

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 21, 2013

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the 2013 Climate Leadership Gala on May 22, 2013

On May 22, 2013, the Earth Day Network, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, will host the 2013 Climate Leadership Gala at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. At the Gala, Sir Richard Branson, founder and chair of the Virgin Group, will be a special guest and will present the Climate Visionary award to Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX. A significant focus of the evening will be on the importance of space technology and space exploration to environment and human knowledge.

Approximately 400 representatives of industry, government, the NGO community, and local D.C. schools will attend the cocktail reception followed by dinner. The estimated cost of food and beverages is \$180 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). There is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA attendees to discuss environmental issues as they relate to NASA's space technology and space exploration programs.

Gift items, which include a bar of organic soap (\$4.00) and an Earth Day Network Tee Shirt (\$20.00) will be offered to attendees. Since the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch allow employees to accept unsolicited gifts of \$20 or less, NASA employees should choose only one gift item to accept.

NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

*Adam F. Greenstone*  
Adam F. Greenstone