

EMS Eco-Notes



Message from the Director

Welcome!

This is the first National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Eco-Notes, a brief quarterly PDF newsletter with tips on improving environmental stewardship at the workplace and beyond, and news on EMS at our facilities. Enjoy!

In December 2005, when an external second-party audit confirmed that the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's Environmental Management System (NCCOS EMS) conformed to the requirements of Section 401 of the Executive Order, NCCOS self-declared our EMS. Due to the geographic distribution of NCCOS's facilities and the wide range of science and research activities, the work we do significantly interacts with the environment. Because an EMS can help an organization identify and therefore reduce risk, achieve regulatory compliance, and respond to the Administration's environmental performance goals I believe that it is prudent for us to embrace the concept of the EMS and to use it as a tool in managing our environmental affairs.



of internal agency operations and activities. I believe the EMS framework enables NCCOS to proactively manage its environmental issues across all facilities using a coordinated approach to focus on continuous improvement and sustainable environmental and related operational performance. The effectiveness of the EMS in supporting the overarching mission of NCCOS has been, and continues to be, dependent on the active contribution and commitment of NCCOS management, individuals that comprise NCCOS, the NCCOS EMS Teams, and NCCOS partners.

I am firmly committed to minimizing our environmental impacts and to the continual improvement of our safety, health and environmental performance within NCCOS.

Gary C. Matlock

Gary C. Matlock, Ph.D.
Director, NCCOS

Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management", sets goals and reinforces the requirement for Federal agencies to use EMS as the primary management approach for addressing environmental aspects

Tip of the Quarter

Computer Efficiency

Business computers unnecessarily waste \$1 billion worth of electricity a year.



Make it a habit to turn off your computer—and the power strip it's plugged into—when you leave for the day. Otherwise, you're still burning energy even if you're not burning the midnight oil. (Check with your IT department to make sure the computer doesn't need to be on to run backups or other maintenance.) During the day, setting your computer to go to sleep automatically during short breaks can cut energy use by 70 percent. Remember, screen savers don't save energy.

Make it a policy at home to invest in energy-saving computers, monitors, and printers and make sure that your old equipment is properly recycled. Look for a recycler that has pledged not to export hazardous e-waste and to follow other safety guidelines. For more information on how to recycle your computer go to www.computertakeback.com.

These tips originally appeared on "The Green Life," a Sierra Club weblog of ideas for living well and doing good. Visit www.sierraclub.org/greenlife for more.

Quarterly News and Notes

This Quarter's Top Story

Environmental Awareness & Involvement Continue to Grow

NCCOS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD

The NCCOS Environmental Management System (EMS) Team conducted an annual review to discuss upcoming internal and external audits (June and November 2008, respectively). At the workshop, held February 25-29, 2008 at the Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, SC, participants reviewed EMS aspects and impacts and went over Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management" which establishes more aggressive goals and directs Federal agencies to implement sustainable practices. All local EMS Facility Teams met by phone to review the Charter, clarify roles and responsibilities, and were briefed on the planned audits. The NCCOS EMS Team also considered plans aimed at improving environmental stewardship and energy conservation within NCCOS. Meeting minutes and information will be posted on the NCCOS EMS website.

1/16/2008

CCFHR Personnel Learn NCCOS EMS Policies

The Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, Beaufort, NC

Facility staff at CCFHR conducted Environmental Management System (EMS) awareness training in its auditorium January 8, 9, and 11, 2008. Although EMS online training is an annual requirement, personnel are unable to submit questions or to voice concerns while using that method. As a result, EMS representatives held the training as a public forum. This allowed personnel to attend a presentation, voice concerns and ask questions of their center EMS representatives.

2/13/2008

CCEHBR Staff Participate in Community Cleanup

The Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, Charleston, SC

On February 2, CCEHBR staff volunteered in their first Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup of the year. Nine volunteers filled 17 bags of trash along a particularly well-littered mile of road in Charleston County, SC. CCEHBR volunteers have participated in this community service project three times a year for the past 18 years and have filled a total of 829 bags of trash representing 6.23 tons of litter.

EMS Team Representatives

NCCOS EMS Coordinator: Bernie Gottholm

Silver Spring: Hal Stanford

Charleston: Rick Meitzler & Raluca Semeniuc

Oxford: Jay Lewis

Beaufort & Kasitsna Bay: Joseph Bizzell

NOS Representative: Jean Durosko

Cross-Functional Representatives

IT Team Rep: Mark Mohs

Communications Team Rep: Timothy Dorch

Budget/Finance Team Rep: Mia Robinson

3/5/2008

Recycled Building Materials Illustrates NCCOS EMS Resourcefulness

The Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, Beaufort, NC

CCFHR staff took recycling to new heights the week of February 17 when they salvaged roofing materials from a demolished outbuilding. During demolition of an old dive locker, maintenance staff removed the entire roof and used the material to construct a new generator building. Staff also removed weather-resistant double doors and vinyl from other buildings slated for demolition, and reused this material for the generator building. Staff's decision to reduce waste while saving money illustrates their commitment to NOAA's Environmental Management System policies. The demolition is part of ongoing efforts to modernize the aging CCFHR campus. Construction crews currently are dismantling and awaiting permit approval to remove three additional buildings, a larval laboratory building, a seawater laboratory building, and a statistics building.

Want to submit to the EMS Eco-Notes, or have a question about an item in these pages? Contact the editors:

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