



Public Participation in Nanotechnology & Nanoscale Science

5.30 & 5.31.2006 | Arlington, Virginia

The Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology Subcommittee invites you to attend the first public meeting on the subject of public participation in nanotechnology.

Public Participation in Nanotechnology & Nanoscale Science: An Initial Dialogue

Sponsored by the Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology Subcommittee, and organized by the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO) with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD).

Background

Developments in nanotechnology have the potential for far reaching effects in science, medicine and industry. The National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO) was established in 2001 to provide technical and administrative support to the National Science, Engineering and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The NSTC is the Cabinet-level council by which the President coordinates science, space, and technology policies across the federal government.

The NSET Subcommittee is composed of representatives from agencies participating in the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), a federal R&D program established to coordinate the multi-agency efforts in nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. Twenty-five federal agencies participate in the NNI.

For more information on the NNCO, NSET, or NNI, including a list of participating agencies see http://www.nano.gov/html/about/home_about.html

Purpose:

This workshop will begin a dialogue on how the public can be engaged in nanotechnology-related issues and decisions. Expert speakers will provide an overview of best practices in public participation and present key issues for nanotechnology-related public participation. Participants will share and explore ideas and perspectives on how to productively engage the public in nanotechnology policies and decisions.

Participants and Registration:

Approximately 150 thought leaders from academia, government, industry, media, and non-governmental organizations are being invited. Our meeting space is limited, and we are seeking a broad range of perspectives from many organizations, so we will give priority to the first representative from each organization who registers.

Expected Benefits and Outcomes:

NNI agencies recognize that input from stakeholders is essential for effective decision-making. Participants will begin the dialogue surrounding best practices for engaging the public, framing issues, communicating risk-related information and designing informational materials. The results of these dialogues will be captured to help to shape immediate next steps and future discussions and action on these topics.

Agenda:

Participants will hear from experts in the areas of public participation models and best practices, issue frames, risk and science communications, and public participation in other high-tech areas. Breakout group dialogues will focus on key issues and identify areas of consensus and recommendations for report back to the larger group and integration into a final report.

For Additional Information:

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