Madame President, Fellow Councilors…The Committee on Environmental Improvement (CEI) continues to focus its attention on increasing ACS leadership related to sustainability in the chemistry enterprise. Just as advancing sustainability requires collaboration, CEI does much of its best work through establishing partnerships with a wide array of ACS units.

In keeping with our committee charge, CEI supports and encourages programming around the theme of sustainability by local sections and at regional meetings. We often carry out this mission by making grants to other ACS units.

At this meeting, CEI awarded Local Section Sustainability Grants to three local sections. We are pleased to support the Cornell local section to bring programming on green chemistry and sustainability to 2015 Northeastern Regional meeting and the Kalamazoo local section to support similar programming at the joint Great Lakes/Central Regional Meeting. We also are happy to support a project from the Midland local section in collaboration with an organization called Creative 360, which focuses on community food production.

The Committee has established extensive working relationships with several technical divisions. On Tuesday of this meeting, CEI and the Division of Chemical Education cosponsored the symposium featuring the winners of the ACS-CEI Award for Incorporation of Sustainability into Chemical Education. On the same day, our two groups presented a symposium on Citizens First: Communicating Climate Science to the Public, featuring the local section partners in the ACS Climate Science Initiative.

The Division of Environmental Chemistry, ENVR, is our longstanding collaborator on a variety of topics. At the Boston National Meeting with the support of the ACS President, we will present a fast-paced debate focusing on the controversies about the best strategies for climate-related mitigation and adaptation. CEI and ENVR have also jointly established a project to provide grant support for programming around climate change at regional meetings. I encourage regional meeting organizers to contact me for more information about these grants.

In 2015, CEI also is supporting a symposium at PacifiChem through the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. I encourage other divisions who are interested in projects focused on sustainability or public policy to contact me to establish future partnerships.

In the policy area, CEI continues to review existing ACS policy statements to keep them fresh and relevant and to explore emerging areas of interest where the society can contribute the expertise of its members. During this meeting, CEI approved recommendations to the Board to establish new public policy statements on Hydraulic Fracturing and on Water Treatment and Conservation. CEI appreciates our partners at the Committees on Chemistry and Public Affairs, Corporation Associates, and Science, who continue to work cooperatively to provide the best possible policy recommendations to the ACS Board.

Madame President, this concludes my report.