




Homeland  
Security

OCT 16 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Department of Homeland Security Employees

FROM: Elaine C. Duke   
Under Secretary for Management

SUBJECT: Department of Homeland Security Environmental Policy

In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13423 *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy and Transportation Management* (signed January 26, 2007), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is committed to implementing sustainable programs that ensure our operations and actions are carried out in an environmentally, economically and fiscally sound manner. Incorporating sustainable practices into our mission conserves energy and natural resources, reduces pollution and contamination release, enhances the work place through less exposure to hazardous materials and chemicals and strengthens our national defense by encouraging energy independence. Employees at all levels must be responsible and accountable for integrating environmental stewardship into their day-to-day activities to reduce the environmental impact of their activities and to protect our natural resources. These precepts are integral aspects of all Departmental activities.

The Department's fundamental environmental policy, applicable at every level in the organization and for every mission or activity, is to protect our natural resources, prevent pollution, reduce waste and strive to exceed the environmental performance goals, objectives and targets established for federal agencies. Applying this policy requires employees to acknowledge that their actions have an impact on the environment and to take appropriate actions to eliminate or reduce those impacts. In addition, I am directing the Chief Administrative Officer to establish a comprehensive environmental management program across the Department that includes educating and training our work force.

Incorporating systematic environmental management into our day-to-day business processes and decision-making is an important step in enhancing mission performance and demonstrating our commitment to protecting our nation's natural resources. To accomplish this, all Components will implement and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) based on the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) framework ISO 14001 and meet the requirements of EO 13423, the Council on Environmental Quality's *Instructions for Implementing Executive Order 13423* and applicable Departmental directives and guidance. The EMS is an excellent mechanism to fully integrate environmental stewardship into our day-to-day operations and establish a framework to identify and address environmental impacts of our activities, ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and provide opportunities for continuous improvement. Your support in achieving the full potential of this initiative is essential. I am confident that by working together we will continue our tradition of innovation and excellence.