The Federal Network for Sustainability

ANNUAL REPORT
2000

Statement of Unity

Earth Day April 22, 2000

Sustainability is emerging as a principal theme of the new millennium. The 30th anniversary of both Earth Day and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency provide the symbolic context linking America's past environmental performance to our future needs. Moreover, a series of key milestones over these thirty years....

- National Environmental Policy Act, 1969
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992
- Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, 1992
- President's Council on Sustainable Development, 1996, 1999
- National Energy Policy Act of 1992

along with a host of new laws, Presidential Executive Orders, regulations, policies, and Federal Agency initiatives, all give rise to the compelling opportunity for demonstrating Federal leadership on sustainability.

Sustainability is basically a concept about the *interconnectedness* of the environment, the economy, and social equity. It is a journey - a path forward - through which we demonstrate responsibility for our future legacy. It is a vision - an aspiration - for a better life for our children and our children's children.

The various missions of the Federal Agencies give concrete expression to the concept of sustainability through our individual programs and initiatives and through our collective leadership values. We demonstrate sustainable practices within the Federal sector and thereby promote and facilitate state and local action and positive performance by the private sector. As public entities working to advance the public interest, Federal Agencies through leadership and example can inspire all of society to advance an agenda for sustainability.

We are therefore creating a collaborative network of Federal Agencies, initially focused in the Pacific region, to be known as the ***"Federal Network for Sustainability"***. We envision an open network in which all parties can flourish and work together. We acknowledge and validate the good works of others, and embrace their contributions in an open and growing collaboration. The Network is expected to grow and expand over time as new linkages are established. Other interested Federal Agencies are encouraged to participate and become signatories. The Network will also be "virtual" as we seek to use the Internet for communication and public access.

The ***Federal Network for Sustainability*** intends to focus its efforts in the following areas:

- Develop and coordinate the network
- Create and manage an information-sharing clearinghouse
- Develop and deliver training for network members
- Communicate ideas through conferences and meetings
- Seek linkages and partnerships
- Showcase sustainable programs and projects
- Act as a catalyst for change

In the spirit of Earth Day 2000, the ***Federal Network for Sustainability*** shall be operational upon the signatures set forth below.

Robert D. Barbee,
Regional Director, Alaska Region
National Park Service

Chuck Clarke,
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 10, Seattle

Judith A. Johansen,
Administrator and Chief Executive Officer
Bonneville Power Administration

Kenn Kojima,
Regional Administrator, Pacific Rim Region
General Services Administration

Felicia Marcus,
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco

Thomas (Tad) McCall,
Deputy Assistant of Air Force
Environment, Safety and Health

Elsie L. Munsell,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Navy
(Environment & Safety)

L. Jay Pearson,
Regional Administrator, Northwest Arctic Region
General Services Administration

Captain R. L. Phillips,
Commander, Southwest Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Kathy M. Pierce,
Director, Seattle Regional Office
U.S. Department of Energy

John J. Reynolds,
Regional Director, Pacific West Region
National Park Service

Karen Wade,
Regional Director, Intermountain Region
National Park Service

Olga Dominguez,
Director, Environmental Management Division
NASA

Raymond J. Fatz,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)
OASA (I&E)

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Mission Statement

The Federal Network for Sustainability (FNS) promotes cost-effective, energy- and resource-efficient operations across all branches of government. Through individual initiatives and joint ventures, we shall strive to better our understanding of the interrelationship between energy use, economics, and environmental impact. We are mindful of our heirs and successors, who will rely on our responsible stewardship today. By leadership and example, we intend to educate and guide others in reducing Federal expenditures, while simultaneously advancing the principles of sustainability throughout the public and the private sectors.

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(site launch anticipated Spring 2001)

Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleague:

On Earth Day, April 22, 2000, eleven Federal officials from the Western regions endorsed a Statement of Unity formally establishing The Federal Network for Sustainability, or FNS. We are a voluntary, non-regulatory group that relies on a shared vision, close cooperation, and carefully orchestrated teamwork to accomplish our mission. As public entities working to advance the public interest, we believe that our leadership and example will serve as a catalyst for positive change, and will inspire others to advance an agenda for sustainability.

The Network creates a flexible, virtual home for Federal agencies and their employees as they strive to implement practices of sustainability in the workplace and beyond. Early on, we developed an organizational structure, a Charter, and a Business Plan, then set out to implement our mission. What were lofty goals only a year ago are now completed projects and initiatives. We're extremely proud of our successes: timely training, cooperative joint ventures, co-sponsored events, and a fledgling website. All of this was made possible by our volunteer commitments, which required almost no financial assistance and added no taxpayer expense.

Reflecting on the past year, I see that, together, we've encouraged agencies and groups to overcome formal boundaries and barriers, and to work together to reach common goals. We are well on the way to reaching our goal of cost savings through enhanced efficiencies in our day-to-day operations.

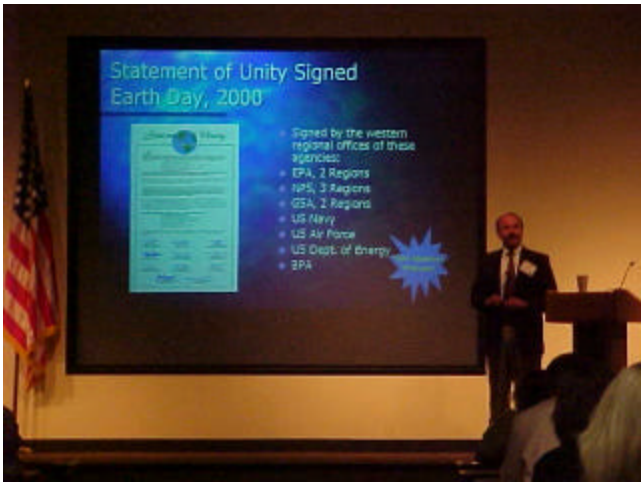
As we move forward, we will continue to reach out to both existing and new partners, and are especially eager to work with the Western States Governor's Association. The current FNS Business Plan focuses on three key initiatives for this year:

- The market power of government purchasing;
- The increased use of 'green' power; and
- The development and use of Environmental Management Systems.

I have been heartened and energized by the ingenuity and resourcefulness shown by our Federal family and am eager to sustain our momentum in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Alan C. Hurt, Chair
Federal Network for Sustainability



Summary of Successes

Getting Started…

Early on, members of the Network realized the need to chart a careful, yet cutting-edge course toward attainment of its mission. Moving quickly and decisively, we developed an action plan that incorporated both short- and medium-term activities. We then reconfirmed our earlier goal of staying focused on the efforts of our members' Western regional offices.

As members of the FNS, we are committed to do much more than just 'talk the talk', and as such, have a wide range of accomplishments to report as we look back on our first year. While we are a volunteer, friendly, and highly collegial group, we are also proactive and driven, because we know that ours is a critical mission. In order to realize our goal, we knew we'd need to be efficient and focused in carrying out our activities, balancing our efforts with the daily demands of our Federal jobs. We held quarterly business meetings and bi-monthly steering committee meetings, and developed operational rules, a Mission Statement, a business plan, a Charter, and the framework for our website.

Here are just some of the programmatic highlights from 2000:

Business Plan

Through a cooperative effort of our member agencies, the FNS developed and approved a business plan to guide our efforts.

The FNS business plan assists us focusing our efforts by clearly delineating the following elements of our organization:

- Overall Mission
- Operational Focus
- Target Constituency
- Institutional Framework
- Member Funding and In-kind Contribution Requirements
- Annual Work Plan
- Annual Budget
- Institutional Models (to guide the management and organizational infrastructure of our operations)

Training

Green Procurement

On December 6, 2000, the Federal Network for Sustainability presented a one-day workshop titled, "Helping You Buy Green – Guidance and Goals for Greening Government through Procurement and Acquisitions" at the GSA Complex in Auburn, Washington.

Attended by 114 people, nearly all of who are responsible for product specification and procurement within the Federal sector, the workshop increased awareness of current statutory, regulatory, and Executive Orders affecting green procurement policies.

Speakers included: Linda Mesaros, White House Task Force on Recycling; Cynthia Vallina, Office of Management and Budget; Dave Kling, EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention & Toxics; Katie Kroehle McGervey, Dept. of Energy, FEMP; John Balentine, Washoe County, NV; Robert Cox, Pentagon; Jim Weiner, Dept. of Interior; Steve Butterworth, National Park Service; Bill Golove, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory; and Blair Henry, NW Council on Climate Change.

Summary of Successes

Green Power Summits

The disruption of utility markets, particularly in the Western states, was on everyone's mind last year and weighed heavily on scarce energy budgets. As fossil fuel prices increased and agencies watched their utility bills skyrocket, the FNS took the lead by sponsoring two green power summits; one in San Diego and one in Seattle.

Three FNS members collectively contributed to the success of this renewable project at the entrance to Lake Mead

All together, more than 300 Federal and utility sector participants came together to learn more about renewable resources and mechanisms for developing or purchasing these resources in a cost-conscious manner.

Closing the Circle Award

In January of 2001, the FNS submitted an application for a White House 'Closing the Circle' award. Started in 1995, this award program recognizes Federal employees for efforts that result in significant contributions to, or efforts that make a significant impact on, recycling, waste prevention, and purchasing of recycled-content and environmentally preferable products. To date, more than 120 awards have been made in recognition of waste prevention, recycling, affirmative procurement, environmental preferability, model facilities, and advancing the objectives of Executive Order 13101.

The FNS nomination was submitted under the category "Sowing the Seeds for Change" which recognizes groups that lead an activity or conduct an infrastructure or policy change that advances the objectives of Executive Order 13101.

The FNS application highlighted our unique multi-agency membership working in partnership to develop and implement a model for sustainability. This model guides the environmental actions of our member agencies by:

- Creating a long-term approach to environmental protection and process improvement;
- Helping agencies plan to prevent pollution from the start;
- Facilitating a systematic approach to recognizing the interconnectedness of the economy, the environment, and social concerns;
- Identifying a strategy or framework for planning and implementing environmental work; and
- Leveraging scarce Federal resources.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Green Purchasing

Copier Paper

In 1997, the Federal government purchased 3.2 million boxes of copy paper through GSA, and another .42 million through GPO. At 5,000 sheets per box, this translates to roughly 18.1 billion sheets.

The current statutory requirement (under RCRA 6002) is the use of 30% recycled content; however, even greener alternatives exist, such as paper made with higher post-consumer recycled content which is totally or process chlorine free (TCF or PCF) paper.

The FNS is examining the barriers to, as well as identifying networks for implementing the greening of the Federal demand for copy paper initiative.

Electronic Products Stewardship Initiative

Computers and other electronic devices are as common in offices as telephones, and their numbers are growing. Faster, more powerful

machines quickly replace their predecessors, and 'upgrade' cycles of two or three years are becoming the standard.

While the technology may become obsolete, the glass, steel, and plastic were built to last. Electronic equipment does not come apart easily, and many parts can not be changed separately. The result is the creation of large amounts of costly electronic 'junk'.

As the single largest purchaser of products and services in the world, FNS believes that the Federal government can take on a leadership role by using its enormous purchasing power to influence the market for more sustainable electronic products. The Federal Network for Sustainability has taken the lead in 2000 by supporting efforts undertaken by the US EPA to develop and promote electronic product stewardship initiatives. Support for these initiatives will continue in 2001 as part of the overall FNS Green Purchasing strategy.

Green Power Procurement

In addition to sponsoring the highly successful Green Power Summits in the fall of 2000, the FNS has been actively supporting and participating in efforts led by the DOE to facilitate purchases of green power by Federal agencies in the west.

FNS members are supporting these efforts by reaching across agency boundaries to identify and train procurement officials responsible for energy purchases, and by participating in technical and economic feasibility.

studies to identify cost-effective and value-added purchasing strategies. We also highlighted and showcased solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects and initiatives under development or completed by FNS member agencies.

We have endorsed the 'brightfield' concept, and plan to showcase projects undertaken by our member agencies as they are completed. A brightfield is defined as a solar power station placed on a brownfield site for the dual purpose of power generation and electrical reliability. Other ongoing green power initiatives spearheaded by our members include the development of a large-scale wind farm headed up by the Bonneville Power Administration on the Oregon/Washington border, and the cost-effective implementation of solar electric panels at park entrance stations by the National Park Service.

Environmental Management Systems

The FNS is interested in promoting the use of organized approaches to environmental performance as part of its sustainability principles. An Environmental Management System, or EMS, can help Federal agencies manage their own consumption and waste generation practices by integrating environmental management into everyday business activities. There are numerous statutory, regulatory, and policy reasons why there needs to be greater emphasis on the use of EMS activities in the Federal government. FNS wants to use its influence with member agencies to identify agencies that are successfully using EMS plans, learn from their successes, and provide this information to other Federal agencies. Future FNS activities will emphasize the use of EMS frameworks, including the use of ISO14000, The Natural Step, and others. Cooperation and sharing between FNS members will result in shared learning, and will reduce costs associated with training. Networking and development of EMS training modules will be a continuing activity of FNS in 2001.

Reaching out. . .

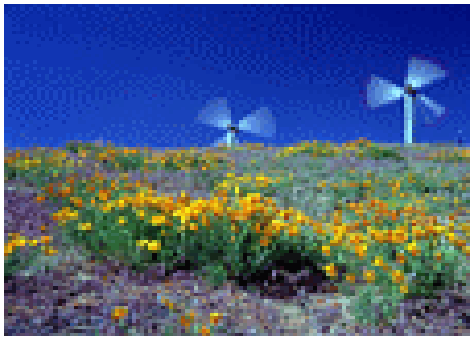
An important goal of FNS is to be a 'good neighbor', and to partner with others. By establishing formalized partnerships, participating groups can leverage their limited resources, learn from each other, and support specific activities and initiatives with a unified voice.

Consistent with that thinking, FNS plans to host an informal networking event this summer in conjunction with the Western States Governors Association. The event will focus on power shortages, public opinions on building new power plants, and revisiting energy policies to integrate more sustainable / renewable practices.

We are also reaching out to increase our member base in the Federal sector. To support our membership outreach efforts, FNS has developed a membership package containing information on the background and benefits of joining our volunteer organization. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving an FNS membership package.

FNS Endorses Events & Initiatives of Others

- ✓ *Seattle Earth Day 2001* – FNS members will share a booth at the Earth Day celebration in Seattle; the city that hosted the FNS Statement of Unity signing ceremony.



2001 Prospective Work Plan

- ✓ *US Navy Bio Diesel Initiative* – One aspect of this activity is a proposed joint venture between the Navy and the National Park Service to provide clean fuel for the tour boats that visit the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor.
- ✓ *DOE Green Power Purchasing Programs* – There are components of the following Federal directives that will help create demand for green power:
  - Wind Powering America – This initiative has a goal to aggregate Federal load and to produce 100 Mw by the end of 2001
  - Geo Powering the West – This program will bring geothermal electricity and geothermal heat to millions of homes, businesses, and Federal agencies throughout the West.
  - Million Solar Roofs Initiative – The Federal government exceeded its initial goal of 2000 solar roofs by the end of 2000, mostly because of solar hot water systems installed on Naval housing.
- ✓ *'Brightfield' Concept* – This activity installs solar collectors, wind turbines, and other renewable equipment and relies on cooperation with Federal land management agencies such as NOA, BLM, etc. to help with land leases and equipment placement.
- ✓ *FORUM 2001* – The FNS endorses Solar Energy: *FORUM 2001* – The Power to Choose.
- ✓ *Federal Energy Management Program* – The FNS is co-sponsoring the FEMP training workshop May 1-2, 2001 in Alaska.
- ✓ *EPA's Region 10's Applied Sustainability Certification Course* (in development) – This course is for EPA employees and others in state and local governments, and will emphasize how sustainability principles can be applied in our daily work.

FNS Speaking Engagements

FNS has a panel of organization members sharing information on our sustainable efforts and working to integrate programs and solicit additional Federal involvement.

- → DOI's National Environmental Conference, Albuquerque, March, 2001
- → EPA Region 9 Federal Facilities Environmental Compliance Workshop, San Francisco, April 9, 2001
- → GSA Procurement/Contractor Conference, Reno, May 9, 2001

The Future. . .

The FNS will continue showcasing Federal sustainability success stories through marketing and communications, training, and sustainability education using Internet technologies, and by endorsing, supporting, and encouraging Federal sustainability projects.

Visit our website for the latest news.
(anticipated launch, Spring 2001)
www.FederalSustainability.org

FNS Participants

Participating Agencies

National Park Service, Alaska Region

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

Bonneville Power Administration

General Services Administration, Pacific Rim Region

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

U.S. Air Force

U.S. Navy

General Services Administration, Northwest Arctic Region

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division

U.S. Department of Energy

National Park Service, Pacific West Region

National Park Service, Intermountain Region

NASA

U.S. Army

Steering Committee

Alan Hurt
U.S. Navy

Barbara Lither
U.S. EPA

Curtis Framel
U.S. DOE

Steve Butterworth
National Park Service

Steve Clark
U.S. GSA

John Wise (Mark Samolis)
U.S. EPA

Tim Scanlon
Bonneville Power Administration

Mary Lamb
Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

Randy Manion
Western Area Power Administration

John Stone
U.S. GSA

FNS Coordination

Joe Bourg
Millennium Energy
Facilitator / Secretariat

Helen English
Steven Winter Associates
Management Support

Christian May
Steven Winter Associates
Technical Support

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