

DOE Sustainability Assistance Network (SAN) Notes
Thursday, March 15, 2012

1. Sustainability Performance Office (SPO) Highlights

Paul Estabrooks, SPO

The composite sustainability plans required by DOE Order 436.1 are under development by the Under Secretaries and are due to the Sustainability Performance Office (SPO) by April 13. The SPO is awaiting guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the development of the 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan. The SPO is targeting August 23rd as a day of training on reporting related to energy use and progress in achieving the high performance and sustainable building goals. The training will follow the GovEnergy conference.

2. Getting to the Core of Sustainability

Jennifer Su-Coker and Mike Moran, PNNL

The sustainability priorities of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) revolve around the triple bottom line of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic prosperity. Four priorities relate specifically to environmental stewardship: reducing building energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reducing material purchases and waste, traveling smarter, and maximizing use of water. The charter and membership of the Environmental Management System (EMS) Core Team align with the sustainability priorities; team members include EMS program leaders, GHG science and technology experts, and representatives from human resources and communications. Quarterly team meetings provide opportunities for presenting issues and developing possible solutions, and brainstorming to create projects advancing culture change. Examples of projects to promote culture change are the “zero waste” tool kit provided to aid special event planners in developing “zero waste” events and green vendor shows. Agreed upon actions toward meeting sustainability goals are integrated in the PNNL EMS which is ISO14001-certified.

The following are examples of progress the EMS Core Team has made in achieving PPNL sustainability priorities:

- Fleet fuel use was reduced by 11 percent in FY11,
- ChemAgain program redistributed over 1,500 chemicals between 2009 and 2010 and reduced the lab’s chemical inventory,
- Diversion rate for construction and debris (C&D) waste last year was 95 percent; 50 percent of sanitary waste was diverted,
- Unwanted SF₆ identified for disposal,
- Facility operations constructed an onsite 125kW solar photovoltaic array to aid supplying the super computer facility,
- Reduced energy use intensity by 21.6 percent from a Fiscal Year 2005 baseline, and
- Eliminated several single pass cooling water system to minimize water use.

In response to call participants’ questions, Jennifer and Mike explained that SF₆ was used primarily as a tracer gas in research equipment and no alternatives for it had yet been found. However, bench top processes were evaluated to identify where leaks could occur. When asked how PNNL’s EMS Core Team approaches sustainability planning while accommodating increases in the number of lab employees, they indicated that facility footprints are aligned with the facility’s identified purpose but flex-places are provided for multiple users and telework opportunities are promoted.

A question regarding what constitutes C&D and solid waste and whether scrap metal is C&D or solid waste led to a suggestion that standardized definitions of the two waste streams would be helpful.

3. DOE HQ 2012 Earth Week Activities

Bev Whitehead-HS-21

Earth Day at Forrestal will be celebrated from 16 to 20 April and at Germantown from 23 to 27 April. Environmental films on the bottled water industry and the issues associated with plastic bags will be shown at both sites. DOE Headquarters will feature an environmental photography contest, a children's parade, and information on DOE's programs to promote green energy and reduce its carbon footprint. UNICOR will be on hand at both sites to accept electronics for recycling.

4. Sustainability and Compliance Reporting

EMS Status at DOE

Steve Woodbury, HS-21

Findings from the recent EMS reporting cycle indicate that 22 of DOE's 47 EMSs are certified to the ISO 14001 standard. Of those 47 EMSs, 45 scored a "green" when compared to the 2008 EMS metrics criteria; the remaining EMSs earned a "yellow" score.

Responses to the open ended narrative questions of the EMS report revealed the following benefits arising from EMS implementation:

- Improved relationships with neighbors, regulators, and other stakeholders;
- Streamlined environmental compliance;
- Promoted moving "beyond compliance";
- Increased sustainability awareness of employees and management; and
- Saved time and money.

Steve noted that many of the best practices described in the EMS reporting should be considered for EStar award nominations. The deadline for those nominations is April 30 and the HS-22 personnel will assist you with completing your nomination.

Sites also responded to supplementary questions regarding the inclusion of objectives, targets, plans, and programs in their EMS. The attachment depicts the progress sites have made since 2009 in integrating these components in their EMS.

EMS Three Year Audit

Jerry DiCerbo, HS-21

Assistance in complying with the requirement that EMS undergo an independent audit by a qualified external auditor every three years is available in two forms.

First, HS-21 is brokering an "auditor-exchange" under which an EMS qualified auditor from one site will conduct an audit at another site in return for some type of exchange of service. Contact Jerry DiCerbo (see contact information section) if you would like to participate in the EMS auditor exchange either as an auditor or recipient of an audit. In addition to keeping the costs of the audit low, the auditor exchange program provides an opportunity for the visiting auditor and the audited site to learn from each other. Second, the Criteria Requirements and Assessment Document (CRAD) is available to assist auditors.

HS is developing a technical assistance document that provides key definitions (e.g., "qualified party outside the control or scope of the EMS") and a sample field manager certification template.

Power Management

Jeff Eagan, HS-21

The 2011 Pollution Prevention Tracking and Reporting System (PPTRS) reporting on power management implementation revealed the need for a standard definition of equipment excluded from power management implementation. An objective for this year will be developing that definition and more precise PPTRS questions. Power management at the 100 percent level is an OMB goal and one that OMB monitors closely.

New GSA Electronics Disposition Bulletin

Jeff Eagan, HS-21

The General Services Administration (GSA) released Bulletin FMR B-34, *Disposal of Federal Electronic Assets*, on February 29, 2012. Federal electronic assets (FEA) include copiers, telephones, fax machines, digital cameras, desktop and laptop/portable computers, computer monitors, displays, printers, peripherals, and electronic components, and televisions.

The bulletin encourages Federal agencies to reuse FEA and suggests the following disposition sequence:

- Reuse within the agency,
- Transfers to other Federal agencies,
- Donations (through GSA) to states and eligible nonprofit organizations,
- Sales to the public, or
- Use the agency's abandonment/destruction authority; return FEA to a manufacturer or vendor under a take-back program that uses a certified recycler or enter into disposal contracts or agreements with certified recyclers or refurbishers.

The GSA bulletin is available at http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/ogp/FMR_Bulletin_B-34.pdf.

The Federal Electronics Challenge developed the following seven key points regarding the bulletin's requirements. The bulletin:

1. Prohibits Federal agencies from disposing of electronic waste in landfills or by incineration,
2. Defines the universe of electronic items,
3. Encourages maximum use of electronics within the Federal government and with state/local donation customers to minimize the waste stream,
4. Steers agencies to sell only functional assets to the public,
5. Requires agencies to dispose of non-functional electronic assets only to certified recyclers or refurbishes,
6. Enhances the reporting process so that the Federal government and our citizens know where our electronics are being disposed of in a timely manner, and
7. Encourages down-stream recipients of our property to dispose of the electronics through a certified recycler.

Jeff reminded the call participants that recyclers certified by R2 or e-Stewards must be used and all UNICOR facilities are so certified. Sites will be required to indicate in the PPTRS if their electronic recyclers are certified. Sites that dispose of electronic products through public sales should be aware that the bulletin imposes new requirements.

Presidential Memo on Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement

Jeff Eagan, HS-21

The February 21, 2012 Presidential Memorandum titled *Driving Innovation and Creating Jobs in Rural America through Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement* directs Federal agencies to ensure purchasing of biobased products through adherence to applicable Executive Orders and laws and reporting on those purchases. The Presidential Memo also requires Federal agencies to provide appropriate training on procurement of biobased products for all acquisition personnel including requirements and procurement staff. The memo is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/21/presidential-memorandum-driving-innovation-and-creating-jobs-rural-ameri>

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Next SAN Conference Call: April 26, 2012

**Note date change for SAN Call because of DOE HQ Earth Week activities (April 16-20)*

*Contact Beverly Whitehead (HS-21), (202) 586-6073, Beverly.Whitehead@hq.doe.gov,
with issues you would like to raise and/or presentations you would like to make.*

Attachment

DOE EMS Reporting: Some Trends in “Supplementary Questions” Responses

