

Meeting Minutes NEMS Joint Green Team Leads Council and Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group Meeting Wednesday, June 16, 2010 1:00 – 3:00 pm Building 31, Room 10 (6th Floor, C Wing)

Objectives

- ➢ Identify successes and lessons learned from the NIH PaperFree Day
- Identify management objectives and initiatives through review of ORF Presentation on Sustainability to EO Strategic Planning Meeting on June 15
- ➢ Identify a strategy for deploying the toxic chemical use reduction initiative

NEMS Update

The Executive Officer strategic planning meeting was held yesterday and Dan Wheeland, Director of ORF, gave a presentation on the NIH Sustainability Goals, the NEMS, and NIH's overall greening efforts (Attachment 1). The accomplishments of four Green Teams were highlighted. The EOs were very engaged and it was great visibility for the Green Teams. See the presentation for information on the HHS's Sustainability Goals and other initiatives. For those who are new to the NEMS and NIH Goes Greener, please review the presentation for background information as well.

There is a proposal in front of Colleen Barros for a Green Awards Program modeled after the HHS Green Champion Awards. They include a grant-type award given out to fund green ideas. Please review those slides and provide feedback on what you would/would not like to see. It was noted in the EO meeting that we should be wary of just another awards program to "pat ourselves on the back" and instead try to use it as an incentive for behavior change.

Please also note the fun activities (including an energy bike that generated energy to run a fan and light) that you may want to include at your next event.

Walt Mitton (NIDDK) noted that the one thing that didn't come out from the Green Team panel was how much the ICs have begun working together and sharing best practices.

Brad Moss reminded everyone that this is the last chance if you want to order light switch covers.

PaperFree Day and the Paper Reduction Campaign

PaperFree Day feedback was primarily positive (see Attachment 1). However, the point was made that too many periodicals are printed and distributed. Brad Moss provided some background on the excess number of periodicals distributed. ORS oversees the distribution of mail. The number of periodicals delivered is tied to the number on record for that mail stop code. If your office or lab has fewer people than in the past, you should update the number assigned to your mail stop code. For instance, if your lab used to have 15 people and now only has 7, you will continue to receive 15 NIH Records, Catalysts, and R&W newsletters until you correct the number with mail delivery.

Several leads mentioned that they had spoken to the NIH Record to ask them to reduce the number of copies printed, but encountered some resistance. It appears that even if the mail stop codes are corrected and fewer copies of the periodicals are needed, the copies will still be printed even if they go to recycling (or worse, trash). The question was asked why they can't just post internal newsletters on SharePoint and use a hit counter to monitor the number of times it is downloaded. The "yellow sheet" is now completely online so there is precedent for online information. Others felt that this is a good option for some but others like to read periodicals in hard copy.

Walt Mitton (NIDDK) mentioned that he has arranged for them to receive 1 copy of each periodical which then they pass around to the staff.

Brad Moss assured members that reduction in numbers of hard copies would not negatively impact jobs (mail delivery staff).

There was general agreement that:

- The Council would like to address the issue of excess delivery of NIH periodicals,
- The objective is to reduce the number of printed copies and not eliminate them,
- Individuals or Green Teams should continue to feel free to contact the periodical staff to communicate their concerns, and
- The Council as an entity would like to voice its collective concern and willingness to work on a solution.

The decision was made that Brad Moss would draft a proposed letter that once agreed to by the Council, could be signed by Council members, and distributed as appropriate. Green Team Leads that felt comfortable doing so, could sign. Whether signatures are representing individuals or Green Teams still must be decided. There was also a recommendation that Green Team Leads not only discuss this effort with their Green Teams, but also with their IC leadership since it may be interpreted to have the support of the ICs.

Lesson Learned from PaperFree Day at NIA:

Rebecca Ferrell (NIA) reported that the EO sent out an email in support of PaperFree Day and suggesting that staff turn off their printers for the day. CIT went ahead and disabled printers so people couldn't print even if they needed to. It resulted in 100% awareness but they have had to

do a significant amount of damage control and it resulted in a negative feeling towards the entire event.

Toxic Chemical Reduction Initiative

Important feedback on the lab greening initiative can be found in the April/May issue of *The NIH Catalyst* (<u>http://www.nih.gov/catalyst/2010/10.04.01/catalyst_v18i2.pdf</u>). Be sure to read it. Some key points for addressing lab greening:

- Don't like mandates to eliminate specific chemicals,
- Looking for opportunities for peer networking,
- Reduced lab budgets are a barrier to buying green,
- Lack of technology can be a barrier, and
- NEMS recommendations can be too general.

The Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group has been working for several years on lab greening initiatives and now that toxic chemical reduction is an objective of the Council as well, this meeting is to see how the Council can support the Working Group to move the objective forward.

The Working Group developed a strategy for deploying the toxic chemical reduction initiative (Attachment 2) and helping to address the issues noted above. The strategy includes mini-fairs (peer networking), an online tool (peer networking), the awards program (to provide a source of funds for green purchases), and the setting, tracking, and reporting of toxic chemical reduction objectives.

There was general support for the strategy.

A suggestion was made to work with Scientific Interest Groups (SIG) such as the immunology one. They could be used as a vehicle for outreach. Also, they have events which might host a "green table" or mini fair.

It was suggested that a "model" of the mini fair be developed so that it can then be used at different locations, times, and events -- rather like a road show.

It was also suggested that the inventory chemical checklist used for safety purposes also might be useful as a reporting tool.

The post docs were suggested as a target group for outreach as well as the organizations that oversee orientation of new staff. A one-page handout was suggested for outreach to new employees. Guidance will also be needed for labs to use in setting their objectives.

It was noted that a NEMS online refresher training is being developed.

A request was made to discuss planning for America Recycles Day. Beth Osterink agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

A comment was made that NIH hasn't a large, very exciting, "green" project to use as a way to garner attention for the greening efforts. Other members felt that there were several green projects and that NIH simply needs to increase the outreach on these projects and better promote NIH's environmental accomplishments. Mentioned were:

- Solar Panels: http://www.nems.nih.gov/outreach/nemsnews/NEMS%20News%20March%202010.pdf
- The NIH Library Green Terrace: <u>http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/Pages/GoingGreen.aspx</u>
- Porter II Building: See attached information sheet (Attachment 3).

It was also noted that the Department of Environmental Resources is developing an Environmental Report which will highlight many of NIH's environmental accomplishments.

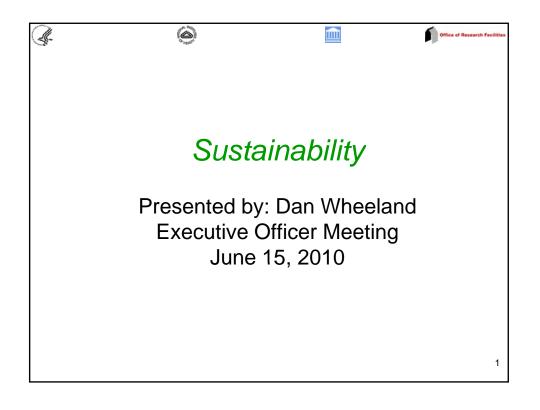
Next Meeting

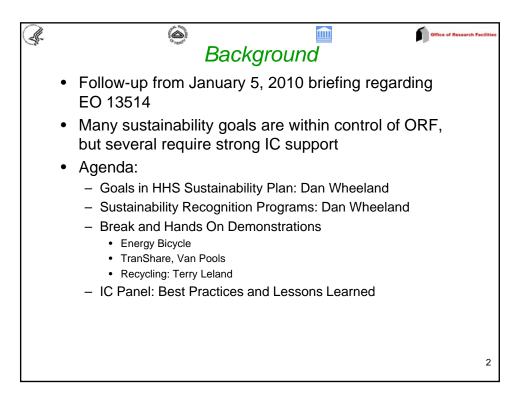
The next meeting will focus on the objective of a *Lights Out Campaign* and planning for *America Recycles Day* (November 15). The meeting will be held on July 21 at 1:00pm in Building 31, Room 7.

Action	ı Item	Responsible Person(s)	Due Date
1.	Consider a meeting focused on baselining and tracking of data.	Robin Hirschhorn	July 21, 2010
2.	Draft proposed letter/statement on Council's interest in the reduction of hard copies of NIH periodicals.	Brad Moss	July 12, 2010
3.	Obtain feedback from Green Teams (and IC leadership, if appropriate) on support of a letter/statement stating the Council's interest in the reduction of hard copies of NIH periodicals.	All Green Team Leads	July 21, 2010
4.	Obtain feedback from Green Teams on the proposed Green Awards Program.	All Green Team Leads	July 21, 2010
5.	Develop a one-page new employee handout for orientations.	Robin Hirschhorn	July 21, 2010
6.	Schedule first 3 mini fairs for lab greening.	Lab Working Group	July 21, 2010
7.	Prepare guidance for lab objectives.	Linda Thompson/Kaz Okumura	July 21, 2010

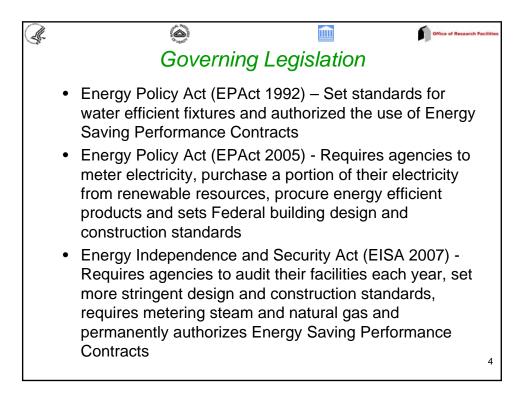
Action Items

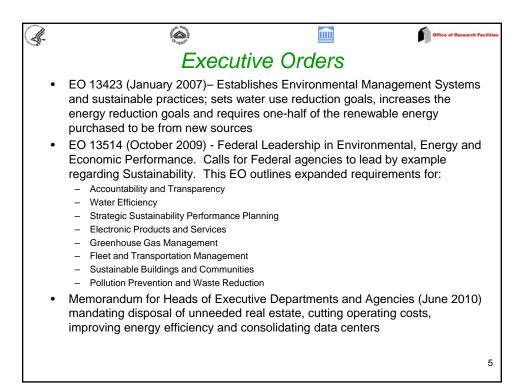
Attachment 1

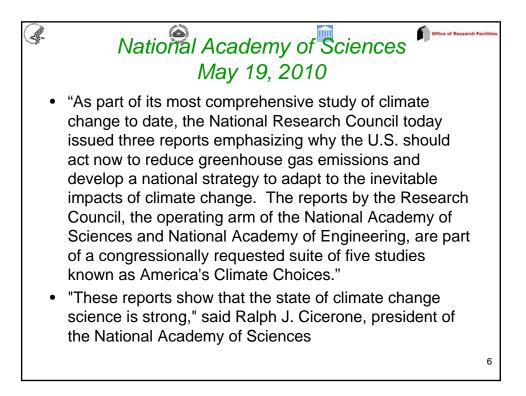


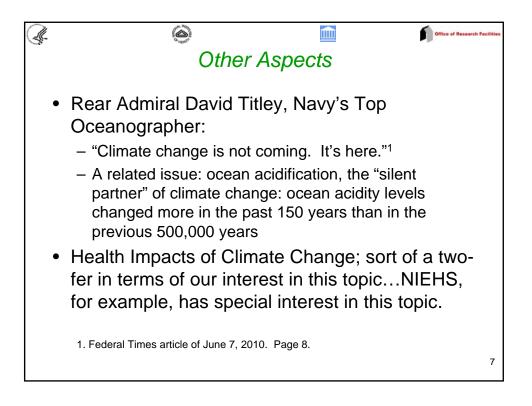


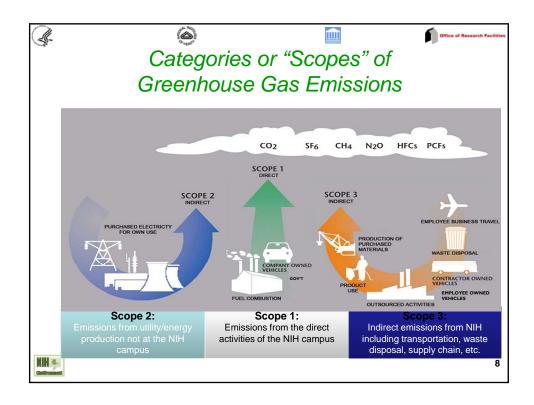


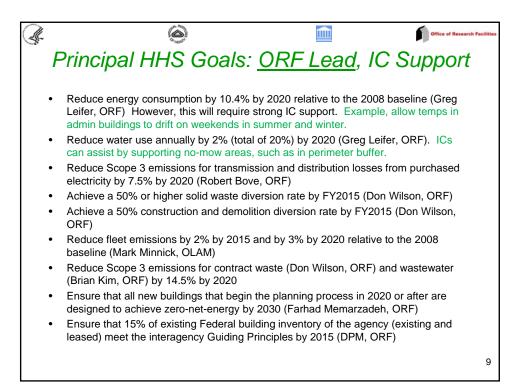


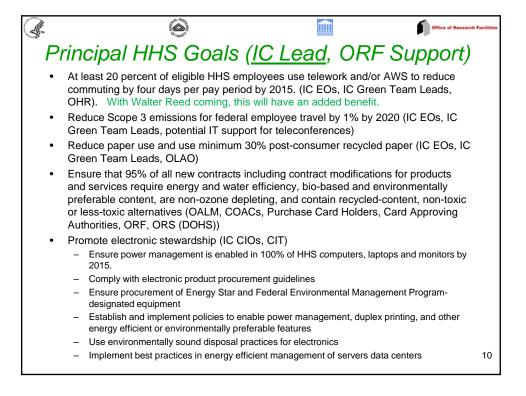


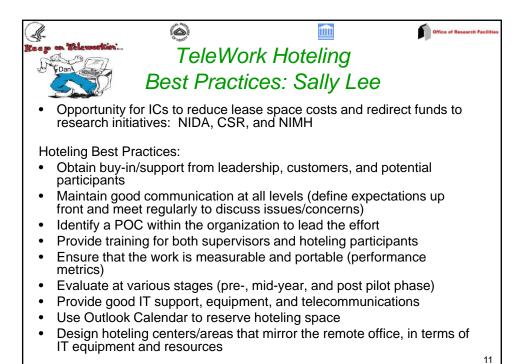




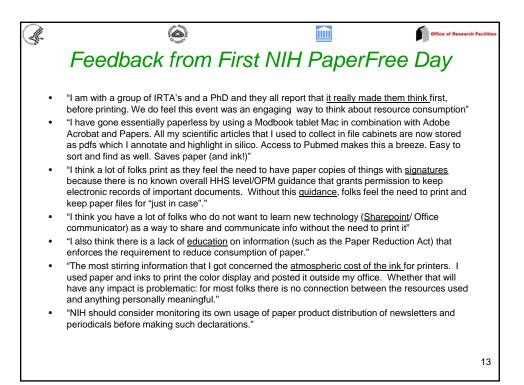


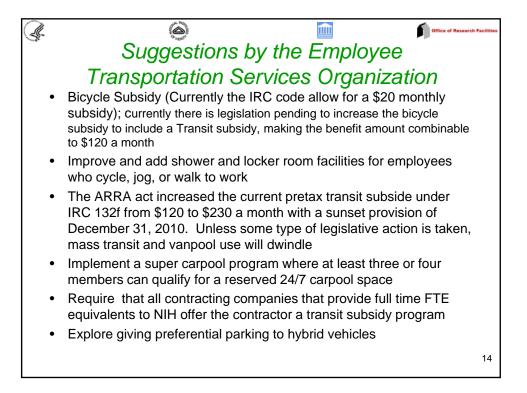


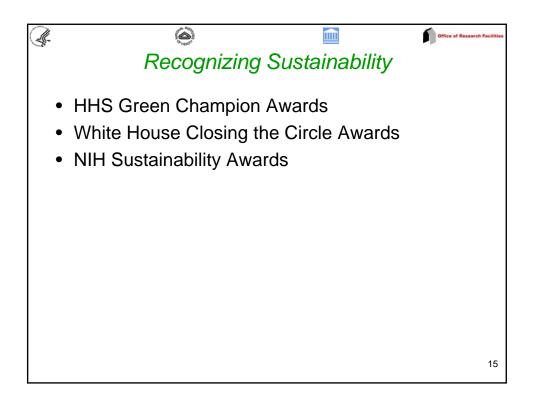


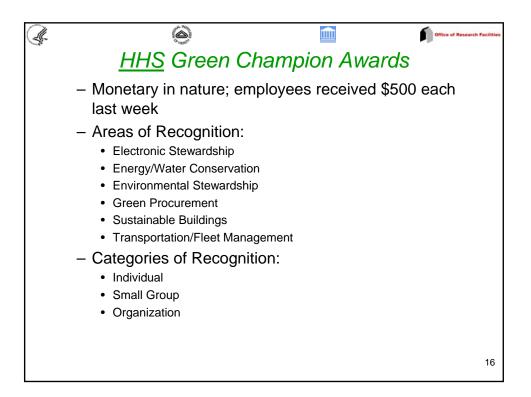


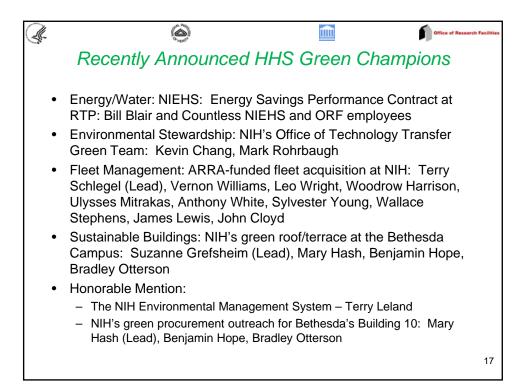
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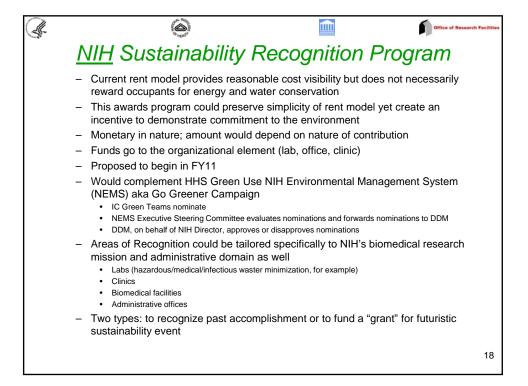


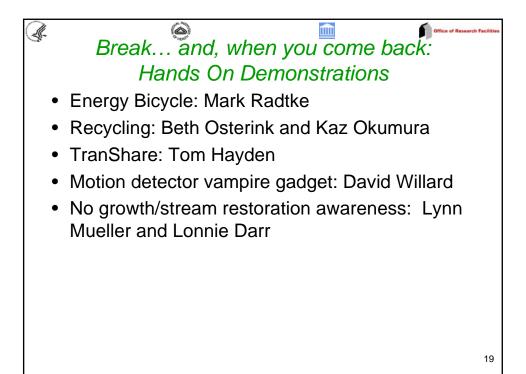


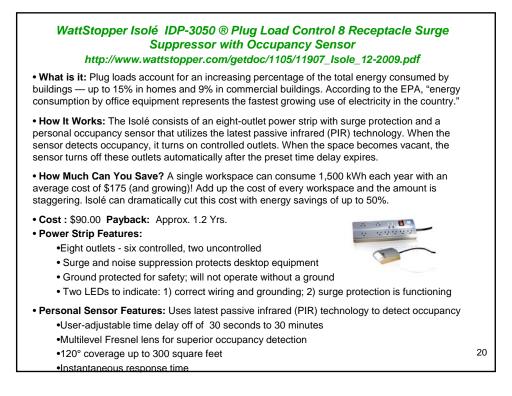




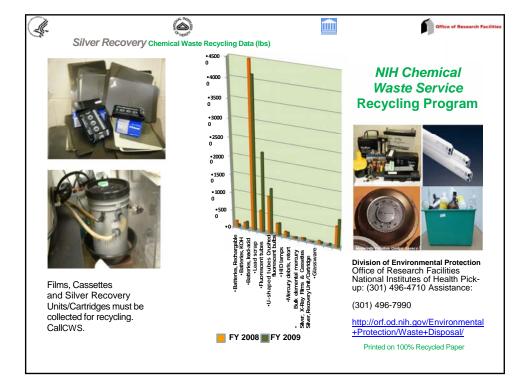


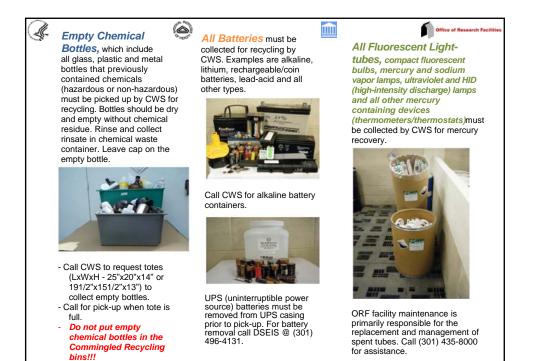


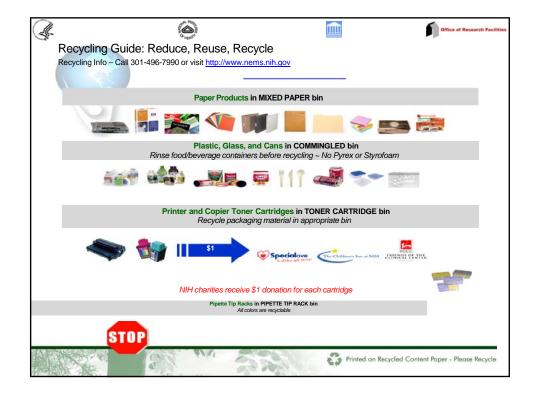


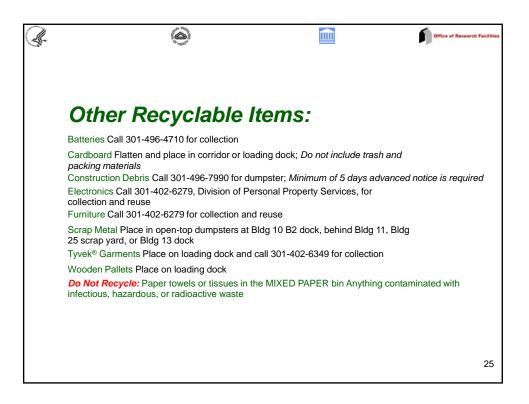


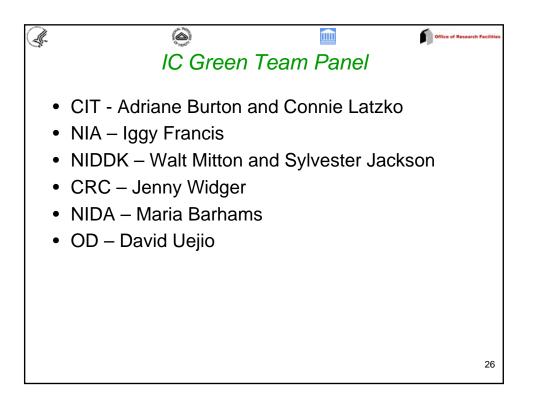


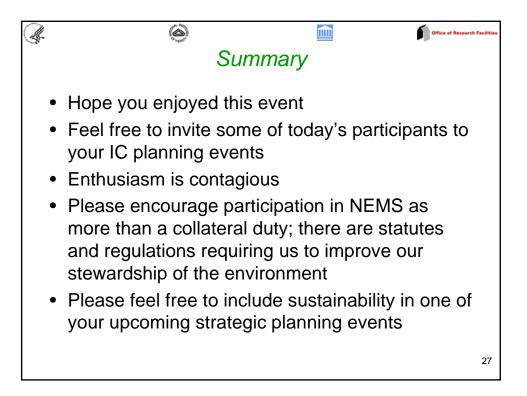


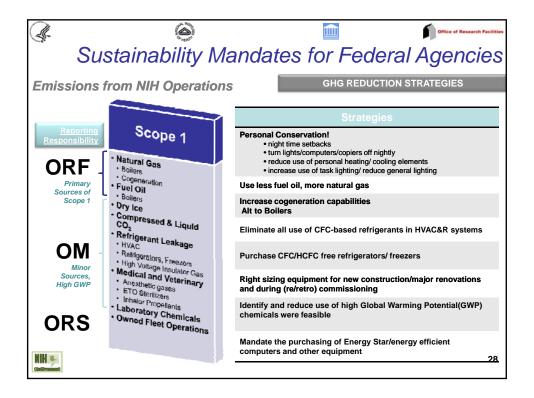


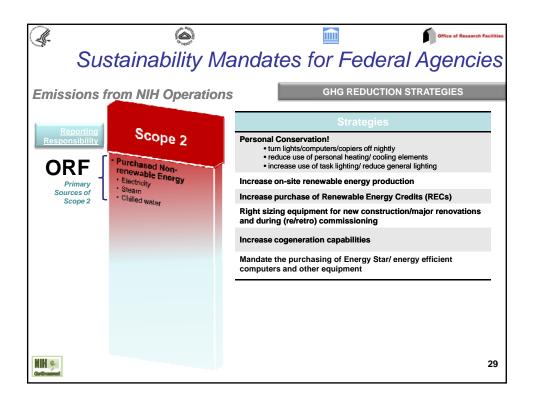


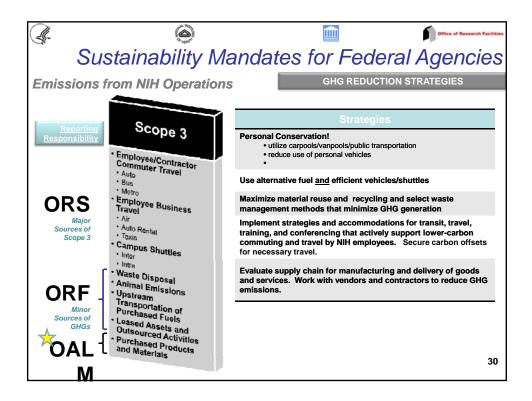


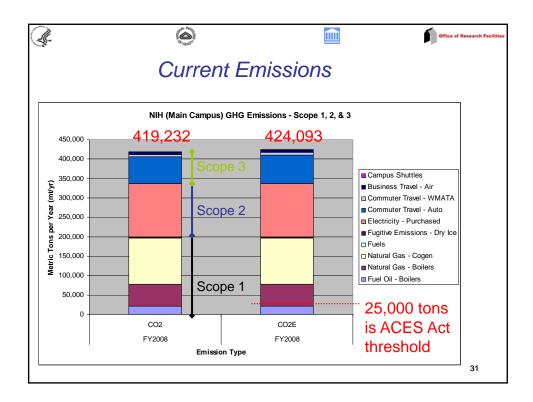












Attachment 2



NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS)

Toxic Chemical Reduction Strategy

Background

The Catalyst article on laboratory greening initiative can be found at: <u>http://www.nih.gov/catalyst/2010/10.04.01/catalyst_v18i2.pdf</u>

Of particular importance is that in moving forward we be sensitive to the following comments:

- 1. Scientists "are troubled by mandates to eliminate certain chemicals"
- 2. They would like us to better exploit "peer networking by creating a resource of best practices."
- 3. Acknowledge the need for technological change
- 4. Acknowledge the reduction in laboratory budgets
- 5. Scientists are concerned about possible increased bureaucracy or paperwork
- 6. Many NEMS recommendations have been too general

Strategy

Three-pronged approach:

ONE: Support from Management

- 1. Message from NIH Management -- Michael M. Gottesman, M.D., Deputy Director for Intramural Research (DDIR) High-level, inspirational email on NEMS toxic chemical reduction initiative and asking for participation
- Message from IC Management Asking for specific objective of reducing 1-2 toxic chemicals and another objective (waste reduction, recycling, etc.) Will ask labs to report objective and progress to Green Team at 6 months and 1 year.
 - Offer up 6 priority chemicals identified by DEP as a suggestion, but let ICs choose ones that make the most sense to their research
 - Make sure that alternatives are offered as suggestions and not mandatory changes; informational purposes only
 - Let the researchers decide whether something is better or greener; just present the facts (nothing is perfectly green!)

TWO: Provide Opportunities for Peer Networking

- 1. Provide series of Greening Chemical Lab mini fairs
 - a. have a poster session/mixer where NIH researchers who have already tried alternatives share their results and vendors provide potential alternatives and pizza
- 2. Information sharing tools
 - a. "Clearinghouse" on NEMS website a place where NIH researchers can share chemicals they use, alternatives they have tried, and pros and cons

THREE: Provide Financial Support for Green Alternatives

The new NIH Green Awards Program will provide a source of funding for labs that want to buy new "greener" equipment or supplies.

GT Leads Council Support

- GT leads, as appropriate, may help to obtain buy-in of EOs who then could reach out to Scientific Directors.
- GT leads, as appropriate, may assist with communications in general
- GT leads will provide assistance with tracking and reporting.

Attachment 3

Porter Neuroscience Research Center- Phase II at the National Institutes of Health

Phase II of the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center [PNRC II] is the second part of a previously planned 600,000 gross square feet biomedical research facility located along the western campus edge of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The first part or Phase I, which represents approximately 45% of the facility, was completed in June 2004 and is now fully occupied by a variety of scientists from different Institutes, working in collaboration in an array of research laboratories, animal care facilities, imaging suites, offices, and associated support facilities.



View from Lincoln Drive of the Southeast corner of PNRC II

Construction of Phase II, based upon designs by Perkins+ Will Architects, is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2010 and will fulfill the original vision of a state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary biomedical research facility. Construction of this phase, which is expected to take approximately 36 months, has been made possible by special ARRA funds made available to the NIH through the Department of Health and Human Services.



A spacious, sky lit atrium will serve to unite the two phases of the PNRC construction and to amplify the energy driving today's neuroscience research at the NIH

The Phase II extension to the east of the present structure is comprised of 306,476 Gross Square Feet (exclusive of interstitial space). In addition to the open and closed wet laboratories designed to support the ongoing research activities of 28 principal Investigators spread across seven Scientific Institutes of the NIH, the building will feature a greatly expanded basement level vivarium (over 20,000 research animal cages), a new vertical vivarium stretching up through the second floor, imaging suites, vibration stable core areas, hot rooms, cold rooms, a freezer "farm" and associated scientific staff offices. These spaces are distributed over five floors each of which has been designed to align with the existing five levels of Phase 1. Shared amenities include a cafeteria, a four story, sky-lit atrium and a suite of conference and seminar spaces and public

areas for scientific symposia. The building will feature the latest technologies and offer wireless internet access throughout. Open planning and natural light are hallmarks of the design

Porter Neuroscience Research Center- Phase II at the National Institutes of Health

A GREEN BUILDING

PNRC II has been designed to achieve significant efficiencies and energy savings and is pursuing a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Rating, as defined by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

- The numerous Greening/Energy Conservation Features include
 - Photovoltaic/solar panels atop both PNRC I and PNRC II
 - use of highly chilled beam systems (in lieu of double ducted air systems) to deliver an estimated 20% energy efficiency improvement
 - Introduction of Green Roofs over portions of the roof
 - Use of pervious paving treatments along exterior walkways
 - Use of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) for exterior and for bench top task lighting
 - Use more cost effective and efficient laboratory lighting including a master addressable lighting control system
- Presently, NIH is investigating whether the benefits of utilizing ground source heat pump system, which, by circulating water through a series of tubes inserted deep into the earth's subsurface, are able to deliver chilled water to the refrigeration equipment at a constant temperature year round, thereby producing significant energy cost savings.



View of PNRC showing Phase I (to the left) & Phase II (to the right). Note the green roof ledges over PNRC II