

APEC Environmental Goods and Services Information Exchange (EGSIE)

Content and User Guidelines

The following is a set of guidelines which the APEC membership agrees provides the basis for the use and development of EGSIE. These Guidelines provide guidance on the nature of EGSIE as an information exchange tool, as well as both acceptable content and user access protocols for EGSIE.

EGSIE is designed to be an inclusive tool available for all who have an interest in obtaining and providing information about environmental goods and services (EGS). It is designed to encourage transparency and the free flow of information across APEC on EGS, and contribute to the global pool of knowledge about this topic. The following guidelines are designed to reflect this ambition.¹

1. Disclaimer: The EGSIE website disclaimer is designed to reflect agreement by APEC members that the views and opinions expressed in the content of the website do not necessarily reflect the views of all or any particular member economy. Nor do they reflect consensus on the part of the membership as to what constitutes an environmental good or service.
2. Information in the Public Domain: Information relating to EGS available in the public domain will be acceptable for upload to the EGSIE site, except where the use of such content contravenes copyright provisions or is otherwise inconsistent with this policy.
3. Content at Issue: Where content raises a concern by any member economy such content should be removed from the site if requested until the issue has been satisfactorily resolved. Content at issue should be notified to the economy that contributed the information, the economies with administrator rights to EGSIE, and the Market Access Group Chair. The MAG Chair should take responsibility for resolving issues over content with the parties concerned.
4. Substantive changes: Proposals for substantive changes to the content of EGSIE should be notified to all authorized contributors, with each economy reserving the right to raise any concerns regarding such changes to the content of EGSIE.
5. Commercial Content: EGSIE is not designed to act as an advertising mechanism for commercial ventures. However, members of the private sector should be encouraged to use EGSIE for information-sharing purposes (including, eventually, for uploading content). Any decision to allow private sector (or other non-member) users to upload content to EGSIE would be taken only after consultation with the membership of the Market Access Group.
6. User access: All member economies should have equal access to the website. While it is recognised that some users will require administrative rights to administer the site, such rights should not equate to editorial control over content on the site, unless the membership decides to appoint an administrator in this role (for example, as a webmaster).
7. Content policy: EGSIE content should encourage free and open discussion about environmental goods and services. The website is designed to be an information exchange tool and should be treated as such. No single view, either of an individual member or group of members, should be routinely elevated above those of other members. However, APEC work on EGS will be given prominent placement.

¹ These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the APEC Website Guidelines (2007).

- 8 User engagement: All APEC economies will be issued a user name and password to enable new documents and information to be uploaded to the website. Participation in EGSIE's content and information sharing is voluntary; however, economies are encouraged to commit to both the shape and the substance of the content and dialogue that is contained within the site. Those economies, or groups of economies, that regularly contribute to, and assist with the maintenance of, the site will ultimately gain the most benefit from it. Membership participation should therefore be strongly encouraged.
- 9 APEC Website Guidelines: All content on EGSIE should conform to the APEC Website Guidelines for Website Content and Content Quality (a copy of the policy is attached for your reference.)
- 10 Maintenance: EGSIE will be maintained by an independent third party on an interim contractual basis. The contractor's responsibility will be to oversee and manage technical operation of the website, with only minimal content supervision (e.g., any content that is obviously inconsistent with the EGSIE policy will be removed, but content will not be regularly filtered). The APEC Secretariat is undergoing an information technology review, and subject to the outcome of that review, may be in a position to maintain EGSIE at some point in the future.
- 11 Review Policy: Web-based information sharing tools such as EGSIE are only useful if they are kept up to date. EGSIE should be reviewed by the MAG from time to time as agreed by the APEC membership to consider its relevance and utility, as well as any changes that might need to be made to the user and content policies.