



August 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Policy

TO: Soil Drainage Research Unit Employees

FROM: Kevin King (Location Research Leader)

In accordance with Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, and per the USDA, REE, ARS, Environmental Management System Policy Statement dated June 28, 2004, and the Midwest Area Environmental Management System Policy dated September 16, 2010, the USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit in Columbus, OH has established and implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS).

Location Research Mission

The Research Mission of the USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit is to *develop and demonstrate integrated water management and cropping systems that support profitable agriculture and environmental protection within the cool humid region of the US.*

EMS Goals and Objectives

Our EMS goal is to systematically identify and actively manage environmental aspects that are present at the USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit to promote our research program in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. It is our objective, at a minimum, to fully comply with related federal, state and local regulations applying to these aspects. Specific objectives include:

- protect the environment;
- conserve natural resources;
- reduce, reuse, and recycle solid and universal waste;
- reduce hazardous waste disposal quantities and costs;
- prevent pollution;
- minimize releases to the environment;
- improve interaction with environmental regulators;
- improve community relations.

Activities:

- establish a policy that is endorsed by top management and states the Location's commitments;
- develop goals and objectives by identifying impacts, legal requirements, objectives, and improvements;
- implement activities and operations (i.e., training, recycling, proactive procurement, and activities documentation);

- monitor and measure the status of program objectives, the system, and procedures;
- conduct annual senior management review of EMS performance.

Our EMS consists of a cyclical method of managing our Environmental Protection Program at each facility with a Plan, Do, Check, Act cycle. As such we have embarked upon the process of performing periodic reviews and updates. The EMS will be ongoing, assembling all the elements of the USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit activities into a coordinated effort of continuous improvement that will assist us with achieving our research mission in a sustainable manner and will improve our relationships with environmental regulators and the local community.

cc:

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