



# Sustainable Operations



U.S. Forest Service

*Creating Habits Today, Conserving Resources for Tomorrow*

## Background

In addition to being a Climate Change Framework goal and part of our responsibility as conservation leaders, Sustainable Operations are required under Administration and Statutory guidance (EO 13424; legislation such as Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007). Like climate change, addressing sustainable operations needs to be a part of existing business, and a priority that overarches every deputy chief area, every program and every R/S/A.

A working group is in place assessing current and future data needs and identifying systems for tracking and reporting progress on environmental footprint reduction efforts aligned with EO 13423 and its 6 footprint areas; **Energy, Water, Green Purchasing, Fleet and Transportation, Waste Prevention and Recycling and Sustainability Leadership.**

The working group has been participating with the *Climate Change Coordination Group* as a standing team for sustainable operations. Mary Wagner and Chris Risbrudt are executive leads for the team. Under this group, the team has developed a charter and identified field advisors and consultants. Currently the group is reviewing past efforts and metrics that have been identified to measure environmental baselines including the **Performance Accountability System (PAS)** and the **Environmental Management System (EMS)**. Part of this effort is day lighting where data gaps exist to define these baselines and developing reasonable approaches to fill these gaps. In addition, they are developing a software framework that will allow reporting of these metrics.

## Environmental Management System:

The EMS is being built and executed by Ecosystem Management Coordination to make use of existing systems and to fit within budget and organizational capacity. The EMS focused on Fleet In 2008.

## Accountability and Reporting:

Sustainable Operations Measures are included in the Agency's PAS for FY 2007/2008. The current performance indicators are:

Indicators	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2008 Final	FY 2009 Goals
Total Forest Service vehicle fuel consumption	\$11,257,427	\$10,975,443	-2.5% of 07	-2% of 2008
Miles driven by passenger carrying vehicles	Not Tracked	83,681,569		TBD
Dollars cost of electricity	\$17,495,739	\$17,326,505	-1.0% of 07	-3% of 2008
Dollars cost of fuel oil	\$828,907	\$1,065,214	+28.5% of 07	TBD
Dollars cost of natural gas	\$2,612,801	\$2,809,009	+7.5% of 07	TBD
Number of facilities that hold LEED certification	Not Tracked	3	100% of 07	12
EMS Audits completed	Not Tracked	(Planned) 12	9	12

Additional progress has been made by the CIO:

- CIO has purchased 5,747 Energy Star computers as of 2/2009
- CIO has purchased and will deploy an additional 7,125 Energy Star by the end of the FY09
- The current Hyundai monitors that are purchased are also Energy Star compliant

Performance standards in sustainable operations were implemented for all supervisory and managerial positions, as well as incorporated into the SES performance priorities.

**Training and development** opportunities through alearn include EMS and Climate Change is planned for 09. Sustainable Operations supports a Senior Leaders Team, a component in New Employee Orientation, and presentations to the Office of Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) in the areas of partnerships, green house gas inventory, EMS and Measures.

### **Partnerships**

Facilitating and advancing partnerships with key Federal organizations, States, and communities is key to achieve long term energy and water conservation and promote life-long learning about the environment. We are working to create an informed citizenry by connecting people to their local environment through the **Adopt-A-School Program** which began with Munford Elementary, Middle and High School, and Bailey's Elementary. Expansion to Rio Rancho Public Schools in Albuquerque NM includes Cleveland High School, a LEED certified school focused on natural resource education.

### **Communications**

The website offers content rich background and resources for all aspects of agency sustainable operations. A monthly forum – Open Mic, offers informal dialogue and national sharing, and a bi-monthly Weimar is available to anyone interested in learning or sharing about activities supporting sustainable practices.

### **Recognition**

Two national awards will be granted to stellar Sustainable Operation projects for 2008/09: Region 9, Northeastern Area, Northern Research Station and FPL for their work on the Sustainable Operations Summit; and the Chippewa NF for the Extreme Ranger District makeover effort. Both nominations have also been forwarded to the White House Council on Environmental Quality for *Closing the Circle* award recognition.

### **Student Intern Program**

Sustainable Operations student interns began in 2008 working in Region 2, 6, 8 and the Washington Office. Seven interns will return in 2009 to continue to enhance and expand agency sustainable operations programs and communications; including a Landscape Architect trainee working on a sustainable landscape design for the People's Garden at the Whitten Building and the **USDA Daycare Center**. The goal is to develop environmental and outdoor learning opportunities at the daycare center and generally upgrade playground features to improve drainage, site security and landscaping. Additional support will go toward improving indoor air quality in the daycare center, by promoting the use of green materials and paints for new finishes; and supporting upgrades to the air-handling system and other systems as planned by building management staff.