

USDA \ ARS Tifton, GA
Environmental Management System 2008 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 EMS committee developed objectives and targets for 2008 based on our activities, aspects, and impacts. The objectives for 2008 were to inventory all federal facilities for mercury and mercury containing devices, revise electronic acquisition and procurement procedures, and review vehicle policies to determine where environmental principles could be integrated. All targets set for FY2008 were achieved along with others that arose throughout the year.

I. Significant Environmental Aspect: Priority Chemical Reduction

Objective: Replace mercury containing switches or pressure measuring devices as part of routine maintenance.

Target: Inventory all federal facilities for mercury thermostats or other mercury containing devices in order to ensure proper disposal at the time of replacement.

Summary: A survey of all federally owned buildings on the campus and farms for mercury switch thermostats was completed on September 2, 2008. The thermostats should be considered for replacement as part of R&M or O&M. The summary of findings follows in the table below. The exact locations of the thermostats within each building can be obtained by contacting CDSO, Tom Hendricks. If a building is not listed, then no such thermostats were found there.

Research Unit	Building No.	No. of Mercury-Switch Thermostats
CPMRU	2	2
CPMRU	4	1
CPMRU	6	1
CPMRU	8H	1
CPMRU	13	1
CPMRU	15	9
CPMRU	31	1
CPMRU	32	2
SEWRU	16	4
SEWRU	17A	1
SEWRU	35	1
SEWRU	43	2

Also, the location disposed of 71 mercury thermometers, 2 mercury-switch thermostats, 3 thermo regulators, 1 sphygmomanometer, 30 mL of elemental mercury, and 2 miscellaneous devices as part of the July 30, 2008 hazardous waste shipment. Since that time, 12 thermo hydrometers, and 2 mercury thermometers have been collected to be included in a future hazardous waste shipment. Researchers are encouraged to replace any mercury devices they have in service with non-mercury equivalents. This year we were able to help with this replacement by purchasing thermometers for some with end of year funds.

II. Significant Environmental Aspect: Use of Electronic Equipment

Objective: Participate in the Federal Electronics Challenge

Target: Revise our acquisition and procurement policies for electronics to comply with the mandates of E.O. 13423.

Summary: On January 9, 2008, the Tifton location joined the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC). By joining the FEC, we committed to reduce our environmental footprint by changing the way that we manage electronic assets. The initial requirements of the FEC were to submit location goals and complete the FEC Baseline Survey Report. The location goals were submitted on February 18, 2008 and the FEC Baseline Survey was submitted on February 14, 2008. FEC partners may apply for annual recognition at one of three levels: Gold, Silver, or Bronze. The Tifton location opted to seek Bronze level recognition which focuses on one of the three life-cycle phases. Life cycle phase one, acquisition and procurement, was chosen as the first step in reforming our electronics policy. The USDA\ARS Tifton Location Electronic Products Acquisition and Procurement Directive, TIF-EP-05, was created to provide clear guidance to personnel on the proper acquisition and procurement of electronic products for the various units at the location. It was distributed to all employees via email and posted on the EMS website for future reference. One benefit that resulted from the creation of TIF-EP-05 is that we learned how to utilize the CATS system for tracking electronic purchases. This will result in a much easier way to collect data in the future for year end reporting. I hope to expand on this new found way of entering CATS data to track other products in the future.

The FEC functions on the calendar year. At the end of 2008, all data will be submitted to the FEC for consideration of the Bronze Level Award for the Tifton location.

III. Significant Environmental Aspect: Motor Vehicle Activities

Objective: Increase environmental stewardship as it relates to motor vehicle management.

Target: Review current vehicle policies to determine where environmentally sound principles could be integrated.

Summary: It was determined while trying to reach this target that no location specific vehicle policies existed within the Area. The USDA\ARS Tifton Location Vehicle Fleet Management Directive, TIF-EP-09, was created to provide clear guidance to Tifton personnel on managing the vehicle fleet for improved environmental and energy performance. The directive was also written to promote the Presidents Executive Order 13423. The directive was distributed to all employees via email and posted on the EMS website for future reference.

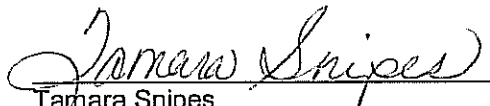
FY08 Highlights

- In December 2007, Tamara Snipes, EMS Coordinator, was contacted by Mr. Willis Hunter, Chief of the Environmental and Safety Division, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA. Mr. Hunter was seeking help with the development of the EMS plan at his facility. He visited Tifton on January 4, 2008 and met with Ms. Snipes to learn more about how Tifton's EMS was implemented. Ms. Snipes has worked closely with Mr. Hunter since that time. She visited FLETC on May 28, 2008 and spoke at their quarterly EMS meeting. Mr. Hunter and Ms. Snipes have also formed a partnership in the Federal Electronics Challenge working together to achieve goals for both FLETC and Tifton.
- EMS training was held this year on January 18, 2008 and was given by Beth Anderson, Environmental Protection Specialist, from the area office in Athens. Most employees attended this training. Those that were not in attendance received on line training. All training was completed by February 29, 2008.

- The location joined the Federal Electronics Challenge in January 2008. The baseline survey and goals were submitted on February 19, 2008. In March, we started using AD112 to track electronic recycling.
- In April, several more recycling containers were ordered, using EMS funds, and placed around the campus.
- The Tifton Recycles Event was held on April 26, 2008. We recycled a building full of old electronics at no charge.
- The EMS Newsletter was created in June 2008. The quarterly newsletter is intended to keep employees aware of that is happening or changing with the EMS. The first volume was completed by Tamara Snipes and the second by Patty Timper. Each EMS committee member is encouraged to take a turn in producing the newsletter.


Dr. Timothy C. Strickland
Location Coordinator

10/17/2008
Date


Tamara Snipes
Chemist/EMS Coordinator

10/20/2008
Date