

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

1. Sustainability Performance Office Highlights

Paul Estabrooks, SPO

The Sustainability Performance Office (SPO) highlighted November 15, “America Recycles Day”, with several posters featured throughout Forrestal. The “Know Before You Throw” posters pointed out that recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for over three hours and recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to run a 100W incandescent light bulb for four hours. Other posters listed where batteries, reusable office supplies, and used toner cartridges could be recycled and graphically depicted what wastes should and should not be recycled.

2. FERMI’s Leaf Composting Program

Katie Kosirog, FERMI

FERMI engineered a system that both freed up valuable farm land and provided leaf composting for communities proximate to the laboratory. FERMI leased 2000 tillable acres to a local farmer for raising corn and soybeans with the condition that he accept and spread leaves from eight local communities. The farmer received an average of 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of leaves per year for the past nine years and increased crop yield due to the nutrients added to the soil through leaf composting. The benefits to the communities in the form of saving fuel and time arise from shorter hauling distances. And less fuel use means greenhouse gas (GHG) savings.

3. Successful Implementation of NETL’s EMS

Eli George, NETL

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) integrates its site sustainability and pollution prevention goals into its Environmental Safety and Health Management System (ES&HMS) and establishes the specific targets and objectives for these goals in Environment, Safety, and Health Management Plans (EMPs). The ES&HMS is based on the Integrated Safety Management System, the ISO series of standards, and the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series 18001 standard. Multiple NETL sites (Pittsburgh, Morgantown, and Albany) and multiple NETL organizations are involved in the ES&HMS.

In FY11, NETL achieved 85 percent of its EMP targets and objectives. An example of NETL’s use of EMPs is its objective to comply with the Executive Order (EO) 13514 requirement to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of construction/demolition waste diverted from disposal by the end of FY15. Its FY11 target for that objective was 38 percent but it actually achieved a recycling rate of 83.8 percent.

To ensure progress in achieving its site sustainability and pollution prevention goals, NETL identifies areas for improvement. Recognizing that it will be completing numerous demolition projects in the near future, NETL will focus on understanding its changing waste streams in order to meet its targets for waste minimization and recycling.

4. NETL Water Resources

George Sawl, NETL

The key to NETL’s success in reducing its water use was management’s commitment to meeting or exceeding all mandated sustainability goals. Its efforts to assess water-usage processes, prioritize water saving opportunities, and develop and implement use reduction strategies led to saving over 10 million gallons of water in FY11 and surpassing the EO 13514 goal established for FY20 by 16 percent.

Specific NETL water use reduction activities included

- replacing research and development (R&D) once-through cooling systems with new, high-efficiency recirculating cooling systems,
- reducing or eliminating R&D process water requirements,
- instituting an employee participation program to reduce water usage in all laboratory processes,

- implementing harvesting systems to capture rain water for non-potable restroom usage, and
- installing low-flow restroom fixtures.

Planned water use reduction strategies call for eliminating steam boilers and replacing them with satellite hot water boilers, installing new water-saving technologies at waste treatment facilities that will improve the filtration process, and using gray water from the treatment facility for non-potable restroom usage.

5. Sustainability and Compliance Reporting

November 8 EFCOG Webinar Update

Denny Hjeresen, LANL

On November 8th, DOE hosted an information session on the ISO 50001 Energy Management System. The webinar featured presentations on the standard and integrating it with ISO 14001 and with ISO 14001 environmental management systems. The presentations and conference call minutes are available at http://www.efcog.org/wg/esh_env/index.htm.

Migratory Bird Activities Update

Jane Powers, HS-22

Migratory bird award nominations are due by Nov. 26th. HS-22 expects to have eight nominations. HS-22, along with a panel of judges, will review the nominations and select the one DOE nomination for submission to the 2013 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award competition. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) transmitted comments to HS-22 from its regional offices and solicitors. This version will be distributed to DOE's Migratory Bird Work Group for their review; any issues will be resolved with the FWS.

PPTRS

Jerry DiCerbo, HS-21

The Pollution Prevention Tracking and Reporting System (PPTRS) will close on Friday, 7 December. The attachment at the end of these notes depicts the status of PPTRS reporting as of 9 November. It also provides several useful reminders of this year's PPTRS process.

Overview of Federal Agency EMS Community of Practice

Steve Woodbury, HS-21

The Federal Agency EMS Community of Practice, convened in 2012, is a modified version of the Interagency Environmental Leadership Workgroup (Workgroup) which was active from 2000 to 2009. Whereas the Workgroup was chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Community of Practice is open to all Federal staff and is self-driven by members' interests and needs. The Workgroup developed the initial EMS metrics for the Office of Management and Budget scorecard and new EMS metrics in 2008. The Community of Practice revives the interest in EMS metrics and has established a workgroup to revise the existing metrics.

The EMS Metrics Revision Workgroup recognized that metrics for agencies with mature EMSs should be different than those at agencies in the formative stages of implementing EMSs. Metrics should also be revised to assess the degree of their integration with sustainability goals. In approaching its work, the Metrics Revision Workgroup identified the following as possible objectives and criteria:

- align with EO requirements and Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans (SSPPs)/sustainability areas,
- streamline EMS tracking to essential points (minimal but adequate number of metric),
- provide consistency across agencies,
- provide Department-wide data that is based on EMS-level reporting,
- provide a tool that is usable for the field and provides accurate data for agency headquarters,
- improve sustainability performance, support continual improvement,
- drive desired behaviors, and

- keep consistent with existing reporting requirements, such as the SSPP reporting requirements.

In reviewing the metrics developed in 2008, a task group suggested that data on three-year audits and declaration status should continue to be gathered. The open-ended question format of Part V should also be retained but, like the rest of the metrics, they should be streamlined.

The task group charged with identifying new metrics is looking at indicators of functional and robust EMSs (such as top management involvement and integration of SSPP goals in the EMS) and the range of Federal sites, installations, and facilities which have EMSs. Please contact Steve with your questions and ideas on EMS metrics revision.

FEC and PPTRS Update

Jeff Eagan, HS-21

The PPTRS is the place to submit your information for the DOE GreenBuy competition. This competition has attracted a lot of interest and we want to make sure that the second year is as good as the first year.

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***PPTRS Attachment on next page.**

Next SAN Conference Call: December 20, 2012

*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

December 7th is the deadline for PPTRS completion. The “Status” section below provides an overview as of November 9th and the “Reminder” section provides some tips and useful feedback on successfully completing PPTRS entries.

Status (48 reporting entities):

Breakdown	Site/Project Profile Status	Electronics	Waste & Toxics	Contract Tracking	*Priority Products	*Migratory Bird Awards
Not Started	11	29	27	35	35	0
Started	0	16	19	10	0	2
Complete	37	3	2	3	**13	0

*Note: both Priority Products and Migratory Bird Awards are optional categories. Electronics, Waste & Toxics, and Contract Tracking are required.

**Thus far 13 sites successfully entered 114 products.

Reminders:

- You must complete the “Site/Site Profile” category before you can complete any of the other categories.
- According to our database team, PPTRS works best using Internet Explorer and does not work as well with Safari, Firefox, or Chrome.
- **DO NOT** complete the Sustainability Awards section: PPTRS will not be accepting Sustainability Award Nominations at this time. The schedule for these awards has been moved to next year. The Sustainability Performance Office and the Office of Sustainability Support will notify the Field of the new time change and process for submitting these awards.

Contacts:

- If you have any questions please contact the Support Center at: P2support@hq.doe.gov or Jerry DiCerbo at: Gerald.DiCerbo@hq.doe.gov