



Green Cleanup Standard Initiative

January 2010 Update

Purpose

During the cleanup of contaminated properties, energy, water, and natural resources are consumed, creating an environmental footprint. Green cleanups strive to consider all environmental effects during a cleanup and incorporate approaches to minimize the environmental footprint. The goal of the green cleanup standard initiative is to develop, through a consensus process, a standard that evaluates and minimizes the environmental footprint from a cleanup. Use of the standard will promote resource efficiencies and technology innovation resulting in measurable improvements to human health, the environment, and communities.

Approach

EPA Region 3 convened a federal and state cross-program workgroup to: (1) identify the potential benefits associated with a national standard for green cleanups; (2) provide recommendations on the process for developing a standard and options for recognition and incentives; (3) develop core elements for a green cleanup standard; and (4) identify a standard developing organization (SDO) to develop a private sector consensus-based standard.

Outcomes

- Identified green cleanup core elements that were subsequently incorporated within OSWER's cross-program Principles for Greener Cleanup policy
- Agreed to collaborate with ASTM International to develop a standard for green cleanups through a consensus-based process
- Shared EPA's core elements with ASTM International for their consideration in standard development
- Provided ASTM International with materials to kick off the effort at their fall meeting in October 2009
- Facilitated dialogue among EPA and state program representatives volunteering to serve on the ASTM International subcommittee drafting the standard

Core Elements of Green Cleanup

- Minimize Total Energy Use and Maximize Use of Renewable Energy
- Minimize Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Minimize Water Use and Impacts to Water Resources
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Material and Waste
- Protect Land and Ecosystems

For more information on core elements of green cleanups, see *OSWER's Principles for Greener Cleanups* policy (available at: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/greencleanups>).

Benefits

A private sector standard would increase the use of green cleanup approaches by:

- Providing uniform definitions, consistent methods, mutual expectations, and common goals that can be used by all state and federal cleanup programs, making it easier for regulators and the regulated community to implement green cleanups
- Offering a framework for the new tools being developed to evaluate impacts from cleanups
- Building upon existing state and local government incentives being developed for green cleanups

Project Progress

Research and Planning

- Analyzed similar standards and their development processes
- Developed a workplan to describe objectives and document activities to move the concept forward
- Implemented a communication plan to ensure input from all potential users of the standard
- Designed criteria for evaluating SDOs and interviewed SDOs
- Developed a business model describing the anticipated uses, transactions, users, and benefits associated with applying the standard
- Provided periodic briefings to OSWER and Office of Site Remediation Enforcement (OSRE) senior management and received continued support

Collaboration and Outreach

- Coordinated with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and EPA's Standards Executive to ensure compliance with government policies associated with standards development
- Maintained continuous public transparency through project descriptions and updates posted on EPA's CLU-IN Web site (http://www.cluin.org/greenremediation/subtab_b5.cfm)
- Presented material on the benefits of green cleanups and the merits of a standard at more than 30 venues, as well as through webinars, e-newsletters, and print
- Solicited feedback on the framework through presentations and a web posting on CLU-IN throughout April 2009 and incorporated input
- Leveraged shared goals, activities, and products of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Greener Cleanups Task Force
- Collaborated with ASTM to facilitate use of the framework as a "strawman" for ASTM's kick-off meeting
- Participated in ASTM International's "Green Cleanup" subcommittee kick-off meeting in October 2009

Upcoming Activities

- Complete a paper summarizing options for use of a private sector green cleanup standard in EPA's cleanup programs (February 2010)
- Brief OSWER and OSRE senior management on outcomes of ASTM International's kick-off meeting and options for use of a standard (February 2010)
- Participate in ASTM International's subcommittee responsible for drafting the standard (January-December 2010)
- Participate in ASTM International's next face-to-face meeting on the developing standard (April 2010)

Contacts

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Web Links

U.S. EPA Greener Cleanups: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/greencleanups/standard.html>

U.S. EPA CLU-IN/Green Remediation Focus: http://www.cluin.org/greenremediation/subtab_b5.cfm

ASTM International: <http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/COMMITTEE/E50.htm>

ASTSWMO: http://astswmo.org/files/resources/greenercleanups/GCTF_Incentives_Paper_6-25-09.pdf