

Getting Started on the Exchange Network: Join the Network

The Exchange Network is a partnership to support better environmental decisions through improved access to, and exchange of, environmental information. This guide will help you get started becoming a partner on the Network.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1. Go to the Exchange Network Website

Network Basics: Partners on the Network exchange information through Nodes and clients that are securely connected to the Internet and use eXtensible Markup Language (XML) to communicate. Get the basics on the Network Basics section of the Exchange Network website.

Network Data Exchanges: Find out what data is shared on water, air, waste, health, and cross-program exchanges on the Network Data Exchanges section of the Exchange Network website.

Network Nodes

A Network Node enables data sharing among different information systems via the Internet. It is a partner's point of presence on the Exchange Network.

2. Check Out Other Getting Started Guides

- **Build a Node** (coming soon). Learn about the minimum hardware and software needed, and how to configure it to send and receive data using a Network Node.
- **Join an Existing Exchange.** Leverage resources already available to exchange certain types of data over the Network.
- **Build a New Exchange.** Develop resources for exchanging new kinds of data over the Network.
- **Apply for an Exchange Network Grant.** Get funding to support Exchange Network projects led by Exchange Network partners.

Exchange Network Benefits

Find out how others have used the Exchange Network to save money and time, improve data quality, and support better environmental decisions.

- Success Stories: *Exchange Network: Improving Environmental Results*
- *Exchange Network Return on Investment and Business Process Analysis* describes how EN technologies have reduced operating costs, streamlined business processes, and improved data accuracy and accessibility for partners

3. Identify What You Want to Use the Exchange Network For

- What business processes could be improved with more streamlined data exchange, data access or data integration? These are great starting points for you to participate in the Network. Management, program staff, and information technology staff need a shared understanding of why the Network is the right approach.
- There are many data exchanges for you to choose from. For instance, many States start exchanging data with EPA's Facility Registry System; many Tribes join the Water Quality Exchange.
- There are national, regional, and Tribal Exchange Network users' meetings each year.

These events can be a great way to meet other Exchange Network partners, exchange ideas, and learn how the Exchange Network can meet your business needs. Presentations and the agenda from the 2007 Exchange Network National Meeting in New Orleans can be found on the Exchange Network website.

WHO CAN I TALK TO?

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Exchange Network/CDX Help Desk

For contact information and the services it provides, see the Exchange Network website

Other States, Tribes, and Territories

Look at the **progress pages** on the Exchange Network website. Click on the map/links for contacts & information.