

Evaluating Commerce's Open Government Plan, version 1.1

Submitted on June 22, 2010 – 11:00 am

Categories:

- [Department of Commerce](#)
- [open government plan](#)
- [open government website](#)

The Commerce Open Government team was recently asked to assess just how well we answered the core questions of the Open Government Directive with the [Open Government Plan](#) we released earlier this month.

The table below establishes “grades” for each of the major components of our [Open Government Plan](#) and the overall result. These grades were decided by looking at the 30 distinct questions/requirements laid out in the Directive itself and determining whether our plan fully satisfied (Green), partially satisfied (Yellow) or failed to address (Red). You can see the full-evaluation by clicking the “Read More” link below.

Overall, we think the Commerce Department, like most other Federal Agencies tasked with responding, has partially satisfied the requirements for the Open Government plans and we're working quickly to address those parts that aren't quite there or could be better. You will notice that we have the previous and current versions on our Open Gov Web site. We are doing this to allow public viewing of where we started leading to where we are now. Our previous versions are under the Open Gov Plan history area. We'll continue to make changes, as soon as they're completed, we'll put them up on this site and make sure you know about them. Please use the feedback section to give us your comments on the plan.

While we would have liked to be green in all areas and fully satisfied every requirement for [our Open Government Plan](#), we know the plan we publish is a living document this is version 1.1 release it has some updates to the previous version. As we move forward we are working with all of our partners in both internal Commerce Bureaus and external partners to ensure the Commerce Plan grows and meets the public needs for information sharing.

Overall Grades for Commerce Open Government Plan

Formulating the Plan in the Open	Green
Transparency Component	Yellow
Participation Component	Green
Collaboration Component	Yellow
Flagship Initiatives Component	Yellow
Overall Rating	Yellow

Click "Read More" below to see our complete evaluation.

Self-Evaluation of Commerce's Open Government Plan (April 2010)

Overall Grades for Commerce Open Government Plan

Formulating the Plan in the Open	Green
Transparency Component	Yellow
Participation Component	Green
Collaboration Component	Yellow
Flagship Initiatives Component	Yellow
Overall Rating	Yellow

Formulating the Plan in the Open

Was <i>multidisciplinary collaboration</i> involved in formulating the plan?	Green
Was <i>public consultation</i> involved in crafting the plan?	Green
Was the plan <i>published in an open format</i> , online, on time and on the open government page and with raw data?	Green
Is there a plan for <i>continued public engagement</i> as part of the review and modification of the open government plan?	Green

Transparency Strategic Action Plan

Does the plan contain a strategic action plan that <i>inventories agency high-value information</i> currently available for download?	Green
Is there a plan to foster the <i>public's use of this information</i> to increase public knowledge and promote public scrutiny of agency services?	Yellow
Does the action plan <i>identify high value information not yet available</i> and establish a reasonable timeline for publication online in open formats with specific target dates?	Green
For agencies providing <i>public information in electronic format</i> : Is there a plan for timely publication of underlying data for public information maintained in electronic format?	Green
Does the plan <i>identify key audiences for information and their needs</i> , and the agency endeavors to publish high-value information for each of those audiences in the most accessible forms and formats?	Green
Is there a plan to demarcate <i>educational material</i> as free for re-use?	Green
Does the plan detail compliance with <i>transparency initiative guidance</i>, and where gaps exist, detailed steps the agency is taking and the timing to meet the requirements for each initiative:	
Data.gov	Green
eRulemaking	Green

IT Dashboard	Green
Recovery.gov	Yellow
USAspending.gov	Yellow
Are there details of proposed actions (with clear milestones) to inform the public of significant actions and <i>business of the agency</i> (e.g. agency public meetings, briefings, press conferences, town halls)?	Green
Does the plan address existing record management requirements by providing:	
Website link	Green
Identifying and scheduling all electronic records	Green
Timely transfer of all permanently valuable records to the National Archives	Green
Does the plan address FOIA by providing:	
Website link?	Green
Staffing, organizational structure, and process for responding to FOIA requests?	Green
Assessment of capacity to analyze, coordinate and respond to requests in a timely manner?	Green
If there is a significant FOIA backlog, details on how the agency will reduce the backlog by 10% each year?	Green
Does the plan address congressional requests by providing a:	
Website link?	Green
Staffing, organizational structure, and process for responding to Congressional requests?	Green
Does the plan address declassification, if applicable by providing a:	
Website link?	Yellow
Where the public can learn about declassification programs, accessing declassified materials, and provide input about what types of information should be prioritized for declassification?	Green

Participation

Does the plan explain how the agency will improve participation, including steps the agency will take to revise its current practices to increase opportunities for public participation in and feedback on the agency's core mission activities (including proposed changes to internal management and administrative policies to improve participation)?	Green
Does the plan describe and provide links to websites for the public to engage in existing participatory processes?	Green
Are there proposals for new feedback mechanisms (including innovative tools and practices for public engagement)?	Green

Collaboration

Does the plan list steps the agency will take to revise its current practices to further collaboration:	Green
With other Federal and non-Federal government agencies? Including the use of technology platforms to this end?	Green

With the public? Including the use of technology platforms?	Green
With non-profit and private entities? Including technology platforms?	Green
Are there links to websites that describe existing collaboration efforts of the agency?	Green
Does the plan describe the Innovative methods (e.g. prizes and collaborations) to increase collaboration with the private sector, non-profit, and academic communities?	Yellow

Flagship Initiative

Does the plan include at least one specific flagship engagement?	Green
Does the description provide an overview of the initiative: how it addresses one or more of the three openness principles and how it aims to improve agency operations?	Green
Does it identify external partners for collaboration (if appropriate)?	Green
Is there a plan for public participation in contributing innovative ideas to the flagship?	Green
Does the description explain how the improvements to transparency, participation and/or collaboration will be measured?	Green
Does the flagship include a description of sustainability and room for improvement?	Yellow