Getting Started With the Environmental Dataset Gateway (EDG)

Access the EDG
http://edg.epa.gov
Includes login for EPA personnel and contractors

Review Metadata Requirements
Read EPA's Geospatial Policies:
http://www.epa.gov/geospatial/policies.html

Streamline Metadata Creation
Download and use the EME
http://edg.epa.gov/eme

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How to Contribute

Choose an EDG Steward
Someone from your organization will serve as a EDG Steward.
The EDG Steward will:
- Work closely with the EPA's EDG team
- Contribute to the EDG via upload and/or harvest
- Maintain assets in the EDG by regularly reviewing records
- Work within your organization to assist with metadata creation and EDG reuse

Plan Your EDG Contributions
- EPA requires that metadata for geospatial data produced or 'improved' by the EPA be contributed to the EDG
- Non-sensitive, EPA-produced assets should be shared with the public
- Your organization decides which contributions will be kept private and which will be available to the public

Create and Contribute Your Metadata
- Create metadata using your metadata editor of choice. The EDG team recommends the *EPA Metadata Editor (EME)*.
- Contribute records to the EDG using the following options:
  o **Upload** XML records manually to the EDG website
  o **Harvest** your organization's locally managed metadata automatically using a scheduled process

Distribute Your Data
Each metadata record contains a link to the resource being described. There are many ways to provide access:
- **Live data services**
- **Data download**
- **Direct connection to a database**
The EPA EDG team can guide you toward methods that best meet your needs.

Validate and Review
EDG contributions must meet EPA metadata requirements. Metadata can be validated locally using the EME. Metadata contributed to the EDG should be reviewed regularly.

http://edg.epa.gov

Getting Started With the GeoData Gateway (EDG)

Step One : Choose a EDG Steward

The first step towards contributing to the EDG is to select someone from your organization who will serve as a EDG Steward. The EDG Steward will work closely with the EPA's EDG team to plan your organization's EDG contributions, keep up-to-date with metadata standards, and take full advantage of the tools available from the EDG. The EDG Steward will be responsible for contributing to the EDG via upload, publish and/or harvest. The EDG Steward will maintain assets in the EDG by regularly reviewing records and may also work within your group to help others understand how they can reuse EDG resources.

Step Two : Plan Your EDG Contributions

The EPA requires that metadata for geospatial assets produced or 'improved' by EPA personnel and/or EPA contractor staff be contributed to the EDG. EPA-compliant metadata is required for all geospatial resources that *originate* at EPA. Metadata records that describe resources that would benefit other EPA organizations are encouraged but not required for contribution. During the planning process you will decide which of your organization's EDG contributions will be kept private and which contributions will be available to the public. In general, metadata records describing non-sensitive, EPA-produced resources should be made available to the public.

Step Three : Contribute Your Metadata

There are two ways to contribute metadata to the EDG : upload and harvest. You can upload XML metadata to the EDG by clicking the Upload link under the EDG's Administration tab. If you need to upload metadata on a regular basis, then harvesting may be your best option. Harvesting is an automated process that collects your organization's locally managed metadata at regular intervals and publishes it to the EDG. Your metadata can be harvested using a regularly scheduled process or on demand. Predefined harvesting intervals range from once per hour to once per month.

Step Four : Distribute Your Data

The EDG allows users to view metadata and then link directly to the data itself. Each metatdata record contains an online link to the data being described. There are various ways to provide access to data. The most common methods include live data services, data download, and direct connection to a database. Whenever possible, multiple access methods should be provided for each dataset. The EPA EDG team can guide you towards the distribution methods that best meet your needs. .

Step Five : Validate and Review

EDG contributions must meet EPA geospatial metadata requirements. Metadata can be validated locally using the *EPA Metadata Editor*. A EDG Administrator will offer an additional review and validation of metadata contributions. One advantage of the EDG is that all metadata contributions are held to an equal standard of review and validation, ensuring that all EDG records are compliant with EPA specifications.