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TO: Federal and Contract Employees Working at IRP, NIA

FROM: Scientific Director, NIA  
Administrator, IRP, NIA

SUBJECT: NIH Environmental Policy

The NIH has established an environmental policy in response to Executive Order 13148, Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management. The attached policy reinforces our commitment to protecting the environment and to using natural resources responsibly.

The NIH has developed an environmental management system (EMS) to implement the executive order for the Bethesda campus. An EMS provides a management framework that will enable us to improve the way we manage and reduce the environmental impacts of our work. The NIA IRP's staff, in conjunction with other Institutes located in Baltimore, is developing an EMS that will mirror what is being established for other NIH organizations and throughout the Federal government. Regardless of where we work, being good stewards of the environment is imperative.

In the coming weeks and months you will be hearing more about the implementation of the EMS and your role in strengthening our environmental performance. Some responsibilities will be very familiar. For example, chemicals and medical waste should be properly disposed and energy should be conserved. Reducing waste and using environmentally friendly materials are additional goals. Some aspects may be new such as the introduction of International Standard ISO14001.

Your understanding and participation is vital. Our goal is to make every employee aware of their role in reducing pollution and required participation in the EMS. We strongly endorse this policy and ask each of you to support this important task.

Dan L. Longo, M.D.  
Scientific Director

Donald E. Bortner  
Administrator, IRP, NIA



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

As the steward of medical and behavioral research for the Nation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) leads the way in the pursuit of knowledge about living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and to reduce illness and disability. In support of this goal, the NIH is committed to the protection of the environment and to the responsible use of natural resources. As proactive stewards of the environment and public health, the NIH community embraces pollution prevention and sustainable development while continually seeking to reduce resource consumption.

Specifically, the NIH is committed to:

- Complying with all Federal, State, and local environmental laws and regulations, as well as Executive Orders.
- Preventing pollution by minimizing the generation of wastes where possible, reducing and recycling materials, and, where necessary, disposing of wastes in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Integrating environmental and health considerations into decision-making processes through the implementation of the NIH Environmental Management System (EMS).
- Continual improvement of the EMS to better our environmental performance by setting environmental goals, measuring progress, taking corrective action when necessary, and communicating the results to NIH management and staff.

All employees of NIH are responsible for being aware of the environmental and health impacts of their jobs and for continually striving to minimize these impacts as set forth in this policy. We will review this policy annually and update it as necessary.



**Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.**  
**Director**  
**National Institutes of Health**

11/13/05  
**Date**