

**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.



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