

DOE Sustainability Assistance Network (SAN) Notes
Thursday, April 26, 2012

1. Sustainability Performance Office (SPO) Highlights

Paul Estabrooks, SPO

The nomination deadline for DOE Sustainability Awards, sponsored by the SPO, is extended to June 1, 2012. Nominations are made through the PPTRS; contact Jerry DiCerbo if you need access to the website.

Nominations for the 2012 GreenGov awards are due June 15, 2012; nominations are made through FedCenter.

The 2012 GreenGov awards will be presented during the GreenGov Symposium which will be held in Washington, DC from September 24-25; post-conference meetings and workshops will be conducted on September 26. The DOE 2012 Sustainability Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2012 in Washington, DC.

The 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) is being developed by the SPO with the cooperation of the Headquarters' corporate offices. The SSPP is due to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its approval by June 29, 2012 and will likely be available in fall of 2012. Please send your examples of best practices and lessons learned to the SPO at sustainability@hq.doe.gov for inclusion in the SPO Spotlight.

2. Material and Specimen Core Business Process: Cradle to Grave Management of Materials

Eric Damberg, PNNL

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) used its Integrated Management System to transform its "silos of excellence" into more project focused business practices that emphasize efficiency and compliance. An objective of the PNNL Materials and Specimen core business practice was to make it easier for researchers to inventory their materials and specimens which would result in better chemical management. Meeting that objective was accomplished through deploying Material and Specimen Representatives into the field, shifting the program's focus from waste management to lifecycle management, using a risk-based approach to materials management, and simplifying access to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) materials.

Implementing a risk-based management system realigned staff and researchers attention to the materials that posed the greatest hazard, strategic value, and compliance requirements. Based on the risk assessment, only 3 percent (1,800 items) of PNNL's inventory ranked as high risk, 67 percent (45,000 items) as medium, and 30 percent (20,000 items) as low. Low items are now exempt from tracking which will save 200,000 transactions a year.

The PNNL ChemAgain program provides an incentive for researchers to make unused chemicals in their original containers available to other researchers rather than bear the cost of disposing of them or simply storing them and contributing to inventory concerns. Chemicals are managed in a central location.

Additional improvement actions include developing a chargeback model to recover chemical management lifecycle costs that will encourage researchers to maintain the smallest inventory and establishing a central chemical receiving facility to improve inventory data quality and achieve an economy of scale for inventory management.

Note: Eric's presentation was originally made at the 14th Annual DOE/EFCOG Chemical Safety and Life Cycle Management Workshop on March 14, 2012 at DOE Headquarters. Future SAN calls will feature additional presentations from the workshop.

3. DOE Sites 2012 Earth Week Activities

Golden Field Office and National Energy Renewable Laboratory Amy Van Dercook, Jennifer Daw
The Golden Field Office and the National Energy Renewable Laboratory jointly sponsored Earth Week 2012 from 16 through 21 April. Activities included a sustainability expo, display of children's posters, hikes to explore nature and a walk to get to lunch, a bike-to-work day and bicycle maintenance workshop, electronics recycling and book drive, a volunteer campus "clean-up" and a healthy gardening event open to the public with compost give-away. "Sustainable Super Hero" was the theme for the children's posters.

MOX Facility: Savannah River Site

Joan Bozzone, SRS

Dedicating the conservation garden at the entrance to the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility administration building was a highlight of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Earth Day celebration. The honored guest was the smooth purple coneflower, which was listed as federally endangered in 1992. Though once common, the smooth purple coneflower has become extremely rare yet three populations of it exist on the SRS – the conservation garden makes the fourth and is designed to call attention to the active management and protection of the flower.

In an additional acknowledgement of the SRS's earlier history as revealed through archeological research, the garden's design uses stones from the same sources area Indians used to gather stones for indirect cooking and hearth lining. Pottery shards, replicas of Indian pottery, are also used in the garden design.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Jennifer Doman, LLNL

Though dubbed "sustainability on a shoestring" Earth Week at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), participants were able to choose from a variety of activities: making gift boxes by recycling greeting cards (a real hit with the children who participated as part of the Take Your Children to Work day); hearing about trail conservation, gardening, and composting; shredding personal documents; test driving the Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf; learning about sustainable acquisition; and making a speech as part of the environmentally themed Toastmasters Club event. In a first-of-its-kind Earth Day event, LLNL conducted a sock drive to aid the Yosemite National Park fisher research and conservation effort. The socks are filled with meat and hung from trees to tempt fishers which are then either photographed or trapped.

4. Sustainability and Compliance Reporting

Sustainable Acquisition

Jeff Eagan, HS-21

The Department of Agriculture and the OMB continue to develop regulations for the purchase of biobased products. In preparation for the eventual issuance of those regulations, sites should ensure that biobased purchasing is integrated into contracts. Contact Jeff or Shab (see contact information below) for assistance with suggested contract language.

DOE's Migratory Bird Treaty Act Activities

Jane Powers, HS-22

Executive Order 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, required those agencies with actions that have a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations to develop and implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to promote conservation of migratory bird populations. The DOE 2006 MOU was updated

through the efforts of the newly formed Migratory Bird Workgroup; the MOU will undergo review by the program secretarial offices before being signed by the leadership of Health, Safety and Security and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The Migratory Bird Workgroup will participate in promoting DOE involvement in the Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award program and developing the annual accomplishments report. Contact Jane (see contact information below) with any questions about the Executive Order, the MOU, or workgroup activities.

Clean Air and GHG Update

Larry Stirling, HS-21

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing thresholds for classifying nonattainment areas for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The proposed thresholds may have an impact on DOE sites.

The data needed to determine attainment or non-classifiable ozone nonattainment areas for nitrogen oxide will be gathered through State and local government measurements near roadways.

EPA determined that it will retain the current secondary NAAQS for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and oxides of sulfur (SO_x). The agency will not add a new, multi-pollutant standard for NO_x and SO_x to address deposition-related effects at this time but will continue to study their impacts on sensitive ecosystems.

HS-21 will review and summarize the contents of the recently released EPA Fall 2011 Regulatory Agenda to identify proposed regulations of possible interest to DOE sites. Upon distribution of the summary to sites, please contact Larry if your site is interested in having HSS track the regulatory process of items of interest listed in the summary or elsewhere.

The next Clean Air Working Group call will be held on Thursday, 7 June, from 1 to 2:30 (EDT).

2012 DOE Sustainability Awards Update

Josh Silverman, HS-21

The 2012 DOE Sustainability Awards merge the Department's former environmental awards and its energy and water management awards into 14 award categories. As with the previous environmental awards process, award nominations made through the PPTRS by June 1 will be forwarded to the respective program secretarial offices for their best-in-class selections; those selections will then be sent for final judging to an outside panel of independent judges.

2012 GreenGov Presidential Awards

Josh Silverman, HS-21

There are 6 GreenGov Presidential Awards categories: Sustainability Hero; Green Innovation; Lean, Clean, and Green; Good Neighbor; Green Dream Team; and Building the Future. As you complete your nomination for the DOE Sustainability Awards, consider applying for a GreenGov award, or vice-versa.

If your site has several related Sustainability Award nominations consider grouping them into a coherent program for the GreenGov Awards; that unified approach seems to be more in line with the GreenGov preference for awards.

Note: HS-21 is gathering lessons learned and best practices on site experiences with capturing revenue from energy savings or recycling programs and reinvesting it in sustainability projects. Contact Shab (see contact information below) with your insights and experiences.

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Next SAN Conference Call: May 17, 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.*