



U.S. Office of Government Ethics
Open Data Plan
July 2025



I. Purpose

This plan satisfies requirements in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum [M-25-05](#) regarding public data asset dissemination.¹

Pursuant to the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act), the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is committed to improving the breadth and depth of our Open Data Catalog to make OGE data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.²

II. Background

Title II of the Evidence Act, the OPEN Government Data Act, aims to enhance transparency and accessibility of government data.³

It requires federal agencies to publish their open data information online in standardized, machine-readable formats, ensuring that metadata is included in the Federal Data Catalog. OMB M-25-05 further defines key actions that facilitate improved governance and innovation by making data readily available and accessible to the public.

This Open Data Plan outlines the OGE's goals, requirements, and activities regarding open data management and publication.

III. Agency Data Requirements

Data Collection Processes for Open Formats

Vision: OGE has processes and procedures in place to ensure most data is collected in an open format, by default, using digital collection mechanisms.

Planned/Future Activities

- Establish clear guidance for data collection in open formats and maintenance under an open license to maximize access, use, and reuse of public data assets.
- Review current data collection methods to identify gaps in open format usage.

Data Usage Information

Vision: OGE collects and analyzes digital information on data asset usage by users inside and outside OGE.

¹ Guidance on the contents of agency Open Data Plans is provided by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President in OMB M-25-05, *Phase 2 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Open Government Data Access and Management Guidance* (2025).

² See Pub. L. No. 115-435, 132 Stat. 5529 (2019).

³ See Pub. L. No. 115-435, § 201, 132 Stat. 5534 (2019).

Planned/Future Activities

- Use the Digital Analytics Program to analyze public data asset usage.
- Consult with other agencies to determine how they are identifying usage of public data assets by non-government users in order to publish to their data webpages.

Collaboration with Data Users

Vision: OGE facilitates engagement and collaboration between the public and OGE to expand the use of public data assets.

Planned/Future Activities

- Create a new mailbox, opendata@oge.gov, to receive and address issues and ensure it is prominently displayed on [OGE's Data webpage](#) for external stakeholders to contact OGE with data inquiries.
- Coordinate with OGE's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office to determine specific data assets that receive frequent requests and therefore should be made publicly available.
- Create OGE's Open Data Catalog to improve data visibility and accessibility to the public while empowering data owners to maintain the quality of their public data assets.
- Create content to explain the utility of the data assets published on OGE's website.

Point of Contact for Open Data

Vision: Maintain current points of contact for Open Data

Planned/Future Activities

- Actively manage the opendata@oge.gov mailbox to assist the public with open data inquiries. Continue to monitor the mailbox, triage questions to the appropriate data owners, communicate input with the Data Governance Board as necessary, and respond to the public in a timely manner.
- Solicit input from the public about prioritization of public data asset review and dissemination.

Improving Data Processes

Vision: OGE has a robust process to evaluate and improve the data quality (e.g., timeliness, completeness, consistency, accuracy, usefulness, and availability) of open Government data assets while also taking into consideration other relevant laws such as the Privacy Act.

Planned/Future Activities

- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities for data owners/stewards/sponsors.
- Standardize metadata tags and categories to enhance searchability of public data assets.

Open Data Goal Requirements

Vision: OGE manages an innovative information technology environment and a skilled workforce that facilitates open data sharing.

Planned/Future Activities

- Use OGE's employee development program to help ensure OGE has the appropriate expertise within its workforce for implementation of this plan and the information resource management plan.

Prioritizing Public Data Asset Review

Vision: OGE evaluates data assets to determine whether they are a priority to the public and deemed a public data asset to be included in Data.gov.

Planned/Future Activities

- Create a data inventory.
- Work with OGE's Data Governance Board, application developers, and FOIA/Privacy offices to develop rules for prioritizing data assets for public dissemination. For example, if OGE FOIA receives three or more requests for a specific data asset, then OGE will consider making it publicly available on the Open Data Catalog.

Compliance Status

Vision: OGE will comply with all requirements of OMB M-25-05 and the requirements of [44 U.S.C. § 3511](#) when disseminating a public data asset pursuant to the Evidence Act.

Planned/Future Activities

- Coordinate with OGE's Chief FOIA Officer, Senior Agency Official for Privacy, Chief Information Officer, agency counsel, program staff, and other relevant agency officials, such as other members of their Data Governance Board, to ensure that any public release of data assets is lawful, appropriate, and adheres to data privacy requirements.
- Review current data sets to identify and gaps in making it open, the metadata findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.

Appendix A: Definitions

Data — Recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which the data is recorded. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)

Data asset — A collection of data elements or data sets that may be grouped together. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)

Federal Data Catalog — A centralized public online interface dedicated to sharing U.S. government data assets with the public; maintained by GSA and available through Data.gov. (OMB M-25-05)

Machine-readable — Data in a format that can be easily processed by a computer without human intervention while ensuring no semantic meaning is lost. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)

Metadata— Structural or descriptive information about data such as content, format, source, rights, accuracy, provenance, frequency, periodicity, granularity, publisher or responsible party, contact information, method of collection, and other descriptions. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)

Open Data — Publicly available data structured in a way that enables the data to be fully discoverable and usable by end users. (OMB M-13-13)

Open format — A file format for storing digital data where the format is platform independent and machine-readable and is maintained (A) at no cost to the public; and (B) with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such a format. (OMB M-25-05)

Open Government data asset — A public data asset that is:

- machine-readable;
- available (or could be made available) in an open format;
- not encumbered by restrictions, other than intellectual property rights, including under titles 17 and 35, that would impede the use or reuse of such asset; and
- based on an underlying open standard that is maintained by a standards organization. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)

Open license — A legal guarantee that a data asset is made available—

- at no cost to the public; and
- with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such asset. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)

Public data asset — A data asset, or part thereof, maintained by the Federal Government that has been, or may be, released to the public, including any data asset, or part thereof, subject to disclosure under section 552 of title 5. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)