

# WSTF Environmental Stewardship



NASA's White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) continues to actively encourage waste minimization projects, innovative technologies, recycling activities, sustainable acquisition (buying green), and other "green" initiatives. To accomplish these goals, NASA established an Environmental Management System to ensure that environmental compliance is maintained, new programs and test protocols adhere to State and Federal regulatory requirements, and continuous improvement is part of the way WSTF does business.



WSTF Environmental Management System was certified to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Standard in April 2000. WSTF was the first NASA facility or center to achieve this certification. The ISO 14001 standard provides a systems' approach to achieving environmental excellence through five major areas: Commitment and Policy, Planning, Implementation, Measurement and Evaluation, and Management Review. WSTF is audited at six-month intervals by a third-party registrar to ensure that the Environmental Management System is maintained in accordance with the Standard.



Integral to the Environmental Management System and ISO 14001 certification is the annual identification of WSTF operations that have significant environmental aspects. The current significant aspects form the basis of WSTF Environmental Management Programs and are designed to minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts.



- Aspect -** Groundwater Remediation  
**Impact -** Depletion of Drinking Water Resource  
**Objective -** Interception of Contaminated Groundwater at the Mid-Plume and control at Plume- Front  
**Target -** Evaluate and Optimize Aquifer Response to the Mid-Plume operation and Maintain reliable operation of the Plume-Front
- Aspect -** Sustainable Acquisition  
**Impact -** Depletion of Natural Resources  
**Objective -** Develop Sustainable Acquisition Procedure  
**Target -** Finalize WSTF Acquisition Procedure and training
- Aspect -** Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation  
**Impact -** Energy and Water Consumption  
**Objective -** Reduce Energy and Water Consumption  
**Target -** Reduce Energy 3% per year and Water 2% per year; use 7.5% renewable energy
- Aspect -** Hazardous Materials Management  
**Impact -** Potential Release of Hazardous Materials to the environment  
**Objective -** Convert Chemical Inventory System to Electronic Database system  
**Target -** Train Chemical Inventory Administrators and Implement Barcoding
- Aspect -** Environmental Sustainability  
**Impact -** Depletion of Natural Resources  
**Objective -** Continue to raise awareness and increase employee involvement, support Sustainable Acquisition Program, increase green projects, and increase waste diversion.  
**Target -** Increase purchase of alternative environmental friendly supplies and materials, support Green Projects, and increase waste diversion through waste minimization and recycling.



NASA WSTF employees have achieved excellence by adhering to these goals and commitments and their efforts have resulted in:

- The National Award for Overall Achievement and outstanding efforts in 2012 to advance sustainability and for its leadership in reducing the environmental footprint of federal government activities.
- On April 15, 2013, NMED accepted NASA WSTF's membership to the Green Zia Environmental Leaders Program at the Gold Level (their highest level). NMED recognized WSTF's attention to reducing Site environmental impacts by employing pollution prevention and best management practices for energy, green purchasing, hazardous waste, product use, solid waste, and waste diversion. NMED also commended WSTF for detailed waste and resource tracking systems and integration of environmental goals within Site operations and organizational culture. NMED also recognized WSTF for their "commitment to and innovation for reducing waste and natural resource use in New Mexico."



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