MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION

GUIDE QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION POINTS

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1. How can we ensure that air quality data can be used to develop and implement air quality policies?

2. What are three key factors that ensure success in implementing air quality improvement policies?

3. What was the biggest challenge in the prioritization of specific measures?

4. When there is limited financial resources, what are practical solutions that can still be employed?

Response from Ms. Kayla McCauley, US EPA

1. How can we ensure that air quality data can be used to develop and implement air quality policies?

In the U.S. we have a nationwide ambient air monitoring network that is an integral part of understanding and maintaining our nation's air quality. Monitoring helps decision-makers assess pollution levels, provide information to the public, and support compliance with ambient air standards, primarily the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), carbon monoxide (CO) and lead. States are primarily responsible for siting and running the monitors, and these air quality monitoring networks are designed to support compliance with the NAAQS. Under a successful air quality management plan, air quality monitoring data contributes to the cycle of informing decision-makers on the control strategies to reduce concentrations.

Response from Ms. Kayla McCauley, US EPA

2. What are three key factors that ensure success in implementing air quality improvement policies?

Three of the key factors to highlight are good data, strong partnerships, and robust science.

Response from Ms. Kayla McCauley, US EPA

3. What was the biggest challenge in the prioritization of specific measures?

It is difficult to pin down the biggest challenge, but one that is faced often is competing priorities from a wide variety of stakeholders and viewpoints. Because of this, one important consideration is cooperation and problem solving. For example, we follow an open, transparent and deliberative regulatory process. We also make sure the public can access information about air quality that is current and transparent. And we partner with tribes and states to put air quality protections in place.

Response from Ms. Kayla McCauley, US EPA

4. When there is limited financial resources, what are practical solutions that can still be employed?

Small- and large-scale actions to reduce pollution and exposure can lead to improvements in air quality. Many air quality management tools are widely available and accessible to organizations interested in developing and implementing action plans to address air quality and improve public health in cities or regionally. These include resources for air quality management capacity building and knowledge sharing at national and regional scales.