

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3555

To coordinate environmental technology and research of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 1993

Ms. ESHOO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To coordinate environmental technology and research of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Environmental Tech-
5 nology Research Integration and Coordination Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY**

7 **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

8 (a) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Director of
9 the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall, in co-
10 ordination with the heads of other Federal agencies that

1 have substantial investment in the development and adop-
2 tion of environmental technologies, take any action nec-
3 essary—

4 (1) to ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
5 ticable, the coordinated, interagency promotion of
6 the research, development, and adoption of environ-
7 mental technologies; and

8 (2) to develop priorities for Federal environ-
9 mental technology research, development, and adop-
10 tion efforts.

11 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this section,
12 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
13 Policy shall—

14 (1) review current Federally funded programs,
15 including Federal budget outlays for these programs,
16 to determine their role in the development and dis-
17 semination of environmental technologies;

18 (2) recommend the specific responsibilities of
19 each appropriate Federal agency to achieve the goals
20 and priorities developed under this section;

21 (3) describe the recommended levels of Federal
22 funding required for each Federal agency to carry
23 out the specific responsibilities recommended in
24 paragraph (2);

1 (4) develop a means for ensuring, to the maxi-
2 mum extent practicable, that the principles of sus-
3 tainable economic development are integrated into
4 the research, development, and technology programs
5 of all Federal agencies;

6 (5) ensure that the efforts of the Federal Gov-
7 ernment are coordinated with the efforts of State
8 and local governments and private and nonprofit or-
9 ganizations promoting the research, development,
10 and demonstration of environmental technologies;
11 and

12 (6) submit to the Congress any recommenda-
13 tions regarding legislative or administrative action,
14 including recommendations on the roles of Federal
15 agencies, which may be required to carry out this
16 section.

17 (c) BUDGET COORDINATION.—The Director of the
18 Office of Science and Technology Policy shall annually as-
19 sess, before the President submits to the Congress the
20 budget for a fiscal year, the budget estimate of each rel-
21 evant Federal agency for consistency with the plans, re-
22 views, and priorities developed under this section. The Di-
23 rector shall make the results of the annual assessment
24 available to the appropriate elements of the Executive Of-
25 fice of the President, particularly the Office of Manage-

1 ment and Budget, for use in the preparation of such
2 budget.

3 (d) ANNUAL REVIEW AND PLAN.—The Director of
4 the Office of Science and Technology shall annually sub-
5 mit to the Congress a report containing an evaluation and
6 plan that assesses the progress of Federal efforts in ad-
7 vancing the research, development, and adoption of envi-
8 ronmental technologies.

9 (e) NON-FEDERAL PARTICIPATION.—The Director of
10 the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish
11 mechanisms to ensure the participation of non-Federal en-
12 tities, including State and local governments, United
13 States industry, institutions of higher education, worker
14 organizations, professional associations, and United States
15 nonprofit organizations, in carrying out this section, in-
16 cluding the development of the plans and reviews devel-
17 oped under this section.

18 **SEC. 3. INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION ON ENVIRON-**
19 **MENTAL TECHNOLOGIES INTO EXISTING**
20 **NETWORKS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator,
23 through the Office of Research and Development of the
24 Environmental Protection Agency and in cooperation with
25 the Under Secretary for Technology of the Department

1 of Commerce and the heads of any other appropriate Fed-
2 eral agencies, shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
3 use existing information network capabilities of the Fed-
4 eral Government to provide access to data on environ-
5 mental technologies developed, tested, or verified under
6 programs established by this Act, and by other appro-
7 priate Federal and non-Federal sources. Such data shall
8 include information on—

9 (1) activities carried out under this Act and the
10 amendments made by this Act;

11 (2) performance standards regarding environ-
12 mental technologies;

13 (3) significant international developments in en-
14 vironmental technologies, fully coordinating with
15 other international technology information programs,
16 of the Federal Government; and

17 (4) other information determined by the Admin-
18 istrator to be of substantial value in promoting the
19 development and adoption of environmental tech-
20 nologies.

21 (b) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—In carrying out
22 this section, the Administrator shall, to the maximum ex-
23 tent practicable—

24 (1) use existing public and private sector infor-
25 mation providers and carriers;

1 (2) add to existing data sources; and

2 (3) integrate data described in subsection (a)
3 into other technology databases maintained by the
4 Environmental Protection Agency, the Department
5 of Commerce, the Department of Energy, and other
6 appropriate Federal agencies.

7 (c) OUTREACH.—The Administrator shall conduct
8 appropriate outreach efforts to advertise, deliver, and dis-
9 seminate the information made available through the net-
10 works referred to in subsection (a), including information
11 on participation in Alliances referred to in subsection (d).

12 (d) ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AL-
13 LIANCES.—

14 (1) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.—The Adminis-
15 trator may enter into partnership agreements (in
16 this section referred to as “Alliances”) with an agen-
17 cy of a State or local government, a non-profit orga-
18 nization in which a State or local government is a
19 member, an institution of higher education des-
20 ignated by a State or local government, or a manu-
21 facturing extension and outreach service or regional
22 technical assistance service approved by the Federal
23 Government or a State in order to—

1 (A) facilitate access to information incor-
2 porated in the networks referred to in sub-
3 section (a); and

4 (B) transfer to entities referred to in para-
5 graph (2) other information that would enhance
6 the development and adoption of environmental
7 technologies.

8 (2) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR ALLIANCE PAR-
9 TICIPATION.—Entities eligible for participation in an
10 Alliance include United States companies, United
11 States non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories,
12 United States institutions of higher education, spon-
13 soring organizations, and other organizations that
14 the Administrator considers to be appropriate.

15 (3) ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES.—Under a partner-
16 ship agreement referred to in paragraph (1), an Alli-
17 ance—

18 (A) may disseminate information made
19 available through the networks to any other en-
20 tity the Alliance considers necessary to advance
21 the goals of this section;

22 (B) is encouraged to collect, and dissemi-
23 nate to United States companies in the region,
24 information regarding opportunities for the
25 more efficient use of materials and energy and

1 for waste minimization, materials conversion,
2 and recycling;

3 (C) is encouraged to provide technical as-
4 sistance to United States companies related to
5 activities under this subsection; and

6 (D) may undertake any other activities the
7 Administrator considers appropriate to carry
8 out this subsection.

9 (4) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—In selecting
10 partners for a partnership agreement referred to in
11 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, to the maxi-
12 mum extent practicable, use existing programs for
13 technical assistance and technical information dis-
14 semination.

15 (5) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this sub-
17 section, the Administrator may provide financial
18 assistance to an Alliance under terms and con-
19 ditions prescribed by the Administrator.

20 (B) LIMITATIONS.—The Administrator
21 may not provide financial assistance to an Alli-
22 ance under this subsection—

23 (i) for construction of facilities; or

1 (ii) in an amount that exceeds a mi-
2 nority cost share of the activities carried
3 out by the Alliance under this subsection.

4 **SEC. 4. USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS**
5 **BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish
7 a program for evaluating and approving the purchase by
8 the Federal Government of environmental technology
9 products. The President shall—

10 (1) work with established performance stand-
11 ards programs to ensure substitutability of environ-
12 mental technologies for conventional technologies for
13 the purposes of the Federal Government;

14 (2) establish a priority list of technologies for
15 inclusion under the program; and

16 (3) implement a plan for the procurement of
17 environmental technologies.

18 (b) REPORT.—Within one year after the date of the
19 enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Presi-
20 dent shall submit to the Congress a report describing the
21 progress made in carrying out this section and plans for
22 carrying out this section for the three years immediately
23 following the year in which the report is submitted.

1 **SEC. 5. STUDY OF REGULATORY INFLUENCES ON INNOVA-**
2 **TION IN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES.**

3 (a) REVIEW.—The Administrator, working with
4 State regulatory agencies, shall conduct a study of current
5 environmental regulations and their effect upon innovation
6 in environmental technologies and the introduction of new
7 environmental products.

8 (b) REPORT.—The Administrator shall, within one
9 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit
10 to the Congress a report on the results of the study de-
11 scribed in subsection (a). The report shall contain any
12 suggestions of the Administrator for actions that could be
13 taken to increase the regulatory incentives for industrial
14 use of new environmental technologies.

15 **SEC. 6. STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF TAX INCENTIVES ON IN-**
16 **NOVATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL TECH-**
17 **NOLOGIES.**

18 The President shall study the potential for efficiently
19 encouraging the development and use of environmental
20 technologies through tax incentives. The study shall—

21 (1) review existing environmental and tech-
22 nology development tax incentives and estimate their
23 impact on the development and use of environmental
24 technologies;

25 (2) assess the potential of alternative tax incen-
26 tives that are considered promising for accelerating

1 the development and use of environmental tech-
2 nologies; and

3 (3) in coordination with the study of regulatory
4 effects on innovation in environmental technologies
5 established in section 5, assess the relationship be-
6 tween existing regulations and proposed regulatory
7 reforms on the influence of existing and potential
8 tax incentives.

9 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

10 For the purposes of this Act:

11 (1) The term “Administrator” means the Ad-
12 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

13 (2) The term “environmental technology”
14 means—

15 (A) a technology that is primarily intended
16 to improve the quality of the environment
17 through pollution reduction or remediation;

18 (B) a product, manufacturing process, or
19 service that is capable of cost-effectively replac-
20 ing the functions of an existing product, proc-
21 ess, or service, and as compared with the prod-
22 uct, process, or service it replaces, significantly
23 reducing overall pollution or significantly im-
24 proving the efficiency of energy or materials
25 use; or

1 (C) a technology within the meaning of
2 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

3 (3) The term “sustainable economic develop-
4 ment” means the integration of environmental and
5 economic development concerns leading to long-term
6 economic development with reduced pollution and
7 the more efficient use of energy and materials.

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