



# Green Cleanup Standard Initiative

*July 2010 Update*

## Purpose

The investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties consume energy, water, and natural resources, 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 convened a federal and state cross-program workgroup to: (1) identify the potential benefits associated with a 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, listed below, 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

## Green Cleanup Core Elements

- 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

## Status

The consensus process is leading ASTM toward development of a standard with a broader scope than EPA initially envisioned. This standard would include environmental, social and economic components of sustainability. The name of the standard is *ASTM E50 Green and Sustainable Site Assessment and Cleanup Standard Guide*. ASTM and EPA welcome all stakeholders to participate in the standard's development and would like to expand representation from communities, environmental justice groups and local government. To participate in the task group, you should: (1) become an ASTM member and join Committee E50 Environmental Assessment, Risk Management and Corrective Action as well as the E50.04 Corrective Action Subcommittee; and (2) contact the ASTM staff manager (Dan Smith, [dsmith@astm.org](mailto:dsmith@astm.org)) to request participation in the Green and Sustainable Site Assessment and Cleanup Task Group. Task Group members will be placed on the e-mail distribution list for materials such as progress reports, revised drafts, and notices of upcoming meetings.

## 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](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](http://astswmo.org/files/resources/greenercleanups/GCTF_Incentives_Paper_6-25-09.pdf)