



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

January 28, 2009

Subject: Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting on Jan. 28, 2009

To: Location EMS Committee Members
Research Leaders

From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS Committee met on January 28, 2009, at 11:00 AM in the CPMRU conference room. T. Snipes, L. Marshall, T. Strickland, T. Hendricks, R. Hornbuckle, K. Marchant, T. Maze, R. Scarborough, and J. Merriman were the committee members in attendance.

Last year, the location participated in the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) focusing on the purchase of "green" electronics. The FEC offers awards for partners who demonstrate environmental electronic stewardship throughout the year. Our target was acquisition and procurement of electronics which would qualify the location to apply for the bronze level award. The award application was submitted on January 21, 2009. The award recipients will be announced through the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive in April 2009.

The targets for FY09 have been listed and signed by the Location Coordinator. These include replacing the old mercury thermostats that were found during the 2008 inventory of federal facilities, continued participation in the FEC with the focus on end-of-life electronic management, and determining federal diesel usage on campus.

Annual EMS training will be held the week of March 9, 2009. Earl Griffin and Beth Anderson, from the Area Office in Athens, GA, will be here to present the training session. During their visit, they will also conduct an EMS audit.

R. Scarborough gave a summary of the biodiesel feasibility report and answered some of the questions concerning biodiesel. It was determined that we should look further into whether or not it would be profitable to produce and use biodiesel on site. T. Maze suggested contacting the Byron, GA location for some input as they already use biodiesel at their facility. The Dawson, GA location has started making biodiesel and could possibly offer some suggestions as we look more closely at this matter.

T. Hendricks informed us that the next Tifton/Tift County E-Cycling event will be held on April 11, 2009. Since the recyclable electronics storage building is already at full capacity, we'll have another great year to report for our electronic recycling efforts in Tifton.

We revisited the idea of writing the Environmental Procedures (EP) that have already been completed in Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) format. These include Hazardous Waste Management, Universal Waste, e-Cycling, Recycling, etc. This will provide specific instructions on what to do, which forms should be filled out, and who to contact. Also, the Electronics Directive, TIF-EP-05, will need to be revised to include the new instructions for entering data into the CATS system. T. Snipes asked committee members for assistance in completing these tasks.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for May 2009.



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