

North Atlantic Area Environmental Policy and Accountability

The mission of each North Atlantic Area (NAA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) location is to conduct research to develop solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority. In conjunction with this mission, NAA is committed to protecting human health and the environment; meeting or exceeding Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, codes and guidelines; and employing sustainable pollution prevention practices. The NAA Environmental Management System (EMS) builds upon the existing ARS Safety, Health and Environmental Management Program and is designed to be an integral part of scientific research activities, project review processes, facility operations, and ARS Policy & Procedures. NAA will strive to minimize impacts and continually improve its environmental performance by:

- Maintaining a policy of commitment to environmental excellence.
- Developing annual goals with measurable targets to advance the EMS program performance in terms of both regulated and unregulated impacts.
- Considering environmental aspects and impacts in research planning, policy formulation, procurement actions, and operating decisions.
- Adhering to Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, permit requirements, and Departmental and ARS policies and procedures.
- Identifying and requesting the necessary resources to successfully carry out identified goals and targets.
- Providing personnel with appropriate resources, education and training, ensuring they are aware of environmental roles and responsibilities, and accountable for their performance and actions including recognizing them for outstanding performance.
- Effectively communicating NAA's commitment to the environment to employees, partners, stakeholders, customers and the general public, and solicit input in developing and achieving objectives and targets for the EMS program.
- Routinely monitor environmental operations and conduct periodic inspections, audits, and reviews to ascertain that applicable standards are met, and EMS program effectiveness is evaluated.
- Correcting identified deficiencies in a timely manner and taking appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence.
- Clearly documenting and reporting the progress and achievements related to this policy.



