



Capturing and Using RSS Feeds from the Environmental Dataset Gateway (EDG)

“Really Simple Syndication (RSS) provides a quick way to read the latest updates from your favorite websites”¹ including the Environmental Dataset Gateway (EDG) (<https://edg.epa.gov>). An EDG RSS link delivers a GeoRSS² feed that shows recently updated metadata records.

Adding a GeoRSS feed to your Outlook mailbox

You can subscribe to an EDG GeoRSS feed that is delivered to your Outlook mailbox using the following instructions:

1. Navigate to the EDG Metadata Catalog Browse page at <https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/search/browse/browse.page>.
2. Expand the **Catalog** folder and select the **Content Type**, **Data Category**, or **Owner** to which you would like to subscribe.
3. Scroll to the bottom of the list of metadata records to find two types of REST links³:
 - a. Users external to EPA should use the **Internet REST links** to view non-restricted records.
 - b. Internal EPA users should use the **Intranet REST links** to view all records.Click the appropriate **GEORSS** hyperlink to open a new browser page with the GeoRSS REST feed.
4. The browser address bar contains the URL for the GeoRSS REST feed. Modify the URL by adding two additional zeroes to the “max=10” parameter, changing it to “max=1000”. Click **Enter**⁴.
5. Copy the URL from the address bar.
6. Open your Outlook mailbox and find the **RSS Subscriptions** folder in the Folders Pane. Right-click on **RSS Subscriptions** and select **Add a New RSS Feed...**
7. Paste the GeoRSS feed URL into the dialog box and click **Add**, then **Yes**.
8. An **Environmental Dataset Gateway GeoRSS** folder should now be visible under your **RSS Subscriptions**. You may right click to rename the folder.

When you click on the new folder, you will see that the RSS feed is organized much like your email. Click any record to view the information for a specific metadata record.

Subscribe to any topic of interest by using the Search or Browse options in EDG to create your own filter, then start at Step 3 above to capture the new GeoRSS REST feed. You may also use the EPA Science Vocabulary via the EDG Ontology web service by using the syntax “like | {term}” to expand the search.

Viewing GeoRSS in EPA GeoPlatform Online or ArcGIS Online

Why is it called a GeoRSS? Because for geospatial metadata records (52% of the records in EDG), the geographic extent (bounding box) is provided as part of the REST feed. You may view the GeoRSS REST feed bounding boxes in EPA GeoPlatform Online⁵ (<http://epa.maps.arcgis.com>) or in ArcGIS Online as follows:

1. Open a new map in EPA GeoPlatform Online or ArcGIS Online.
2. Select **Add → Add Layer from Web**, then select **A GeoRSS File** as the type of data.
3. Paste the GeoRSS URL (from Step 5 above) into the dialog box, then click **ADD LAYER**.

After a few seconds the bounding boxes will load in the map (you may wish to adjust the symbol transparency for easier viewing). Click on a location on the map and a pop-up will appear indicating the number of GeoRSS records are at that location and, hence, the number of EDG geospatial metadata records. Scroll through the pop-ups to review information on each of the metadata records. Click the **Details** or **Metadata** link in the pop-up to view the record in EDG.

¹ Microsoft Outlook Help article, *Subscribe to an RSS Feed*.

² GeoRSS: Geographically Encoded Objects for RSS feeds, July 12, 2013. <http://www.georss.org/>

³ For more information on reusable components such as feeds, services, and widgets, see https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/webhelp/en/gptlv10/inno/EDG_Reuse.pdf.

⁴ For a regular update on all metadata records in EDG, use this URL: https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/rest/find/document?f=georss&xsl=metadata_to_html_full.

⁵ For more information on EPA GeoPlatform Online, EPA staff and contractors may visit the EPA Geo Resources home page, <http://intranet.epa.gov/gis/>. External users may wish to visit <http://www.arcgis.com/features/> or the Federal GeoPlatform (<http://www.geoplatform.gov/>) for more information.