

EPA Region 3 Greener Cleanup and Sustainable Reuse Policy

In August 2009, the EPA Headquarters Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) released *Principles for Greener Cleanups*. To encourage implementation of these concepts and to promote broader goals for sustainable reuse of cleanup sites, Region 3 is issuing a “Greener Cleanup and Sustainable Reuse” policy. Region 3’s Hazardous Site Cleanup and Land and Chemicals Divisions developed this policy to promote more sustainable, holistic cleanups pursuant to the Superfund, Federal Facilities, Brownfields, RCRA Corrective Action and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Programs. This policy is the first step towards development and implementation of strategies that will enable Region 3 to demonstrate improved environmental outcomes from its cleanup programs.

Greener cleanups consider all environmental effects of remedy selection and implementation, and incorporate options to minimize any environmental footprint. Sustainable reuse enhances greener cleanups by optimizing environmental best management practices (e.g. recycling demolition material) when designing and constructing the reuse of a cleaned up property. Region 3 will use greener cleanup and sustainable reuse approaches without compromising the cleanup objectives, community interests, the reasonableness of cleanup timeframes, or the protectiveness of cleanup actions.

Greener cleanup and sustainable reuse minimize negative impacts such as habitat disturbance and pollution and waste generation. This comprehensive approach to the cleanup of properties may reduce costs through energy, materials, and resource conservation and may result in enhanced benefits to communities, ecological systems and businesses.

Region 3’s cleanup programs will work towards implementing the following five core OSWER elements, where practical, from initial site investigations to long-term site management:

- Minimizing Total Energy Use and Maximizing Renewable Energy Use
- Minimizing Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Minimizing Water Use and Impacts to Water Resources
- Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling Materials and Waste
- Protecting and Restoring Land and Ecosystems

While sustainable reuse approaches are fairly well developed (e.g. revegetation with native species), green cleanups are an emerging field of practice. As a result, approaches to green cleanups will continue to evolve as knowledge grows and as new technologies develop. The most current information on greener cleanups is available at <http://www.cluin.org/greenremediation/>.

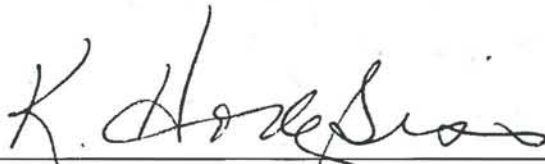
To implement this Greener Cleanup and Sustainable Reuse Policy, our Divisions will identify key best management practices and measures for select core elements to focus on as part of annual planning. The applicability of these practices and measures will vary by program, as laid out in coordinated divisional workplans. We welcome your thoughts and ideas as we proceed.



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Date



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References & Related Links

- 2006-2011 EPA Strategic Plan
http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2006/entire_report.pdf
- CLU-IN - Green Remediation
<http://www.cluin.org/greenremediation/>
- Executive Order 13423—Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management
http://www.ofee.gov/eo/EO_13423.pdf
- Mid-Atlantic Brownfields and Land Revitalization - Sustainable Cleanup and Redevelopment
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hscd/bf-lr/sustainablereuse.htm>
- Mid-Atlantic Cleanup
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hscd/index.htm>
- Technology Primer - Green Remediation: Incorporating Sustainable Environmental Practices into Remediation of Contaminated Sites
<http://www.clu-in.org/download/remed/green-remediation-primer.pdf>