



**ECOS-DoD Compatible Use and
Sustainability Task Group
Meeting Summary
March 14, 2008
San Diego, California**



[Notes compiled by Stateside Associates]

In attendance:

Amy Alton, Army NREO
David Borak, NGA
Jeff Carter, Georgia EPD
Bill Franklin, Navy Region SW
James Hartman, Army NREO,
Michael Huber, Navy Region SW
Matt Jones, ECOS
Bob Kirkbright, NAVFAC SW
Adriane Miller, Stateside Associates
Bob Mueller, New Jersey DEP/ITRC
Gary Munsterman, Air Force
Robert Reuter, Washington State Department of Ecology
Chris Russo, North Carolina DENR
Steve Scanlon, Army CREO
Bill Schoenborn, USEPA (HQ)
Shelly Sherritt, South Carolina DHEC
George Vander Velde, Illinois Waste Management & Research Center (Champaign, IL)
Kevin Ward, Army WREO

Meeting Summary

The Compatible Use/Sustainability Task Group met to finalize an outline of goals and objectives for the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group Strategic Plan. The task group agreed that with some revisions, the Strategic Plan outline is ready to present to the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group at the April 14-16, 2008 ECOS Spring Meeting in New Orleans.

Overview

Chris Russo, Task Group Co-Chair, reviewed the history of ECOS-DoD Compatible Use/Sustainability Task Group accomplishments.

- Developed customizable briefing on compatible land/resource use for states' use
- November 2006 ECOS-DoD Forum for a Sustainable Future helped define ideas that ECOS members and DoD could use to become more sustainable in their operations
- Developed language for an ECOS resolution on sustainability, which ECOS passed in September 2007. That resolution requires development of a Sustainability Strategic Plan.
- Developed the sustainability ideas brought forth at the 2006 ECOS-DoD Forum for a Sustainable Future into an outline of a ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Discussion

The Strategic Plan now needs to be refined, presented as a draft at the April 2007 ECOS Spring meeting, then presented as a final to the ECOS executive committee in September 2007, one year after the resolution was passed. Among the discussion, questions and suggested revisions the group offered were these:

- Formulate a vision on national sustainability policy that encompasses natural resources, cultural resources, economic resources, national defense resources (which is itself an economic resource).
- Is there representation/support in the development of the Strategic Plan from key states to make this a document that has authority? How do we get states involved in its review?
- Work with NGA to make sure the Strategic Plan can be translated into what governors need.
- Sustainability is a local issue. This plan will need roots at the local level to be successful. Policy after policy from governors' offices has been pushed out but success comes at the local level. This should be applied by installations and communities within the states.
- There has never been a time of higher desire to plan and implement sustainable practices. We need leaders at all levels.
- Need also to have a strong implementation plan.
- The process is more important than the product. Where you get culture change is when you have a representative group that builds the plan together.
- We [states] are ready to implement best practices—help us identify what they are. What are the low-hanging fruit?
- States want bite-sized pieces to try first. We need to challenge them to pick up a piece, especially if they see there is a reward in doing it.
- “Green Drinks”—social networking to promote sustainable practices is successful. We need to network at other levels.
- The Compatible Use/Sustainability Task Group needs private industry or industry organization involvement (such as the National Association for Environmental Management).
- Ultimately, the Strategic Plan needs to be short, concise, relevant, and memorable, and offer tangible results.
- Is the existing Plan document good enough to stand up at the spring meeting? Are group members willing to do the work to prepare it for that?

The group agreed that the Strategic Plan outline needs some revisions but is otherwise ready to be presented at the spring meeting. Members of the group agreed to dedicate time necessary to shape it into its final, successful form.

Next Steps

- Revise the Strategic Plan with addition of an action-oriented vision/mission statement that acknowledges prior efforts, the current state, and the future state of sustainability among the states and DoD.