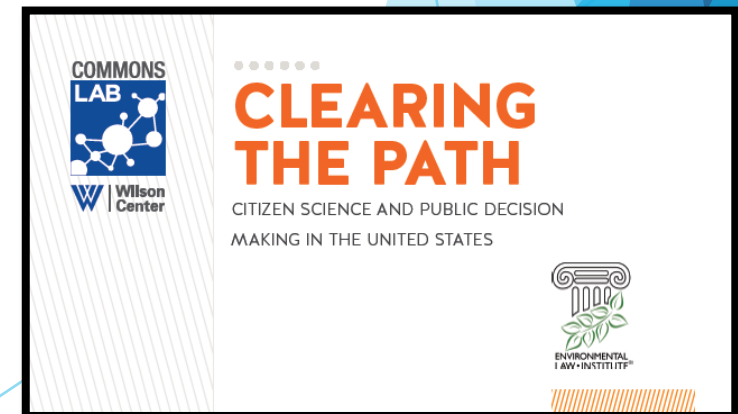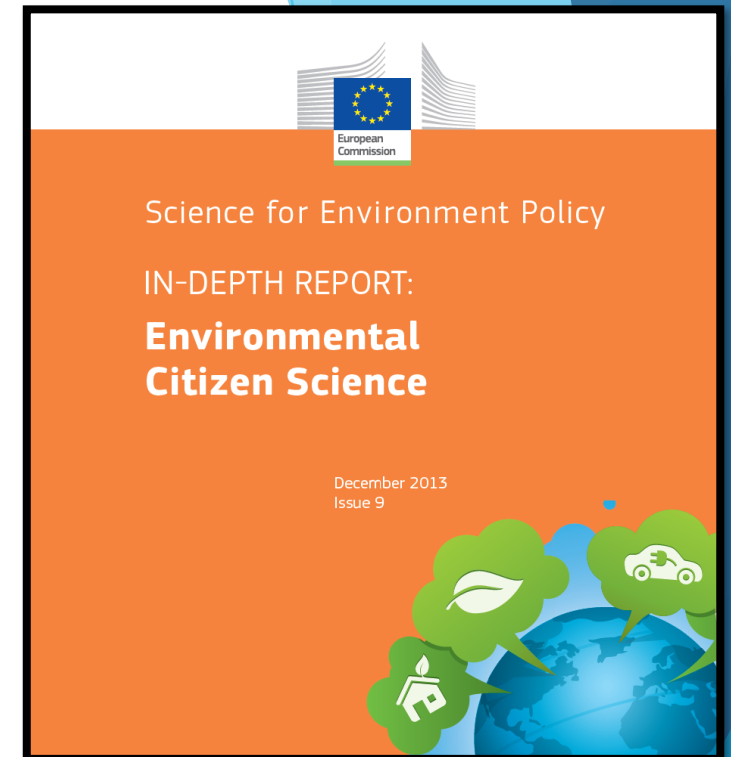New Tools and Technologies to Support Citizen Scientists

Advances in Citizen Science in Policy and Law

Section 402 (Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act states that federal agencies **may use crowdsourcing and collaborative citizen science to advance their missions**.

It includes directives to the Office of Science and Technology Policy to **develop relevant products, training, and services to facilitate the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science projects**.

During the development of this bill, the 28 members of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology outlined 13 recommendations to allow **full integration of CS data into the work of the EPA**.

European Commission

Science for Environment Policy

IN-DEPTH REPORT:
Environmental Citizen Science

December 2013
Issue 9

COMMONS LAB

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CLEARING THE PATH

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND PUBLIC DECISION MAKING IN THE UNITED STATES

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE®

Key Recommendations

- Take a collaborative approach to CS
- Define and communicate EPA's role in CS
- Emphasize place-based approaches to CS
- Dedicate funding for CS
- **Build CS capacity by providing technical support, training, and guidance through intermediary organizations**
- Adopt a positive, cooperative agenda that increases utility of CS data.
- **Adopt standards for CS data.**
- **Provide guidance/community data quality needs for different data uses**
- Integrate CS into EPA science

- Photometer for nutrient testing

- At-home *E. coli* kits

- Aquatic invertebrate taxonomy app

Citizen Science and Riparian Restoration

▶ Work with community groups to investigate the factors influencing the success (or failures) of projects

▶ Sample riparian projects at different stages

▶ Sample projects across the country

▶ Look at different end points (biota, nutrients, sediment)

▶ Start assembling a database this winter

▶ Start collecting data this summer.