

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



Our science, operations and community involvement have a positive impact environmentally, socially and economically—something we like to call our “triple bottom line” approach. Much like a honeycomb with its interlocking pieces that gain strength through mutual support and integration, our three pillars and twelve focus areas create a Sustainability Program that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Our plan includes practical actions to conserve energy, water, materials and financial resources while enabling courageous scientific discovery and improving the comfort of and collaboration among staff.

2013 Highlights



Received two 2013 Sustainability Awards from DOE for “Sustainable Campus” and “Innovative and Holistic Sustainability.” PNNL advances the DOE sustainability mission with a diverse, focused effort toward goals for 2020 and beyond.

The Sustainability Program and Information Management Services put mobile tools and A/V equipment in the hands of staff and in 34 conference rooms, enabling work regardless of physical location. The tools contributed to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from business travel and employee commuting (i.e. they enable teleworking). Staff teleworked over 20,000 days collectively. Flexible work arrangements allow for business continuity, save staff money and time, reduce stress, increase productivity and help to achieve a better work/life balance.



PNNL certified two additional High Performance Sustainable Buildings (HPSBs). 31% of our portfolio meets HPSB criteria, exceeding the DOE goal of 15% by FY15. The Radiochemical Processing Laboratory (RPL) is the first DOE Office of Science nuclear laboratory to achieve HPSB status.

The Sustainability Pays program funded staff ideas that contribute to aggressive sustainability goals established by the DOE. Projects including developing pump controllers for research vacuum equipment; replacing sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) with nitrous oxide (N₂O) as a tracer gas; and communal bike pump/fixing stations were installed.



MIKE MORAN
509-375-2344
mike.moran@pnnl.gov
Richland WA 99352
www.pnnl.gov
www.sustainable.pnnl.gov


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