

Eastern Regional Research Center
Environmental Management System
Policy Statement

ERRC is committed to protecting human health and the environment by meeting or exceeding Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, codes and guidelines and employing sustainable pollution prevention practices. The ERRC Environmental Management System builds upon the existing NAA and ARS Safety, Health and the Environmental Management Program. ERRC will strive to minimize impacts and continually improve its environmental performance by:

- Maintaining a policy of commitment to environmental excellence.
- Developing annual goals, objectives, targets, and actions to advance the EMS program performance in terms of both regulated and unregulated impacts.
- Considering environmental impacts in research planning, policy formulation, procurement actions, and operating decisions.
- Adhering to Federal, State, local laws, regulations, permit requirements, Departmental (USDA, EPA) and ARS policies and procedures.
- Identifying and requesting the necessary resources to successfully carry out identified objectives and targets.
- Providing personnel with appropriate 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 ERRC's commitment to the environment to employees, partners, stakeholders, customers, the general public, and solicit input in developing and achieving objectives and targets in the EMS program.
- Routinely monitor environmental operations by conducting periodic inspections, audits, reviews to ascertain that applicable standards are met, and that 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.

Signed _____

Date 5/3/06

John P. Cherry, Director - Eastern Regional Research Center