



CHARTER  
of the  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**A. Official Designation**

The Committee on Science (CoS) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The CoS serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC and provides overall guidance and direction. The NSTC, a Cabinet-level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science and technology (S&T) policies across the Executive Branch.

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the CoS is to advise and assist the NSTC, under Executive Order 12881,<sup>1</sup> to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of federally supported efforts that develop new knowledge in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering not including those areas primarily related to the environment and natural resources. The CoS will address significant national and international policy, program, and budget matters that cut across agency boundaries and provide a formal mechanism for interagency science policy development, coordination, and information exchange.

The CoS will act to improve the coordination of all Federal efforts in science. This includes ensuring that a Federal R&D efforts are balanced, integrated, and comprehensive Federal R&D program, establishing a structure to improve Federal government planning and coordination of R&D, and advising the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on R&D budget crosscuts and priorities.

**C. Functions**

In accordance with Executive Order 12881,<sup>1</sup> and to the extent permitted by law, the principal functions of the CoS are:

1. to coordinate all science policy-making processes, not including those in areas primarily related to the environment and natural resources;
2. to ensure science policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President's stated goals;

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 12881 of November 23, 1993, *Establishment of the National Science and Technology Council*, Title 3, Federal Register, 58, No. 226, Friday, November 26, 1993.

3. to help integrate the President's science policy agenda across the Executive Branch;
4. to ensure science is considered in development and implementation of Federal policies and programs;
5. to facilitate NSTC clearance of documents generated by interagency groups that are established herein; and
6. to further international cooperation in science.

The CoS shall take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such functions.

#### **D. Membership**

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the CoS at the Undersecretary, Deputy Undersecretary, or Assistant Secretary level:

Department of Agriculture;  
Department of Commerce;  
Department of Defense;  
Department of Education;  
Department of Energy;  
Department of Health and Human Services (Co-Chair);  
Department of Homeland Security;  
Department of the Interior;  
Department of Justice;  
Department of Labor;  
Department of State;  
Department of Transportation;  
Department of the Treasury;  
Department of Veterans Affairs;  
Central Intelligence Agency;  
Environmental Protection Agency;  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;  
National Science Foundation (Co-Chair);  
National Security Agency; and the  
Smithsonian Institution.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the CoS:

Council on Environmental Quality;  
Domestic Policy Council;  
National Economic Council;  
National Security Staff;  
Office of Management and Budget;  
Office of Science and Technology Policy (Co-Chair); and the

Office of the Vice President.

Cooperating departments and agencies include:

Department of Housing and Urban Development; and  
other such Executive organizations, departments and agencies as the Co-Chairs may, at their discretion, designate.

**E. Private Sector Interface**

The CoS may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The CoS may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

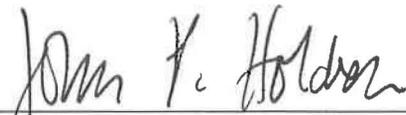
**F. Termination Date**

This charter shall terminate no later than March 31, 2015, unless renewed by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

**G. Determination**

I hereby determine that the reestablishment of the Committee on Science is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

  
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John P. Holdren  
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and  
Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

1-31-2011  
Date