

Environmental Evaluators Network Forum Summary, Day 2
Thursday, July 19, 2012
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The day opened with a keynote presentation by Dr. Shelley Metzenbaum, Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget. Dr. Metzenbaum highlighted OMB Memorandum, M-12-14, "Use of Evidence and Evaluation in the 2014 Budget" May 18, 2012 and other initiatives of the Obama administration to strengthen the use of evidence to inform federal programs and policies.

Yvonne Watson reconvened the un-conference to review and revise the day's agenda.

The day ended with a "Debrief and Plan for Next Steps" facilitated by Dr. Beverly Parsons. Dr. Parsons organized the day's sessions into two broad categories: Summary Presentations and Open Ended Discussions.

Summary Presentations:

- "Green Products Round Table Higher Education Pilot" a discussion of the STARS program at the American University and its role in higher education to encourage sustainability.
- "Climate Change Evaluation" described climate change mitigation and adaptation the challenges facing the evaluation community.
- "Fisheries Performance Evaluation" addressed the question of how to integrate ecosystem considerations and self assessments into fisheries management tools.
- "Evaluation of Unintended Consequences" discussed the unique challenges of evaluating environmental projects arising from complex, un expected, system interactions and the need for flexible design, a thorough assessment of context, and knowledge of past studies.
- "No and Low Cost Tools" follow the links at www.BITLY.com/MESIttools for 25 Low-cost/No-cost Tools for Evaluation.
- "American University Sustainability Tour" provided a walking tour of the AU campus. The tour featured: green roofs, rain gardens, 1MW solar power capacity as well as discussion of student and community outreach activities.
- "NOAA's Evaluation Framework" provided a high level summary of efforts within NOAA to respond to recent OMB guidance for improved use of program evaluations.
- "Expanding Cost/Benefit Analysis in Evaluation" described the need for causal attribution using ecological/economic analysis.

Opened Ended Discussions:

- "EEN Repository" challenge: provide a convenient place to store and access information.
- "EEN Forum White Paper" challenge: provide a timely and concise summary of the 2012 EEN Forum.

- “Data Palooza” challenge: coordinate and organize environmental data across agencies and institutions. “EEN EU” challenge: establish effective partnerships with the European community of practise.
- “Madagascar” challenge: establish effective partnerships with Madagascar community of practise.
- “Compliance and Enforcement” challenge: better link evaluation and regulation.
- “EEN Torch” challenge: plan for future EEN events; governance, especially international collaborations; and outreach.