

Environmental Management System

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Environmental Management System (EMS) at Sandia

Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) is committed to mitigating environmental protection with its mission and recognizes that the environment must be protected and preserved for future and current generations. Sandia takes this responsibility seriously and expects employees, contractors, and visitors to identify and mitigate risks and incorporate environmental management into their daily work activities.

Sandia's EMS is a continuing cycle of planning, implementing, evaluating, and improving processes to manage the environmental consequences of Sandia's activities, products, and services.

Environmental Planning & Compliance

Under EMS, environmental planning and compliance are integrated into the decision making and implementation phases of all work activities. The Environmental Planning Department assists organizations in understanding and minimizing potential environmental impacts of their work activities, and is responsible for tracking environmental objectives and targets for Sandia. The Environmental Programs and Assurance Department is responsible for the collection of environmental data to assess potential environmental impacts of Sandia operations and to ensure compliance with all federal, state, local, and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) regulations and requirements. Both departments work together to develop, align, balance, and implement a prioritized set of key environmental objectives and targets throughout Sandia.

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.”

- Mahatma Ghandi

EMS enhances budgetary planning and overall performance by integrating management of environmental issues into organizational management. At Sandia, EMS is implemented through the EMS Core Team and EMS Management Advisory Team.

Sandia's Environmental Aspects & Impacts

Sandia identified 13 environmental aspects or elements of their activities, products, or services that can interact with the environment. Aspects can have positive or negative interaction with the environment. These interactions are called environmental impacts. Six of the 13 environmental aspects were identified as being significant, based upon a risk ranking of their potential impacts. These six significant environmental aspects are:

- Land use – disturbed land for an alternative use may result in improved (habitat restoration) or degraded (releases that impact groundwater/surface water and soil) impacts.
- Air emissions – contamination of the air as well as exposure to the workforce are major impacts of emissions of air pollutants.
- Water discharges – groundwater and wetlands are protected areas and negative impacts to either are difficult and costly to repair.
- Hazardous materials – the improper usage or release of chemicals or other materials that are toxic, ignitable, corrosive, and/or reactive can have far-reaching consequences.



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- Personal transportation – alternatives to the one-person, one-car commute can result in more exercise, lower transportation costs for members of the workforce, and reduced impacts to the environment.
- Resource use – minimizing the use of energy and water saves valuable non-renewable resources as well as reduces costs of operating Sandia.

FY08 Objectives and Targets - How can Members of the Workforce help?

Objectives and measurable targets for the six significant aspects were established comparatively by the EMS Core Team. Each division also developed objectives and targets to integrate their specific activities. Targets include evaluating alternatives to more efficiently transport people to and from work and reducing annual energy use by three percent in FY08 compared to FY07 for most buildings.

Members of the Workforce can help meet these objectives by:

- Knowing and understanding requirements in the Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H) Manual.
- Utilizing recycling containers at Sandia.
- Printing double-sided.
- Encouraging paperless communications with hard copies issued upon request.
- Considering alternative transportation.
- Eating at the Cafeteria or bring your lunch instead of driving off-site for lunch.
- Utilizing the Chemical Exchange Program for Chemical needs.
- Working within your division to mitigate environmental impacts.

A list of all Impacts, Aspects, Objectives and Targets are available in the FY08 EMS Manual and division action plans. These can be found at <http://EMS.sandia.gov>.

ES&H Policy

Sandia's ES&H Policy is to protect and preserve the environment, and to ensure the safety and health of its employees, contractors, visitors, and the public, while maintaining the corporate vision and mission.

Sandia's corporate ES&H Program mandates compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, the DOE directives included in the Prime Contract between DOE and Sandia, internal Corporate Process Requirements, and permit requirements.

EMS Awards

The Semi-annual EMS Excellence Awards recognize exemplary advancements made by members of the workforce that contribute to the vision of Sandia's EMS. Since the inception of the EMS Awards in 2006, over 75 nominations have been received from Members of the Workforce who consider the environment when planning and performing work.

For more information about Sandia's EMS, visit <http://EMS.sandia.gov>.

