NIH Winners of the HHS Green Champion Awards Program

Table of Contents
Award Descriptions........................................................................................................................................2
Fiscal Year 2010 Awards..................................................................................................................................4
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................9
Fiscal Year 2011 Awards..................................................................................................................................12
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................16
Fiscal Year 2012 Awards..................................................................................................................................20
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................22
Fiscal Year 2013 Awards..................................................................................................................................25
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................29
Fiscal Year 2014 Awards..................................................................................................................................32
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................38
Fiscal Year 2015 Awards..................................................................................................................................42
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................44
Fiscal Year 2016 Awards..................................................................................................................................46
  Honorable Mention......................................................................................................................................48
Award Descriptions

Change Agents Award
This award recognizes an innovation or idea with clear potential to transform the Region, Department, OPDIV, or worksite community's overall energy and environmental performance, in keeping with the goals defined by E.O. 13693. This award will be presented to an individual or team for the development and execution of a novel new product, project, program, design, or revolutionary idea that facilitates sustainability in the Federal Government. Award winners will ideally represent efforts in the implementation stage; however, innovation that demonstrates near-term feasibility may also be recognized. Examples might include strategies and resulting actions that simultaneously focus on both environmental sustainability and wellness or workplace safety.

Corporate Responsibility Award
This category recognizes greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies, tracking and management approaches that address Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated from activities including vendor supply chain, delivery services, employee travel and commuting. Examples might include contract or grant specifications that enhance sustainability, significant reduction or streamlining of business travel, effective use of alternative meeting forums such as online/web meetings, or environmental benefits of exceptional Telework or Transhare programs. Nominations should demonstrate approaches that exceed or supplement targets in E.O. 13693 and the HHS SSPP and emphasize a holistic approach to Scope 3 greenhouse gas management.

Electronic Stewardship Award
This category recognizes persons, programs, practices and procedures that promote sustainable environmental stewardship of their electronic assets in any one or multiples of the three lifecycle phases (acquisitions, operations and end-of-life), demonstration of participation and achievements recognized by the Federal Electronics Challenge Program and/or development and implementation of best management practices for energy-efficient management of servers and federal data centers. Nominations should address achievements and progress towards the goals and objectives outlined in E.O. 13693 and the HHS SSPP.

Environmental Stewardship Award
This category recognizes efforts in pollution prevention, source reduction, solid waste diversion, environmental compliance, effective and innovative implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMSs), sustainability outreach and communications and organization or activities of Green Teams that have demonstrated exceptional commitment and effort to further the sustainability and environmental goals of E.O. 13693 and the HHS SSPP.

Energy and Fleet Award
This category recognizes comprehensive energy, fleet, and transportation management approaches to energy efficiency, reduction or renewable energy, reduction in petroleum use, fleet use, increases in use
of alternative fuel vehicles, and/or optimizing use of vehicles and right-sizing fleets. Nominations should include cross-cutting strategies to achieve the goals of E.O. 13693 and the HHS SSPP as well the use of innovative contracting methods to implement energy projects. Nominations in this category wishing to be considered for DOE FEMP awards should include in the project narrative energy and water cost savings data.

**Good Neighbor Award**

This award recognizes an HHS team, organization, or individual for its exemplary application of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, Livability Principles and/or engagement with local or regional communities to promote one or more of the goals of E.O. 13693. Awards in this category will focus on local Federal agency representatives who are actively involved in community planning and sustainability initiatives, have established and are pursuing collaborative sustainability goals, and demonstrate success in aligning policies and practices with community partners to achieve those goals. Nominations for this category must include at least one letter of support from a non-Federal local or regional community partner in order to be considered.

**Green Hero Video Outreach Award**

**Sustainable Acquisitions Award**

This category recognizes outstanding sustainability efforts in acquisition and grants programs and activities that supplement targets in E.O. 13693, the HHS Affirmative Procurement Plan (APP) and the HHS SSPP. Nominations are encouraged to include outreach and training activities and efforts leading to the purchase and use of recycled content products, Energy Star/energy efficient and EPEAT-registered products, biobased products, and/or environmentally preferable products and services.

**Sustainable Design and Facilities Award**

This category recognizes integrative planning and design of facilities, buildings or site-wide projects that emphasize cross-cutting collaboration to advance sustainability goals in the planning, design or operational phases and that exceed or supplement targets in E.O. 13693, the HHS Sustainably Buildings Program (SBP), and the HHS SSPP.

**Water Use and Efficiency Award**

This category is to recognize products and practices that exemplify an integrated approach to water resources management, addressing all water types as potential resources (potable, industrial, waste, storm, grey, etc.) and identifying opportunities for preventing pollution, conservation, reduction or reuse. Examples could include; effective metering and leak detection measures, storm water best management practices in line with EISA Section 438 guidance, or discharge monitoring programs that demonstrate improved compliance and toxic reductions.
Fiscal Year 2010 Awards

Change Agents Award

Individual: Dr. Jean Tiong Koehler (NIH) – Green Labs Fairs
Dr. Jean Tiong Koehler created and implemented the first Green Labs Fairs at NIH. Presentations included information on green chemicals and processes, ways to conduct experiments utilizing fewer resources, and how to combine shipments of materials to offset shipping expenses and decrease the environmental impact of deliveries. The fairs were so successful that additional NIH Institutes plan to collaborate with Dr. Tiong Koehler to host events in 2011. In addition, Dr. Tiong has saved $8,000 per year, implementing these sustainable practices within her own lab.

Small Group: Greg Rosser, Jelani Williams (CDC) – Roybal Campus Solar Lighting
A solar lighting project, completed in the spring of 2010, saves CDC approximately 20% annually over conventional electrical lighting schemes, allowing for a five-year payback period. Not only do the lights save energy, but they also produce less light pollution, maintain a safe lighting level, and are more adaptable to changes in site configurations.

Organization: White Oak Campus (FDA) - Webcast and Video Teleconference Technology
The FDA’s Office of White Oak Services serves as an example of being an agent of change in its development of procedures and execution of a new way to achieve virtual human interaction through information and audio/visual technology. As a result of these efforts, the White Oak Campus is now capable of conducting reliable International video conferences resulting in significant reductions in travel and staff time. These reductions have had a significant impact on the FDA’s ability to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Corporate Responsibility (Scope 3 GHG Reduction) Award

Individual: John “Jack” Carlile (FDA) – Transhare, Carpool and Vanpool Program
Through the diligent efforts of Jack Carlile, the FDA’s White Oak Campus Transportation Coordinator, 10 vanpools were initiated in FY 2010, removing 100 commuter vehicles from the road. In addition, Mr. Carlile has helped start over 50 carpools and has worked closely with Montgomery County to promote alternative transportation to the White Oak Campus. His efforts have made a meaningful impact to FDA’s corporate responsibility to encourage employees to commute to work by an environmentally sustainable means.

Annually, CMS mailed 40 million “The Medicare & You Handbook,” equating to 13,750 tons of paper. Each year, due to inaccurate addresses, over 500 tons of paper and $500,000 in postage costs were wasted. The Publication Database group worked with GPO and others to identify inaccurate addresses and addresses receiving multiple copies, eliminating approximately five million copies of the Handbook. Savings from reduced print production and postage waste are
estimated to be over 26,400 trees, 1.2 million pounds of solid waste, 2.4 million pounds net greenhouse gases, and 18,700 million Btus of energy, together totally roughly $1.2M.

**Electronic Stewardship Award**

**Small Group:** Ken Kotchenreuther, Mark Walsh, David Harper, Michael White, Timothy Lefeged (HRSA) - Information Technology Asset Donation Program

HRSA’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) Property Management Branch initiated the Information Technology Asset Donation (ITAD) program to address the disposition of electronic devices and promote the reuse of computers and equipment as the last activity in the IT life-cycle. In FY 2010, HRSA donated 251 pieces of IT equipment, saving over $7,500 in warehouse costs. This saved 14,953 pounds of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere, equating to saving 577 trees.

**Small Group:** Peter Soltys, Susan Titman, Megan Brennan, Mike Gyorda, John Prue, Jackie Jones, Jeff Domanski and Joellen Harper Austin (NIH) - Data Center Multi-Institute Consolidation

At the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the Information Research Management Branch (IRMB) implemented a data center consolidation project to reduce the total number of physical servers and increase shared saved space. The shared data center facility helps NIH reduce power consumption by 33% and increased data center space usage by 46%. This consolidation model allows smaller Institutes to save power and space.

**Organization:** (NIH) - End-of-Life Electronic Stewardship

During FY 2010, NIH started using a new General Services Administration approved contracted recycler enabling NIH to recycle 21,760 electronic items totaling 310.3 tons. This resulted in $186,168 of remuneration to the United States Treasury. Last year, 5,376 electronic items were reused, resulting in over $9 million worth of electronic equipment being kept out of the landfill.

**Environmental Stewardship Award**

**Individual:** Miriam Secunda (FDA) - Recycling Program Accomplishments

Miriam Secunda, the FDA’s Recycling Coordinator, has partnered with GSA to ensure resources necessary to accomplish a successful recycling program were identified and implemented. This effort is demonstrated by a recycling tonnage increase from FY 2009 to FY 2010 of 270% resulting in the FDA earning $3,800 in FY 2010 in recycling funds. In addition, Ms. Secunda has worked with FDA Green Teams, performed numerous outreach campaigns, and initiated new recycling programs at White Oak improving the recycling procedures to create an effective recycling program with 5,000 enthusiastic participants.

**Small Group:** William Ketner, LTJG Beth Osterink, Jim Carscadden, Donald Wilson (NIH) – Construction Debris Recycling Program

The Construction Debris Recycling Program has steadily increased in size and scope since April 2008, and was conceived to increase construction debris recycling, reduce the number of haulers operating on campus, address the problem of abandoned or unused dumpsters, and to provide a service that was user friendly and efficient. In FY 2010, NIH recycled 5,757 tons of construction debris, which is estimated to be 90% of the total waste. Based on calculations
from the EPA WARM Model, the equivalent of 172 tons of greenhouse gas emissions were avoided through this recycling effort.

**Organization: IHS – Internal Resource Team**

After two years of design and pilot testing, the IHS Environmental Audit Internal Resource Team (IRT) began implementing an IHS-wide environmental audit process in FY 2010, that provides each IHS installation manager with a snap-shot view of regulatory compliance in 20 environmental topics. Environmental Audit Coordinators, designated in each of the Agency’s 12 service areas, and the installation representative, identify environmental deficiencies, specify corrective actions for these deficiencies, identify environmental best practices, and develop additional required compliance-related investigations.

**Energy and Fleet Award**

**Individual: Anona Eckenrode (CMS) – Energy Bundle Project**

Anona Eckenrode has managed CMS’s participation in several recent GSA projects including the restoration of the building roofs, addition of PV solar panels, light fixture retrofits, and replacement of the heating and cooling plants. Her input was instrumental in the scope development, design review, contractor selection, and construction management of these projects. In addition, Ms. Eckenrode managed the CMS project team that worked with GSA and the building owner to incorporate sustainable building practices into the design, location and construction of the new leased space at 7210 Ambassador Drive in Woodlawn, Maryland.

**Individual: Scarlet West (FDA) - Greening FDA’s Fleet**

As a result of Scarlet West’s efforts, the FDA fleet has replaced 56 dedicated gasoline and low efficiency vehicles with 56 bi-fueled E-85 vehicles, acquired 85 hybrid electric vehicles to replace 52 gasoline vehicles, encouraged vehicle sharing, provided a link to alternate fueling stations to all FDA program fleet managers and reduced the size of the White Oak Campus vehicle inventory from 33 to 19 vehicles. A direct result of these changes to the program has been a reduction in the HHS and FDA’s Scope 1 GHG emissions.

**Small Group: Yichang Xu, Todd Loveless, Kazem Youssefi, Paul Cammaroto (NIH) - Building 2 Eco-Strip Installation**

NIH conducted a pilot demonstration project in support of E.O. 13514 employing 135 eco-strips, which is a combined surge protector, power strip, and motion detector that will turn off controlled receptacles when the occupant leaves the area for a certain amount of time. Electricity savings are estimated annually of 25,805 kWh, corresponding to approximately $2,968 of cost savings. The total installation cost was $14,150, providing less than a five-year payback.

**Small Group: Jeff DeSanto, Kevin Clinkscales, Paul Johnson (SAMHSA) - Sustainability Team**

SAMHSA’s Building, Logistics and Telecommunications (BLT) Branch is responsible for property, fleet management, equipment disposal and overall sustainability. Calculating the savings and amount of greenhouse gases discharged from vehicles using regular unleaded fuel, the BLT Branch instituted the increased use of E85 alternative fuel. Once instituted, E85 use went from 20% to 30% before the changes, to 85% to 90% after. In addition, the team worked with the
building owners and engineers to install a building-wide lighting energy efficient retrofit project reducing energy usage significantly.

**Good Neighbor Award**

**Individual: Megan Arndt (IHS) - Environmental Sustainability Leadership**

In FY 2010, LTJG Megan Arndt initiated a new partnership with the Leech Lake Reservation’s Green Team to assist in developing a tribal-specific practice-based environmental sustainability assessment tool that establishes a baseline profile, prioritizes intervention strategies, and develops an action plan. In addition, she spearheaded the securing of funds for a community composting project estimated to annually divert 153,088 pounds of waste from the solid waste stream, saving about $17,750 in disposal costs, and reducing greenhouse gases by 28.3 metric tons carbon equivalent.

**Small Group: White Oak Campus (FDA) - Alternative Commuter Transportation Program**

The FDA White Oak Campus Team engaged the local community in promoting greenhouse gas management goals by participating in regional transportation planning and recognizing existing community transportation infrastructure. This team’s accomplishments and efforts were acknowledged by written proclamation by the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland in March 2010.

**Sustainable Acquisitions (Green Procurement) Award**

**Individual: Joan Becker (NIH/NC) – Green Office Management**

As a founder of the NCI Green Team, Joan Becker has spearheaded several outreach and training activities leading to the purchase and use of recycled content and environmentally preferable products and services. Most recently, Ms. Becker organized the Executive Plaza Green Team’s Earth Month Awareness, which featured lunch hour movies based on social and environmental issues. She has also planned and hosted several Earth Day celebrations to raise awareness of NCI’s commitment to sustainability, leading to cost-savings, responsible reuse and waste reduction.

**Small Group: Dale DeFilipps, Helen Mitchell, Bonnie Kennedy, Liz York, Juanika Mainor-Harper (CDC) – Green House Has Inventory Reporting Program**

The contract management team at CDC was tasked to modify an existing contract for the CDC Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The team negotiated the initial cost modification proposal of $651,360 down to $197,172, saving over $454,000. A complex modification was then completed to meet the new requirements of E.O. 13514 and the HHS 2010 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP). Based on the contract terms, a unique Department-wide compatible software program, Green Gauge, was developed.

**Organization: FDA – Green Procurement Initiative**

The FDA Office of Acquisitions and Grants Services (OAGS) awarded several construction contracts at the FDA Jefferson Labs that facilitated sustainable acquisitions resulting in energy and greenhouse gas reductions. One of the Jefferson Labs projects, the fit-out of the Building 50, Jefferson Labs Headquarters building, received a LEED Gold certification in 2010. OAGS also
developed and executed OAGS Customer Service Outreach Day(s) which served as a platform for the dissemination of green purchasing information to hundreds of FDA employees and provided “sustainable acquisition training for FDA Project Officers, Contracting Officer Technical Representatives (COTR’s), Contracting Officers, Contract Specialists, and Purchase Card Holders.

**Sustainable Design & Facilities Award**

**Small Group: Harry Marsh, Cherie Shanks (CDC) - Building 401 Core & Shell Space Build-Out**
Completed in the spring of 2010, this build-out project added approximately 27,000 gross square feet of laboratory and support space to an existing laboratory building. The project attained the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for Commercial Interiors, even though the mandates of LEED certification, E.O. 13423, E.O. 13415, the HHS Sustainable Buildings Plan, and the HHS Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, were not required until after the award of the design and construction contract.

**Small Group: Jodi Gram, Maureen Howard, Anne Marie McGlaughlin, Johnny Nixon, Brian Stupi (CMS) – Sustainable Building Lease**
In the acquisition of new leased space, the CMS project team worked with GSA and the building owner to incorporate sustainable building practices into the design, location and construction of the space. The location was selected to be within close proximity to the CMS main complex to facilitate easy access between the buildings reducing transportation needs. The team specified sustainable building materials including: low volatile organic compounds paints, T-5 high-efficiency florescent lighting, and carpet containing 70% recycled content. The benefits include a reduction in operating costs, lower VOC exposures, and reduced commuting distance.

**Water Use Efficiency Award**

**Individual: Marc Fleetwood (IHS) - San Xavier Xeriscape Project**
Under the leadership of Marc Fleetwood, the San Xavier Xeriscape Project replaced the existing high water use turf with drip irrigation, native plants, and decorative rock. After only one year, the campus saved nearly 1.3 million gallons of water, which was a 52% reduction from the previous year equating to $4,060 in savings. The low maintenance landscaping also saved $8,150 in labor, fuel and machinery maintenance costs. At a project cost of $100,000, the payback will be just over eight years.

**Small Group: NIH Animal Center - Water Conservation and Analysis**
The NIH Animal Center (NIHAC) is an agricultural research facility located in Poolesville, Maryland, which relies on well water. For the past 10 years, NIHAC water use, as measured by ground water extraction, has been slowly increasing to over 90,000 gallons per day (gpd), exceeding permit levels and limiting future research use. NIH formed an ad-hoc team, including facility managers, power plant operators, technicians, and mechanical engineers who were able to identify projects that have now reduced consumption to just over 60,000 gpd on a monthly average.
Honorable Mention

Change Agents Award

Organization: CDC - Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations

The Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations were developed as an innovative means of supporting sustainability and employee wellness in Federal facilities. This comprehensive set of guidelines addresses both nutrition and environmental responsibility in the food choices and food service operations at all HHS and GSA locations. This issuance represents the first time that the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010, have been used as the basis for a set of food guidelines.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Individual: Darlene Cezair (FDA) - CFSAN Recycle/Copier/Shredding Program

Darlene Cezair was responsible for instituting a recycling program for all CFSAN’s facilities in the Washington, DC, metro area. Working with the GSA Building Manager, she developed a program designed to place recycle bins in strategic locations throughout CFSAN’s buildings to accommodate maximum usage and participation. In addition, Darlene was responsible for having the copiers changed to double-sided mode, procuring recycled copier paper, and recycling toner cartridges.

Small Group: Marc Bloom, Wade Windsor (FDA) - Greening the White Oak Cafeteria and Custodial Programs

The Office of White Oak Services (OWOS) met with GSA and the cafeteria and custodial contractors to request that they accelerate their efforts to “green” their respective programs. Due to the OWOS initiative, the cafeteria contractor replaced many cafeteria products with green, biodegradable substitutes, and the custodial contractors are now using only “Green Seal” products.

Organization: NIEHS - Waste Diversion through Composting

The NIEHS composted 15,790 pounds of pre and post-consumer cafeteria waste in FY 2010 compared to 4,800 pounds in FY 2009. This surpasses the 2010 EMS goal of 10,000 pounds and helps to meet Executive Order 13514 waste diversion requirements. Compost from the off-site facility is returned to the Campus for use as mulch around trees and in shrubbery beds.

Energy and Fleet Award

Small Group: Robert High, Glenn Phillips, Rick Ceresa (PSC) - Reducing Footprint at No Cost

As the lease renewal for the Parklawn Building rapidly approaches, opportunities to implement new energy and water initiatives have been drastically reduced. However, as agencies vacate the building, the PSC Energy Manager proactively visits the space and unplugs all appliances left behind, and ensures equipment and lights are turned off. In addition, PSC energy personnel
work closely with the building engineer to secure all energy and water using equipment in the vacated space, including restrooms.

**Good Neighbor Award**

**Individual: Kathleen Sobush (CDC) - Transportation Choices: Collaborations to Increase Bicycling**

The Transportation Choices Program includes projects and initiatives to support lower-carbon commuting and specifically to reduce the number of employees who drive alone to work. In FY 2010, Kathleen Sobush, a Community Planner in the Buildings and Facilities Office worked extensively with local organizations and municipal governments to improve conditions for bicyclists, resulting in the installation of infrastructure for bicyclists adjacent to the CDC campus.

**Small Group: Kenny Floyd, Jim Carscaddan, Brian Kim, Captain Ed Pfister, Lynn Mueller, David Lankford (NIH) – Stoney Creek Pond Stormwater Management Partnership**

The National Institutes of Health and the Montgomery County (MD) Department of Environmental Protection partnered to construct a regional stormwater management facility along Stoney Creek in Bethesda, Maryland. Following more than ten years of negotiations, planning, and design, the construction of the Stoney Creek Pond began in earnest in September, 2010, and is expected to be completed in 2012. The facility will be located on the Bethesda campus and will provide stormwater management for a large drainage area that extends far beyond the NIH site.

**Sustainable Design and Facilities Award**

**Small Group: Christine Hetkowski, Gary Happel, Kristine Komschlies McConville, Susan Hinton, Susan Peterson, Ron Wilson (NIH) - 2010 Master Plan for the National Cancer Institute Sustainability Study**

The 2010 NCI-Frederick Master Plan and Sustainability Study was developed as part of a collaboration between the National Cancer Institute Space & Facilities Management and the National Institutes of Health Division of Facilities Planning. This Plan gradually transforms the current inefficient and underutilized site into a modern, state-of-the-art, innovative and pedestrian-oriented sustainable campus. Sustainable design strategies are estimated to result in a campus that consumes 68.2 percent less energy, while nearly tripling in size.

**Small Group: Brian Peper, Martin Borenstein, Karen Rhodes (FDA) - LEED Certification - Buildings 1 & 2**

In designing and construction of Buildings 1 & 2 at the White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, Maryland, the White Oak Consolidation Program Design Team worked with GSA and the architect to identify unique sustainable features to enhance LEED certification. Two of those features are wider sidelights that provide increased natural lighting, and operable windows, which, when open, allows the mechanical ventilation system to shut down. In FY 2010, LEED Gold certification was received for Building 1 and Silver was received for Building 2.
Small Group: Nick Sartain, Greg Tapp, Ted Kozak, Tommy Bainoi, Leonard Lee, Donna Conner, Rudy Rieple, Tim Schwartz, Terry Huey, Billy Chapmon (CDC) - Building 53 Chiller and Cooler Tower Replacement

The replacement of the chiller and cooler tower in Building 53 on the Jefferson campus was completed in 2010 at a cost of $1.4 million with a simple payback of 17 years. This project allows for the production of chilled water more efficiently at 0.57 kW per ton versus the previous efficiency of 0.85 kW per ton. At the current utility rates, savings are $87,000 per year.
Fiscal Year 2011 Awards

Change Agents Award

Animal bedding on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Bethesda campus accounts for approximately 15% of the solid waste stream. The NIH Solid Waste Team targeted the collection and composting of animal bedding to fully comply with Executive Order 13514 and divert at least 50% of non-hazardous solid waste. A composting facility that agreed to accept animal bedding was identified in January of 2011 and within eight months the waste contract was modified, equipment was purchased, and composting was started at three locations. The innovative composting program has resulted in a 5 percent increase in NIH’s recycling rate with over 80 tons composted between August and September 2011. It is estimated that over 500 tons of animal bedding will be composted and reused annually as mulch instead of being incinerated, reducing associated air pollution and adverse effects on human health and the environment. A tour of NIH’s operations was given to other OPDIVs and our processes, procedures, and outcomes shared with the HHS Goal 7 Pollution Prevention and Waste Elimination leads. This project has a high potential to be replicated at additional locations on the NIH Bethesda campus as well as at other federal laboratory facilities.

Electronic Stewardship Award
Small Group: Ivor D’Souza, Mehryar Ebrahim, James Fleshman, Steven Geppi, Malee Kaolowanich, Dimpal Patel, Don Preuss, Vic Previll, Salim Saah, Shreenath Shetty, James Snowden, Michael Simpson, Brain Szamborski, Bill Watts – Upgrade NLM Data Center

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has transformed a legacy, thirty-year old data center into an energy-efficient data center, which has resulted in an annual energy savings of over $200,000. The transformation has allowed NLM to stay abreast of its ever-growing requirements to supporting NIH’s investment in genomic-related grants, public access, clinical trials reporting, high throughput sequencing, and disaster information management and research. To achieve these savings, NLM undertook many major initiatives that involved strong collaboration among design and construction engineers, data center operations staff and IT personnel. Through sustained effort and innovative use of new and emerging technologies, NLM achieved energy efficiencies by: (1) upgrading the mechanical and electrical infrastructures, (2) improving IT asset efficiency through the deployment of virtual computing technologies, and (3) using industry best-practices for operating the data center in an energy-efficient manner. What was once a data center that could barely host computer racks in the 3-4 kW range, is now a state-of-the-art data center that can support high-density computer racks averaging in the 8-12 kW range. This has been possible only because of the energy efficiencies that NLM has achieved along the way.
Small Group: Adriane Burton (NIH) – Power IT Down Day

Power IT Down Day is a campaign to increase awareness of energy consumption by our utilized IT assets. The project provides a portal at http://www.powerITdown.org where individuals can register to join the Power IT Down Day campaign. On the selected weekend (August 26th, 2011), all registered employees were sent reminders to power off their equipment to save energy. Before those employees went home, they were asked to simply turn off their workstations completely. This initiative took about 3 months to plan, coordinate with OPDIV IT departments, and then document the participation and broadcast the results to the user community. In 2010, HHS participated in Power IT Down Day for the first time and approximately 13% of the HHS workforce participated and registered 8,032 participants. In 2011, approximately 23% of the HHS population participated in Power IT Down Day, which was a 10% increase from the previous year. HHS accounted for approximately 84% of participants nationwide. HHS registered 14,817 individuals across the organization which led to power savings of approximately 96,156 kWh. This decrease in energy consumption provided both financial savings and reduced the amount of pollution generated. This project has been replicated across the Department by having all OPDIV IT staff involved. Coordination among the OPDIV IT staff was essential to ensure that 1) patches were not applied or updates were not conducted during the weekend of the event and 2) information regarding the event was fully distributed to all employees well in advance of the event. In addition, CDC provided a batch registration process to minimize the potential for crashing the system due to the high volume of employees registering for the event. This batch registration process was based on CDC’s Power Management tool and is something that can be replicated across the Department.

Energy and Fleet Award

Small Group: Mark Minnick, Richard Wm. Trott – GPS Systems for Federal Government Vehicles

Vehicle usage, to include operational hours, mileage, maintenance costs and fuel consumption are major concerns for NIH fleet managers. Fuel and maintenance costs are increasing, while agency budgets are decreasing, therefore, these items have become major line items in their budgets. Simple changes such as efficient routing, maintenance, speed, and minimizing idle times have the potential to lower operational costs by approximately 20%. In 2008, NIH Fleet Managers emplaced a strategic plan to work with a company called Networkfleet to have GPS technology installed in select fleet vehicles. This new tool would allow fleet managers to begin to monitor fuel use, idle time, maintenance, and speed violations for 260 of the 315 NIH fleet vehicles. Through the GPS technology system, NIH fleet managers are able to develop reports and identify drivers that idle vehicles excessively and drive aggressively. With 210 vehicles modified thus far, installation of the GPS technology has enabled Fleet Managers to reduce gasoline, E-85, and B-20 consumption by 3.7%, 5%, and 10.9%, respectively. This reduction in fuel consumption has resulted in a savings of $42,075 in FY 2011. There are plans to install GPS systems on the remaining 50 vehicles in FY 2012 and create other useful reports for vehicle users.
Environmental Stewardship Award

Individual: Marea Petrelles

Marea Petrelles has done an outstanding job with her environmental initiative. She has a passion to improve the environment throughout NIH, and make this world a better place. Marea identified the need to be more proactive in recycling items such as non-sensitive paper, glass, cans and plastics, as well as corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, including magazines, catalogs, phone books and newspapers. Below are some of her accomplishments: Ensure all used Ink Toner Cartridges are properly boxed and sent to appropriate manufacturer’s recycle program with the pre-paid label, as well as send to GDC. Initiate and encourage fellow employees to do this. Has been working well. Coordinate the pick-up of hazardous waste items such as used batteries, contacting GDC and the Environmental office on campus. Member of OD Going Green Team committee, I share any newsworthy or pertinent information with fellow employees about ways to celebrate going green at the office. Assisted with the recycling of papers during our Building 6011 Office Renovation. Assisted sections and departments within OD on cleaning up trash, toners, and office equipment within the building.

Small Group: Michele Gula, Howard Young – NCI Green Team

The NCI Green team - Michele Gula and Howard Young - has worked very hard since its inception in 2009. Michele and Howard send out regular emails with “Green tips” for each month, and have gone to great pains to reinforce programs, like battery recycling, that exist but are not always used. They include in their messages websites like www.ecocycle.org that helps to eliminate junk mail and present excellent ideas for reusing items and reducing waste. They work with the community not only with email, but also by having a booth at community events like Earth Day or the Spring Research Festival where they hand out bottles to re-use instead of paper cups and reusable bags. They also sponsor films at the library, such as “The 11th Hour”, which highlight environmental issues. They have been very devoted and made a big difference in the amount of material our building and community has recycled and how everyone thinks about reusing and reducing.

Small Group: David Hale, Collette Hochstein – NIH/NLM

Collette and David spear headed the National Library of Medicine’s Division of Specialized Information Services to reduce the use of paper, plastics and the division through their efforts has other volunteers that collect dead batteries, personal electronic devices and disposes them at the recycling center in Montgomery County, Gaithersburg MD facility. The green initiative was to replace plastic dinnerware with recyclable products. Their efforts have encouraged others to cut down on the use of materials that fill up our landfills.

Organization: Chuck Carroll, Charles Lee, David Mohammadi, Ken Okojie, John Prom, Donald Wilson - Empty Chemical Reagent Bottle Recycling Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiated an empty chemical reagent bottle recycling program campus wide in 2008 that has grown significantly in scope since its inception. During FY 2011 the NIH recycled 14,052 pounds of empty chemical reagent bottles. This recycling effort helps the NIH to achieve its goal to recycle at least 50% of all solid waste by 2015. The success of this program has resulted in positive environmental and economic impacts: empty bottles are
recycled for beneficial reuse eliminating the need for disposal via incineration or landfill; recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions; and a cost savings has been realized. For the period FY2008 to FY2011, the NIH recycled 6,321 pounds, 7,779 pounds, 7,858 pounds, and 14,052 pounds respectively. The overall cost savings achieved is $42,093.00. The program has been expanded to include all Washington area NIH facilities. The NIH intramural research community identified this initiative as a focus under the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS).

Good Neighbor Award

Individual: Lynn Mueller (NIH)

Lynn worked with the Office of Community Liaison to provide technical information on various topics. Provided and reviewed landscape plans for various construction projects. Presented the need to remove many obsolete directional signs; initiated work order. Presented the problems and hazards relating to the campus deer herd. Presented the current state of campus crosswalks; initiated work order. Assisted in developing the Grounds Maintenance Services Contract. Initiated work orders and provided guidance regarding bicycle racks. Worked with various others to maintain and enhance NIH Community Garden. Was a member of the Earth Day Planning Team and the Architectural Design Review Board. Discovered insect infestation in holly trees. Identified and laid out of three additional “no-mow” zones. Organized campus blue bird initiative. Monitored possible return of endangered Henslow sparrow. Organized and design layout Spring & Fall Planting Bees including volunteering time. Developed 2011 Tree Replacement Plan. Determined need and initiated plans and specs to improve walk section between two buildings and to replace Jersey barriers. Forwarded information on detrimental environmental impact of Coal Tar Sealcoat for pavement. Prepared documents for care of remaining American Elms.

Small Group: Sharon Beard, Chip Hughes, Liam O’Fallon - HHS Region VIII- Environmental Justice Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

In February 2012 the Secretary released the HHS Environmental Justice Strategy and Implementation Plan (http://www.hhs.gov/environmentaljustice/) providing clear direction of goals, strategies and actions to address environmental justice in minority and low-income populations and Indian tribes. In order to develop the EJ plan, HHS along with the Federal EJ Working Group (EJFWG) embarked on a series of 20 regional meetings to encourage stakeholders to engage in a dialogue about environmental justice concerns, and to help inform HHS and Federal agency environmental justice initiatives. More than 3,000 stakeholders participated in the meetings and contributed to the dialogue. This nomination for Good Neighbor award recognizes the key HHS team members involved in the extensive community engagement effort between November 2010 and November 2011. These efforts are further detailed in the narrative below and an even more complete summary of efforts, including a list of all meetings is documented in the “2012 HHS Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report” (http://www.hhs.gov/environmentaljustice/progress_2012.html). Additionally, in order to compliment outreach efforts, assess the extent of HHS involvement in EJ issues and to better inform the public of this involvement, HHS conducted a data call across all HHS agencies and cataloged more than 70 different programs, EJ initiatives and activities.
Sustainable Acquisitions Award

Small Group: Jones Jennette, Steve Kelley – Prop Shop

Prop-Shop is an online property re-utilization system that makes pre-owned office furnishings, office equipment and laboratory equipment available to NCI employees for reuse. Prop-Shop property re-utilization system was fully rolled out to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) community during 2011. The benefits of Prop-shop are many and include some of the following: Prop-Shop has the potential to save the NCI thousands of dollars annually by limiting the need to acquire new furniture; Prop-Shop is fundamental to NCI’s green initiatives in that the reuse of furniture and office goods benefits the environment; Prop-Shop benefits the employees of NCI in that requested items can be made available much quicker than the acquisition of a similar new item; Prop-Shop equipment is free with minimal fees charged for delivery and installation. An additional and perhaps the most unique benefit of Prop-shop is that the customer is able to make selections from their desk thereby eliminating the need for multiple trips to the warehouse. Prior to the implementation of Prop-Shop on-line system employees had to make several trips to the NCI warehouse to view and make their selections.

Honorable Mention

Change Agents Award

Small Group: Steven Friedman – “NIH Online Agent Order Processing System”

The Pharmaceutical Management Branch (PMB) handles an estimated 40,000 clinical drug requests annually. Until recently, this process was a manual and paper-reliant effort. Paper-based requests from clinical trial sites often resulted being unable to process the requests immediately due to errors found on the forms once submitted to PMB. This paper-reliant process also required resources to manually enter information into multiple databases. As efforts were being made to modernize the entire CTEP Enterprise System, the opportunity to significantly enhance the effectiveness of the clinical drug request and shipping process through the development of an online order system. By working with the CTEP IT contractor beginning April 2009, PMB staff were able to launch the OAOP in July 2010. Since deployment, PMB has eliminated the use of approximately 150,000 sheets of paper annually, the cost of a shipment record has decreased, and overall approximately 50,000 man-hours annually have been saved using OAOP which translates into overall savings of $4-5 M annually. This includes NCI staff, contractors and clinical trial staff as well and has enhanced overall customer service between CTEP and site staff. This system can be utilized by any group managing drug shipments.

Corporate Responsibility Award

Individual: LT Leo Gumapas

Mr. Leo Gumapas has accomplished amazing results in his first year as NIH Greenhouse Gas Program Manager. Leo completed the first comprehensive GHG inventory; collecting data for all NIH owned and leased space, totaling more than 16 million GSF. He collected data for FY 2008
and 2010, and prepared justification for correcting the baseline. He developed a personal Access Database to organize utility bills, and loaded all data from FY 2008 through FY 2011. Leo developed the NIH GHG Inventory Management Plan, which documents GHG emissions for all NIH sources. This plan can be used as a model for other HHS OPDIVS, and other Federal agencies to document GHG inventory data collection and management planning. Leo was instrumental in developing the NIH telework calculator. Leo initiated a Plug Load Management program to reduce the energy use at NIH facilities nationwide, focusing first on reducing the energy use from lab grade freezers. Although still in its development phase, based on initial estimates, the freezer management plan has the potential to save NIH $8 million annually on purchased electricity. Leo participated in many outreach activities including green lab fairs; Earth Day, the Telework Festival, and he coordinated and acted in the lead role in the NIH “A Day in the Life of a Teleworker” skit.


Teleworking is a viable strategy to curb air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle exhaust by keeping teleworkers off the road. An extra benefit with telework is the reduction in peak demand travel, which means less traffic congestion for those who choose to commute. “A Day in a Life of a Teleworker” was a skit that was originally developed at NIH to promote the use of Telework. The first version of the skit was presented to a meeting of the NIH Executive Officers in November of 2010. From November 2010 through November 2011, the skit was updated to include information about new initiatives and technologies which promote the increased use of telework. The skit was performed for its largest audience yet at the NIH Telework Festival on November 22, 2011. The skit was recorded live, and it is available to be downloaded as an effective communication tool. The telework skit shows the issues an on-site worker faces on a daily basis and how teleworking can be used solve some of these issues. The skit also explores how the barriers of telework can be overcome with technology, which can ease some supervisor’s reluctance to allow their employee’s to telework.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Individual: Virginia DeSeau

Ms. DeSeau advocates tirelessly to eliminate waste, and increase recycling and reuse within the Office of Acquisitions (OA), National Cancer Institute (NCI) specifically and at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in general. She volunteered on the NCI Green Team, and assisted with April 2011 Earth Day and November 2011 America Recycles Day activities at NIH. Her efforts include education to increase awareness in staff on the use and benefits of recycling and/or reusing a wide variety of items including toner cartridges, plastic water bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
Small Group: James Goldby, Frank Holloman, Lisa Mascone - NIH Environmentally Friendly Cork Floor

In February 2011, following the completion of multiple asbestos abatement projects within NIDDK space on the 9th floor of building 31, the Institute needed to replace the carpeting along the corridor due to excessive wear and tear. Creative thinking amongst a small group of individuals led to the exploration of environmentally friendly options to replace the carpet. After research and consultation with contractors, the NIDDK Executive Office decided to install environmentally friendly cork flooring as an environmental sustainability initiative. The installation was completed in August 2011. The benefits of the cork flooring are unmatched. The floor is fire resistant, anti-allergenic, sound absorbing, easy to maintain and provides a softness that is physically beneficial to staff who walk on it regularly. The production of the cork leaves the forest undamaged and the trees alive to continue producing bark. Cork is extremely durable, with a life span of nearly 80 years when properly maintained. The natural properties of the cork allowed NIDDK to custom design portions of the floor. NIDDK feels that the utilization of cork flooring is easily replicable in all cases where new flooring work is needed. Cork flooring options and solutions are varied, flexible, practical, and earth friendly.

Sustainable Design and Facilities Award

Small Group: William Baxter, William Floyd, Kyung Kim, Frank Kutlak, Krishnan Ramesh, Gregg Simek, Jeffery Wetler - Porter Neuroscience Research Center II (PNRC II)

The PNRC II project is the newest facility addition to the NIH campus, which completes the second and final phase of the Porter Neuroscience Research Center. PRNC II provides 409,663 GSF, of Laboratory, Lab Support, Animal, Imaging, and Office space. The facility will be certified by both LEED (Gold) and Green Globes (3Globes). The facility includes cutting edge energy efficient technologies; including ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels and chilled beams. Biomedical research laboratories require once-through air flow in order to provide a safe research environment and extensive cooling for the instrumentation in the laboratories. In traditional HVAC design, this combination of requirements results in high energy intensities. The new chilled beam technology will enable much less air to be conditioned while still preserving the requirements for safe research thereby yielding significant energy and cost savings. Other green features include water efficient fixtures; use of low emitting, recycled and bio based content materials; LED lighting; lighting controls; and HVAC controls which allow fewer air changes to unoccupied spaces. The net result is that NIH will create certified research facility, that will be at least 30% more energy efficient than an ASHRAE 90.1 baseline.

Organization: Daryl Paulnil – “NIH Sustainable Design- LEED”

Recently the National Cancer Institute embarked on the construction of a state of the art facility that encompasses the foremost innovations in sustainable engineering and construction. Central to the planning of this facility was the desire to outfit the building in such a way that Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification would be achieved. LEED certification provides the framework by which buildings can be conceptualized and designed to minimize environmental impacts, reduce waste that is sent to landfills, conserve energy, reduce
harmful greenhouse emissions all the while lowering the operating costs of the facility and making it healthier and safer for inhabitants.
**Fiscal Year 2012 Awards**

**Change Agents Award**

Small Group: Juli Anne Calis, CAPT Jamie Natour, Bill Strine – Electric Charging Station (110 V)

Ms. Juli Anne Callis, (NIH Federal Credit Union) initiated a trial project at NIH for employees to charge personal Electric Vehicles using lower cost 20amp 110volt circuits paid for by NIHFCU. This comes at "no cost" to NIH and is a pilot project with 8 charging stations. These stations went live on June 25th, 2012 and as of January 30th, 2013 have enabled about 3,800 kilowatt hours of EV driving with over 20 EV’s and PHEV’s using the 8 stations. This is the equivalent of over 14,000 miles of travel without gasoline and has to-date saved over 600 gallons of gas, reducing CO2 and other emissions. This is a small, but significant part of the over 250,000,000 (250 million) miles driven in this country on domestically produced electricity and has saved over a supertanker of oil not used in the last several years.

**Corporate Responsibility Award**

Small Group: Daryl Paunil, George Komatsoulis, Todd Cox, Star Kline – NCI Shady Grove Voice-over IP

The recent construction of the National Cancer Institute new headquarters/ administrative facility has presented numerous opportunities to seek cost savings, seek out innovative ways to balance work life conditions for employees and enhance collaborative occasions for employees to work together. The most advantageous feature of VoIP is the cost. Because voice and data travel over the internet or private data lines the cost of using commercial telephone lines is nearly eliminated. The system allows employees to remain connected by allowing phone to ring to a single device.

**Electronic Stewardship**


In 2004, National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) 35,000 square foot campus Data Center’s Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) system was unreliable, and many NIH and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) critical IT systems experienced outages. The system emitted 1.945 tons of carbon dioxide and consumed 54,000 gallons of fuel annually. The NIH Center for Information Technology (CIT) partnered with the NIH Office of Facilities (ORF) to replace NIH’s campus Data Center UPS system to provide high availability power to support NIH and HHS mission critical systems, improve energy efficiency, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. In June 2012, the system was replaced. The new system reduced its power consumption by nearly 50 percent; carbon footprint by 55 percent; and diesel consumption by 96 percent. It also reduced the amount of related hazardous waste.
Energy and Fleet

Small Group: Evelyn Dunkelberger, Ruth Germain, Steve Kelley, Scott Lam, Daryl Paulnil – NCI

Shady Grove Green Transportation
In constructing the new Shady Grove Facility the National Cancer Institute Office of Space and Facilities Management (OSFM) has endeavored to ensure that the facility was as environmentally friendly as it was esthetically appealing. The campus has to fit within the community and provide environmentally friendly commuting options for NCI employees. The OSFM has developed a comprehensive plan to meet the needs of NCI employees while still preserving the surrounding community and environment.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Organization: David Green, Margaret Novicky – Recycled Used Plastic Caging
The Division of Veterinary Resources (DVR), Office of Research Services, National Institutes of Health maintains over 30,000 cages housing laboratory rodents. DVR implemented a new plastic cage recycling program in an effort to promote the Federal Government’s “Going Green” concept. This recycling eliminates tons of plastic going to landfills each year and saves money on future cage purchases. Through a newly available agreement between an independent recycler and the caging manufacturer, the DVR was able to prevent, over a one year period, dead end disposal of 1.4 tons of used plastic caging. The associated savings applied to future caging purchases was $283. This will be an ongoing annual effort so recycling and cost savings will be of continual environmental and economic benefit. We hope to expand this effort to other Institutes at the National Institutes of Health for additional impact.

Sustainable Acquisitions Award

Small Group: Christine Hetkowski, Steve Kelley, Stanly Whatley – Sustainable Furniture
In the process of relocating some 2500 staff nearly 600,000 articles of office furniture to include desks, tables, cabinetry etc. were relocated to the new facility. The sustainable approach to purchasing office furniture and workstations I believe is evidenced by the diligence utilized in researching and identifying the best products for NCI customers.

Small Group: NITAAC GWAC Program, Robert Coen – Information Technology Acquisitions & Assessment Center
The NIH Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center (NITAAC) awards and administers three Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs) for Information Technology products, services and solutions, each with domain-specific expertise in Health IT in support of the NIH and HHS missions. NITAAC GWACs have been used by virtually every federal agency to fulfill mission critical IT requirements within scope, on time, and within budget. The Program’s ability to leverage federal purchasing power is evidenced by the selection of ECS III as an HHS Strategic Source; CIO-SP3 Small Business as a preferred source in the DoD Memorandum on Small Business Acquisitions, and all NIH/NITAAC GWACs as a Strategic Source by the Office of the Director of Navy Supply. NITAAC continually looks to align itself with new strategic directives and has instituted a robust set of tools to support EPEAT and Energy Star requirements as mandated by Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, as well the HHS APP and the HHS SSPP. In
addition to paperless processing of IT acquisitions, each GWAC offers the flexibility to specify additional energy-efficient requirements at the task and delivery order level, such as recycled content products, and environmentally preferable products and services.

**Water Use Efficiency**

**Small Group: Christine Hetkowski, John Morris - NCI Shady Grove Waterless Urinals**

Waterless urinals are environmentally friendly and save between 40,000 and 70,000 gallons of water per year per urinal; beyond cost saving waterless urinals offer many environmental, sanitary and health benefits as well.

**Honorable Mention**

**Energy Management Award**

**Small Group: Ruth Germain, Scott Lam, Steve Kelley - NCI Shady Grove Renewable Energy**

In accordance with Executive Order 13514 part of that responsibility is to: “reduce energy intensity in agency buildings and increase agency use of renewable energy.” Due to the diligence shown early on by the OSFM staff the Shady Grove facility will be buying a portion of its energy from a renewable source.

**Small Group: Star Kline, Daryl Paulnil - Watt Stoppers**

Watt stoppers allow agencies to enhance their ability to manage their energy usage objectives. Sensors can be installed that control energy usage for everything from lighting usage, to outlet load usage to daylight control sensors. The lighting usage controls allow the user to control the lights in their individual space in accordance with their own preference. When the user is not in the room, the lights dim down and eventually turn off.

**Environmental Stewardship Award**

**Individual: Minoo Shakourey-Elizeh**

Mrs. Shakourey-Elizeh, a biologist in the Liver Diseases Branch (LDB) of NIDDK/NIH, is a member of NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS) Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group (SLPWG). Over the last decade, Mrs. Shakourey-Elizeh has supported the greater NIH community by organizing and participating in a wide range of activities and environmental causes at NIH. She has long been an advocate for sustainable practices at NIH. Mrs. Shakourey-Elizeh joined NIH Environmental Management System Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group in 2009. As a member of the group, she has played a leadership role in bringing NIH closer to meeting its sustainability goals. The practices she spearheaded and implemented have promoted environmental conservation and reduced laboratory costs by reducing waste and encouraging efficient use of resources. She has achieved these results through her active participation in the NIH Green Labs Fairs, through advocacy for and implementation of sustainable, cost-effective laboratory practices, and by spreading awareness of sustainable practices through the NIH
community. She continues to seek new ways to meet sustainability goals and disseminate training on sustainability practices.

Small Group: Kelly Barch, Susan Ettehadieh, Harley James, Vivian Horovitch-Kelley, Lorna Patrick, Virginia DeSeau - NCI Green Team

NCI’s Green Team members include representatives from 14 Divisions, Offices, and Centers plus the NCI-Frederick. In 2012, the Green Team led numerous effective and innovative recycling and outreach efforts to further NCI’s sustainability and environmental goals. NCI is committed to pollution prevention through recycling, sustainability outreach and communication activities. On America Recycles Day and Earth Day provided information regarding recycling, energy efficiency and pollution prevention. NCI Green Team members collected over 900 pounds of recyclable items from co-workers including batteries, sneakers, CDs, VHS tapes, and eyeglasses. In addition, NCI collected towels, sheets and blankets and donated these items to Montgomery County’s Animal Shelter. Also, for America’s Recycles Day, the NCI Green Team collected over 600 pounds of recyclable items from NCI co-workers. During 2012, the NCI Green Team led numerous outreach activities to help educate employees in the ways that they can help save NCI operations and maintenance costs through recycling, reuse and efficient energy usage. The initiatives and programs championed by the NCI Green Team Demonstrate how individual efforts can lead to significant effects in the workplace.

Organization: Eckart Bindewald, Cheryl Boman, Linda Bradenburg, Chelsey Jahn, Melissa Lambert, Melissa Porter, Thomas Schneider, Denise Shelley, Dolores Winterstein, Howard Young – NCI Campus at Frederick Green Team

One major accomplishment of the team was the organization of a Plant Swap that was held here on the NCI Campus at Frederick on October 18th, 2012. The Plant Swap allowed people to bring in plants from their home that they had thinned out from their yards/gardens. Instead of throwing the plants out, people were encouraged to bring them to the Plant Swap for others that were looking for plants to take. The Green team also took advantage of the fact that there are multiple agencies located nearby and invited the USDA and other agencies to participate. The Plant Swap was met with great enthusiasm and had a tremendous amount of positive feedback. Due to the strong response the Green Team is planning a second Plant Swap in the spring. It will be in conjunction with the Spring Research Festival that takes place at Ft. Detrick. This will give the Plant Swap a larger audience and enable those from other agencies located on Ft. Detrick to participate.

Organization: David Bowe, Stuart Brown, Annie Burke, Larry Chloupek, Joseph Fessler, LT Leo Gumapas, Susan Hinton, Robert Jackson, Laurie Jarvis, Dr. Jean Tiong-Koehler, Leeza Kondos, John Maynard, Gary Mays, Mary McKeelhan, Gregar Odegaard, Ekaterini M. Perry, Johnny Ribbons, Glenn Simons, Hana Smith, William Smith, Zedekiah Worsham, Chad Wysong – Freezer Initiative

The NIH Office of Research Facilities (ORF) launched the NIH Freezer Initiative to support the NIH intramural research program. The primary goal of the initiative aims to reduce the energy consumption of Ultra Low Temperature (ULT) freezers by consolidating freezer contents, and
replacing aging NIH ULT freezers with new, large capacity, energy efficient freezers. A study was performed to establish an energy benchmark for ULT freezers and to develop a prioritization model to replace the most inefficient ULT Freezers operating in NIH laboratories. A Request for Proposal was drafted using energy efficiency as a technical specification for the procurement for ULT freezers. NIH negotiated a bulk buy that included extended warranties, freezer racks, 2-year preventative maintenance, and delivery, which resulted in 24% discount rate. Phase one of the NIH Freezer Initiative resulted in the purchase of 70 new energy efficient ULT freezers, and the retirement of 98 old, energy inefficient ULT freezers. The NIH reduced its annual electricity consumption 591 megawatt-hours (MWh), which translated to an approximate saving of $65,000 and reducing greenhouse gases by 255.3 metric tons.
Fiscal Year 2013 Awards

Corporate Responsibility Award

Individual: Ann Brewer Sustainable Policies in the NIH Office of the Secretariat

It is my pleasure to nominate Ms. Ann Brewer for the 2013 HHS Green Champions Award, in the “Corporate Responsibility” category. Ann is the Director of the NIH Executive Secretariat (ES), and many of her workplace policies and practices are a model of corporate responsibility with regard to their impact on the environment. Ann has championed and been at the forefront of the use of Telework and Alternative Work Schedules at the NIH, and Executive Secretariat staff fully utilize the flexibility these policies offer. ES staff have an average daily round-trip automobile commute of 44.7 miles. 79 percent of our staff (19 of 24) telework two days each week, and in 2013, that equated to 80,741 miles of automobile travel saved across the entire office – the equivalent of circling the Earth 3.2 times. That’s a significant reduction in gasoline consumption and greenhouse gases. Ann also has consistently encouraged the use of alternative meeting forums when needed. The office frequently uses Microsoft Lync as a way to include teleworking or off-site staff in meetings. In addition, through her active participation in the Council of Executive Secretariats, she has made presentations and speaks out frequently about how well telework works for the NIH ES, and how other Executive Secretariats might also implement the use of telework. Finally, Ann has aggressively reduced the use of paper in the ES. The Executive Secretariat is the hub controlling all correspondence and documents that flow to and from the NIH Director and Deputy Director, and maintains the Director’s official records. As a result, the office can consume and produce vast quantities of paper. Ann has embraced the transition to electronic records, and has modified policy and practice in the ES to move staff away from printing documents. The results have been dramatic. Between 2010 and 2013, the use of paper in the ES dropped by 75 percent; ES staff used 206,250 less pieces of paper in 2013 than they did in 2010. That amount of paper, if stacked, would be more than seven stories high. If laid out flat, it would cover 2.8 football fields. The reduction saved approximately 25 trees, by our calculation. Ann is an excellent example of a manager who envisions and implements policies and procedures that promote sustainability.

Organization: Joseph Cox, Louise Davis, Thomas Hayden, Nicole Huntington, Russell Mason, Michelle Mejia, Gary Peck, Marie Taboada – NIH Transit Program

"The NIH Office of Research Services (ORS) facilitates the use of alternative commuting methods through the NIH Transit Program. The Transit Program helps the NIH to mitigate traffic congestion and reduce auto emissions that result in Greenhouse Gases by offering NIH employees various alternative commuting methods such as: the employee use of Metro buses; Metro subway; MARC train; teleworking; hoteling; carpooling; vanpool programs; and through bike to work programs. These methods help the NIH to mitigate traffic congestion and provide for cleaner air through reduced auto emissions. The NIH has approximately 5,500 Transshare members, 15 vanpools, 320 carpool members, and newly incorporated Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations. It is estimated that NIH has annually reduced miles driven by employees by 58,680,000 and has saved 2,963,636 gallons of gas through these programs. In addition, NIH was
one of the first agencies in the country to start a Bike Subsidy Program for employees after leading the National Capital Region for the last seven years as the Employer with the most Bike-to-Work Day participants. Because of the NIH's innovative alternative transportation programs, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments entitled NIH the “2013 Employer of the Year” (for Incentives).

**Electronic Stewardship Award**

Organization: Kelly Barch, Joan Becker, Darius Bickham, Martha Blalock, Danita Broadnax, Geneva Coffey, Nicholas Dicrosta, Susan Ettehadieh, Barbara Fahey, Bradford Felton, Dr. Rebecca Ferrell, Ignacina Francis, Anne Frost, Andrew Gootee, Harley James, Jacquelyn Johnson, Michael Kessler, Theresa Leland, Wendy Lord-Toussaint, Evelyn McClung, Bradley Moss, Dr. Mahua Mukhopadhyay, Brandis O’Neal, Georgianna Porter, Nicole Rohloff, Sophia Glezos Voit, Kate Whelan, Dr. Cherri Wiggs – NIH America Recycles Day Electronic Events

NIH celebrated America Recycles Day (ARD) during the week of November 12, 2012, focusing on the sustainable environmental stewardship of end-of-life disposition of electronics. Because employees are often unsure of what to do with non-accountable electronics, NIH’s first event was a five-day collection drive of non-accountable electronics, one of NIH’s most challenging waste issues. Employees turned in 3,420 pounds (1.71 tons) of electronics at 22 NIH locations in Montgomery County, MD. For the second event, NIH employees staffed Recycling Awareness tables at 13 NIH cafeterias in Montgomery County, MD on November 15. These events were organized by a trans-NIH planning committee, the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS) Green Team Leads Council (GTLC). This council includes representatives from all 28 Institutes and Centers (ICs). This group planned and managed all logistics at 22 locations for the collection drive and 13 sites for the recycling awareness event. The Division of Environmental Protection coordinated the efforts and the Office of Logistics and Acquisitions Operations (OLAO) played a critical role in collecting the electronics. The NEMS GTLC captured best practices so that these drives can be continued periodically throughout the year, as a best management practice for dealing with non-accountable electronics.

**Environmental Stewardship Award**

Individual: Minoo Shakourey-Elizeh – Sustainable Lab Practices

Minoo Shakoury-Elizeh, a biologist at the Liver Diseases Branch (LDB) and a member of NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS) Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group, has been a leader in the planning and execution of the 2012 and 2013 NIH Green Labs Fair. She has gone above and beyond her volunteer duties by coordinating and conducting outreach for these fairs and tirelessly visiting numerous labs at NIH. She has advocated for reduction in the usage of mutagenic reagents and their replacement with safer substitutes. Ms. Shakoury-Elizeh visited labs in NIDDK, NHLBI, NCI, NEI, NIAID, and NICHD to raise awareness of the availability of safer alternatives. As a result of her efforts, multiple laboratories are now testing and switching to the safer substitute chemical. Her efforts will reduce the introduction of potentially cancer-causing chemicals to the NIH waste stream and reduce the costs associated with disposal of hazardous waste. Ms. Shakoury-Elizeh has also promoted a pilot program to return and reuse styrofoam shipping containers and ice packs in Bldg 10. The measures Minoo advocates help NIH reach its
goal for the HHS Strategic Planning Sustainability Performance Plan and are crucial for preserving the health of our environment for future generations.

**Good Neighbor Award**

**Individual: Dr. John Balbus – Climate Resilience Planning**

Dr. Balbus developed and initiated one of HHS’s signature initiatives in the President’s Climate Action Plan, which was released in June 2013. Dr. Balbus is a pioneer in promoting awareness of the health implications of climate change and has worked over the past several years to incorporate climate resilience and sustainability into the HHS mission the Department’s activities. In developing the Sustainable and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities Initiative, Dr. Balbus identified an urgent need for hospitals and other health care facilities to prepare for and adapt to global climate change. Dr. Balbus worked closely with the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to build support for the initiative and is now collaborating with other components of HHS to bring the project to fruition. In September of 2013, Dr. Balbus was appointed to direct the activities of the new WHO Collaborating Center for Environmental Health Sciences.


"On April 23, 2013 the NIH Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) in collaboration with the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) hosted a unique and innovative conference entitled the Health in Buildings Roundtable Conference (HiBR). In response to a national need to investigate the link between the built environment and human health, the conference was the first of its kind and was created to educate, incorporate, introduce ways to create healthier buildings, healthier employees and healthier communities not only at the NIH, but across the nation. The NIH collaborated with local and regional communities, private corporations and consulting companies, non-governmental organizations, various governmental agencies, and other industry experts to create a foundation for the establishment of a National agenda for public health research and policy in order to further support healthy buildings and healthy communities. to include General Services Administration (GSA), the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Cannon, Perkins and Wills, US Green Building Council (USGBC), University of Virginia, Virginia Technical University, University of Denver, Google Incorporated. Conference sessions focused on the increased use of natural lighting in buildings, interior environmental friendly furnishings, and surrounding environmental landscape options in an effort to support sustainable communities."

**Green Hero Video Outreach Award**

**LTJG Ariell Lawrence – Solid Waste Team at NIH**
Sustainable Acquisitions Award

Individual: Idongesit Essiet-Gibson & Pia Lohse – Sustainable Acquisitions

The NIAID, DAIDS Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR), and Alternate COR for the Regulatory Support Center (RSC) Contract, launched a “Go Green” initiative in 2013, which successfully engaged DAIDS personnel and collaborators in the utilization of a computer-based DAIDS Enterprise System (DAIDS-ES) and the DAIDS RSC Collaboration website to access key clinical trial research documents to support HIV/AIDS research. As a result, 70% of the existing RSC contract work task areas migrated from a paper to paperless environment. As a result of this initiative, contract deliverables are stored in a shared, searchable and web-accessible portal; the contractor employs electronic sign-off for final versions of key clinical trial documents; and electronic “how to” and e-learning videos have been deployed reaching collaborators throughout the globe. Migration to an electronic environment has reduced contract reproduction and courier delivery costs by 50% and increased effectiveness of communication with key collaborators such as our ability to reach personnel at 78 clinical trial sites in 10 countries, with critical information on changes to DAIDS protocol registration processes, through four e-Learning sessions hosted remotely. These efforts help to reduce environmental waste and maximize effectiveness of government operations.

Organization: Dana Arnold, Keith Ashe, Michael Bloom, Steve Breslin, Sandra Britz, Rajiv Chainani, Dr. Yang Fann, LCDR Leo Gumapas, Katie Miller, CAPT Edward Rau – NIH Innovative Tools For Advance Sustainable Acquisition

"The Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) of the Office of Research Facilities at NIH has conceived and is leading development of sustainable acquisition innovation initiatives to concomitantly meet the health goals of the HHS Secretary’s Strategic Plan and Priorities, and the directives of Executive Order 13514 for federal agencies to apply their purchasing power to create markets for sustainable products and services. These ambitious, long term initiatives focus on two aspects of procurement policy and practice that were largely undeveloped: provisions for identifying and reducing procurement of products containing toxic, hazardous, polluting or unrenewable chemicals, referred to in our reduction initiative as Substances of Concern (SoC), and addressing unmet government-wide needs for user friendly, automated tools and systems to facilitate purchasing of healthier, more sustainable products, including those posing reduced chemical risks associated with SoCs. These efforts are being carried out by small interagency teams of NIH employees working closely with their counterparts in the General Services Administration (GSA). While these initiatives are only in their earliest phases of implementation the unprecedented levels of collaboration established between the NIH and GSA teams have already produced a remarkable number of innovative sustainable acquisition tools that are now available for government-wide use."

Sustainable Design and Facilities Award

Individual: Linwood “Woody” Inscoe – Renovation of Building 16A (Bethesda Campus)

"NIH Building 16A is located at 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland on the campus of the National Institutes of Health. The building, constructed circa 1930, is eligible for registration in the National Historic Register and therefore subject to federal preservation guidelines. Prior to
renovation Building 16A was unoccupied, had not been maintained for many years, and was in substantial disrepair. Building system problems included poor heating and cooling systems, substandard electrical service, and lack of life safety systems, inadequate plumbing, and the presence of hazardous materials. The renovation plan for Building 16A required a historically sensitive restoration that included infrastructure upgrades consistent with sustainability guidelines. In 2009, the project was selected for ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding. To demonstrate sustainability compliance it was registered as a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) project and the design was developed to maximize building efficiency and minimize environmental impact. Design development was completed in 2010. Construction began in 2011, with occupancy in October 2012. Mr. Inscoe managed the project from design to completion, and coordinated administrative requirements for the final LEED application through the summer of 2013. The project was awarded LEED Silver level certification, surpassing expectations and setting an example for future projects.

Small Group: Debra Del Corral, Joseph Seufert, Amanda Thompson – NIH, Green and Fit Retrofit at NIEHS

"A major renovation at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) combined sustainable design with improved employee fitness and health. NIEHS converted underutilized library space to house state-of-the art bioinformatics workspace, high-tech scientific training facilities, work-life resources and an employee fitness center. Throughout the project, building materials were reused, furnishings were refurbished and reinstalled, metals materials were recovered and recycled, healthy paints, adhesives and finishes were applied, energy-efficient lighting and heating/cooling systems were installed, and water conserving fixtures were built in. Overall construction costs were cut by 30-40% by eliminating multiple project phases. Other efficiencies saved at least $160,000. The project improved space utilization by eliminating passageways and optimizing layouts. The Institute improved its ability to meet its emerging scientific mission in bioinformatics and scientific training, and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. At the same time, NIEHS kept tons of material out of landfills, installed healthy and efficient materials and engineering systems, and promoted employee fitness and quality of life."

Honorable Mention

Change Agents Award

Small Group: Sonia Cross, LCDR Leo Gumapas, Jadelin Jokepa - Lab-Grade Freezer Lifecycle Management

The Lab-Grade (LG) Freezer Accountability Project was in collaboration with Division of Logistics Services (DLS) and the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Research Facilities (ORF), to physically locate, identify, and add all NIH-owned LG freezers into the property system as accountable assets. DEP’s 2012 energy study found ultra-low temperature (ULT) laboratory freezers consumed about 20 kilowatt-hours per day of electricity, equivalent to the daily
consumption of an average family household. This high electricity consumption was partially attributed to freezer temperatures of -56°C to -86°C, including the age of the freezer, poor maintenance, improper freezer location, contents stored improperly, and set points not monitored regularly. The estimated energy cost for an old, unmaintained freezer can exceed $1,500 annually. ORF aimed to reduce the energy consumption with a subsidized acquisition of 125 new, energy-efficient freezers to replace 98 old ULT freezers; estimated $55,000 annual cost avoidance of energy consumption. A comprehensive inventory resulted in tracking and monitoring over 4,600 LG freezers, an increased average value of $29M added assets, for lifecycle management and maintenance program to reduce electricity consumption, determine adequate space requirements for laboratories and facilities, and mitigate the risk for loss of valuable research due to freezer failures.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Individual: Dr. Dawn Ionescu - Clinical Fellow, Group 75545
Dr. Dawn Ionescu exemplifies what it means to truly be a "Green Champion". When she began working here, she noticed that our group threw away a lot of trash that could be recycled. She immediately placed a recycling bin in our office and personally empties it into larger recycling receptacles. We recently had our offices remodeled, which included throwing away a lot of old papers. Dr. Ionescu again took initiative to ensure that recycling bins were placed outside of our offices (instead of throwing papers in the regular trash). We actually filled about 4 large bins for recycling and everyone was grateful to her for ensuring that we remained "Green" during this process. Most recently, she arranged to have a “Coat and Recycled Holiday Lights” drive which was a huge success. She is a member of the NIH Green team and, although she is busy caring for patients on a daily basis, she uses her own time and, often her own resources, to ensure that NIH maximizes their efforts to care for the environment. Overall, Dr. Ionescu is an excellent advocate for the environment and extremely deserving to receive a 2013 Green Champions Award.

Individual: Jon'lethia King - Battery Recycle Program
Jon'lethia Adams King facilitated the Battery Recycling program within NIH/NINDS in 2011 by working with NIH/ORS/ORF to obtain recycling bins and regular pickup of used batteries. In June 2013 she transferred to NIH/OHR/CSD and facilitated the start of battery recycling in the break rooms in the building where she currently works. The battery recycling program allows staff to recycle their batteries in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. Batteries are made from important resources and chemicals, including lead, cadmium, zinc, lithium and mercury. Each battery placed in the recycling bins will be taken apart and many of the materials will be recovered and used to make new batteries or something else.

Individual: Linda Mongelli
New Federal employees enter on duty with NIH and attend New Employee Orientation (NEO). At NEO, each new employee is provided with a folder containing color copies of the materials including: New Employee Handbook with 29 pages copied front to back, Dates to Remember form, and Agenda. Linda Mongelli performed an analysis of the paperwork provided and determined that placing these documents on the New Employee Orientation website would save approximately $30,000 in paper alone. This does not factor in the cost of use of the copier,
toner, recycling due to errors, storage of documents, or staff time in moving the materials to the site of orientation. Linda’s recommendation to put the documents on the New Employee Orientation website instead of printing the information was quickly approved, not just as a cost cutting measure, but also as a way for OHR to continue its efforts to “Go Green.” Linda also created a QR Code to allow new employees to access the documents through their tablets and phones while they are attending orientation and afterwards as a reference. This innovative strategy can easily be duplicated at other OP/Divs and Federal agencies to further sustainability and environmental goals of the Federal government.

Small Group: Keimar Clarke, Michael Kessler, Rene Richardson, Hayes Robinson - Effective Reutilization of Property at NIH

The Property Reutilization and Disposal Section (PRDS), Division of Logistics Services at the Gaithersburg Distribution Center collaborated with the NIH community and other Government agencies to reutilize surplus serviceable property items. Through this collaborative effort, the PRDS was able to reutilize over 3,000 property items, resulting in saving the Government over $7.4 million dollars. By promoting eco-conscious throughout NIH, the PRDS successfully recycled 22,453 pieces of equipment, equivalent to over 56 tons and netted over $86,000 of revenue for NIH in return. The Property Reutilization and Disposal Section recycled over 26 tons of freezers and refrigerators which contributed to the proper disposal of Freon, a refrigerant that negatively affects the ozone layer and environment; this recycling netted the NIH a savings of $17,900 dollars. The PRDS advocated efficient business processes and procedures to avoid unnecessary scrapping and disposing of excess computer and scientific equipment by effectively managing the reutilization of surplus property such as the Direct Donation Program of IT and Laboratory equipment to local schools, Universities and Not-for-Profit organizations. Program participants received over 7,000 property items valued over $13 million dollars.


The NIH Surplus Chemical Redistribution Recycling Program was implemented to reduce the disposal of unused chemicals discarded as wastes and improve sharing them between institutes/centers (ICs) and buildings. The development of NIHs’ FreeStuff website to post and share free chemicals was the key innovation that provided the NIH Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the tool to launch the program in April 2013. DEP staff strategized with NIAID staff to redesign, test, and deploy the chemical reagent page of the website. Promotions and operations were accomplished by partnering with NIAID staff, Lab Managers and Chemical Waste Services contractors. This program has significant impact NIH-wide, providing a cost savings associated with chemical procurement and cost avoidance for waste disposal. It also has positive health and environmental outcomes realized in reduction of greenhouse gases from manufacturing and transportation of new chemicals. The program has been expanded to include NIH leased facilities in Rockville and was already implemented at the NCI Frederick facility. It is a sustainable business practice designed to improve NIH environmental performance and conservation of resources. Additionally, it helps the NIH achieve its HHS Strategic Sustainability Plan (SSPP) goals and NIH Green Initiatives for pollution prevention, resource conservation and toxicity reduction.
Fiscal Year 2014 Awards

**Change Agents Award**

**Organization:** Kyle Brimacombe, Samuel Michael, Anna Rossoshek, Cordelle Tanega, Dr. Mohan Viswanathan – NCATS Plate Saving Initiative

Many federal, academic, and commercial laboratories use costly plastic microplates for high-throughput screening, a method of scientific experimentation that enables researchers to rapidly test thousands of drug candidates for biological activity. Prior to launching the Plate Saving initiative, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the NIH was disposing of hundreds of thousands of plates each year, creating a large volume of physical and chemical waste and spending thousands of dollars on single-use plates. Researchers at NCATS investigated microplate cleaning methodologies and developed a procedure for cleaning previously used plates in an automated fashion to make them suitable for reuse. This method has now saved NCATS almost $500,000, and kept almost 50,000 plastic plates from ending up in landfills. Recognizing the potential for commercial application this technology, NCATS solicited a SBIR contract and awarded phase I and II contracts to IonField Systems, a company that is building on NCATS’ work, developing and commercializing an automated plate cleaner that will be both sold as a device and used in an outsourced plate cleaning service. The development of this device and service has transformed labware, turning what was once a disposable waste into a sustainable resource for laboratories and pharmaceutical companies nationwide.

**Organization:** Keimar Clarke, Kenny Floyd, Michael Garner, Matthew T. Harty, Shomari Hull, LT Matthew Hunt, Darrell Jackson, Jacquelyn Johnson, Michael Kessler, William Ketner, LTJG Ariell Lawrence, Al Lee, Tom Meredith, Brad Moss, Thomas Pfaffman, Ericka Reid, Montae Reeves, Ken Rylan, Reginal Stewart, Jay Tuberville, James Washington, John Veitch – Operation Corridor Clean Sweep

Through the collaborative effort of the NIH Office of Research Services and Office of Research Facilities, team, Operation Clean Sweep was able to de-clutter, beautify and increase egress safety in the common spaces of several buildings on the Bethesda campus. The effort required extensive teamwork and collaboration among many disciplines and divisions including: facilities management, logistics, safety, fire prevention, and environmental. In just 3 months, over 52 tons of non-accountable and accountable electronics, furniture, unclaimed materials, and debris were removed and either recycled or reused. In addition to cosmetic fixes, fire hazards and safety concerns were also addressed.

**Corporate Responsibility Award**

**Individual:** Jenn Evans - NIEHS Transhare & Telework Program

The NIEHS Office of Management combined innovation and resourcefulness to create successful alternative commuting through the NIEHS Transhare & Telework Program. The program utilized creative ways to overcome alternative commuting challenges of being located in a strategic, yet remote research park in North Carolina. The NIEHS has been able to help mitigate traffic
congestion and reduce auto emissions that result in greenhouse gases by offering NIEHS employees effective alternative commuting methods such as the use of regional busing, vanpool programs, carpool programs, teleworking, and bike to work programs. Transhare also supports those who bike to work by partnering with RTP area organizations that sponsor Bike to Work activities and assistance. In 2014, NIEHS had a telework participation rate among the Institute’s federal workforce of over 50%. The NIEHS reduced miles driven by employees in 2014 by an estimated 871,782, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 300 metric tons and supporting agency goals of Executive Order 13514 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In recognition of the Institute’s innovative alternative transportation program, the Triangle J Council of Governments awarded NIEHS the “2014 Best Workplace for Commuters”.

**Energy and Fleet Award**

Organization: Laura L. Geil, Gary R. Happel, Dr. Craig W. Reynolds, Dr. David A. Toke, Leonard Wrona - Ultra Low Temp Liquid Nitrogen (LN2) - Fueled Freezers

Government and Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc., contractor, staff at the National Cancer Institute at Frederick conducted a 6-month study at their Central Repository comparing energy usage/cost between conventional, -80oc mechanical freezers and new technology, -80oc liquid nitrogen (LN2)-fueled freezers. While mechanical freezers require electricity to power compressors, generating heat as a byproduct and requiring cooling; LN2-fueled freezers only require electricity to power controllers, producing little heat. Electricity/LN2 consumption were monitored for 28 mechanical and 18 LN2-fueled freezers, both groups filled to capacity with the same number of samples. The LN2-fueled group had a reduction in electricity consumption of 681.1 KWH/day compared to the mechanical group. This reduction in energy needed to operate the LN2-fueled freezers, resulted in an additional, equal reduction in energy needed for cooling room air. Overall, the use of LN2-fueled freezers to maintain the same number of samples, resulted in a 31.4% decrease in electricity consumption and greenhouse gas, a net cost-savings of 24.6% after subtracting LN2 costs, and eliminated toxic materials (lubricants/insulation/refrigerant). We are sharing our results with NIH colleagues now interested in this technology, and continuing conversion from conventional mechanical freezers to LN2-fueled freezers to further increase positive impact on the environment and human health.

Organization: Terry Schlegal - Double Pedestal Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Transportation Management Branch completed an environmental project with the intended purposes of securing significant environmental benefits by increasing the use of renewable energy. The environmental project identified as a Solar Array System includes the introduction of two fully electric vehicles into the fleet, a double pedestal electric vehicle charging station, and the installation of 20kW (20,000 watts of direct current) solar array panels. The installation of a solar array system, on NIH property for agency use, provides a 100% renewable energy source that safely powers an electric vehicle charging station. The total annual cost avoidance is $8,000. Three extraordinary employees directly contributed to the completion of this exceptional environmental project; Terry Schlegel, John Chatham, and James Lewis. Their contribution in increasing the use of renewable energy directly supports Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental Energy, and Transportation Management.
in improving environmental stewardship in support of the NIH’s mission to improve public health reflects greatly upon these three employees and the NIH Transportation Management Branch. Electric Vehicles (EVs) provide transportation that demonstratively reduce the reliance of fossil fuels and subsequently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Holistically the engines of EVs are simpler with less moving parts which directly equates to reduced maintenance. Coupled with the reduced costs of fueling, it is estimated by NIH Fleet Management, which cost savings will equate to $8,000 per vehicle annually. The solar array likewise provides a financial benefit as energy generated from the array is routed back to the NIH grid. EVs produce negligible harmful emissions. Conversely combustible engines emit greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide which is a significant contributor associated with global warming. Indeed according to the EPA the average vehicle produces nearly 5 metric tons. Considering the average life cycle for a federal vehicle is 10 years this project is anticipated to decrease the greenhouse gas emissions by 1000 metric tons. The project also acquired a 20 kilowatt DC solar array which was subsequently connected to the NIH Grid. This connection facilitates the opportunity for clean renewable energy to be supplied back to the NIH. This project was the result of collaborative initiatives that crossed across different NIH divisions, institutes and contractors. It was through these collaborative efforts that all NIH rules and protocols were followed. In addition particular attention was expended to ensure that safety, aesthetics, and optimal return upon investment were realized. An auxiliary benefit gleaned from the project was the identification of older, outdated and inefficient electrical infrastructure. This equipment was subsequently replaced and upgraded accordingly, which improved operational safety and ensured more reliable electrical outputs. The project accounted for and supplied appropriate training to ensure that the application and use of the EV as well as the solar array are realized. This training included industry standard best practices in regard to maintenance as well as integration with legacy systems. In addition, daily and life cycle performance metrics can be captured due to the EV and solar monitoring systems that were installed. The NIH in the true spirit of Executive Orders 13423 and 13514 has embraced the alternative approach to fuel usage. Eighty one (81%) of the NIH automotive fleet consists of Alternative Fuel. Using 2005 as a baseline, the NIH has achieved a 225% increase in alternative fuel usage and a 55% reduction in petroleum gas usage. In summary this project through collaborations across divisions, institutes and with the support of contractors has realized both environmental benefits and fiscal savings. The environmental benefits are an anticipated savings of 1000 metric tons of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. The cost benefits anticipate maintenance and fuel savings of $8,000 per vehicle annually; and the installation of the solar array supplies continuous clean energy back to the NIH grid.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Individual: Brenda Martinez (NIH)

The recycling initiative instituted on the 3 South East Day Hospital (3SEDH) by Brenda Martinez was born out of the observation that a majority of the packaging of healthcare supplies was being disposed of along with the regular solid waste. Brenda, with her knowledge of the recycling programs in Montgomery County, Maryland and at the NIH, realized that most of the packaging waste for healthcare products used on the floor could be recycled. Secure in the belief that a recycling program would benefit the environment and the NIH, Brenda set about to
begin a recycling program on the 3SEDH. While collaborating with her nurse manager, Brenda sought out facilities managers responsible for the recycling program at the NIH Clinical Center. An educational session was arranged to inform the 3SEDH staff members of the recycling requirements in Montgomery County, and the recycling programs currently in place at the NIH. Further, information was provided as to what types of materials were recyclable and what each individual staff member could do to make this recycling initiative a success. Following these educational sessions, Brenda sought out feedback from individual staff members regarding their perceived barriers to recycling on the 3SEDH. The overwhelming barrier to recycling, as reported by staff members, was access to recycling containers and timely removal of accumulated recyclables. To overcome these barriers, Brenda coordinated with the 3SEDH Clinical Manager to arrange regular scheduled removal of recyclables from the 3SEDH. To address the barriers to access, Brenda coordinated with NIH facilities managers for placement of additional recycling containers in all patient care and staff office and work areas. To increase staff participation, compliance, and convenience, she consulted with the Green Team to also obtain small blue collection bins. She obtained 20 bins for the patient treatment workspaces and 5 offices. Starting in September 2013 in collaboration with the Green Team and Standardization Committee she was the unit champion for recycling disposable oxygen sensors, as well. The results of the recycling initiative began by Brenda have been profound. To begin, the 3SEDH now positively contributes to the over 3,600 pounds of recycled waste that is generated daily during NIH Clinical Center operations. She also, periodically sends out recycling reminders and updates as per Green Team, to nursing staff encouraging ongoing participation in recycling. Currently, all items are being discarded into sharps containers. Brenda seeks guidance from the Green Team, regarding proper recycling procedures, including what items can be recycled, how they can be recycled and where they can be recycled. She has also participated and given feedback to the Green Team regarding recycling packaging. The 3SEDH staff participation in the recycling program has been robust and its reception has been overwhelmingly positive. The program on the 3SEDH supports the NIH in maintaining compliance with Montgomery County recycling requirements. Equally important, Brenda’s passion and commitment to protecting the environment has motivated the staff to take action not only in the work place, but also in their lives at home.

Individual: Sophia Glezos Voit (NIH)

As NIMH Green Committee Chair, Ms. Sophia Glezos Voit spearheaded events to collect and distribute unused items to recycling centers, assisting the community by reducing items needlessly going into area landfills. The 2014 events included: January - Four contractor-size bags of coats/sweaters were delivered to the NIH Children’s Inn, a residential home for children treated at the NIH, and their families. Families come from around the world. Some have unexpected extended stays and are not prepared for cold weather. Others from tropical climates do not own coats/sweaters. Three large bags of holiday lights were taken to a recycle center. February – 40 pairs of eyeglasses were taken to a Lions Club International drop-off site for reuse. March/April – 250 CDs/DVDs were made available to staff. June – Non-accountable electronic equipment was taken to recycle centers. September – 15 large bags of shoes were taken to a drop-off location. Throughout – Towels/blankets were taken to animal shelters/rescue organizations. Ms. Voit oversaw planning and management of the NIMH’s Green Committee’s Earth Day event, “Protecting the Earth, Protecting Our Health,” open to
Neuroscience Center Building occupants. The event included collection of recyclable items; information on recycling, reusing, and reducing waste; and samples of USDA-certified organic healthful foods.

Organization: Crispin Hernandez – NIH Solvent Recycling Team

The NIH Bethesda Solvent Recycling Team, has had significant success in implementing solvent recycling at the NIH. The Team comprised of the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP), Waste and Resource Recovery Branch (WRRB) Chemical Waste Team along with partners from the Division of Veterinary Services (DVR) and key contract staffs are NIH Green Heroes. Through the recovery of spent solvents (alcohol, formalin, and xylene) for re-use instead of disposal as hazardous waste, the NIH has seen a significant savings in precious research dollars. During 2014, while hazardous waste disposal costs avoidance was a modest $1400, there was a savings of $46,000 in procurement for the 3,800 lbs. of recovered/reused solvents. NIH researchers have been pleased with results, reporting no distinction between the use of recycled product and unused commercial product. Successes such as these are attributed to the outstanding support, guidance, and dedication of all involved in this collaborative effort. Solvent recycling is a sustainable business practice designed to improve NIH environmental performance and conservation of resources. This initiative helps the NIH achieve the HHS Strategic Sustainability Plan (SSPP) goals and NIH Green Initiatives for pollution prevention, resource conservation & toxicity reduction. This program also supports waste minimization goals mandated by environmental regulations and Executive Orders.

Good Neighbor Award

Organization: Michelle Coley, Jake Deal, LCDR Robert Horsh, Mark Miller, Chan-Nhu Nguyen, Moses Ukaoma - DEP Decommissioning Program

The DEP Decommissioning Program aims to ensure environmental health of both indoor and outdoor spaces on a large and small scale. By identifying potential environmental hazards (e.g. mercury, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls, and asbestos) andremediating them from the space, potential regulatory, legal, or environmental risks are eliminated. Notable decommissioning projects include the NIH Building 7 facility that is scheduled to be torn down in April of 2015. Through extensive Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III work, many hazards were identified and remediated. Additionally, due to the nature of the building’s construction, many previously unknown hazards were discovered and eliminated as well. Similarly, the Gerontology Research Center on the Johns Hopkins Bayview campus completed the decommissioning process in anticipation of transferring the federal facility back to the Johns Hopkins University. The DEP Decommissioning team has streamlined the decommissioning process in hopes of increasing the volume of decommissioning requests while still maintaining a high quality of service. Utilizing existing technologies made available to DEP, such as Geographic Information Systems, this is entirely possible and has been proven as an effective workflow.
Green Hero Video Outreach Award

NIH Parents of Preschoolers

Organization: Jacquelyn Johnson, LTJG Ariell Lawrence, Brad Moss – NIH Parents of Preschoolers

We reached out to NIH Parents of Preschoolers (via Carla Ocampo) to create a series of short videos to promote the NIH Environmental Management System and sustainability. Jack Adams was the most inquisitive and held a rather witty conversation with Brad Moss, OD Communication Director.

Sustainable Acquisitions Award

Individual: Gary Marquez

Mr. Gary Marquez, Chief of the NIH-Supply Center, has consistently been a supporter and promoter of the NIH Go Green initiative by maintaining a robust assortment of green products made available to the NIH. At his direction the Supply Center has been involved in acquiring, obtaining and marketing green products at the lowest available prices among competitive commercials sources. Throughout this year Mr. Marquez directed the acquisition of over 120 Green products to the Supply Center which reduced the usage of non-ecological products, reduced costs, and increased customer satisfaction among NIH buying activities. He also directed the continual support of the NIH Go Green events and constantly advertised the green products available from the two self-service stores on campus and the Gaithersburg Distribution Center. By creating green-friendly plans, policies, standards, partnerships, and services, Mr. Marquez has been able to attract new vendors who support the Green initiative and increase awareness throughout the NIH. By adhering to and following the NIH Green initiatives the Supply Center has embarked on the clear path of acquiring, stocking, and making available for purchase to the NIH community clean, green and user demanded products.

Sustainable Design and Facilities Award

Organization: Pete Baxter, Tony Clifford, Jake Deal, Susan Hinton, Mark F. Miller, Brad Moss – RML LED Lighting System

The Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) is a research campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) located in Hamilton, Montana. In the fall of 2012 a Site Improvements project was started that included site lighting. Prior to this project there was no comprehensive site lighting system which was a challenge for employee safety as well as security concerns. With neighboring houses immediately at the campus perimeter it was a challenge to get the right amount of light in the right places without disturbing the neighbors while still conserving energy. It was decided in the design process to go with LED lighting technology with evidence that the technology had matured sufficiently to have reliable fixtures while saving energy. The existing building mounted fixtures were also replaced with LED fixtures to get the same color of light throughout. This project consisted of approximately 80 pole-mounted fixtures and 55 building mounted fixtures. The estimated annual energy savings is 110,000 kilowatt-hours at a cost savings of about $11,000. In addition, approximately $99,864 in rebates were obtained from the utility company. In addition there are life cycle cost savings due to the long life of the LED fixtures.
Honorable Mention

Environmental Stewardship Award

Small Group: Corey Thomas, David Hubbard, Hannah Stachmus, Marea Petrelles, Gerald Haley, Darrah Ferguson - Contract Property Administrative Tool (CPAT)

The Contract Property Section designed, developed, and implemented a Contract Property Administrative Tool (CPAT) that was initiated based on the vision of the Division of Logistics Services (DLS), Property Management Branch (PMB), and the need of the Contract Property Section’s requirement to design a program to improve efficiency and reduce paper utilization in accordance with the Paper Reduction Act 44 U.S.C. §3501. The Contract Property Section’s forward thinking and development of the SharePoint based CPAT program allowed for the conversion of over 2,200 NIH contracts and 8,300 contract support files by converting over 151,000 paper documents into electronic files. This innovative system reduced customer response time per action, freed valuable office space, eliminated 80% of paper usage within the section, and reduced approximately one half ton of paper being disposed of annually. The vision and development of the CPAT program by the Contract Property Section allowed for $16,000 in initial savings and over $20,000 in each following year. In addition to financial savings, the Contract Property Section achieved their ultimate goal of improving efficiencies that directly enriched the customer service experience for all supported NIH Contracting Officers and Contract Awardees. The Division of Logistics Services always promotes eco-friendly process improvement efforts to reduce NIH’s consumption footprint on the environment. The Contract Property Section took that vision to heart when planning, developing and implementing a Contract Property Administrative Tool (CPAT) over the last year. The Contract Property Section evaluated their current practices and revolutionized their processes to eliminate or reduce waste and enhance efficiency in order to improve their overall customer service efforts; while still maintaining all Government standards. The Contract Property Section collaborated with PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP to plan, design and implement a SharePoint based program to enhance daily operations in managing $234M worth of Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) assigned to over 2,000 NIH contracts. The development of the CPAT program eliminated the previous requirements of receiving, printing, filing and maintaining hard copies of over 151,000 documents by automating 100% of the historical documents, new documents received and those issued as part of customer service responses. Since its establishment, the program has prevented the unnecessary usage of over 30,000 pieces of paper by avoiding the printing requirement to establish the mandatory files. The CPAT tool also offers electronic mail communication with the NIH Contracting Officers and Contract Awardees worldwide that will save an additional 10,000 pieces paper annually and $4,500 in annual postage services. The new automated process improved efficiency by reducing document scanning and manual file research time; saving employees six minutes per customer service response action totaling over $12,000 in savings per year. Finally, the CPAT tool eliminated unnecessary storage space required to maintain hard copies of the controlled documents and allowed the 108 square feet to be reutilized as office workspace for a new employee. The Contract Property Section’s innovative process improvement efforts enhanced office efficiency and improved customer
service by freeing valuable office space, reducing 80% of paper usage in daily operations, and by stream-lining work processes that reduced customer service response times. The planning and implementing of the Contract Property Administrative Tool has saved a total of $16,860 to date and will save over $20,000 in each subsequent year in the future. The future plans of the Contract Property Section is to further reduce the need of paper documents by incorporating an electronic signature capability into the CPAT program; which will further reduce paper dependency and increase reduction percentages from 80 percent to an outstanding 88 percent. The outstanding accomplishment of the Contract Property Section in streamlining their processes and reducing the paper consumption exemplifies their commitment to preserve and protect the environment, natural resources, and promote sustainability of Government operations. The nominees are highly deserving of the Environmental Stewardship Award for 2014.

Small Group: Bill Steinmetz, Bill Willis, Scott Capouch, Gordon Caviness, Brian Harris, Steve Herndon, Chris Hunt, Versal Mason, John McLamb, Paul Poliachik, David Sawyer, Mitch Williams and Terri Stubblefield - NIEHS Site Ecology Team

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) initiated a number of innovative strategies that address ecological threats posed by invasive species. Along with counterparts at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NIEHS created the Site Ecology Team (SET), a group that develops methods for protecting the 509-acre campus in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, which both agencies share. The SET protects the campus ecosystem against invasive species by monitoring lake nutrient levels, maintaining proper fish populations, improving campus wildlife habitat, and developing usage policy for the campus lake and trails. It has implemented an action plan to manage and protect native ash trees from the invasive beetle, the Emerald Ash Boror. The group has also identified and inventoried approximately 200 invasive plants and classified them by threat level. This list now serves as a monitoring tool for preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants on campus. The SET educated NIEHS employees about invasive species through a highly successful three-part awareness series published in the institute’s internal newsletter, by hosting seminars with expert speakers, and developing permanent displays. We believe these practices may serve as models for other Operating Divisions (OPDIVs) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Organization: NCI Green Team - (NIH)

The NCI Green Team represents the National Cancer Institute for the NIH Environmental Management System. This team helps NCI meet its environmental stewardship goals by promoting recycling, advocating for waste reduction and energy efficiency, and educating employees about relevant environmental issues. In 2014, the Green Team led efforts to further NCI’s sustainability and environmental goals. Recycling, Sustainability Outreach and Communications Activities: America Recycles Day – November 12-15, 2013. NCI partnered with the R&W for America Recycles Day. We collected eye glasses and their cases, personal cell phone and accessories, sneakers, towels and blankets, NIH-owned VHS tapes and CDs, batteries, and computer-related equipment. Earth Day - Take Your Child To Work Day (TYCTWD) – April 24, 2014. The Earth Day event was held along with TYCTWD for all NCI employees in Shady Grove. This event was a huge success as hundreds of NCI employees and their children visited
the tent in the Shady Grove court yard. Activities included a recycling art project for kids and their parents, a book swap (remaining books were donated to a local library). Exhibits included regional Bikeshare and other transportation options, Maryland native plants, filter options for single-use coffee makers, and how to compost. We also raffled off reusable single-use coffee filters, lunch bags, and cups. Additionally the NCI Green Team sponsored a week-long recycling drive held April 24-May 1. NCI’s Office of Space and Facilities Management, NCI Shady Grove’s building facility management (JBG), and the NIH R&W were also integral to this effort. Recycled materials included: eye glasses and their cases, personal cell phone and accessories, sneakers, towels and blankets, NIH-owned VHS tapes and CDs, batteries, and computer-related equipment. This Earth Day event was a successful venture that fostered teamwork and camaraderie in the workplace and promoted sustainable ideals while benefiting charities.

Creating a Community of Practice: The NCI Green Team meets once a month. During meetings we brainstorm green initiatives and discuss how to incorporate these ideas into the workplace. Member participation is voluntary and all efforts are in addition to our daily workload. Specific Initiatives Include: collect alkaline batteries throughout Shady Grove for recycling, advocate increasing recycling & reducing paper use in the workplace, field trips to further group’s understanding of others’ successful recycling programs, gathering information from community groups for future initiatives, collaborating with other NIH environmental groups, and garden plant exchange (NCI Frederick employees). During 2014, the NCI Green Team led numerous outreach activities to help educate employees in the ways that they can help save NCI operations and maintenance costs through recycling, reuse and efficient energy usage. The initiatives and programs championed by the NCI Green Team demonstrate how individual efforts can lead to significant effects in the workplace.

Good Neighbor Award

Small Group: Jake Deal, Mark Miller, Tony Clifford, Pete Baxter, Brad Moss, Susan Hinton

Communicating Green Features on the NIH Bethesda Campus

Over the years, the NIH has incorporated technologies, processes, and programs that are designed to increase the sustainability and environmental stewardship of the NIH’s Bethesda campus and its operations. Many of these processes and programs have changed the way that NIH does business and are known as our agency “green features”. These features range from LEED-certified buildings, green roofs, solar panels, animal sanctuaries, natural habitat areas, stormwater management efficiencies and employee commuting options and greenhouse gas energy reduction programs. NIH has a strong communications team working on broadening the awareness of the sustainability and green features on the NIH Bethesda campus. One way to increase the awareness of how sustainable the NIH operates is to provide user friendly informational kiosks for building occupants and visitors that highlight NIH sustainability efforts. With this in mind, two of our campus facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art interactive kiosks highlighting sustainability efforts and features, including building specific and campus-wide features, and agency-wide programs and initiatives. During the development of these kiosks, the NIH Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) identified the need for a publication that articulates NIH sustainability features and programs. In January 2014, DEP created the “NIH Green Features” publication to highlight the physical features of the Bethesda campus which demonstrate environmental stewardship such as the NIH stream and Stoney Creek retention
pond. Information regarding sustainable employee programs, such as the Transhare program, pollution prevention and campus recycling initiatives is also included. This publication has been used by NIH Senior Leadership as a reporting mechanism, presented to VIP guests and touring groups, and included in new employee orientations, and has been the focal point at various outreach activities.
Fiscal Year 2015 Awards

Change Agents Award

The Office of the Director Green Team developed the “OD Green Initiative: Make Your Event Green” guide as a new resource to assist staff in supporting successful environmental stewardship. The comprehensive guide covers all aspects of event planning and management, with easy-to-follow suggestions to conserve resources and reduce costs of meetings, conferences, and special events.

Corporate Responsibility Award
Small Group: William Ketner, LTJG Ariell Lawrence, Thomas Meredith, Thomas Pfaffman - Improving Recycling with Behavioral and Program Strategies

The NIH Division of Environmental Protection strives every year to improve on their sustainability goals on the Bethesda Campus. This year, the Solid Waste Team and Ecology Services focused on improving behavioral and program strategies towards recycling and waste disposal. Through these efforts, the “Go Green, Go Clean” initiative was created to reduce contamination and raise awareness in proper waste disposal procedures.

Environmental Stewardship Award
Individual: CAPT Edward Pfister (NIH)

Captain Pfister of the U.S. Public Health Service has been a key champion of greening efforts at HHS for several years. As the Department’s Chief Environmental Officer, CAPT Pfister was instrumental in increasing the focus on greening HHS and championed the Go Green Get Healthy HHS initiative. Currently, CAPT Pfister is the Chief of the NIH Waste & Resource Recovery Branch (WWRB), Division of Environmental Protection. In this capacity, he continues his focus on greening efforts while increasing the sustainable use of natural resources at NIH and the environmentally responsible disposal of waste products.

Small Group: Anjili Desilva, Daniel Ebert, Gregory Gendron, Dr. Don Guan, LDCR Leo Gumapas, Alex Huang, LT Matthew Hunt, Donald Mayberry, Dr. Farhad Memarzadeh, Joseph Nieves, Stephen O’Connor, Donna Phillips, Alamelu Ramesh, Kayvan Torkashvan, Andy Vergara, Daniel Wheeland (NIH) - Central Utility Plant Team

The total annual energy demand of the NIH Bethesda campus is equivalent to 50,000 Maryland homes. The Central Utility Plant leadership team made operational, system, and process improvements throughout FY 2015 to meet this demand while also reducing the environmental impacts, thereby supporting environmental sustainability goals of NIH, and achieving more than 15 percent reductions in energy and water use, and greenhouse gas emissions. Through
innovative management strategies and continuous improvements, NIH saved more than $23.7 million in costs for energy, water, oil, and water treatment.

**Small Group: Debra Del Corral, Clyde Hasty, Christopher Hunt, Chris Long, Scott Merkle, Joseph Shealey, Valeria Shropshire, Bill Steinmetz (NIEHS) - Burden’s Creek Site Cleanup**

The Burden’s Creek site was originally equipped with 12 manufactured buildings and a paved parking area for temporary use by NIEHS during construction of the NIEHS facilities in the late 1970s. Use of the site was discontinued and the buildings fell into disrepair. Due to the cleanup team’s diligence, 65 tons of metal, 120 tons of concrete, 200 tons of miscellaneous construction and demolition debris, 720 fluorescent light bulbs, 12 thermostats and 12 smoke detectors were recycled, and 63 pounds of Freon were recaptured, significantly reducing landfill waste and removing toxins in the environment.

**Energy and Fleet Award**

**Small Group: John Barbee, Kyle Hawkins, Alison Karver, Shawn O’Neal, Joseph A. Shealey, Victor Stancil, Brian Vannatten - LED Lighting and PV Array**

The NIH Office of Research Facilities Management Branch accomplished energy savings through the installation of a 60 KW PV array and the conversion of all exterior roadway and walkway lighting from metal halide to LED on the NIEHS campus. The project will save approximately 300,000 kWh and $18,000 annually. Diligent waste management during the project resulted in the recycling of 300 tons of construction debris.

**Small Group: Paul Cammaroto, Robert High, Diana Hirshfeld, Bruce Jue, Ted Kozak, Greg Leifer, Lelia Nikkhoo, Richard Wermers - HHS Energy and Water Group**

The HHS Energy and Water Workgroup consists of energy and water managers from each OPDIV and two headquarters personnel. The workgroup has been working diligently on reducing energy and water intensity at HHS owned facilities throughout the OPDIVs. In the past five years, energy use intensity has decreased by 10.7 percent and water use intensity by 5.7 percent.

**Sustainable Acquisitions Award**

**Small Group: Erinn Brown, Gwendolyn Carr, Andree Charlton, John Davis, Jim Irvin, Hector Kennedy, Gary Marquez, Gilbert Scott, Josue Gonzalez-Zayas - Go Green Supplies**

The NIH Supply Center is working hard to promote everything from simple green slogans and campaigns to alternative products, and organic/non-toxic products such as Steriplex and Wada. To increase stakeholder engagement, the Supply Center gathered a team representing a broad cross section of IC’s to create a message that resonates with NIH Go Green initiatives. As a result, over 120 new greener alternative products are available to NIH consumers at the lowest prices among competitive commercial sources.
**Water Use Efficiency Award**


The NIH Bethesda Campus Chilled Water Plant was experiencing a large increase in the chilled water loss. The Office of Research Facilities formed a team of engineers, technicians, operators, program/project managers, and maintenance staff, to investigate the source of chilled water loss. The team identified leaks and wasteful practices, which once discovered, were repaired and corrected. This resulted in an average savings of 1,472,000 gallons of water per month.

**Honorable Mention**

**Environmental Stewardship Award**

Small Group: Thomas Carroll, Crispin Hernandez, LTJG Ariell Lawrence, David Mohammadi, Ken Okojie, CAPT Edward Pfister, John Prom, Finley Watts, Roger Weidner - Battery Recycling Program

The battery recycling program is one of the key ingredients to NIH’s successful pollution prevention efforts. Battery use is ubiquitous and the extensively promoted battery recycling program contributes to meeting recycling goals and enable compliance with Federal and State ‘Universal Waste’ regulations.

**Good Neighbor Award**

Small Group: Thomas Carroll, Crispin Hernandez, LTJG Ariell Lawrence, Jacquelyn McGauley, David Mohammadi, CAPT Edward Pfister, John Prom, Roger Weidner - Annual Lab Chemical Waste Management Inspection Program

The annual non-regulatory laboratory chemical waste management inspection by DEP is an effective means to achieve awareness and compliance. The annual inspections have improved laboratory chemical waste management practices by providing an opportunity for deficiencies to be addressed on the spot by research staff themselves. The benefits of the inspection is the interactive dialogue and relationship-building with researchers that increases awareness and provides feedback enabling the development of more efficient practices to meet researchers needs.

Small Group: Christopher Batzel, Sr., Sean Brown, Pat Coogan, Shane Ferns, James Keisler, Gale Stevens, Margaret Straubinger - Personal Property Section Electronic Document Repository

The NIH Property Management Branch, Personal Property Section, designed, developed, and implemented a Personal Property Electronic Document Repository. The Personal Property
Section’s forward thinking and development of the Electronic Document Repository allowed for the converting of over 200,000 paper documents into electronic files. This innovative system reduced customer response time per action, freed valuable office space, eliminated 85% of paper usage within the section, and reduced approximately one half ton of paper being disposed of annually.

**Sustainable Design and Facilities Award**

Small Group: Aaron Bester, Lee Burkhardt, Kelly Hudson, Dave Lennon, James Parr, Charles “Paul” Williams, Jack Veldboom - RML Incinerator Upgrade

The RML Incinerator Project involved upgrading a medical waste incinerator and replacing emissions equipment to meet new EPA emissions requirements. RML assembled a team of construction managers, engineers, and architects to research and evaluate control technologies. A multi-faceted control system was designed and installation was completed in 2015. The system has operated successfully since completion.
Fiscal Year 2016 Awards

Change Agents Award
Small Group: Michael B. Fratina, Song H. Gotiangco, Michael J. Kessler, George L. Martinez - NIH Integrating Sustainability Through Logistics Programs
The Division of Logistics Services (DLS), Office of Acquisition and Logistics Management (OALM) worked diligently to transform the logistics processes and procedures to align the NIH logistics programs with the goals defined by Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade. Throughout FY 2016, DLS worked closely with the NIH community and other Federal and State agencies to reduce the environmental impact through a collaborative recycling program and by right-sizing the NIH Automotive Fleet. The efficiencies instituted successfully lead to the reutilization of over 7,200 laboratory and administrative property assets resulting in saving the Federal government over $6 million. By promoting eco-consciousness throughout the NIH, DLS reduced petroleum fuel consumption by 59,509 gallons and increased the use of alternative fuel by 58,595 gallons. DLS also partnered with the Office of Acquisition and engaged Institutes and Centers representatives to promote greener alternative products as part of the NIH Go Green initiative. As a result, 120 new green products were added to the NIH Supply Center’s product portfolio.

Environmental Stewardship Award
Small Group: Paul Johnson, Ed Kang, Elizabeth Lake, Claire Long, John McLamb, Parker Sims, William Steinmetz, Cheryl Thompson, Bill Willis - NIH NIEHS Preparing the Next Generation of Environmentalists
The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences’ (NIEHS) mission is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives. Colloquially, the ‘environment’ is our middle name and this guiding principle extends beyond our walls to the community and beyond. At NIEHS, environmental stewardship comes to life in our efforts to inspire young children – to help them develop into future champions of the environment. From the operation of our nationally recognized child care center to our many educational outreach efforts, the Institute has transformed the lives of thousands of children in our own backyard and around the world. Our hope is that these children will grow to be the future stewards of our planet, instilled with the lessons of conservation and sustainability that are so important. A team of NIEHS employees and contractors has led efforts to build awareness and enhance outreach to affect an age-diverse audience in meaningful ways. These efforts go far beyond their normal job related duties. Hopefully, by sharing these achievements vis-a-vis the HHS Green Champions recognition, others may also be inspired to reach out to young people in their communities to instill an appreciation for the connection between the environment and our health.
Energy and Fleet Award
Small Group: John Cheatham, Terrance Coates, Enrique Flores, James Lewis, Mark Minnick - NIH Fleet Management Section
Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, requires agencies to establish a Scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target to be achieved by FY 2025, improve fleet and vehicle efficiency and management, and reduce fleet-wide per-mile GHG emissions from fleet vehicles relative to a FY 2014 baseline. The NIH Fleet Management Services has developed and implemented a Sustainability Implementation Plan in order to meet E. O. 13693, by optimizing and right-sizing fleet composition, reducing vehicle size, eliminating underutilized vehicles, and acquiring and locating vehicles to match local fuel infrastructure. The plan also increases utilization of alternative fuel in dual-fuel vehicles, implements vehicle idle mitigation technologies, establishes a policy/plan to reduce miles traveled (e.g. through vehicle sharing), improves routing with telematics, eliminates trips, and improves scheduling. This will be accomplished by installing Global Positioning System (GPS) on fleet vehicles. Data captured by the GPS will provide users and the Fleet Management Section with an effective measurement tool to obtain fuel consumption, vehicle idle time and overall vehicle usage.

Good Neighbor Award
Small Group: Jeffery Church, Paul Johnson, Bill Steinmetz, Mitch Williams - NIH NIEHS Climate Resilience Planning Team
In FY 2016, the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) conducted organizational climate resilience planning to help meet the challenges of severe weather events and changes in overall climate. The team worked collaboratively to identify vulnerabilities, determine impacts and stakeholders, and develop resilience measures. The effort required extraordinary teamwork and consensus building to prioritize, score, and rank vulnerabilities and resilience measures. The effort supports Executive Order 13653 requiring facilities to develop plans that integrate weather and climate considerations into agency operations.

Sustainable Acquisitions Award
Individual: Dr. Da-Ting Lin
Dr. Da-Ting Lin has worked diligently as an Investigator to integrate sustainable practices into his research using in vivo optical imaging methods. He has prioritized energy conservation, financial savings, and protecting both human and environmental health through his work. He is conscious of the impact his research has on the environment and makes significant efforts to promote sustainability within laboratories. He has worked tirelessly to develop the miniScope imaging system which produces outstanding results while being budget conscious and energy efficient. He incorporated LEDs in the system, which are more environmentally sustainable compared to traditional lights. While making purchasing decisions for his laboratory he prioritizes human health and chooses non-toxic, non-carcinogenic materials. He is also innovative with protocols
and avoids mercury in his work. He also promotes awareness of sustainability within the government through staff training and realizes the potential to encourage others to follow his example.

Honorable Mention

Change Agents Award

Lt Jamie Cherup, Brian Czarnecki, Christopher Gaines, Michelle Holshue, RADM Peter Kilmarx, Lt Raven McGlotten, CAPT Edward Pfister, Donna Phillips, Lt Leslie Poudrier, Lt Kelly Ratteree (Verdin) - NIH Step It Up - Take The Stairs Campaign

In 2015, U.S. Surgeon General VADM Murthy launched Step It Up! A Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities. In the spirit of promoting healthy living and sustainability in the workplace, NIH U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Officers also launched the “Step it Up - Take the Stairs!” campaign with the objective of increasing physical activity by promoting stair usage and reducing elevator usage. The USPHS officers partnered with the Office of Resource Facilities (ORF) and the Office of Research Services (ORS) for coordination, material funding, and publicity. The campaign was launched by the NIH Director at NIH Take-a-Hike Day in June 2016. Over 3,500 proven-effective, point-of-decision motivational signs were posted in elevator banks and stairwells by 39 USPHS officers at nearly all NIH facilities in Bethesda, MD, and at other locations in Maryland, Montana, and North Carolina. Additional promotion included posters, cafeteria table tents, e-mails, social media posts, and publications. The impact of the campaign was demonstrated by decreased elevator usage shown through electronic monitoring and an NIH-wide survey, which revealed that 69% of respondents had seen the campaign and, of them, 35% had increased their stair usage. The project serves as an example that a decrease in elevator use and an increase in physical activity in the workplace can be promoted by simple, low-cost interventions. The EPA and other OPDIVs including CDC, HRSA, CMS, SAMHSA, and IHS have expressed interest in duplicating the campaign.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Swati Damle, Mark Miller, Anne Robinson, Smita Siddhanti, Nick Steinke - NIH Environmental Lead Auditor's Group

The Environmental Compliance Audit is a critical component of NIH’s ongoing environmental management program. The audit verifies compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, evaluates the effectiveness of existing NIH Environmental Management Systems (NEMS), and identifies unregulated potential risk at the NIH. Additionally, the Integrated Environmental Compliance and Environmental Management System (EMS) audit is used to verify compliance with governmental regulations and improve the efficiency of operations. The NIH has contracted the Environmental Compliance and EMS auditing work to EnDyna Inc., which requires the development, implementation, and monitoring of a corrective action plan (CAP). After the audit,
the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) started to meet monthly with different auditors to resolve any issues. During these meetings, the DEP provided information on the EMS components such as regulatory requirements, roles and responsibilities, and fiscal/labor resources in order to find a solution. In addition, the DEP emphasized the importance of management reviews. After the integrated audits at NIH, the Environmental Lead Auditor’s Group presented the CAPs and implementation plan to the top management at each EMS. The group has started meeting with the top management quarterly in order to ensure sufficient communication, which has led to the resolution of more than 50% of the issues within 6 months. There are some remaining issues regarding funding and manpower, however due to the improved communications, tremendous progress has been made. The group’s goal is to reach 90% compliance in the next two years.