The Washington Charter was an outcome from the Communicating Astronomy to the Public conference held in Washington, DC in October 2003. The Charter outlines “Principles of Action” for individuals and organizations that conduct astronomical research, who “have a compelling obligation to communicate their results and efforts with the public for the benefit of all”. Thus far, the Charter has been endorsed by eight professional societies. More work is required to raise the profile of the Charter and to have it endorsed by more professional societies, research councils, and research institutes.