

# Federal Radon Action Plan: Key Messages

[www.epa.gov/radon/action\\_plan.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/action_plan.html)

## *What is the history of this effort?*

- Since November 2010, nine federal agencies have collaborated on an Action Plan to protect people and families in homes, schools and daycare facilities from risks associated with exposure to radon.
- The Action Plan was announced by senior leaders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development at the [National Healthy Homes Conference](#), held June 20 to 23, 2011, in Denver, Colorado.
- Since June, the federal partners have been working together to implement the Plan.

## *Why is this effort necessary?*

- The federal government is in a unique position to address radon risk in homes, schools and daycare facilities because it directly or indirectly influences an estimated total of 7.5 million homes, schools and daycare facilities.
- Many components in the Action Plan present the potential to reduce exposure to radon, including specific actions for people and families who do not have the resources to make the simple fixes necessary to protect their loved ones.
- All of the actions are designed to be done within existing program resources, and take advantage of interagency collaboration to strengthen their reach and impact.

## *Who's involved?*

- The federal commitment was made by EPA, General Services Administration and the Departments of Agriculture; Defense; Energy; Health and Human Services; Housing and Urban Development; Interior; and Veterans Affairs.
- Radon is a multi-disciplinary problem and the solutions call for collaborative action – across public health, environmental justice, healthy homes, building design, construction and management, green building, and other specialties – making it an ideal subject for interagency collaboration.
- This effort represents a historic interagency cooperation.

## *What's in the Plan?*

- The Action Plan leverages existing federal programs and resources to present a multi-year approach to protect public health by coordinating clear action to reduce radon risk in buildings that the federal government owns, manages and influences.
- To address the current reality of barriers to radon risk reduction, the actions implemented through this effort will:
  - **Demonstrate the importance**, feasibility and value of radon testing and mitigation.
  - **Provide policy, administrative, and economic incentives** to encourage those who have sufficient resources to test and mitigate, and provide direct support to reduce the risk for those who lack sufficient resources.
  - **Build demand** for services from the professional, nationwide radon services industry.

## *What progress has been made?*

- To see how agencies are doing, view the online scorecard at: [http://www.epa.gov/radon/action\\_plan.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/action_plan.html)
- This scorecard shows the status on each commitment identified in the Action Plan and provides a target completion date. You can view progress in three different ways – by agency, progress or Action Plan Framework.

### ***Where does this effort fit in with broader national efforts?***

- With this Action Plan as a catalyst, industry and nonprofit ally organizations are collaborating to build on, and increase, the impact of the ideas for action contained in the federal strategy.
- To date, five organizations representing nonprofits, industry, states, and citizen advocates, have come together to form the National Radon Allies Coalition. This coalition is working to gain support from the broader allied public and private sector organizations, community-based non-profit organizations and the U.S. housing sector. Visit, <http://www.radonleaders.org/resources/calltoaction> to learn more.