

Purpose:

Identifying opportunities to strengthen future ORD research planning cycles to better protect human health and the environment

An introspective look at research planning:

The research planning process incorporates input from EPA programs and regions, states, Tribes, and other stakeholders. This rigorous consultative process, although successful in engaging partners and responding to identified needs, was found burdensome on partner and researcher alike. As such, ORD leadership initiated a review of the current research planning process to identify opportunities for improvement.

Methods:

Mixed-methods data collection including surveys, iterative dialogue, and external engagement.
A 3-pronged approach

Exploring research
planning across federal
organizations

Learning from
internal ORD
staff

Understanding Regional
and Program Offices
perspectives

Results:

Identified potential opportunities for improvement in the planning process:

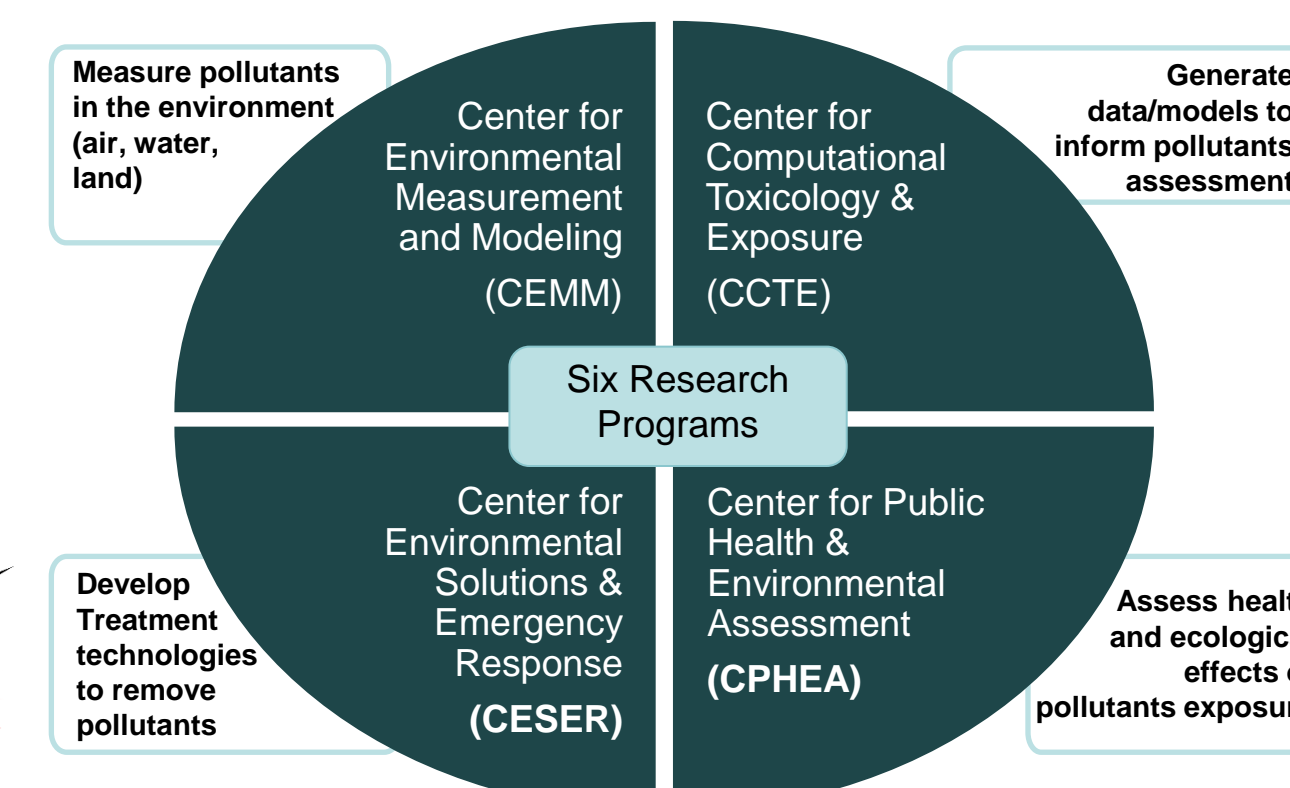
- Refinements to the overall process
- Greater consistency and broader understanding of the process
- Amplify communication methods of research planning process
- Increase transparency in product proposal review and approval
- Increase intentional involvement of all stakeholders

Audio
Recording

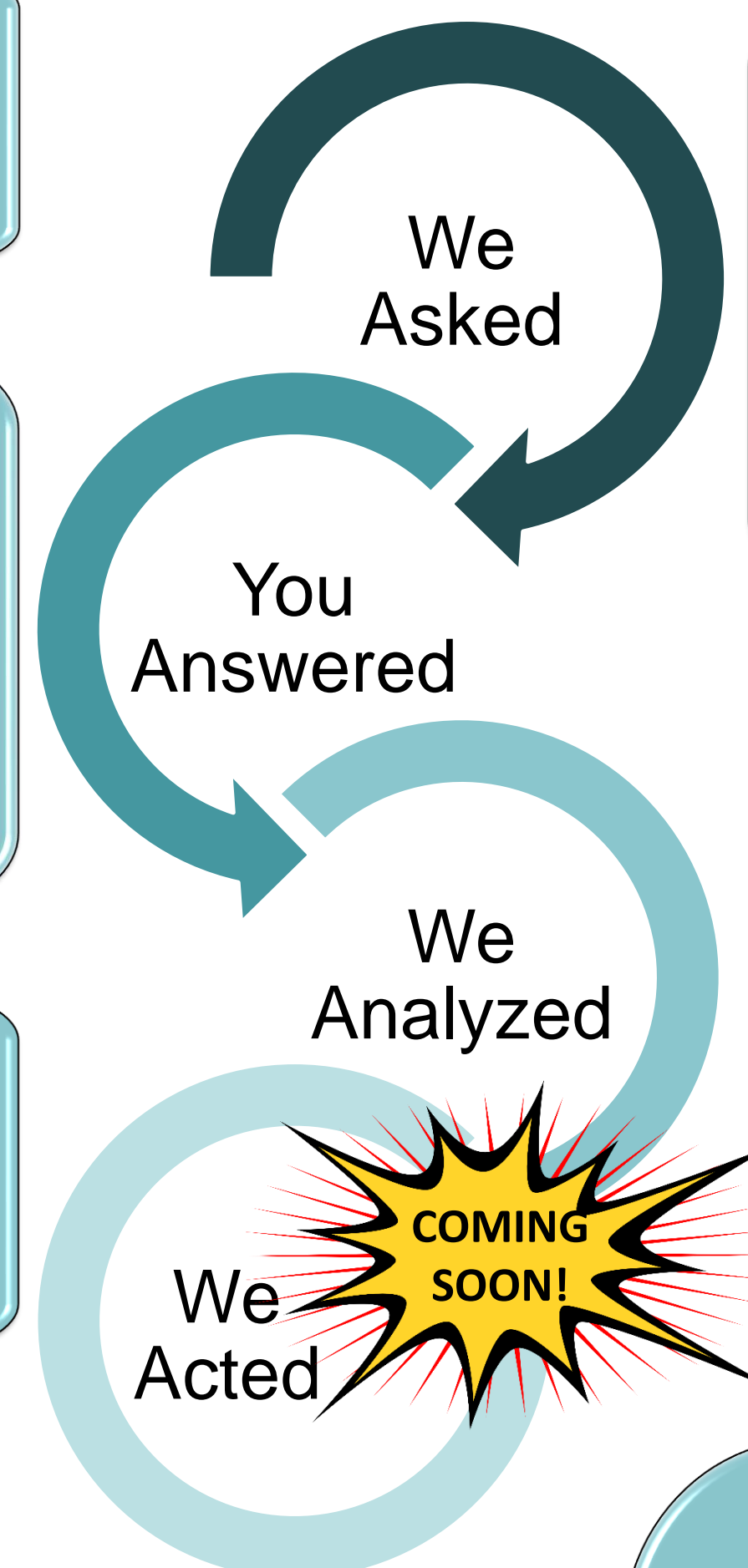


Office of Research and Development (ORD) at a Glance:

ORD provides the best available environmental science and technology to inform and support human health and environmental decision making at the federal, state, Tribal, and local levels, addressing critical environmental challenges and anticipating future needs through leading edge research. Our collective scientific and technical expertise covers the full spectrum of sciences including life, physical, computational, social sciences, and engineering.



ORD conducts work at laboratory facilities and offices throughout the country.



Conclusions and Next Steps:

The data, analysis, and recommendations from the research planning review will be integrated into strategies to support ORD's future research planning cycles, increasing responsiveness to partner needs while reducing undue burdens on researchers and partners.

In spring 2024, ORD will collaboratively scope the next research cycle, including the development of planning strategies that will be implemented. An example opportunity could include establishing greater frequency and coordination of the ORD National Research Programs, Center Leadership, and researchers to review and refresh the research portfolio during implementation to be more dynamic and agile to emerging Agency and partner priorities.

SOT 2024
Abstract

