the country. We advanced a mission of "preserving and advancing the nation's bipartisan legacy of progress towards clean air, water and land and climate protection for all Americans." In a demonstrably nonpartisan fashion, we brought rigorous and objective scientific, legal and economic analysis to bear on many of the most destructive actions of the recent administration. In addition, EPN provided deep background to a wide spectrum of journalists telling the story of the attack on health and environmental science, policy, and management. Finally, over 100 EPN members dedicated thousands of hours to fashioning a detailed strategy to inform and support new EPA leadership. This report, "[Resetting the Course for EPA](#)," has been a critical document for the EPA transition team and will continue to be an important roadmap for the incoming administration. Thank you to all who provided your wisdom, experience, and expertise in supporting all of these efforts.

To our collective relief, the long dark winter of relentless assaults on science-based environmental policy is about to melt into spring. Competent and committed science and environmental justice-driven management is about to take the helm.

So, with this changing future, what ought become of EPN? In the near-term the answer is straightforward. The network will continue its education and outreach to the Biden transition team and incoming political appointees. A principal focus will be implementing Reset.

The further question raised by this moment is whether EPN should declare victory and phase down and out? Or, should we continue on our mission employing the same model of volunteer-driven science, law, and economic expertise by assisting government, NGOs and community organizations, Congress, reporters, and the public.

The [EPN Board of Directors](#) considered this matter over the past months and determined at its December board meeting that a systematic process be undertaken to inform a decision. That process is being led by Michelle Roos, EPN's Executive Director. It will be grounded in engagement with the Board of Directors, network members, partners, donors, and EPN advisors to obtain both broad and deep thinking. Member input is key, as without our members there is no EPN. We are establishing a process for getting feedback from you. This will be discussed briefly at the All-Hands call tomorrow. More information will be forthcoming. We hope to reach a final determination by our June or possibly September Board meeting.

Michelle will soon be communicating a strategy for eliciting the perspectives and suggestions you may have. We look forward to an open, creative discussion with you to inform and propel our process to reach a thoughtful conclusion.

Many thanks for all that all of you have done for EPN, the agency, and the entire environmental enterprise.