

Policy 2-7: Sustainable NREL

In support of NREL's mission and values, the Laboratory commits to:

- Meeting or exceeding requirements for energy efficiency and sustainability as identified in the prime contract, Department of Energy directives, executive orders, and laws and regulations
- Maximizing efficient use of resources
- Minimizing waste and pollution
- Maintaining economic viability
- Promoting sustainable acquisition
- Providing environmental stewardship in the following areas:
 - Campus
 - Water
 - Electricity/natural gas
 - Transportation
 - Materials
 - Environmental management
 - Education/communication
- Serving as a positive force in economic, environmental, and community responsibility.

The Laboratory implements these commitments through:

- Managing Laboratory fiscal resources efficiently using sustainable life cycle decision making
- Using green purchasing to promote the natural environment and protect the health and wellbeing of the Laboratory's workers and visitors
- Managing the impact on the environment caused by the placement and general design of NREL structures
- Maintaining, protecting, and restoring natural and landscaped environments to sustain natural and native ecological systems, both on and adjacent to NREL campuses
- Reducing water consumption
- Managing stormwater discharges from the NREL sites
- Reducing energy use in building designs and operations
- Using cost effective renewable energy sources
- Purchasing power generated by renewable energy sources
- Reducing the impact of local NREL travel and employee commuting on the environment
- Supporting alternative work schedules and telecommuting
- Reducing the use of fossil-based gasoline/diesel fuel for NREL onsite and local operations through the use of alternative fuel vehicles or hybrids
- Increasing the use of video and teleconferencing to reduce the environmental impacts of NREL air travel
- Reducing the use of materials and the creation of waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, and rebuying (used) materials needed for Laboratory operations

- Increasing the purchase and use of environmentally preferred products, including those with emphasis on energy and water efficiency, products made with recycled content, and biobased products.
- Providing an environment that promotes efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability, and encourages the creativity and personal motivation required for excellence in scientific, engineering, technology development, and support functions
- Informing and providing outreach to workers about sustainability activities, including a method for interaction and feedback
- Educating workers about participating and contributing to sustainable activities
- Working with local stakeholders to identify and implement collaborative projects to improve sustainability of the local community
- Educating others about sustainability through a variety of outreach mechanisms.