

## **ARS, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Environmental Policy**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2009**

The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (hence forth BARC) is committed to protecting human health and the environment through compliance with all environmental related management requirements; specifically, through complying with E.O. 13423 (*Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy and Transportation Management*) and subsequent implementation of an appropriate Environmental Management System (EMS). E.O. 13423 requires that all BARC offices, Institutes and Centers incorporate, where applicable, the twelve strategic goals of the E.O. within the EMS. The EMS shall be the primary management approach for complying with the E.O. and managing the BARC's environmental management compliance program. The Beltsville Area shall strive to achieve environmental excellence through the means of good stewardship, conservation and pollution prevention. The Area shall adopt the ISO 14001 system of continual improvement and incorporate, when possible, the following guidelines into their strategic planning and daily operations:

- Utilize the EMS as the primary management tool when addressing strategic planning, goals and targets.
- Ensure that all employees receive required EMS awareness training and competency training, where applicable.
- Periodically evaluate revise processes, procedures and best management practices to ensure good stewardship of Area resources.
- Identify and comply with all Federal, state and local environmental requirements.
- Consider life-cycle cost and savings in planning and making determinations about investments in all capital assets, services and procurements.
- When applicable, include E.O. performance evaluation measures into performance standards and performance evaluations of agency officials designated as responsible under E.O. 13423.
- Develop program-related incentives and award programs to reward exceptional individual and team performance in implementing the goals of the E.O.