

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

MAY 25 2011

Memorandum

To: Department of the Interior employees  
From: Secretary *Ken Salazar*  
Subject: Interior's Environmental and Sustainability Policy

It is with great pleasure that I announce my signing of the Department of the Interior's Environmental and Sustainability policy as part of the departmental Environmental Management System (EMS). This policy statement is the ultimate guiding environmental principle for each employee and contractor at the Department. While signing the policy represents a formal action required for implementing our EMS, it means much more for the Department in support of our mission. The policy that I signed today affirms our commitment to integrating sustainability into everything we do as a Department to protect America's great outdoors and power our future.

Earlier this year, the Department began development of an EMS that is the planning and implementation framework for our environmental and sustainability programs. An EMS is a set of processes and practices that will enable the Department to reduce its environmental footprint and increase its operating efficiency.

We established the Sustainability Council (Council) to serve as the governing body for the EMS that links our employees in the field with our senior managers, creating an inclusive and transparent decision-making process for our sustainability program. Every person working at the Department is a part of our sustainability program either directly through the Council or its activities. This work helps us meet our commitment to implement the requirements of the President's Executive Order 13514, "*Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*." Representative requirements that the Department has committed to are:

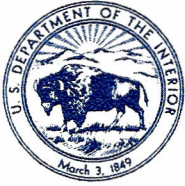
- Reduce direct greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. vehicle emissions) and certain indirect greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. purchased electricity) by 20 percent by FY 2020 relative to FY 2008
- Reduce other indirect greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. airline business travel) by 9 percent by FY 2020 relative to FY 2008
- Ensure that at least 15 percent of the Department's existing buildings and building leases meet the Guiding Principles by FY 2015 (5,000 gsf threshold for existing buildings and building leases)

- Reduce potable water consumption intensity relative to FY 2007, so that a 26 percent reduction is achieved by the end of FY 2020
- Reduce industrial landscaping and agricultural water consumption by 2 percent annually or 20 percent, relative to FY 2010 baseline, by the end of FY 2020
- Divert at least 50 percent nonhazardous solid waste and construction and demolition debris by FY 2015
- Ensure that 95 percent of all new contract actions include green requirements by FY 2012
- Fully implement EMS at all appropriate organizational levels

The EMS approach requires the collective responsibility of every employee at the Department. As Department employees, we share a stewardship responsibility for the natural and cultural resources and historic properties that we manage for the American People. The EMS approach will allow us to systematically manage environmental activities as a tool for mission accomplishment and to foster an ethic of sustainability throughout the Department. In addition, the Council will continue to foster opportunities for employees to submit their own ideas for improving sustainable practices at the Department. The creative input of all employees will continue to be invaluable as we work toward our very ambitious sustainability goals.

I am proud of the steps that the Department has taken to support the goals of EO 13514 and integrate them into a framework that establishes the Department as a leader of environmental management and sustainability. For more information about our sustainability program and to view the EMS policy statement that I signed today, visit: <https://portal.doi.net/programs/ems/sustainabilitycouncil/default.aspx>. The memorandum can be found under Sustainability Council Documents on the left hand navigation bar.

Attachment: DOI EMS policy statement



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## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) protects America's natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future. The Department carries out this mission through the implementation of proactive sustainable and environmental practices.

The Department strives to continuously improve social, economic, and environmental performance through promotion and implementation of sustainable practices and environmental management programs. The Department's Environmental Management System (EMS) is the primary management tool for implementing and monitoring progress on Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*; regulatory sustainable practice goals and for addressing potential organizational impediments to successful advancement of the Department's sustainability programs.

The EMS formalizes the management and communication of sustainability, environmental, and other program goals and related operational controls to internal and external stakeholders. The goal of the EMS is to fully integrate sustainability and environmental considerations into the daily operations of the Department's activities at all levels of organizational decision-making.

The Department is committed to managing and reducing the environmental impacts of its activities and operations by:

- Preventing pollution and reducing damage to the natural and human environment including:
  - Conserving U.S. natural and cultural resources
  - Protecting Indian communities
  - Investing in renewable energy
  - Restoring ecosystems impacted by energy and water development
  - Conserving energy and water
  - Understanding and managing our climate change impacts
  - Promoting and implementing sustainable practices including green acquisition, electronic stewardship, and sustainable building construction, operations, and leasing
- Complying with applicable Federal, state, local, tribal laws, regulations, and policies<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretary is also required, under the American Indian Agricultural Resources Management Act, 25 U.S.C. § 3712, and the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act, 25 U.S.C. § 3108, to comply with tribal laws and ordinances, including environmental laws, concerning management of Indian agricultural and forest lands, to the extent that the tribal law does not violate Federal law. Although not required to do so, the policy of the Department is to accommodate tribal law, again to the extent that it does not violate Federal law.



- Establishing objectives and targets to promote sustainable practices and improving environmental performance throughout the Department. Objectives and targets will be aligned with federally established sustainability and environmental program goals, where appropriate.
- Managing processes, systems, and technology to improve efficiency and productivity
- Measuring and reporting performance and identifying opportunities for continual improvement
- Documenting and communicating the Department's EMS policy to all employees and the public

The Department shall fully implement and maintain an EMS that reflects this policy and is consistent with the requirements of the ISO 14001 international standard for environmental management.



Ken Salazar