

USDA \ ARS Tifton, GA
Environmental Management System 2007 Management Review

The foundation of the EMS program is established by the location specific EMS manual and policy statement. The EMS program serves three separate research units; Crop Protection and Management Research Unit, Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit, and Southeast Watershed Research Unit. The committee developed objectives and targets for 2007 based on our activities, aspects, and impacts. The objectives for 2007 were to reduce the amount of mercury and lead containing devices in USDA facilities, and reeducate all employees that work in federal facilities about EMS.

Target 1: Replace and recycle mercury thermometers, mercury containing switches, or pressure measuring devices.

Summary: We collected and/or recycled 354 pounds of fluorescent lamps, 21 thermometers, 3 mercury tubes; partially filled, and 1 sphygmomanometer. Thermostats and lighting ballasts are being replaced as part of regular R&M. Researchers are encouraged to replace any mercury devices they have in service with non-mercury equivalents.

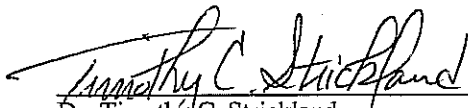
Target 2: Inventory the water coolers to check for lead containing components and dispose of any other lead containing items found on site.

Summary: A survey of water coolers in all federal buildings was completed on August 14, 2007. We found that fourteen buildings contained water coolers yet only two of those were problematic. Those two water coolers had serial numbers that matched a list of known units that have lead parts. The water cooler in CPMRU building one was replaced with a new unit in October. The water cooler located at the Belflower farm was disconnected and service discontinued in November. We disposed of 596 pounds of lead-acid batteries as part of our universal waste stream. Old computer monitors, which contain about eight pounds of lead each, are stored and recycled through local e-cycling events which are free of charge. At this time, we have not encountered any other lead containing items for disposal such as old paint or solder.

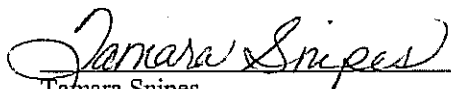
Target 3: Reintroduce employees to EMS and its importance through the required annual training presented at UGA/USDA Safety Week.

Summary: The annual EMS refresher training was held as part of UGA/USDA Safety Week on February 21-23, 2007. The training was presented by committee members through a PowerPoint presentation. Those that could not attend the training viewed the presentation online. All training was completed and documented with 100% participation on April 4, 2007.

In addition to the targets listed above, we installed recirculating pumps on three growth chambers that use water as the primary cooling agent. The installation of the recirculating pumps will save thousands of gallons of water each year. Foam insulation was added to increase energy efficiency to Buildings #2, #3, #4, and #32. Heat pumps were installed or replaced in Buildings #1, #16, and #3 contributing to energy savings. Lighting is being replaced in Buildings #1, #15, and #32 which also contributes to energy savings. Underground water lines were repaired for Buildings #54 and #55 contributing to water conservation. Asbestos was removed from Building #54 and #55 which potentially safeguards human health. Recycling awareness was increased through the purchase of 16 new glass, aluminum, or plastic recycling containers which were distributed through out the location. All targets originally set for 2007 were achieved along with others that arose throughout the year.


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Location Coordinator

12/7/07
Date


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