

DHS Science and Technology Directorate | First Responders Group National Urban Security Technology Laboratory Safety, Health, and Environmental Management

System Safety, Health, and Environmental Commitment

NUSTL established a Safety, Health and Environmental policy to ensure the safety of its employees and respect for the environment and public health is upheld in all NUSTL operations and activities. To implement this policy, NUSTL established a Safety, Health, and Environmental Management System (SHEMS).

SHEMS is an integrated system addressing environmental aspects, occupational health and safety hazards of the workplace and sustainable practices in accordance with Executive Order 13693: *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*, the ISO:14001 *Environmental Management System* standard and the AIHA/ANSI Z-10 *Occupational Health and Safety Management System* standard.

The NUSTL SHEMS Program consists of a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving the associated processes and actions to meet its mission, as well as safety, health, and environmental goals. This cycle enables an effective flexible SHEMS allowing for quick adaptation to change.

Sustainability Practices

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Operational Sustainability Performance Plan establishes defined goals and performance metrics to ensure activities are carried out in an environmentally, economically and fiscally sound manner.

To meet DHS S&T goals and metrics, the NUSTL SHEMS Program employs multiple methods for ensuring sustainability, including green procurement, energy management and waste management. Highlights from 2014 include:

- Procuring office paper composed of at least 30 percent post-consumer recycled content
- Registering to participate in the United States Postal Service recycling program Blue Earth.
- Reducing fuel consumption by 10 percent
- Leasing a hybrid vehicle
- Transferring, donating, selling and recycling excess property valued at more than \$190,000

Training

The NUSTL SHEMS Coordinator plans training activities to mitigate safety, health and environmental risks. Training topics include safety awareness, health and environmental regulations, hazard communication standards, ergonomic awareness, emergency preparedness, first aid techniques including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED), building evacuation and Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP).



Radiation Safety Officer and SHEMS Coordinator conducting a SHEMS Awareness Training

Benefits

SHEMS requires the development of Operational Management Programs (OMPs) that identify significant environmental aspects and occupational safety and health hazards for each laboratory operation. The OMPs set objectives, targets, metrics and operational controls for each aspect and hazard. Additionally, staff are assigned roles and responsibilities to ensure the operational controls and targets are met in each OMP. Formal and informal reviews are conducted to continually improve the program.

Overall, the SHEMS program:

- Provides structure in managing NUSTL's safety, health and environmental issues;
- Increases employee awareness of the issues and how NUSTL is trying to manage them; and
- Promotes greater participation of employees in controlling environmental exposure.



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To learn more about NUSTL's Safety Health Environmental Management System please contact NUSTL@hq.dhs.gov.