

(Reviewed 5/08)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

This policy establishes the basic program elements necessary to achieve and sustain environmental stewardship and excellence at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). The goals of this policy are to:

- Emphasize the Administration's belief that environmental stewardship and excellence requires the involvement of and is the responsibility of every UNL employee.
- Improve compliance.
- Reduce liability and focus attention on environmental impacts associated with University activities.
- Prevent pollution by reducing and eliminating generation of wastes and emissions at the source, when feasible.

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln recognizes its responsibility for protecting the environment by controlling potential adverse impacts resulting from research, teaching, and business activities. The University is committed to environmental stewardship and excellence through the three (3) tenets of pollution prevention, continual improvement in environmental performance, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Each employee of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln must also recognize this commitment, and practice their work with the highest regard for these three (3) tenets.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Training

An environmental training program shall be established and maintained at UNL. The training program shall be designed and operated to inform employees of campus environmental policies and procedures, significant environmental impacts of their work or activities, their role and responsibilities as environmental stewards, and potential consequences of departure from specified procedures.

Planning

UNL employees shall consider potential adverse environmental impacts associated with their work and implement feasible waste minimization/pollution prevention measures.

Procedures

Plans or procedures shall be developed and implemented to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. When feasible, plans or procedures shall also be devised and implemented to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. In addition, plans or procedures shall be developed for effectively reporting, responding to, and investigating releases of pollutants to the environment and potential violations of regulatory requirements. Such plans or procedures shall be communicated to those employees directly involved to ensure that they are competent to carry out their assigned functions in accordance with regulatory requirements, and when appropriate, in accordance with plans to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Self-assessment (Audits)

Procedures for actively engaging in routine self-assessments of regulated activities and those with potential for significant adverse environmental impacts shall be developed and implemented. At a minimum, audits must effectively identify areas or instances of non-compliance with policies, procedures, or environmental laws and regulations. The self-assessments should also identify opportunities for improved environmental performance and pollution prevention.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY

Chancellor. The Chancellor is ultimately responsible for implementing this policy at the campus level. The Chancellor has delegated oversight of policy implementation to the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance.

Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. The Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance is responsible to provide adequate resources to carry out this policy.

Department of Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for:

- Providing technical support to and advising the campus community in the application of specific environmental regulations to particular campus activities so that compliance is practical at the unit level.
- Providing general environmental awareness training for employees, to include the principles of pollution prevention, basic regulatory requirements, and emergency response.
- Providing the campus community with access to current environmental laws and regulations applicable to their work, including guidance and other compliance tools.
- Conducting audits of campus units to assess compliance with environmental regulations and communicating the results to appropriate administrative officials.
- Investigating reports of real or potential instances of non-compliance with environmental regulations.
- Obtaining and monitoring compliance with required environmental permits, including procedures for maintaining documentation to demonstrate compliance with specific permit conditions.

- Supporting the Institution in all official contact with external governmental regulatory agencies, including responses to regulatory agencies' inquiries, complaints, lawsuits, and other formal proceedings.
- Overseeing on-site response to environmental releases to mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

UNL Deans, Directors, Department Heads and Chairs are responsible for:

- In consultation with the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, identifying environmental regulations that may pertain to existing or planned work processes, activities, and facilities.
- Ensuring that Departmental activities are conducted in accordance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and University policies and procedures.
- Ensuring that employees participate in training programs regarding regulatory requirements, responding to unplanned environmental releases, and minimizing adverse environmental impacts.
- Implementing corrective actions in response to unplanned releases to the environment or real or potential instances of non-compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Where necessary, establishing procedures for maintaining documentation to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements or specific permit conditions.

Supervisors are responsible for:

- Establishing and enforcing operational controls to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts, including unplanned releases of pollutants to the environment.
- Informing and training employees about task or work-specific plans or procedures developed to: ensure compliance with regulatory requirements; respond to unplanned environmental releases; or minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- Conducting routine self-assessments and reporting real or potential instances of non-compliance with environmental regulations to the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.
- Enforcing compliance with environmental regulations, laws, and UNL policies and procedures.

Employees are responsible for:

- Recognizing their individual responsibility as environmental stewards by participating in training, abiding by established procedures and regulatory requirements, reporting potential violations of environmental regulations to EHS, and recommending actions for improving environmental performance.