1. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Water Resource Management

Dan O'Connor, ORNL

Implementing a multi-layered approach to manage its water use, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) reduced its annual water use by 64 percent (1.1 billion gallons) from fiscal year (FY) 1985 to FY 2012. Replacing old facilities eliminated once-through cooling systems with closed-loop chilled water cooling systems saving, in one case, 147 million gallons per year. Leak detection companies were useful in identifying leaks totaling 100 million gallons per year with additional leaks detected as facility upgrades were made.

An Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) led to installation of low-flow devices and flow-control valves were installed to match water flow with water flow need in research facilities. ORNL’s “Lab Within a Park” features native rather than ornamental plants, riparian gardens and retention basins, removal of invasive species, and campus-wide landscaping planning, all of which contribute to water savings.

2. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Energy Management Program

Greg Palko, ORNL

The same strategic thinking that ORNL applied to water use reductions was also used to more efficiently manage its energy use. A key element of the energy management program was revitalizing ORNL’s infrastructure to better meet present and future research missions which meant partnering with researchers to better understand those needs. Revitalization allowed ORNL to vacate older and more expensive facilities, build new or refurbish other facilities, and consolidate staff. The energy management strategy capitalized on broadly defining “return on investment” to encompass increased safety and productivity, and reduced impacts associated with aging infrastructure in addition to cost savings. This broad definition contributed to a larger audience for the energy management message.

Results to date indicate that ORNL is making steady progress in achieving its British thermal unit per square foot (Btu/Sq.Ft) goal. Compared to FY 1985, ORNL achieved a 41 percent reduction in building energy intensity and an 11 percent reduction in building energy use.

3. Enhanced Migratory Bird Protection and Research on DOE/SNL Controlled Lands

Susan Lacy, NNSA; Steve Cox, Sandia/NM

The mission of the Ecology Program at Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico is to assist site personnel complete their work while complying with environmental laws and conserving resources. Part of that mission is collecting ecological resource inventory data and information on plant and animal species on Sandia sites located in New Mexico, Hawaii, and Nevada.

The protected species management plan developed for the Sandia Kauai Test Facility, for example, outlines site personnel procedures necessary to protect species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The document also suggests innovative strategies such as green and shielded lighting to eliminate or minimize seabird fallout. Guidance of a similar nature – but specific to the site and species of concern – is developed for personnel at the New Mexico and Nevada sites. The guides’ objectives are to modify workforce behaviors; periodic meetings are further opportunities to provide workers with information on why species protection is important and how it can be accomplished.

4. Hanford Site Migratory Bird Protection Program

Paula Call, Hanford

The major elements of Hanford’s Migratory Bird Protection Program are employee training, and a monitoring program for raptors, burrowing owls, and upland birds. In addition, the program provides evaluations of site projects to detect any impacts to migratory birds and suggests mitigation for habitat
improvement from Hanford projects. In 2012, over 100 project evaluations were conducted to determine if a proposed project had the potential to affect migratory birds.

The Bald Eagle Management Plan is a key component of Hanford’s bird protection program as it involves regularly monitoring 9 active roosts, maintaining 400 meter seasonal buffers to protect habitat, and training employees about the plans purpose and features. Hanford also monitors and provides protective strategies for raptors, ferruginous hawks, burrowing owls, and shrub steppe birds.

5. Sustainability and Compliance Reporting
Electronic Stewardship Activities

Cate Berard, EPA/HS-21
The EPEAT registry (http://www.epeat.net/) for imaging equipment and televisions opened on February 12, 2013. Imaging equipment is defined as copiers, digital duplicators, facsimile machines, mailing machines, multifunction devices, printers, and scanners. DOE sites should ensure that imaging equipment purchased after February 12th is EPEAT-registered; the only exceptions to these purchases are the CAP provisions (Cost too high, not Available, does not meet Performance requirements).

Reporting of imaging equipment purchases might be required in 2013 so it would be very helpful to keep track of your purchases of these items.

Sites that submitted FEC award nominations can be reassured that the FEC does have their applications and data despite the recent problem with the FedCenter website. The FEC award nominations will be processed as soon as FedCenter is up and running.

Earth Week at DOE Headquarters

Beverly Whitehead, HS-21
Earth Week at the Forrestal Building will be held the week of April 22. In addition to the displays describing DOE projects that will be up all week, several environmental films will be shown on April 24 with Community Day on April 25. Community Day is held outside and features DOE displays, environmental and sustainability displays of local community groups and vendors, electronics and paper recycling, and a Nature Walk and Talk in the Gardens.

Earth Week at the Germantown facility will be held the week of April 29 and will replicate the Forrestal events.

DOE HQ would like to showcase the many Earth Day activities that the sites are doing, so please send information on how your site will observe Earth Week to me at Beverly.Whitehead@hq.doe.gov.

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Next SAN Conference Call: March 21, 2013
Contact Beverly Whitehead (HS-21), (202) 586-6073, Beverly.Whitehead@hq.doe.gov, with issues you would like to raise and/or presentations you would like to make.