

New Year's Resolutions for the New Administration

A List That Will Help Federal Science Thrive Once More

In recent years, the manipulation, suppression, and distortion of federal government science has misinformed the public and led to poor policy decisions. In an updated report *Federal Science and the Public Good*, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has put forward a set of detailed recommendations for President-elect Obama and the next administration to take to restore scientific integrity to federal policy making. UCS also suggests that the incoming Obama administration should take these ten New Year's Resolutions to start off on the right foot:

- 1. Defend Americans from unsafe drugs, toys, and other products by requiring that federal agency leaders protect employees who blow the whistle when science is misused.**
- 2. Allow the public access to tremendous scientific resources by letting government scientists tell us what they know.**
- 3. Protect the air we breathe by obeying the law and setting air pollution standards based on science.**
- 4. Restore our faith in government by providing more information to the public about how science-based policy decisions are made.**
- 5. Use science to conserve our natural heritage for future generations.**
- 6. Collect enough information to give us flexibility to meet future challenges and keep tabs on current problems.**
- 7. Hold your administration accountable to high scientific integrity standards.**
- 8. Keep politics out of science by reining in the power of the White House to tamper with purely scientific analyses.**
- 9. Safeguard our health by putting the Environmental Protection Agency back in charge of evaluating the potential dangers of chemicals without interference from other agencies.**
- 10. Protect us by shining a bright light on all agency meetings held with special interests so we can understand their influence.**

For more information about these resolutions and the rationale behind them—plus the full scientific integrity agenda for the next president—visit www.ucsusa.org/federalscience.

Union of Concerned Scientists, December 2008

