

# Sustainable NREL Policy

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

NREL exemplifies sustainability by maximizing efficient use of resources, minimizing waste and pollution, and serving as a positive force in economic, environmental, and community responsibility. To this end, NREL is committed to:

- **Economic Viability.** Managing Laboratory fiscal resources efficiently to meet applicable regulations and effectively accomplishing the Laboratory's mission, taking sustainability into consideration.
- **Environmental Stewardship**
  - **Campus.** Managing the impact on the environment caused by the placement and general design of NREL structures; maintaining, protecting, and restoring natural and landscaped environments to sustain natural and native ecological systems, both on and adjacent to NREL campuses.
  - **Water.** Reducing water consumption and managing water discharges from the site.
  - **Electricity/Natural Gas.** Reducing energy use in building designs and operations; within available funds, using cost effective renewable energy sources for remaining energy needs; and purchasing power generated by renewable energy sources.
  - **Transportation.** Reducing the impact of local NREL travel on the environment; reducing the use of fossil-based gasoline/diesel fuel for NREL onsite and local operations through the use of alternative fuel vehicles or hybrids; and increasing the use of video and teleconferencing to reduce the environmental impacts of NREL air travel.
  - **Materials.** Reducing the use of materials and the creation of waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling materials needed for Laboratory operations; increasing the purchase and use of environmentally sensitive products and products with recycled content.
  - **Environmental Management.** Providing an environment that promotes efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability, and encourages the creativity and personal motivation required for excellence in scientific, engineering, technology development, and support functions.
  - **Education/Communication.** Informing and providing outreach to workers about sustainability activities, including a method for interaction and feedback; educating workers about participating and contributing to sustainable activities.
- **Public Responsibility.** Working with local stakeholders to identify and implement collaborative projects to improve sustainability of the local community; educating others about sustainability through a variety of outreach mechanisms.

## II. GENERAL RULES

NREL is committed to meet or exceed requirements for energy efficiency and

sustainability as identified in the prime contract, Department of Energy (DOE) directives, executive orders, and laws and regulations. Applicable requirements are identified in section VI.B. Sustainable NREL Requirements.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. Director**

1. Endorses and supports NREL's policy on Sustainable NREL.
2. Provides the resources needed to implement this policy.
3. Sets the vision and strategic direction for sustainable NREL efforts.

#### **B. Executive Management**

1. Establish and maintain Laboratory programs that incorporate sustainability.
2. Oversee compliance with this policy.
3. Establish and maintain a work environment that fosters sustainability.
4. Allocate resources to support sustainability.
5. Monitor and evaluate NREL activities for compliance with prime contract requirements, DOE directives, executive orders, and laws and regulations related to sustainability.

#### **C. Senior Management**

1. Support and communicate this policy to workers under their direction by promoting worker awareness, providing adequate training, and reviewing performance.
2. Incorporate sustainability principles in the development of procedural guidance such as Laboratory-level procedures, operating manuals, safe operating procedures, and desk procedures, as appropriate.
3. Incorporate sustainability requirements and performance objectives into their organizations' strategic and operational plans and budgets.
4. Encourage and support innovative ideas to promote sustainability.
5. Track and report performance metrics as requested.

#### **D. Workers**

1. Comply with NREL's policy on Sustainable NREL.

2. Comply with sustainability aspects of related policies and Laboratory-level procedures.
3. Acquire and maintain a functional knowledge of sustainability requirements applicable to their work activities through completion of required training.
4. Integrate sustainability principles and requirements into their work and identify opportunities to foster sustainability.
5. Contribute to development and achievement of Laboratory sustainability objectives.