

## US EPA Region 2 Environmental Management System Policy

On April 21, 2000, Executive Order (EO) 13148, "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management," was issued by the Office of the President. This Order established goals and requirements for Federal agencies to improve environmental performance through management systems and an emphasis on pollution prevention.

As one of his first orders of business, President Obama issued Executive Order 13514, reaffirming the need to promote environmental stewardship that was initiated under E.O. 13148 and ensuring that environmental management systems would continue to be incorporated into the strategic goals of all Federal Agencies through calendar year 2015. Inspired by President Obama's leadership, we pledge to reinvigorate Region 2's EMS programs not only to safeguard the environment, but also to promote environmental stewardship by establishing EMS programs for all Region 2 Facilities. We are the first federal agency to devise and implement an EMS in the Caribbean at the LEED-gold Guaynabo, PR office.

As noted in our original EPA Environmental Management System Implementation Policy, the Region 2 will continually strive to meet the following goals of the EMS:

- Ensure compliance by meeting or exceeding all applicable environmental and legal requirements.
- Continuously improve environmental performance.
- Employ source reduction and other pollution prevention approaches whenever possible.
- Require consideration of environmental factors when making planning, purchasing and operating decisions.
- Establish, track and review specific environmental objectives and targets.
- Provide training to educate our employees and others working in Region 2 office and lab space to be environmentally responsible on the job, including encouraging the use of reusable dishware and aiming toward zero waste at all EPA Region 2 meetings, events and function.
- Work cooperatively with other stakeholders to further common environmental objectives.
- Recognize and reward accomplishments and take corrective action to address nonconformances.
- Share information on environmental performance and allow appropriate opportunities for input into EMS development and implementation with our employees on our intranet website and with the public by displaying information on the Region 2 internet website.
- Maintain documentation of all efforts and steps to execute the Region 2 EMS.

Everyone – from staff, contractors, to summer interns and other federal employees – plays a role in reducing the environmental impact of our operations. However, at each of our regional office (and lab) locations in New Jersey, New York, and Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, senior leadership guides annual activities and garners support to implement projects and measure progress. In New Jersey, both the Division of Environmental Science and Assessment (DESA) and the Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA) of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) are the pivotal leaders. At the New York office, the ARA directs the focus of the program, from project selection to measurement. Finally, in the Puerto Rico the Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD) Director guides the activities for program success. In addition to our annual reviews on environmental goals and adherence to this policy, we invite interested parties to provide us with input that will improve our efforts to promote environmental stewardship.

  
Judith A. Enck

Regional Administrator, US EPA Region 2

3.10.15

Date

