

Examples of Organizational Achievements

Ms. Oge has a long and distinguished record of imaginative leadership at EPA, and has been at the forefront of some of the most important changes in our nation's environmental policy. In her current position leading the design of regulatory programs governing motor vehicles and fuels, her knack for innovation, creative management, and building strong partnerships has produced dramatic reductions in emissions from today's cars and trucks. In part because of Ms. Oge's leadership, tailpipe emissions from vehicles sold in the U.S. today are over 95 percent less than emissions from vehicles built 40 years ago while still delivering all the other attributes Americans demand. Her ability to bring representatives of all affected industries to the table has changed a culture once rich in confrontation to one of mutual respect, bridging difficult divides and resulting in improved results at lower costs. It was her vision to address the environmental impacts from the transportation sector in a systems approach – establishing standards for vehicles and fuels together, rather than the previous piece-meal approaches.

Ms. Oge's imaginative leadership has been a hallmark of her career at EPA. As the first to lead EPA's "community right to know" program, she used information technology to provide unprecedented access to information about toxic releases to citizens and communities. This public access in turn created powerful incentives for businesses to voluntarily reduce their use and emissions of toxic materials, leading to improved financial as well as environmental performance. As the director of EPA's efforts to protect public health from radiation risks, she was confronted with an unconventional problem: indoor air pollution. Under her leadership, EPA raised the consciousness of the world about the health dangers of radon gas and secondhand tobacco smoke in the home. With a diverse coalition including the U.S. Surgeon General, Ms. Oge produced one of the first and most successful public information campaigns ever conducted by the EPA. Ms. Oge's vision of protecting public health through public information and voluntary action endures today.

Ms. Oge has used her extraordinary skills to pioneer new approaches, create lasting change in her agency, and achieve historic results for the environment and the health of the American people. Since 1995 she has served as EPA's lead career executive on transportation issues and led an EPA team of engineers, scientists, and economists that designed the policy and regulations that have dramatically reduced the environmental impacts from the transportation sector, including cars, large trucks and buses, and off road equipment, along with the fuels used to operate them. Ms. Oge was responsible for creating an atmosphere that engaged all stakeholders in constructive, collaborative and solution-oriented discussions. She accomplished this by setting clear principles, putting public health first, and listening to all. Her perseverance and imagination have created dramatic change in how the Agency works with the regulated community and all stakeholders. Ms. Oge, through her unique combination of skills in leading, mentoring, and collaboration, has transformed the transportation sector's impact on the environment. Her guidance and leadership of people has led to the development of common sense, cost-effective solutions that have provided remarkable results for the American people.

Specifically, and by example, Ms. Oge has been the driving force on three of the most important achievements in the history of air pollution control: the emission control programs for cleaner passenger vehicles, clean diesel trucks and buses, and clean diesel equipment such as bulldozers and tractors. Every year these actions will prevent over 22,000 premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of cases of respiratory disease in America. These health benefits will save Americans \$175 billion each year, nearly 16 times the estimated compliance costs. A recent review of the costs and benefits of major federal regulations by the Office of Management and Budget found that 57% of the annual benefits from federal regulations were derived from national standards established with the guidance and leadership of Ms. Oge.

Recently, Ms. Oge and her staff have been at the forefront of our nation's efforts to address the threat of global climate change and protect America's energy security. She led the collaborative effort to establish the first-ever greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger vehicles. Working closely with the Department of Transportation and the State of California, she secured an agreement among government agencies, the automobile industry, and labor, that will produce by 2016 the most efficient passenger vehicle fleet in the nation's history, saving the nation nearly 2 billion barrels of oil, and saving consumers on average \$4000 at the gas pump over the life of their vehicles. Ms. Oge conceived the strategy, conducted countless stakeholder meetings, and led the unprecedented technical effort needed to support the policy and decision process. Importantly, the solution crafted through Ms. Oge's leadership harmonizes EPA's clean air requirements, DOT's fuel economy requirements, and California emissions requirements, thereby enabling automakers to sell a single fleet of automobiles in all 50 States. President Obama cited this effort as an example of common sense regulation that delivers important benefits to society, and as the way government should be doing the public's business in the future.

This effort was so successful, all the stakeholders asked EPA to "stay at the table" and lead the effort to establish standards out to 2025 for the next generation of clean and efficient automobiles. Moreover, the President directed EPA to follow the same approach to establish the first ever greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for commercial trucks and buses. Under Ms. Oge's leadership, these standards will be established this summer with broad stakeholder support.