



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

USDA, Agricultural Research Service Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)

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Federal Government

Member since May 2010

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

The Agricultural Research Services (ARS), Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Environmental Policy Letter, dated February 27, 2009, identifies the Executive Order 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management) and subsequent ISO 14001-like Environmental Management System (EMS) development and implementation requirements as the primary way it achieves compliance and fosters environmental stewardship. Furthermore, the BARC environmental policy directs that all environmental impacting activities and services implement sustainable best environmental management practices into their strategic planning and daily operations, when possible. To read more about the BARC Environmental Policy Statement log on to: <http://ars.usda.gov/PandP/docs.htm?docid=7659>



Environmental Teams

The BARC has several environmental "teams" (i.e., Ecology Committee, Stormwater Management Group, Recycling Committee, and the Environmental Management System (EMS) Committee) that provide environmental stewardship guidance to the BARC's senior management. Based on the BARC's geographical location on a campus that exceeds 6,600 acres bordering multiple watersheds (i.e., little Paint Branch, Indian Creek and Beaverdam Creek), appropriate emphasis has been placed on the development of teams that are aligned with the BARC's environmental impacts and watershed stewardship efforts.

BARC Ecology Committee: The Ecology Committee is made up of a dedicated and capable group of BARC scientists, local volunteers and environmental conservation partners of Beltsville's adjacent ecosystems and watersheds. This particular committee is one of action; that understands the ecology of the region and organizes for the protection and restoration of its waterways and adjacent pastures.

BARC Stormwater Management Group: The BARC Stormwater Management Group has the mission of considering management strategies for both point source and nonpoint source stormwater discharges at the BARC. It is responsible for managing a NPDES Phase II, MS4 General Stormwater Permit and many other point source permits stemming from other activities and operations, such as, municipal waste water treatment and disposal plants, domestic water production and treatment plants and CERCLA/National Priorities List ("SUPERFUND") site management. The primary membership includes Safety Occupational Health and the Environmental Staff, Facilities Services (i.e., Plant Maintenance, Energy Officer, and Engineering Branch), Research Services Support (e.g., livestock, pesticide management, soil management, etc.) and Program Activities (e.g., Hydrology Lab, Environmental Microbial Lab, etc.).

BARC Recycling Committee: The BARC Recycling Committee has the goal of meeting at least three times per year in order to identify and discuss practical and sustainable solutions for reducing the overall generation of pollution. The BARC actively recycles five waste streams that have been identified by the Federal Government (i.e., Executive Order 13101 Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition ...) as being the most viable due to the Federal facilities' basic operating structure. These waste streams consist of white paper, cardboard, type I & II plastics, aluminum and ink and toner jet cartridges. Additionally, based on recommendations from the committee the BARC's senior management has invested thousands of dollars into further enhancing the programs infrastructure over the past year.

BARC Environmental Management System (EMS) Committee: The BARC EMS Committee first met in FY 2009 and continues to identify and provide opportunities to guide management of the BARC's significant environmental impacts. The BARC's EMS continues to facilitate the development of subsequent environmental compliance and stewardship programs, protocols and best management practices.



Annual Environmental Goals

The BARC's primary environmental goal is that of continual improvement of its EMS which subsequently means effective management of environmental impacts. To ensure that these goals were being achieved the BARC conducted a

comprehensive management review of its EMS in FY 2012. The review considered both regulatory requirements and Agency goals and targets. For example, pollution prevention in the area of nutrient reduction was considered to be a significant environmental impact and is appropriately managed under the Agency's EMS. The management review protocol used closely aligned with that of the ISO-14001 management review protocol that is oriented towards continual improvement.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The BARC continues to invest resources in support of regional environmental protection and sustainable restoration projects. One of the ways in which it accomplishes this is through its participation in stakeholder meetings, committees and councils that align with Chesapeake Bay restoration. Furthermore, the BARC participates as an active member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Environmental Council and the Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship. Significant reforestation, BMP projects and stream restoration have been undertaken through a partnership with the Maryland State Highway Administration through implementation mitigation requirements for Inter County Connector project. Over 10,000 trees have been planted through this joint, cooperative effort in 2012. Additional reforestation activities have also been implemented through a cooperative agreement with MWCOG, two hundred additional trees were planted in 2013.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

The BARC has implemented a comprehensive pollution prevention strategy that includes employee education, environmentally friendly purchasing protocols, compliance and reporting. Additionally, it established a unique and effective chemical share program that is estimated to have saved the BARC thousands of dollars and prevented generation of hundreds of pounds of hazardous waste.

Recycling

The BARC recycles approximately 1,000 lbs of cardboard and paper a week and 10 totes of aluminum, plastics and toner cartridges per week. These items have been identified by E.O. 13101(Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition) as the five common waste streams generated at Federal facilities that are recommended as viable

candidates for recycling. The appropriate environmental team manages this program and advises BARC management on its performance.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The BARC manages its stormwater discharges primarily through its environmental team (i.e., Stormwater Management Committee); however, the activities and operations that require a NPDES permit are the responsibility of the individual permit-holding management unit. They hold the responsibility of ensuring that runoff is being mitigated through stormwater site designs (e.g., Best Management Practices such as rain gardens, retention areas, etc.), and ensuring that appropriate employees are trained, stormwater retrofits are inspected and serviceable, equipment is serviceable and operating efficiently. The BARC manages its nonpoint source stormwater through its Maryland issued general stormwater permit. In addition, BARC is working hard to meet new TMDL requirements set by MDE and continue the reduction of impermeable surfaces by 2020 to help protect and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay as mandated under Executive Order 13508.

Profile Updated April 2013



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Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

