

2021 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education

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1. Department or Agency

National Science Foundation

2. Fiscal Year

2021

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education

3b. GSA Committee No.

No.

9487

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

03/02/2020

6. Expected Renewal Date

03/02/2022

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Charge by the Director of NSF

13. Effective Date

04/03/2000

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

17b. Closed

17c. Partially Closed

Other Activities

17d. Total

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The committee develops an agenda that includes presentations by experts in various fields of environmental science and engineering and reports by NSF staff on ongoing and planned programs. They offer oral opinions on issues raised by these reports to the NSF Director and to the NSF Coordinator for Environmental Research and Education. From time to time, the committee offers advice in the form of forward-looking white papers.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership is diverse. Members represent a wide range of scientific areas and types of institutions (academic, industrial, and government laboratories). They also are geographically and demographically diverse. All NSF research, engineering and education directorates and program offices are represented.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

2 or 3 meetings are held each year. The meetings are very relevant. During the past year, the committee has discussed ideas regarding horizons in environmental research and environmental education, the co-production of knowledge, and the broader impacts of NSF's environmental research and education portfolio. The committee also discussed examples of NSF's environmental research and education program portfolio.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

There is no other advisory committee that has the breadth of knowledge and expertise required to provide external advice on priorities and opportunities across the disciplines encompassed by the Foundation's environmental research portfolio.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Meetings are open.

21. Remarks

N/A

Designated Federal Officer

C. Suzanne Iacono Head, Office of Integrative Activities

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Arnaudo, Ray	02/23/2018	10/31/2020	Geologist	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Bang, Megan	02/14/2020	06/30/2022	Northwestern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Billings, Lora	09/20/2018	12/31/2021	Montclair State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bostrom, Ann	02/24/2017	06/20/2021	University of Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clarens, Andres	04/30/2016	12/31/2021	University Of Virginia	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Huybers, Peter	06/13/2018	06/30/2021	Harvard University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Isbell, Charles	01/01/2016	12/31/2021	Georgia Tech	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lemos, Maria Carmen	07/27/2016	12/31/2021	University Of Michigan Ann Arbor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Parrish, Julia	05/01/2016	12/31/2021	University Of Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pataki, Diane	03/01/2018	12/31/2021	University Of Utah	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Preston, Benjamin	09/24/2018	10/31/2020	Rand Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ramaswami, Anu	05/27/2016	12/31/2021	Princeton University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VanBriesen, Jeanne	08/07/2019	06/30/2022	Carnegie Mellon University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
White, Lisa	05/30/2018	12/31/2020	University Of California Berkeley	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 14

Narrative Description

In 2000, NSF established the Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (AC-ERE). NSF's Director, Dr. Rita Colwell, charged the Committee at its first meeting in October 2000. AC-ERE is to:· Provide advice, recommendations and oversight concerning support for the NSF's environmental research and education portfolio.· Be a base of contact with the scientific community to inform NSF of the impact of its research support and NSF-wide policies on the scientific community.· Serve as a forum for consideration of interdisciplinary environmental topics as well as environmental activities in a wide range of disciplines.· Provide broad input into long-range plans and partnership opportunities.· Perform oversight of program management, overall program balance, and other aspects of program performance for environmental research and education activities.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

The use of an advisory committee for the Foundation is an invaluable asset. The cost of obtaining the expertise, insight, and information received by the Foundation using alternative methods, such as hiring the expertise of full or part-time employees, would be extremely high.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

7

Number of Recommendations Comments

No reports or white papers were delivered to NSF in 2020. The committee provided informal advice to the NSF during their committee meetings. Three subcommittees are currently working on another report which should be completed and delivered to NSF in 2021.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The word implement is not applicable to advisory committees. All of their recommendations are carefully weighed and considered, but not all can be carried out in the short term due to budgetary or legislative constraints.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

N/A

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

There is continuous interaction throughout the year between the chair of the advisory committee, the executive secretary of the advisory committee at the NSF, and the Designated Federal Official at NSF. The Chair of the advisory committee in turn informs the committee members of ongoing matters. In FY 2020, NSF senior managers met with the committee during the committee's meeting to discuss the evolution of NSF's research and education portfolio.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

N/A